

The **ROCHESTER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** are faith-filled communities that seek to provide a challenging, quality academic experience for students. Our schools are centered on the faith formation of the students as we develop the gifts and talents of each individual. The Rochester Catholic Schools cultivate in our students a respect for themselves and others, a sense of responsibility, a love of learning and a desire to serve. We understand that we are members of the global community of God's family.

We recognize the individual needs of each learner and provide both intervention and enrichment through differentiated instruction, small and large group work, collaborative learning groups, and flexible ability grouping and tracking. Student progress in achieving the curricular goals is measured in a variety of ways. Assessment may include teacher observation, student self-evaluation, formal testing, journals, pre/post testing, checklists and anecdotal records. The Stanford Test of Achievement is administered in grades two through eight.

All curricular areas are on a cycle of review and evaluation and meet or exceed state and national standards. This allows for improvement and growth based on the needs of our students and knowledge gained from reflection and research. The critical objectives of our curriculum are to enhance student potential and improve student learning. This brochure is designed to provide an over-view of the Rochester Catholic School's curriculum. It is based on the comprehensive curriculum that has been written for preschool through grade eight for each subject area.

Students in the **ROCHESTER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** experience learning through active involvement, inquiry, hands-on instruction and real life situations. We work to model Christ, spread the Good News, and grow closer in our relationship to God.

RELIGION

Area of Focus: Discipleship through God's Teaching and Sacraments with emphasis on Jesus and the Gospels

Scriptural Studies

- Gospels of Mark, Luke and John
- Life of Paul and the Apostolic Church
- Church of Antioch

Profession of Faith

- God as Creator
- God as Perfection
- God's revelation
- Jesus as Son of God
- Mary as mother of Jesus
- God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Holy Spirit as Guide
- Good News of Jesus Christ

Celebration of the Christian Mystery

- Seven Sacraments and symbols of the Catholic Church
- Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian Life
- Rite of Christian burial as fulfillment of Baptism

Life in Christ

- Practice charity
- Love God
- Serve others
- People made in the image of God
- Commandments of Love
- Golden Rule
- Define sin
- Commandments I through VII
- Beatitudes
- Human Virtues
- Precepts of the Catholic Church

Christian Prayer

- Define prayer
- Participate in formal and informal prayer

HOLY SPIRIT
5455 50 Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901
507-288-8818

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
318 11 Ave SE
Rochester, MN 55904
507-288-4816

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
424 West Center St
Rochester, MN 55902
507-282-5248

SAINT PIUS X
1205 12 Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901
507-282-5161

LOURDES HIGH SCHOOL
621 West Center St
Rochester, MN 55902
507-289-3991

2009 - 2010

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ROCHESTER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
1710 Industrial Drive NW
Rochester, MN 55901
507-424-1817

Curriculum guide

GRADE 8

LANGUAGE ARTS

Functional

- Parts of a sentence
- Sentence variety
- Clauses and phrases
- Classify parts of speech

Usage

- Nouns, pronouns, complements, verbs, and modifiers

Mechanics

- Capitalization and punctuation

Writing

- Writing process
- Personal narrative
- Persuasive writing
- Third person point of view
- Poetry
- Research paper

Vocabulary/Word Study

- Etymology of words
- Selected vocabulary and their definitions
- Define vocabulary using context clues
- Pronunciation key

Comprehension/Study Skills

- Story Elements
- Paraphrasing, summarizing, and making predictions

Literature

- Literary concepts and genres through the use of selected novels

Speaking/Listening

- Effective speaking
- Prepare and present speeches

LIBRARY SKILLS

- Orientation
- Organization
- Selection and utilization of materials
- Comprehension
- Application/appreciation of literature

ART

- Line, shape, color, form, texture, and space
- Create artwork with a variety of media containing unity, balance, movement, pattern, contrast, emphasis and proportion
- Analyze works of art

MATH

Student progress in math is tracked, and students are placed in flexible groups based on ability. Beginning in the fall of 2011 all junior high students will meet or exceed the state mandate by completing Linear Algebra by the end of 8th grade. Students will be ready to begin Algebra II as freshmen in high school. The focus of the general curriculum is as follows:

Mathematical Reasoning

- Apply appropriate strategies and approaches to solve problems
- Communicate appropriate mathematical language and symbols
- Number Sense/Computation/Operations
- Apply rate, ratio, ratio proportion, exponents and square roots to solve problems

- Compute with natural, whole, integer, rational and irrational numbers

- Multiply and divide numbers in scientific notation
- Use common factors and least common multiples in prime factorization

Patterns/Functions

- Use patterns and sequences to analyze and solve problems
- Analyze and graph functions

Algebra

- Graph linear equations and inequalities
- Simplify numeric and algebraic expressions
- Apply rules of positive and negative exponents
- Polynomials
- Identity and distributive properties
- Slope and intercepts of a line
- Equation of a line in various forms
- Solve and graph the solution sets of compound inequalities
- Solve systems of equations by graphing substitution and linear combinations
- Interpret and draw graphs of functions

Data Analysis/Statistics/Probability

- Analyze and interpret graphs and tables
- Use lines of fit to make and evaluate predictions

Spatial Sense/Geometry

- Angle relationships, parallel and perpendicular lines
- Pythagorean Theorem
- Determine the distance between two points

Measurement

- Using customary and metric units of measure
- Compute volume and surface area of polyhedrons, cones, cylinders and spheres
- Compute area and circumference of circles

MUSIC

- Expressive qualities, tone color, duration, pitch, design, cultural context and movement

SCIENCE

Areas of Focus: Earth Science

- Mineral and rock identification
- Earth's changing surface
- Earth structure and processes
- Weather and climate
- Historical geology
- Earth's waters
- Astronomy

SOCIAL STUDIES

Area of Focus: American History from post Columbus thru Reconstruction

Geography

- Geographic features of the United States
- Geographic locations of current events

History

- European exploration and colonization of the United States
- Lifestyles of the American people
- History through current events
- Respect for diversity

Civics

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Political parties in the United States
- Role of United States government in peace and war
- Positive citizenship
- Communication with political leaders
- Dignity of occupations and cultures

Environment

- World conservation, preservation and protection
- Green technologies/current events

Economics

- Growth, development and diversity of the United States economy

Study Skills

- Study skills, test taking skills and time management

COMPUTER

The computer skills curriculum follows the guidelines set forth by the National Educational Technology Standards. At each grade level students are being introduced to, developing or mastering the many skills under each standard. Students will achieve mastery of these standards by the end of eighth grade. The use of technology is integrated into all curricular areas.

Areas of focus in Grade 8:

- Ethics
- Word processing
- Accessing information
- Database skills
- Keyboarding
- Graphics
- Multi-media software
- Spreadsheets
- Desktop publishing

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

- Strike, propel, receive
- Fitness testing
- Personal health
- Safety

FAMILY LIFE

Spiritual Being

- Our body, sexuality, human reproduction and vocation as a gift from God
- Sexual intercourse to be share between husband and wife
- Virtue of Chastity/sacredness of virginity

Psychological Being

- Choice and decision making skills
- Concept of family
- Expression and response to feelings
- Friendship and dating
- Catholic Virtues, and Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Physical Being

- Physical changes and terminology
- Gender awareness
- Reproduction and procreation
- Fetal development

GUIDANCE

- Personal, social and emotional health
- Careers and vocations
- Academic study skills