



Resurrection School

Junior High School Curriculum

6th, 7th, and 8th Grades

2022-2023

Welcome!

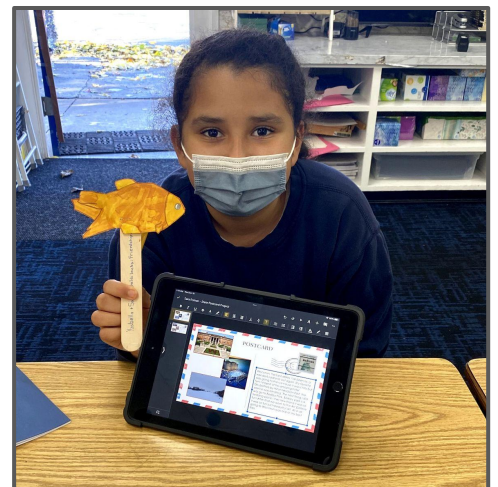
Thank you for your interest in Resurrection School. This brochure provides an overview of our Middle School Curriculum, including Math, Science, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Religion, Spanish and co-curricular courses. It also explains our technology integration and use of iPads as a 1:1 device.

Technology

Resurrection School uses iPads as an educational tool, allowing teachers to customize instruction using individualized, online content instruction, traditional teacher-led group instruction, and small group project-based, hands-on learning experiences. With students already used to a technology-integrated instruction model, teachers were able to pivot seamlessly to a distance learning model in March, 2020.

Additionally, teachers are committed to data-driven instruction. Teachers use the STAR Assessment, which allows for teachers to analyze student performance in each of the domains of Reading and Math. By analyzing the STAR Assessment data, teachers can engage with student data in a responsive and ongoing manner, improving instruction and allowing for parents to have more accurate, "real time" feedback about how their child/children are progressing through the curriculum.

Each teacher uses a variety of applications and programs in their classroom. Some of the most common apps used include Google Drive (Docs, Sheets, and Slides), Google Classroom, and Notability. Students also use apps like Sketches School, Adobe Spark, Canva, and PicCollage to express their learning through creative, artistic, and digital platforms. Students also have the opportunity to learn and practice being responsible digital citizens through the use of their iPad, school-issued email addresses, and through learning about their digital footprint.



Religion

The Religion program instills and nurtures the message of the Gospel and the traditions of the Catholic Church. Our objectives are the development of Christian attitudes and values, knowledge of the Scriptures and the Catholic faith, and the growth of personal spirituality. Components of each curricular unit include a study of Scripture, Saints, prayer, reflection, and response activities.

Students have various opportunities throughout the year to put their faith in action. A weekly student body Mass, led by a different grade each week, is an excellent culmination to their classroom lessons. Prayer services for holiday celebrations, reconciliation services (twice a year, during Advent and Lent), and the Advent and Lenten prayer services all further the connection students have with their faith.

Outreach is an important value cultivated through our Religion program and campus life. Students have various opportunities to live out their faith through on-campus projects, as well as through off-campus service to fulfill their service hours requirement.

Textbooks: *Blest Are We*

6th grade

The 6th grade religion curriculum, focused on the Old Testament, helps students unlock the treasures of the Bible and discover why the Bible is so important in our lives as Catholics.

7th grade

The 7th grade religion curriculum, focused on the life of Jesus, helps students develop a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ and explore at a deeper level the teachings of their Catholic faith.

8th grade

The 8th grade religion curriculum focuses on Church history. Additionally, students prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Social Studies

The Social Studies curriculum is designed to create an understanding of history, geography, economics, culture, ethics, and belief systems, as well as social and political systems. Students learn to appreciate their heritage and to become responsible citizens. A mix of written, verbal, and three-dimensional projects help students integrate and demonstrate their understanding of the material. Key curricular components include written projects, student presentations, map skills/geography, and cooperative learning groups.



6th Grade

The 6th grade curriculum allows students to explore the tools of history, earliest human societies, early civilizations of Southwest Asia, ancient Africa and Asia, western ideas, and the world of ancient Rome.

7th Grade

The 7th grade curriculum is designed to provide students with the comprehensive knowledge, civic values, and intellectual skills they need to meet the challenge of citizenship in the 21st century. Through the study of the past world which includes Islam, Africa, Asia, Europe, and pre-colonial Americas, the students are able to gain an understanding of history, geography, economics, culture, ethics, and belief systems, and social and political systems.

8th Grade

American History is the focus of the 8th grade curriculum, from early exploration up to World War I. Students learn to think like a historian through collaborative and individual activities that explore key themes throughout American History.

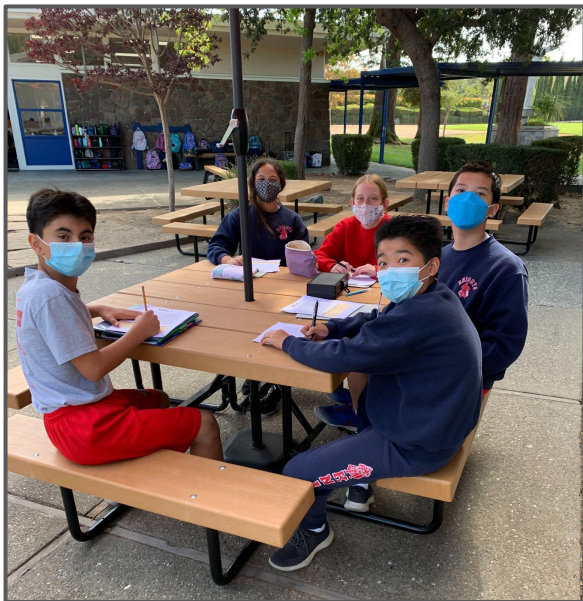
Math

The middle school Mathematics curriculum, utilizes small class settings to ensure mastery of grade-level curriculum following the California Common Core State Standards. Activities are designed to foster proficiency in higher-level math concepts, develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, and ensure familiarity with math instructional aids and tools.

6th grade

The 6th grade Math curriculum includes grade-level appropriate arithmetic (fractions/integers/decimals, etc.), ratios/rates, basic geometry, expressions/equations, and basic statistics. Students use the 6th grade-level Eureka Math 2 workbook, manipulatives and online interactive activities to apply the concepts they have learned to real world situations.

Textbook: 6th Grade Eureka Math 2 Workbook



7th grade

In their 7th grade year, math placement is based on the Pre-Algebra Readiness Test, their 6th grade report card grades (before test/quiz corrections), standardized testing, and teacher observations. Two courses are offered; 7th Grade Math/Pre-Algebra and 7th Grade Advanced Pre-Algebra. Both classes provide in-depth coverage of the California Common Core Math Standards for 7th grade. The 7th Grade Math/ Pre-Algebra course includes ratios and proportional relationships, equations /inequalities, geometry, application of percents, and probability/populations. Students in this course use the 7th Grade Eureka Math 2 workbook along with the online digital interactive activities for practical application.

Students who are enrolled in the Advanced Pre-Algebra course are in a fast-paced course that covers the full Pre-Algebra curriculum along with baseline 8th Grade Common Core Standards to prepare students for Algebra 1 during their 8th grade year. Students who are in this course keep an interactive notebook and use online resources for practical application.

Textbooks: *McDougal Littell Math Pre-Algebra (Advanced Pre-Algebra)*
7th Grade Eureka Math 2 (7th Grade Math/Pre-Algebra)

8th grade

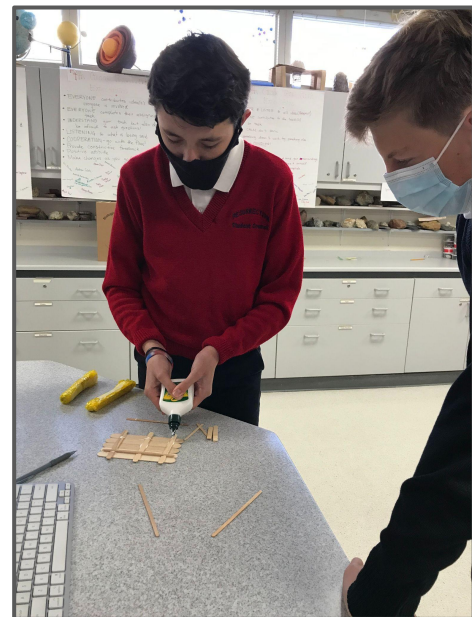
There are two courses offered in the 8th grade; 8th Grade Math/Advanced Pre-Algebra and Advanced Algebra 1. Math placement is based on the Algebra Readiness Test, their 7th grade report card grades (before test/quiz corrections), standardized testing, and teacher observations. The 8th Grade Math/Advanced Pre-Algebra course includes Scientific Notation, Congruent and Similar Figures, Linear Equations, Functions and Statistics. Students in this course use the 8th Grade Eureka Math 2 Workbook along with the digital interactive activities for practical application.

The Advanced Algebra 1 course is a fast-paced course that covers the Algebra 1 CA Common Core Standards. Students use an interactive notebook along with online resources for practical application. Students are expected to have a mastery of pre-algebra concepts which are built upon during the course of the year, ensuring students are prepared for advanced math courses in their freshman year of high school.

Textbooks: *McDougal Littell Algebra I (Advanced Algebra 1)*
8th Grade Eureka Math 2 (8th Grade Math/Advanced Pre-Algebra)

Science

Daily science instruction for middle school students is taught in our state-of-the-art science lab by a credentialed Science instructor. Science concepts are explored and reinforced through demonstration, experimentation, models, design challenges, and supplemental materials. Our goal is to provide a curriculum consistent with NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards). Our science lab is equipped with tools such as microscopes, balances, flasks, graduated cylinders, thermometers and an expansive rock collection. Students engage in inquiry-based STEM activities to describe observable phenomena. A heavy emphasis is put on the scientific process and exploration. In addition, our students conduct laboratory experiments to collect data and evidence, and learn to use that data to support claims. All their work is housed in a lab notebook that serves as a notes taking guide but also as a data collection tool. The Science courses are designed to prepare students for success in high school science courses and beyond, and to foster an inclusive environment where students appreciate and understand the natural world around them. Students are expected to conceptualize and demonstrate their understanding of the year's content by designing and presenting their findings at the end of the year science showcase. Additionally, appropriate use of technology is encouraged and incorporated into every aspect of the curriculum; technology used includes iPads, Google Suite, various apps, and projector.



6th Grade

The sixth grade science curriculum includes three main topics: ecology, sustainability, and earth science.

The curriculum includes a week of outdoor science at Walden West early in the school year. The curriculum extends the outdoor science experience with hands-on experiments, investigations, modeling, and design challenges. Having students understand earth systems and humanity's role in it is a major focus.

7th Grade

The seventh grade science curriculum has life science as the primary focus and includes human biology, cell biology, and genetic engineering, as well as the physics of light and sound as it relates to the senses. Students engage in hands-on experiments, investigations, modeling, and design challenges that set the stage for the concepts to be learned

8th Grade

The eighth grade physical science curriculum includes basic physics and chemistry. Hands-on experiments, investigations, and design challenges are an integral part of the curriculum.

Textbooks: *Pearson Prentice Hall*, CK-12.org



English Language Arts

Reading, Writing, Conventions of Language

Developing confident writers is a key goal of our writing program; writing occurs across all curricular subjects. Students learn to write complex sentences, clear, organized paragraphs, and multi-paragraph essays and reports. Writing assignments include literary response paragraphs, persuasive and argumentative writing, autobiographical essays, business and friendly letters, poetry, research reports, and expository/informational essays. 8th grade students participate in November's National Novel Writing Month, writing part of a short story each day, ultimately finishing a 10,000 word story by the end of the month.

Grammar is used to develop and reinforce the language skills that are critical to future success. Students gain an understanding of the English language through comprehensive instruction, practice, and application of skills. Vocabulary instruction is designed to help students gain knowledge of high-frequency vocabulary words, as well as a knowledge of word parts that will help them use what they know to infer word meanings.

In the middle school program, students are challenged to explore their world through the written and spoken word. Formal debates, impromptu speaking, interviewing skills, and presentation of research papers is a focus. Students also learn to use technology as a tool for public speaking and presentations.

Our literature curriculum follows the Common Core State Standards and introduces a variety of literature to students: short stories, drama, non-fiction, myths/legends, poetry, and novels. Students learn to analyze fiction for key elements, such as plot, character, setting, and theme; non-fiction skills such as summarizing, identifying the main idea, and understanding text structures are also taught. Writing is woven throughout the course, as well as vocabulary, spelling, and figurative language. Many of our literary analysis discussions and assignments are designed to build higher-level thinking skills, such as critical thinking, inferences, and context clues.



Novel Selections by Grade Level

6th grade: *The Egypt Game, Under the Blood Red Sun, Esperanza Rising, The Lightning Thief, The Hatchet*

7th grade: *Holes, The Outsiders, A Christmas Carol, The Circuit, The Giver, The Hunger Games*

8th grade: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Chains, Refugee, Countdown*

Physical Education

In grades 6-8, students have P.E. twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and wear their P.E. uniforms on those days. This class is taught by our Athletic Director; students participate in fitness activities, specific sports instruction, strategy and techniques, and an overview of having a healthy lifestyle. Students also learn teamwork and communication as they play various sports and activities.



Spanish

An introductory Spanish class is taught two days a week for grades 6-8. These classes present the basics of the Spanish language as spoken in Latin America. Students learn greetings, verb conjugations, basic vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammatical structures and provide a glimpse of the Spanish-speaking world through cultural topics including art and art projects, folk dances, skits, food and cooking, and contemporary topics such as politics, travel, and religion. The class emphasizes understanding and practical application rather than rote memory. Students develop a beginning reading and conversational ability, laying the foundation for further study of the language in high school.

Textbooks: *Spanish is Fun; Ven Conmigo!*



Life Skills

Our middle school Life Skills class meets once each week and is facilitated by our Principal. The class is designed to help students gain and refine the skills that are necessary for future success, beyond their academics, such as team building, conflict resolution, and character development. Students are also able to consider issues of social justice and world events and think through their attitudes towards them.



Art

Our Art4Schools program, taught by a qualified instructor from the Community School of Music and Arts, includes art lessons bi-weekly for middle school students. Students gain an appreciation for various artists and styles of art from around the world. They also have the opportunity to experiment with their own creativity through a variety of projects that involve drawing, painting, ceramics, mixed-mediums, and more. Our art program is generously funded through donations each year at our School Auction.

