

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST



MIDDLE SCHOOL
INFORMATION
2011 - 2012

Mission Statement

Saint John's School provides students with a strong Catholic foundation and an excellent academic program, with the support and involvement of the family.

Philosophy

In light of our mission statement, we:

- Teach and live the values of the gospel message.
- Create an atmosphere of prayer and worship.
- Provide opportunities for students to be contributing, productive and responsible members of our school, family, parish and world communities.
- Have a curriculum designed to include mastery of basic skills while fostering higher level thinking.

Our goal is that each student will reach his/her highest potential.

Welcome to Saint John's Middle School!

Middle school years are a time of many changes and challenges; a transition between elementary school and high school.

Each individual responds differently to the switch from elementary to middle school. Some adapt with amazing ease and others struggle with the varying class expectations and the greater organizational demands.

Students should expect an increased amount of homework. However, by using the required organizational tools and developing their own methods, students will accomplish all that is expected in a more efficient manner.

This booklet has been compiled to help you better understand some of the academic and behavioral expectations for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. We hope you find this helpful!

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ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Classroom Rules

Respect others
Use appropriate language
Respect school and personal property
Follow directions
Show responsibility

Rewards

1. Games
2. Movies
3. Treats
4. No Uniform Pass
5. Others

Trimester rewards will be offered to those students who have no more than two letters/detentions for the entire trimester and no blue slips. The rewards may vary from year to year.

Academic Consequences

1. A letter will be sent home for any incomplete assignments.
2. The letter must be returned the next day with the completed work.
**** If any letter is not returned the next day with a signature and the completed work, the child will serve a 15 minute detention the next day during lunch/recess. (A copy of the notification is on page 5)**
3. Excessive late assignments will warrant a conference with parents.

Behavior Consequences

Name on the board serves as a warning.
One check after name means 15 minute detention.
Two checks is a 30 minute detention.
Three checks is a 45 minute detention.

Four checks is a 60 minute detention, a phone conference, and the student may be sent to another classroom for the remainder of the class period.

Five checks means a Blue Slip, which is in-house suspension, and the principal may be notified.

Detention

Detention time will be served during lunch the day after the detention is received. If one lunch period is not long enough for the time accrued, the detention will continue on subsequent days.

Severe Clause

The student will go immediately to the final step (step 6) if one of the following should occur: disrespectful toward adults, cheating, stealing, fighting, swearing, plagiarism, vandalism, use of propellants, possession or use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

Tardiness

Students have a limit of 3 unexcused tardies. After that, each time a student is tardy, he/she will serve a 15 minute make-up time during the lunchtime recess.

Cell Phone / Electronic Device Policy

In an effort to minimize distractions and maintain a positive learning environment, we ask that cell phones and other electronic devices not be powered on, used or visible during the school day. (This includes: car line, bus line, lunch time and recess, walkers and bike riders until they are off school property.)

If a student is found in possession of an electronic device, he/she will be asked to turn it over to the teacher. A parent/guardian may come to retrieve the device from the office. Students who allow electronic devices to become a distraction will face disciplinary measures beyond confiscation. Students discovered to be in possession of such a device during a test may receive a grade of zero. Devices confiscated will be held according to the following schedule and with the following student consequences:

1st Parent may pick up device in the office after school. Student is given a warning.

2nd Parent may pick up device in the office after school. Student will serve a 30 minute detention.

3rd Parent may pick up device in the office after school. Student will serve an in-school suspension.

Name _____

Time _____ Minutes

Date _____

____ Academic Deficiency

____ Detention

Because it is in your child's best interest that we work together to eliminate academic problems, I am sending you this letter. Your child had the following items missing today, as indicated.

___ Assignment _____

___ Test Signature

___ Test Corrections

___ Quiz Signature/Corrections

___ Uniform Violation

___ Grade Report

___ Current Event

___ Book Report

___ Sports Uniform

___ Wordly Wise/Vocabulary

___ Assignment Corrections

Students with detention should report to the lab when they have their lunches. They are also required to bring in homework that needs completing.

Your child has received detention because of the following behavior:

___ chewing gum

___ tardy to class

___ running in the hall

___ pushing / shoving

___ disruptive talking

___ forgetting proper materials

___ not following directions

___ inappropriate talking during class

___ making disruptive noises

___ out of seat at inappropriate time

___ assignment still incomplete

___ disrespectful to classmate

___ not returning previous forms

___ not returning grade report

___ other:

Mrs. Marske

Mrs. Gruntner

Mrs. Leciejewski

Mr. Lofstad

Mr. Breyer

Mrs. Castro

Mrs. Truhler

Mrs. Soucheray

Mrs. Lovera

Mrs. Rowan

Mrs. Pieper

Parent Signature _____

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Students should expect an increased amount of homework. However, by using the required organizational tools and **all** work time, students will accomplish all that is expected in a more efficient manner.

Grades for incomplete or late assignments will be marked down 10%.

A parent's signature is required on test and/or quizzes with a score of less than 77%. The test or quiz must be returned within **two** days.

| PERCENTAGES | GRADES |
|-------------|--------|
| 99-100 | A+ |
| 95-98 | A |
| 93-94 | A- |
| 91-92 | B+ |
| 87-90 | B |
| 85-86 | B- |
| 83-84 | C+ |
| 79-82 | C |
| 77-78 | C- |
| 75-76 | D+ |
| 71-74 | D |
| 69-70 | D- |
| 0-68 | F |

Honor Roll

A 3.67-4.33

B 2.67-3.66

Report cards will be sent out every 12 weeks, with mid-trimesters in the core academic courses given at 6 weeks.

Long-Term Assignments: Due dates for long-term assignments will not be affected by a student's absence. For unusually long absences (one week or more), assignment due dates may be adjusted by the teacher if requested by the student.

Extra Credit: Extra Credit opportunities are determined by each individual teacher.

Vacations

Although many vacations are a learning time for the student, it is also important for the student to keep up with his/her class work, tests and projects. Therefore, a student leaving on vacation must see that **all** course work is accounted for using the following procedure:

- The student must obtain a vacation form from the homeroom teacher. This form is to be filled out by the parent(s).
- The student must speak with each teacher to determine the process for homework, test and/or project completion. Each teacher will then sign the form.
- Follow the directions of the teacher as to timely completion of work. An academic letter will be issued to the student if the work is not completed by the assigned dates.

MATH

Assignments are given daily. Each student is expected to begin the assignment during class. It is the student's responsibility to be certain he/she understands the skills and concepts covered in class. Each student is encouraged to ask questions if he/she doesn't understand!

Mid-Chapter Tests are given in all math classes. Corrections are required on any problems that are incorrect.

Tests are given at the end of each chapter. Corrections are required.

Work neatly and show any work you do on assignments, quizzes and tests. Do not use scratch paper. Keep your assignments from a chapter until after the chapter test.

Grades are determined by averaging assignment and test scores. Different weights are used for each grade level. Grade reports will be sent home after each chapter is completed.

| | 6 th | 7th | Pre-Algebra | Algebra |
|---------------|-----------------|-----|-------------|---------|
| Test | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 |
| Mid-Chap Test | 10 | 20 | 25 | 30 |
| Assignment | 60 | 40 | 25 | 10 |



Religion

Grade 6 - Salvation History and Family Life Program

Grade 7 - The Trinity, Church, Morality, Sacraments, Kingdom of God
Family Life Program

Grade 8 - Confirmation program

Expectations

Homework - There is homework assigned almost every day that we have class. The assignment must be completed **before** class time or it is considered an incomplete. If a student misses one problem, I will accept it unless the assignment has less than 5 problems ... then the normal incomplete assignment procedure takes place. The homework/journal notebook and Religion books will be kept in a Religion folder.

Bibles - Sometimes students need to use Bibles for their homework. Each classroom has a set of Bibles so they are able to use them during study times in other rooms also. The Bibles **must remain** in the classrooms. If you would choose to have a Bible at home to use for homework, it is preferable to have **The New American Bible** which is a recommended version. It also aids in correcting work, that the same translation is used by all. (If it is not possible to have this version, students **do** have enough time during the day to finish the parts of their assignments that require Bibles.)

Tests - There are tests at the end of each Chapter in Grades 6-7 and at various times throughout Grade 8. We review the material together in class before the tests.

Grades - Religion is a subject that focuses in on who we are, our values, our beliefs, our lives as Christians. This is considered when grading my students in Religion. The students are expected to share those parts of themselves in this class; therefore, their grade includes participation which is 50% of their grade. The other part of their grade includes assignments as 35% and tests are 15% of their grade. Special projects are a part of either their participation or their assignment grade depending on what is being covered.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade Level Topics:

Grade 6 World History

Grade 7 World Geography

Grade 8 American History

General Social Studies Outcomes:

Through the Middle School social studies curriculum, students will:

1. Be able to apply social studies to life by connecting the past with the present and future.
2. Understand key influences which shaped U.S. and world history.
3. Develop a chronological perspective of U.S. and world history.
4. Develop a visual sense of history by using maps, charts and graphs to process information.
5. Understand the concept of "point of view" by examining history through multiple perspectives.
6. Learn to interpret and analyze historical influences through non-textbook means, i.e. artifacts, primary sources, literature, art, music and inventions.
7. Understand the effects of current events on our everyday lives, and understand how they were shaped by past historical events.

Academic Expectations:

In order to meet the above goals, middle school students will be required to :

| | Percentage of Grade |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Complete homework assignments & participate in classroom discussion | 40% |
| 2. Demonstrate knowledge of facts through quizzes and tests | 45% |
| 3. Long-term and in-class projects | <u>15%</u> |
| | 100% |

SCIENCE

CLASSES

Life Science - 6th grade

Earth Science - 7th grade

Physical Science - 8th grade

HOMEWORK

Science homework is given an average of 4 days each week. Class time is given to begin and often complete assignments.

LABS

Each student is required to keep a lab notebook. While the majority of lab work is done in small groups, students are responsible for writing up and turning in their own labs.

ENRICHMENT

Each student is required to complete one enrichment assignment each trimester.

*A Science Fair Project is the required enrichment for all students the second trimester.

*The majority of each enrichment assignment is to be completed outside of the classroom.

QUIZZES

Quizzes are given to check for understanding and provide reinforcement of essential skills.

TESTS

Tests are given at the end of each chapter (every 2-3 weeks).

GRADING:

| | <u>SIXTH</u> | <u>SEVENTH</u> | <u>EIGHTH</u> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| ASSIGNMENTS | 30 | 20 | 15 |
| LABS | 30 | 30 | 25 |
| TESTS | 20 | 30 | 40 |
| QUIZZES | 20 | 20 | 20 |

LANGUAGE ARTS

LITERATURE:

- stimulates thought and imagination
- carries message about everyday life
- acquaints the reader with many literary genres
- introduces the reader to great authors
- develops a life-long love of reading
- invites personal interaction with the written word

WRITING:

- stimulates thought and imagination
- carries a concise message to the reader
- acquaints the writer with specific writing processes
- allows the writer to respond to literature and share his/her world of knowledge
- develops a life-long love of writing
- promotes clear thinking, organization and analysis

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Assignments are given daily and must be completed on time.
2. There also are other assignments given periodically that are long-term.
3. Daily work needs to be completed neatly and legibly.
4. The vocabulary and spelling assignments must be complete on Due Date.
5. Students will be required to complete an Outside Reading Projects on their own. Further information will be sent when assigned.
6. Novels will be assigned in class. Students must complete all required reading.
7. Research papers must be typed. Papers need to be neat and legible.

GRADES

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Homework | 30% |
| Exams | 30% |
| Long-term projects | 20% |
| Vocabulary/spelling tests | 10% |
| Quizzes | 10% |

Total 100%

EXPECTATIONS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

1. Students are required to dress in the appropriate uniform (see school handbook) for each class. Not bringing proper gym clothes will result in a daily grade reduction and detention the third time.
2. Skill tests and knowledge tests will be given when appropriate.
3. Students are graded in the following areas:
 - a. Attitude/Fair Play/Cooperation
 - b. Participation/Effort
 - c. Proper Dress
 - d. Skills
 - e. Knowledge of rules, game or activity
 - f. Physical Fitness
4. A physician's note will be the only reason a student is "excused" from participating.

COMPUTER GRADES

Computer in the Middle School will follow the letter grade/percentages of other classes. The criteria for grading will include:

1. completion of assignments
2. cooperation with other students and adults in the room
3. creativity and effort
4. competency in keyboarding

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

All middle school students participate in a field trip to Wolf Ridge E.L.C. each March. The trip is an integral part of our middle school curriculum. Our goals include building community among the middle school students, providing opportunities for personal growth and challenging students to become stewards of their environment.

HOMEWORK

"Homework in every subject.

Tell me what to do first.

Which is more important?

Each teacher says his/her subject is.

How can I be organized when I can't even remember my schedule?"

- Taken from Love Me When I'm Most Unlovable

The Middle School Years

Many parents give too much "help" with homework and tend to become too emotionally involved in questions of whether it gets done and how well.

Homework serves not one, but two purposes. The first, and most obvious, is practice and drill in academic skills. But homework is also an exercise in accepting responsibility, postponing reinforcement, tolerating frustration, perseverance and independent accomplishment. For all those reasons, it's important that homework get done. It's even more important that the child do it, not the parents.

Parents should be available to assist a child with homework, but their proper role is that of consultant, not participant, and a fine line divides one from the other. Crossing that line means stepping into emotional quicksand. The harder you struggle to get out, the deeper you sink. Parents who participate in the getting-done of homework not only dilute whatever academic learning was intended, but also enable the child to become dangerously dependent upon their continued presence and help where homework is concerned.

Parents can, and sometimes should, help with homework. When they do, it should only be for one of two reasons: First, because the child is "stuck" at some point, has given it his all, and legitimately needs adult guidance to get unstuck. Second, because he has finished his homework, but wants someone to check it.

Parents can give examples, clarify directions and provide support, but shouldn't actually do any of the child's homework for him. Their involvement should never last longer than fifteen minutes, this being the rare exception rather than the norm, which should be closer to five minutes.

Parents should set an upper time limit on homework. Parents and students need to work together to set a specific time as homework time. This time may vary from day to day due to other activities in the student's life. The child should be responsible for deciding when to begin, but parents should decide when to call "time". The deadline should be consistent, say 8:00 every evening, but can be temporarily suspended for special projects and when the child needs to study for major tests.

Saint John's faculty and staff believe that the student's first responsibility is to complete homework. If a student has to make a choice between sports or other extra-curricular activity (practice, game, tournament or meeting) and completing homework, it is more important for his/her academic career to make sure the homework is completed.

Date:

To: Parents/Guardians of _____

Re: **Excessive letters / detentions and missing work**

In order to encourage students to strive for academic excellence and accept responsibility for their academic work and behavior, Saint John's middle school has the following policy.

1. If the total number of academic letters and detentions the student receives reaches or exceeds 12 in one trimester the student will miss all extra middle school activities that are less than a half day in duration for the rest of the trimester. Some examples of these activities may include, but are not limited to the 8th grade-teacher volleyball, choir, artist in residence classes, etc...
2. If the total number of academic letters and detentions the student receives reaches or exceeds 24 in one trimester the student will additionally miss all extra middle school activities that are one full day or more in duration. Some examples of these activities include, but are not limited to Olympic day, skiing at Afton Alps, trip to Wolf Ridge E.L.C., etc...
3. If a long term project the student has been assigned has not been completed, regardless of the number of letters and detentions the student has, the student will miss all extra middle school activities until the work is completed in a satisfactory manner. Some examples of long term projects include, but are not limited to the Christmas Heritage project, science fair project, book reports, etc...

This letter is to inform you that your child has received 24 letters for this trimester. This means that he/she will miss all full day activities for the rest of this trimester. Arrangements will need to be made for your child on these days since the middle school teachers will also be out of the building. Please sign this form acknowledging that you have read and understood this information. Return this form to school by

_____:

Parent signature

Student signature

Middle School Teacher e-mail addresses

| <u>Teacher</u> | <u>Subject(s)</u> | <u>e-mail address</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Serena Lovera | Spanish | slovera@stjohnsoflc.org |
| Linda Gruntner | Science/Phy. Ed. | lgruntner@stjohnsoflc.org |
| Duane Lofstad | Computer/Phy. Ed. | dlofstad@stjohnsoflc.org |
| Ruth Marske | Math/Art | ramarske@stjohnsoflc.org |
| Judith Pieper | Religion | jpieper@stjohnsoflc.org |
| Mike Breyer | Social Studies | mbreyer@stjohnsoflc.org |
| Karen Leciejewski | Language Arts | kleciejewski@stjohnsoflc.org |
| Jan Truhler | Library | jtruhler@stjohnsoflc.org |
| Becky Castro | Choir | bcastro@stjohnsoflc.org |
| Jen Soucheray | Math/Lit./Rel. | jsoucheray@stjohnsoflc.org |

Saint John's Athletics Webpage:
<http://sjlcmsathletics.weebly.com>

Daily homework information:
<http://sjlcms.weebly.com>

SAINT JOHN'S MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT ATHLETE AGREEMENT

In order to strive for academic excellence, we require that all students who participate in athletics maintain a "C" average.

1. Each student must maintain a G.P.A. of 1.67 or higher. The G.P.A. is calculated at the end of each marking period, which is approximately 6 weeks long.

If the G.P.A is below a 1.67 with one or more "F's," the student will be immediately ineligible to participate in any athletic practice or game until the next report is issued and the 1.67 goal is met.

2. If a student has a G.P.A. that is below a 1.67 and does not have any "F's," the student will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation will be an agreement (between the student, the homeroom teacher and parent) of goals that the student will attain by the time designated in the agreement.

The student may continue to participate in athletics until the agreed upon date in the academic probation agreement. If the agreed upon goals have been met, the student may continue to participate. If the agreed upon goals have not been met, participation will cease until the next report card is issued and the 1.67 goal is met.

- School rules inside and outside of the classroom must be followed.
- Conduct that does not meet the standards of Saint John's School before, during and after an athletic event will be cause for dismissal from the team.
- Participants will follow all rules established by the coaches.
- Participants will follow all rules established by the C.A.A., as well as rules that govern the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. Good sportsmanship is to be shown by all the Saint John's team members and fans.

Please note: A student must be in school for at least 1/2 of the school day in order to participate in a game or a practice that same day.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Middle School Information Agreement

Parent signature necessary each year

Please Note:

I have read the Middle School Information and understand the expectations of Saint John's Students. I realize that any questions that I have should be discussed with the appropriate teacher(s). Please sign and return this form by Friday, September 9, 2011.

We look forward to a great year!

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Mr. Breyer | Mrs. Leciejewski | Mrs. Marske | Mrs. Soucheray |
| Mrs. Gruntner | Mrs. Lovera | Mr. Lofstad | |
| Mrs. Pieper | Mrs. Truhler | Mrs. Castro | |

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

