

Middle School Course Selections

2015-2016

OUR EDUCATOR'S PROMISE TO YOU ...

I believe that every young adolescent . . .

- has the capacity to learn, grow, and develop into a knowledgeable, reflective, caring, ethical, and contributing citizen.
- must have access to the very best programs and practices a school can offer.
- must be engaged in learning that is relevant, challenging, integrative, and exploratory.
- thrives academically, socially, and emotionally in a democratic learning environment where I trust and respect are paramount and where family and community are actively involved.
- faces significant life choices and needs support in making wise and healthy decisions.
- deserves educators who are prepared to work with this age group, who are themselves lifelong learners and committed to their own ongoing professional development and growth.

Therefore, I proudly dedicate myself to becoming the best middle level educator I can be and an active advocate for all young adolescents



Prayer for Youth

**God of energy,
enliven the youth of our day with the promise
of faithful companionship.**

**Call them to partnership with you
in the creation of a new world.**

**Keep their hearts filled
with excitement and adventure.**

**Help them to be open to change
and all that is new.**

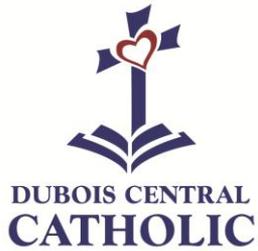
**Challenge them creatively
and give success to the work of their hands.**

**They are our trust.
They are our hope.
They are our future.**

**Give them profound reverence
for all that is right and good.**

Be their guard and guide.

Amen



The Central Difference:

Live Well . . .

Learn Well . . .

Serve Well

**Central Catholic Middle School
COURSE LISTINGS**

GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
English, Literature, Reading, Spelling, Grammar, Usage (2 Pds./Day)	English, Literature, Reading, Spelling, Mechanics, Grammar, Usage (2 Pds./Day)	English, Literature, Reading, Spelling, Mechanics, Grammar, Usage (2 Pds./Day)
Theology	Theology	Theology
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Math (2 pds/day)	Math I (or) Pre-Algebra	Math I (or) Pre-Algebra (or) Algebra I H(for high school credit)
Science	Science	Science
Computer Skills	Language (French)	Language (Spanish)
Language (German)	Life Skills	Computer Skills
Spirit Song	Music	Life Skills
Phys Ed	Computer Skills	Problem Solving
Life Skills	Speech	Library
Library	Library	Journalism
	Problem Solving	Phys Ed
	Phys Ed	Electives: German (HS Credit) Leadership, Singing Cardinals, Advanced Super Science, Journalism/Yearbook Intro to Engineering Robotics

SIXTH GRADE

Theology 6

The sixth grader will study the roots of our faith found in the Old Testament. God is presented as the one who creates out of love and who cares deeply about the world. Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham, Moses and the prophets. Morality and the Commandments are also interwoven into the curriculum. As part of the theology experience during sixth grade, the Passion Play is performed for the school and community.

English 6

This course uses the Houghton Mifflin English book and is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on grammar, usage and mechanics. The second part focuses on writing, listening and speaking skills.

Reading 6

The major goal of reading is to develop independent, confident readers. The objectives are broken into five major areas: comprehension / literary skills, decoding / phonics skills, language skills, study skills and writing skills. Since reading and writing are vital to the communications process, writing is also emphasized to improve the students' writing skills based on their own language abilities and experiences.

Language 6 - German

This course introduces the student to language study through the introduction of German. The course is concerned with exposing students to language study and fine tuning their listening and speaking skills.

Spelling 6

The Houghton-Mifflin text gives a systematic, developmentally appropriate instruction; carefully developed word lists; insights into spelling – meaning connections; strategies to extend word knowledge; and a variety of opportunities for word play. Weekly vocabulary tests are given that center around given skills and a specific theme.

Social Studies 6

This course is designed to expose students to the many cultures and native peoples of North and South America, with an emphasis on Canada and Latin America. By having a greater understanding of their neighbors to the North and South, students are better equipped to understand the history of the United States. The curriculum also covers basic geographical studies, including map reading skills and following directions.

Mathematics 6

The McDougal-Littell textbook encompasses addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Students also study measurement involving area, perimeter, circumference, volume, surface area, and customary and metric length and weight. Ratio, percents, introduction to integers and some pre-algebra and geometry concepts are presented with a real world application. Besides basic math, an accelerated math class is offered to those who qualify.

Science 6

Sixth Grade Science is an inquiry-based, hands-on course that provides learning experiences that relate to the everyday world of the students. The new textbook series, McDougal-Littell, provides a program based on the National Science Standards. Concrete and

relevant applications are used to promote scientific literacy, as well as an understanding and appreciation for the natural environment. Current and new technology is infused throughout the program to enhance the learning experiences. Topics to be included are waves, sound & light; motion and forces and gravity (students build cars to test the laws of gravity), electricity/magnets, matter and energy, and chemical interactions

Computer 6

Students in this class are introduced to the basics of a computer desktop and icons. Learning how to open and navigate through different software is encouraged and stressed. Primary focus remains on learning how to type correctly with proper hand placement and ergonomics. Emphasis is placed on accuracy and formats with increasing speed as a secondary goal. Instruction is given through books and interactive typing software as well as with intuitive, exciting and educational typing games.

Life Skills 6

The goal of Life Skills on the sixth grade level is to teach the students about self-esteem and the formation of positive self-esteem. Drug and alcohol education is taught along with social skills, decision-making and goal setting. Conflict resolution skills are also taught.



SEVENTH GRADE

Theology 7

This theology course uses the Erie Diocese recommended book, *Jesus in the New Testament* from *Resources for Christian Living*. This class explores the life and message of Jesus as passed on to us by the New Testament writers. In Unit One, students will come to know the four Evangelists and their accounts of the Gospel. Unit Two will introduce students to the letters in the New Testament and to the Book of Revelation.

English 7

This course emphasizes writing as a process with grammar, parts of speech, spelling, vocabulary and mechanics as tools to become effective writers. It also offers a concentration in reading and discussion of classic and contemporary literature serving as a springboard to creative thinking and writing. A sampling of literature studied includes *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*; *Tex*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *Julie of the Wolves*; *The Greek Gods* and *The Hobbit*, along with a variety of poetry. Spelling and vocabulary follow the developmental stages of word knowledge. It presents spelling – meaning strategies that unlock the meaning of words and also introduces new words for today’s growing computer and technological terms.

Social Studies 7

This course covers the five geography themes: location, region, place, human-environment interaction and movement. Students will gain an understanding of global interdependence as they study landforms, climates, customs and cultures of the world. They will learn map skills and have an appreciation for the diversity of land features, society, history and peoples that make up our world.

Topics include Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Middle Ages, Industrial Revolution, Ancient Egypt and the Middle East.

Problem Solving 7

The class is designed to reinforce basic skills, review geometry concepts, and explore statistics, probability and other topics through hands-on manipulatives, activities, games and technology.

Mathematics Skills 7

The McDougal Littell series develops and strengthens algebraic thinking, decimals, fractions, statistics, ratios and percents. It also prepares the student in solving equations, performing operations with integers and introduces them to concepts in geometry. Besides basic skills, emphasis is also placed on note taking, problem solving, vocabulary, reading, technology and test taking strategy and practice.

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Pre-Algebra

This is an intensive course where all math concepts are taught from an algebraic standpoint. Students begin with one step equations and inequalities with the use of variables progressing from integers to geometry concepts of volume, area and polynomials. This serves as preparation for Algebra I.

Computer 7

Students will learn Web 2.0 application to enhance presentations, such as Prezi, Google Docs and Movie Makers. Other tools that will engage 21st Century learning include Word6, Smilebox, Blabberize, Microsoft Publisher, Voki and Pod casts.

Science 7

This hands-on course focuses primarily on life science: the structure and functions of living organisms, heredity, and classification. Emphasis is placed on the application of the scientific method and the use of skills such as observing, metric measurement, predicting and experimenting. Students complete science fair projects.

Language 7 - French

This course introduces the student to language study through the introduction of French. The course is concerned with exposing students to language study and fine tuning their listening and speaking skills.

Life Skills 7

The goal of Life Skills on the seventh grade level is to teach the students about self-esteem and the formation of positive self-esteem. Drug and alcohol education is taught along with social skills, decision-making and goal setting. Conflict resolution skills are also taught.

General Music 7

This course centers on the elements of music, particularly dynamics, tone, color, tempo, duration, rhythm, pitch, texture, form and style. These elements are approached through five basic activities: class lecture and discussion, listening, singing, movement and playing instruments.

Middle School Public Speaking/Communication

Public Speaking for students teaches the elements of good speaking and instills a sense of confidence as they communicate

orally with others. The student will learn to use their voice correctly and to apply eye contact, body language, and facial expression in the proper manner. We will do a variety of speaking experiences, both formal and informal, for solo or group presentation. Students will gain poise and become more confident about speaking in front of a group. They will also learn to write speeches and to prepare for oral assignments in the correct way.



EIGHTH GRADE

Theology 8

This theology course uses the Erie Diocese recommended book *Morality: Life in Christ* from *Resources for Christian Living*. This class is an exploration of the principles of Catholic morality. Students will learn more about their call to holiness as a person created in God's own image. They will learn how the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments provide foundations for successful moral living. Above all, students will learn more about the model for the moral life, Jesus Christ, and what it means to live in Christ.

English 8

This course emphasizes writing as a process with a focus on pre-writing and revision. A concentration on literary interpretation and discussion provides the nucleus for writing assignments. Grammar, spelling and vocabulary will be taught in the process as skills to aid students in becoming better communicators. *The Giver*, *The Outsiders*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Night to Remember*, and *Adventures of Ulysses* are just a sampling of the literary studies. Mythology is also covered. Cross-curricular units are incorporated through the course. Spelling and vocabulary follow the developmental stages of word knowledge.

Journalism 8

The students will learn about the components of journalism, writing articles and captions and taking pictures. They will create a monthly newspaper, "The Junior Cardinal", which will allow them the opportunity to choose topics for articles, take pictures, and be editor for a month. They will also create the middle school yearbook, allowing them the opportunities to work with the Jostens program.

Problem Solving 8

The class is designed to apply math skills in the study of consumer mathematics, real world application of math and reinforce knowledge of geometry concepts through activities and technology.

Mathematics Skills 8

Using the McDougal-Littell middle school book series, students will be refining mathematical skills such as fractions, decimals, percent, computations with rational numbers, number theory and equations in preparation for Pre-Algebra & Algebra I

-- or --

Pre-Algebra

This is an intensive course where all math concepts are taught from an algebraic standpoint. Students begin with one-step equations and inequalities with the use of variables, progressing from integers to geometry concepts of volume, area and polynomials. This serves as a good preparation for Algebra I

-- or --

Honors Algebra I

Students will master a number of techniques and apply these to statement problems as well as forming their own statement problems. Techniques include applying the four basic operations to polynomials, exponents, graphing and solving linear equations. *(This course is awarded high school credit.)*

Language 8

This course introduces the student to language study through the introduction to Spanish. Time is spent on grammatical terms, culture, vocabulary, sentence construction, pronunciation, listening and speaking skills.

Social Studies

This course will be divided into three primary sections: (1) Students will be learning about Pennsylvania history. Classes will center on geography, early peoples (Native American Tribes), William Penn and the Quakers, Revolutionary Pennsylvania and the Transportation Revolution. (2) The second section will focus on Pennsylvania's contributions to the Civil War and its lasting effects on the state and the nation as a whole. Students will then move through the Industrial Revolution and conclude with a look into Federal and Pennsylvania's State Government. This will lay the groundwork for a broader and more in-depth study of the Civil War and Industrial Revolution in high school. (3) The final section will focus on local history. Students will learn about DuBois' earliest beginnings up through current events and local government.

Science 8: Earth Science

This exploratory science course allows students to study ideas from earth science. It is designed to allow students to have hands-on activities and to develop and use critical thinking skills. Topics include rocks and minerals, weathering and soil, force, plate tectonics, and space science. Students complete a science project and present it using Power Point. Participation in PJAS is encouraged.

Life Skills 8

Eighth grade Life Skills builds on the foundation established in the seventh grade curriculum. Topics covered include a review of self-awareness and self-acceptance, exploring feelings and their origins, rational thinking, and inter-personal communication skills. Drug and alcohol education is stressed along with conflict resolution skills and goal setting. Career exploration is introduced.

Computer 8

This course gives students an introduction into Microsoft Word, which is the primary word processing program used in the many middle schools, high schools and colleges in the U.S. Students will learn to identify parts of the Word Screen, understand and be able to use toolbars, basic text editing, ways to select text, basic character formatting, clipart, and autosshapes, as well as work with a variety of font types and sizes. Emphasis is placed on preparing students to properly format papers to meet cross-curricular requirements.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Tutoring Program

The following tutoring programs are available: peer tutoring during homeroom, morning homework check program. A room for group work is also available in the mornings.

Foreign Languages

German, French and Spanish are offered.

Drama

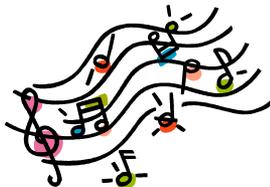
This is both a co-curricular and extra-curricular activity. Dramatic productions are staged at least twice per year, usually during the Christmas season and for the Festival of the Arts in the spring. The Passion Play is a sixth grade theology project. Middle school students may also try out for the all-school musical.

Physical Education

All sixth, seventh and eighth grade students will participate in physical education class. Intramural sports, life sports and good physical health will be stressed.

Spirit Song

This music component of the middle school curriculum practices and prepares for our school religious celebrations while teaching basic musical concepts.

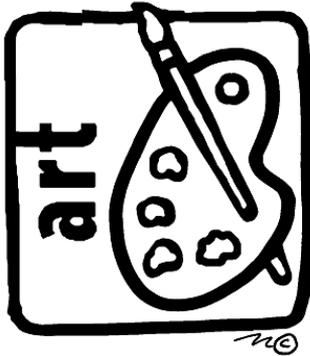


Art

Art activities are incorporated into the curriculum. Art Enrichment is offered in seventh or eighth grade as a separate class.

Testing

Writing assessments are given three times a year for sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Math skills tests are given three times a year. The Stanford tests are given in the fall for grades six, seven and eight.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sports

Girls Basketball	Boys Basketball	Football ²
Soccer	Cross Country ¹	Wrestling ²
Golf ¹	Tennis ¹	
7 th & 8 th Grade Girls' Volleyball & Softball		
Cheerleading	Cheerleading Competition Squad	

¹ Practice with High School but not compete
² Co-op program with Brockway

Clubs

Middle School Yearbook	Newspaper: <u>The Little Cardinal</u>
Student Council	Middle School Drama
National Junior Honor Society	“The Singing Cardinals”

Opportunities

Spelling Bee	Festival of the Arts
Accelerated Reader	Library
M.S. Science Fair	Pro-Life Week Events
Scholastic Challenge	Passion Play
PJAS	All-school musical
United Way Day	Spring class trips
Weekly Mass	
Catholic Schools Week field trips & events	
Tri-County Sunday Christmas Essay Contest	

In-School Activities

Scrapbooking	Drama	Chess
Outdoor Club	M.S. Yearbook	M.S. Bowling
World Explorations Club	A Better You – Self-Improvement	

