

Curriculum Guide

2010 – 2011

Immaculate Heart Middle School

5515 Franklin Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90028
(323) 461-3651

Art

Art / Grade Six

This course will introduce students to a variety of artists ranging from the Renaissance Period to the present day. The lives of artists will be explored and used as inspiration as students create original artwork using an array of media.

Art / Mixed Media Grades Seven and Eight

This art course is a comprehensive program designed to help students to express their ideas, feelings and emotions in a visual format. The girls will develop their ability to analyze and critique as they explore the elements of design through a variety of media. They will have the opportunity to learn techniques in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and calligraphy. We will explore art history and the arts and crafts of many cultures. Both craftsmanship and creativity will be emphasized.

English

English / Grade Six

This course focuses on students' ability to correctly identify the eight parts of speech, along with various other aspects of English grammar and mechanics, in conjunction with developing their written language skills. Students also focus on learning new vocabulary and honing their spelling skills.

Literature / Grade Six

This course is designed to improve the student's reading and comprehension skills. Elements of fiction such as plot, setting, protagonist, character, theme, and conflict, are discussed throughout the year in connection with short stories and novels. Students are also exposed to poetry and poetic devices. Critical thinking and reading comprehension are key components that are applied to all literary works. Students are also expected to read a number of selected literary works outside of class for mandatory book projects. Vocabulary is emphasized throughout the year in relation to literary works.

English – Literature / Grade Seven

This course is designed to improve both the student's use of English in everyday oral and written language as well as improve her reading and comprehension skills. Included in the English curriculum is the study of sentence structure, parts of speech, English mechanics, usage and vocabulary. The literature section incorporates the study of the elements of the short story and the short novel as the course focuses on plot, characterization, antagonist, protagonist, setting, theme and conflict. Different poets and their poetry are introduced. Vocabulary is studied in relation to literary works.

Honors English – Literature / Grade Seven

This course is designed to augment the gifted student's already confident use of oral and written language as well as improve her advanced reading and comprehension skills. The study of sentence structures, parts of speech, mechanics, usage, paragraph and essay writing are included in the language curriculum. Students will write and share individual and group oral presentations. The literature portion of the class incorporates the study of the elements of short stories, novels, poems, and plays and focuses on plot, characterization, setting, theme and conflict. Authors' lives are discussed and analyzed and related to their literary works. Students will both read and write different kinds of poetry. Vocabulary is studied in relation to literature. This structured program focuses on word relationships, spelling, and contextual clues as well dictionary practice.

English – Literature / Grade Eight

This course is designed to develop, and review the knowledge and skills which make students superior readers and writers. By reading, studying, discussing, and writing about literature (novels, short stories, drama, and poetry). Students will master a specific body of knowledge and understand the conventions of different literary forms and acquire a vocabulary, which will enhance their ability to read and write about literature. They will strengthen their reading comprehension, hone their interpretive skills, deepen their understanding of character, and enrich their moral imaginations. By reviewing and studying grammar and composition, students will practice those skills which promote clear, effective, and graceful writing.

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Math

Math / Grade Six

This course gives students the opportunity to review and perfect their skills in all four basic mathematical functions. This will give the students the opportunity to apply these skills to higher levels of mathematics. Students will also apply mathematics to everyday life. Topics to be covered are: whole numbers, decimals, fractions, ratios, proportions, percentages, graphing, geometry, and integers.

Mathematics / Grade Seven

Students will be given the opportunity to review and perfect their skills in the basic mathematical operations. In addition, they will learn the basic fundamentals of pre-algebra, with an emphasis on developing a plan for solving word problems. This course covers a wide range of basic mathematic skills including operations with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, metrics, proportions and percentages.

Mathematics Honors / Grade Seven

This course is designed to prepare 7th grade students for Algebra in their 8th grade year. An emphasis is given to pre-algebra skills and techniques for solving equations. Students will progress at an accelerated pace through review of basic operational skills. They will study proportions, percents and pre-algebra skills in more detailed and challenging material. Word problems will be studied as each skill is developed throughout the year.

Algebra / Grade Eight

Algebra is the beginning of your journey to the world of higher mathematics, where the rules of arithmetic are expanded to variables and properties of mathematics are explored. Pairs of numbers form graphic representations that bring us a powerful visualization of relations. You will develop a more sophisticated way of dealing with word problems by applying algebra. In this course you will also learn how to use the graphing calculator, a tool that will be used in all of your math classes from this point forward.

This class is designed to introduce you to the topics studied in Algebra I and will move at a pace that is comfortable for all students. Therefore, students in this class may not necessarily be placed into Geometry their freshman year in high school. In this course you will also continue to learn how to use the graphing calculator, a tool that will be used in all of your math classes from this point forward.

Algebra – Honors / Grade Eight

Algebra provides the student with the opportunity to explore the axiomatic structure of the real number system. Through computation, students will develop an understanding of real number properties and learn to solve and to graph systems of linear functions and inequalities, and to perform operations on polynomials, such as factoring and quadratic equations. At the end of the course, students will have a working knowledge of algebra as it relates to solving linear equations, systems of equations and applications problems.

Music

Music / Grades Six, Seven and Eight

Basic harmonization techniques will be explored through the use of sounds, “partner songs,” and two part choral pieces. Students will develop sight singing ability as well as vocal techniques. They will

learn about different composers and the periods from which they come. Liturgical music and dance will be explored as well.

Physical Education

Physical Education / Grade Six

The Students will learn basic skills in swimming, soccer, and softball with demonstration and lecture on specific rules. They will develop an understanding of skills and rules in various sports as well as comprehending the importance of good health and fitness for everyone. There will also be classes in first aid, health and nutrition.

Physical Education / Grade Seven

Students will learn basic and intermediate skills within basketball, field hockey, gymnastics, swimming, soccer, volleyball and fitness, through demonstration and constructive feedback. Students will also learn the history of the sport along with the rules and regulations of play. They will have a fitness test every 3 – 4 weeks. This includes a mile run, bleep test, three minute jump rope test, sit up test, sit and reach test and pull up test. They will monitor their fitness levels through heart rate and recorded data of their results.

Physical Education / Grade Eight

Students will learn intermediate skills within badminton, basketball, swimming, human kinetics, field hockey, soccer, volleyball and fitness through demonstration and constructive feedback. They will learn the relationship between good health and nutrition and will design their own fitness and exercise program. Students have a fitness test every 4 weeks. The tests consist of the mile run, three minute jump rope test, bleep test, sit and reach test and pull up test. The students monitor their fitness levels through their heart rate and recorded data of their test results.

Religious Studies

Community Service

Since Christian ideals and values are more than intellectual concepts, students are required to become actively involved in volunteer service during each year at Immaculate Heart. Students submit reflective entries on their service projects to the religion teacher.

Required Hours:

Grade 6 / 10 Hours

Grade 7 / 15 Hours

Grade 8 / 20 Hours

Religious Studies / Grade Six

Students will undertake a thorough exploration of the biblical roots of the Catholic faith. Throughout the text, the students are challenged to break open the Word of God and apply its meaning and direction to their own lives. One unit is dedicated to human sexuality including the Catholic/Christian response to the AIDS crisis. The goal of this program is to instill Christian moral values and develop the students' "image of God" through the study of Old Testament writings and the experiences of fellow human beings.

Religious Studies / Grade Seven

The Religious Studies program encourages an educational and transformative experience of the mysteries of God revealed through the person of Jesus Christ, traditions of the Catholic Church and Church history, and reflection on Christian scripture. One unit is dedicated to human sexuality including a Catholic/Christian response to the AIDS crisis and substance abuse education. The goal of this program is to instill Christian/moral values and to develop students “self” identity as rooted in these values.

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Science and Technology

Science / Grade Six

This course introduces students to Earth Science and its many branches such as Geology, Oceanography, Meteorology, Ecology, and Astronomy. Students will explore each branch of Earth Science and apply their learning in an individual setting as well as a group setting. Material is reinforced through class discussion, experimentations, and field study.

Computer Lab / Grade Six

Students learn the fundamentals of computer technology. The focus of the course is on computer terminology, computer hardware, computer software, typing, and Internet research skills. Students will apply their knowledge of computers to all other subject areas such as English, literature, science, mathematics, art, physical education and social studies. Students will have exposure to Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Life Science and Technology / Grade Seven

Life science is the study of living things. In this course, students will learn how to ask meaningful questions about the living world and conduct careful investigations using the scientific method. This course provides students with opportunities for constructing scale models of plant and animal cells, conducting field research of marine organisms and their habitat, and communicating scientific knowledge to their peers.

Physical Science and Technology / Grade Eight

Physical science is the study of matter and energy. In this course, students will experience the scientific method as a dynamic process and apply its six steps while exploring the fields of chemistry and physics. Each student will plan and conduct a scientific investigation to test her own hypothesis. This course provides students with opportunities for constructing graphs from experimental data, reproducing historical models of the atom, balancing chemical equations, and identifying the forces at work on objects in our world.

Social Studies

Ancient History / Grade Six

Ancient civilization from early humankind on through the fall of Rome is the basis for this course. Students learn through both group and individual exploration of the cultures including early humankind, Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. Emphasis is placed on students gaining a cultural appreciation and understanding for these civilizations. The treatment of women throughout history is also given a primary importance, with supplementary articles and materials often brought in to demonstrate the current role of women in these countries and regions. Geography, map work, critical thinking, art appreciation, and ethics are underscored throughout the class.

World History and Geography / Grade Seven

This course explores history from the fall of the Roman Empire to the Renaissance, featuring the cultural geography of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The program draws on the literature, religion, art, and architecture, and music of the cultures and civilizations studied. The student will integrate these elements to help develop a view of world history, and from there, to gain insights into the present. The course will include the study of the empires of Rome, Byzantium, and Islam; as well as those of various African, Asian and Central European powers. These will be used to set the stage for 20th century civilizations and work on current events. Map work and the study of primary sources and literature excerpts will be some of the means of approach. Critical thinking, ethics, local global citizenship are important components throughout this course.

U.S. History / Grade Eight

U.S. History is the chronological study of history, emphasizing major historical events and periods in depth. The course incorporates a multi cultural perspective. In addition, a study and discussion of the fundamental principles embodied in the U.S. Constitution including the Bill of Rights will be emphasized throughout. Critical thinking, ethics, local and global citizenship are threads woven throughout the fabric of the class.

Spanish

Spanish 1A / Grade Seven

This course will focus on the Spanish language and its culture. It will cover the basics of communication in Spanish through listening, reading, writing and speaking. Students will also learn about different aspects of culture from various Spanish speaking countries through readings, lectures and projects. Students will acquire the basic vocabulary needed for daily expression and will be able to write, read and understand short compositions in Spanish. They will also gain a deeper appreciation for the cultures of Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish 1B / Grade Eight

This course is a continuation of Spanish 1A. It will cover intermediate communication in Spanish through more advanced reading, writing and grammar so that students can carry on conversations using several tenses as well as other grammatical moods. Students will learn more complex oral sentences and respond correctly. Various cultural aspects will also be covered during the year. After completing this class, students will have acquired a firm understanding of the grammar and language that makes up modern Spanish and have a deeper appreciation for the cultures of Latin American countries.