

"Putting the Pieces Together" ...Knowledge...Values...Faith...Service...

Students also participate in:

- Daily chapel prayers and Pledge of Allegiance
- Mass on Wednesday and Holy Days of Obligation
- A Lenten Retreat Day
- Confirmation Preparation
- Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent
- Days of Eucharistic Adoration
- Middle School Service Projects
- Independent and School Service Hours
- Stations of the Cross



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CCCS Middle School

Programs & Curriculum Overview

Preparing our students for a faith-filled future.

"Putting the pieces together" . . .

Knowledge . . . Values . . . Faith . . . Service . . .

All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade programs are based on the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids Curriculums and linked to the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations.

A Copy of the Grand Rapids Diocesan Curriculum is available for viewing in the Corpus Christi School Main Office.

The Michigan GLCEs are available to view online at:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753_33232---,00.html

School Contact Information:

- ◆ Phone Number - 616.994.9864
- ◆ School Webpage - <http://www.corpuschristischool.us/>
- ◆ Middle School Webpage -
<http://www.corpuschristischool.us/Middle.asp>
- ◆ Middle School information on Edline -
<https://www.edline.net/Index.page>
- ◆ Middle School Wiki -
<http://stormingthecastleofknowledge.wikispaces.com/>

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Mission Statement

Corpus Christi Catholic School is a non-profit educational ministry of the Holland-Zeeland Catholic Community, co-sponsored by the St. Francis de Sales and Our Lady of the Lake parishes. Our mission is to provide the highest quality academic and spiritual education, rooted in the values of the Roman Catholic Church. Holland Area Catholic Schools will provide experiences to inspire, challenge and nurture the mind, body and spirit of our students. We will prepare our students to live the gospel message and become responsible stewards of God's gifts.



Grading Scale

96 - 100	A
93 - 95	A-
91 - 92	B+
88 - 90	B
85 - 87	B-
83 - 84	C+
80 - 82	C
77 - 79	C-
75 - 76	D+
72 - 74	D
70 - 71	D-
0 - 69	F

Academic Competition and Clubs

Students have a wealth of opportunities to compete academically throughout the school year. Our students regularly excel in a variety of academic competitions have included:

Odyssey of the Mind

Math club

Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee

National Geography Bee

America & Me Essay Contest

Creative Communications/Anthology of Poetry Contests

People to People (Eisenhower Foundation, Wash. D.C.)

Great Lakes Scholars

Chess Club

Legal Eagles (ABA Mock Trial)

Troubadours

Corpus Christi Chronicle

Leadership

Our middle school students are preparing for the challenges of high school and adulthood. Learning about and practicing self-responsibility is a given, however, our students have many opportunities to take roles that lead others as well. Leadership roles include:

Student Leadership Council

Catholic Schools Week

Field Day

Partnering with younger grades

Safeties

Recycling Program & Ecology Club

Junior Achievement Programs & Reverse Job Shadow Days

Calling All Colors (partnership with Lakeshore Diversity Alliance)

PATH

Scores earned on standardized tests can make students eligible for PATH classes through HOPE College. Students with skills and scores making them eligible for these classes are contacted with information. Our students most often qualify for and choose to take PATH Language Arts and/or PATH Science. Students in the PATH program attend their PATH class once a week for 4 hours. They are then responsible to complete PATH work and any work missed from their other classes while they were at PATH during a study hall time or at home.

Excellence in Education

The Corpus Christi Middle School Program is geared toward encouraging excellence in all of our students. Our expectations are high and our assignments challenging, combining to create an academically rigorous learning environment in which our students thrive. Our IOWA test scores are well above local and national averages. Many of our students qualify for the SAT and ACT college entrance exams. We help our students in their preparation for High School by helping them develop exam taking skills.

Social Studies & U.S. History6th Grade Social Studies: Western Hemisphere

- ◆ Physical Geography of North America
- ◆ Ancient History North America: Beginnings to AD 300
- ◆ Physical Geography of Latin America
- ◆ Ancient History of Latin America: Beginnings to AD 300
- ◆ Global Issues Past and Present

7th Grade Social Studies: Eastern Hemisphere

- ◆ Physical Geography of Europe and Russia
- ◆ Ancient History of Europe and Russia: Beginnings to AD 300
- ◆ Physical Geography of Africa
- ◆ Ancient History of Africa: Beginnings to AD 300
- ◆ Physical Geography of Asia
- ◆ Ancient History of Asia: Beginnings to AD 300
- ◆ Global Issues Past and Present

8th Grade U.S. History

- ◆ Life in Colonial America
- ◆ The American Revolution and Its Consequences
- ◆ Creating New Government (s) and a New Constitution
- ◆ Challenges to an Emerging Nation
- ◆ Regional and Economic Growth
- ◆ Foreign and Domestic Conflict
- ◆ Civil War & Reconstruction
- ◆ Westward Movement/Reform Movement

LANGUAGE ARTS**PROGRAM GOAL -**

Recognizing the differences in learning styles and ability levels, all students will learn to communicate effectively, through reading, writing, speaking and listening. All students will learn language arts skills that allow them to continue learning through their lifetimes. Through a faith-based education, all students will learn to appreciate (value) diversity that is reflected in a variety of cultures and life experiences, as they have to do with written and oral communication. It is a spiraling curriculum in the sense that many of the same skills develop over time.

A balanced Language Arts program requires that students experience a variety of literary forms and genres, along with different writing processes. The Corpus Christi Catholic School/Diocese of Grand Rapids Curriculum offers many opportunities for helping students gain independence in reading and writing for aesthetic and personal response, form information, and for critical analysis and evaluation. It too is a spiraling curriculum in the sense that many of the same skills develop over time.

SIXTH GRADE -

Sixth grade students use oral language, written language, and media and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical and literary purposes. Students also explore the structure of language and study grammatical rules in order to speak and write effectively. We do this through:

Interpreting and synthesizing information

Critically analyzing print and non-print communication

Using effective sentence construction and editing for improvements in sentence formation, usage, mechanics and spelling.

Sixth grade reading is an integral part of all content areas. Students are offered the opportunities to read and comprehend content-based text. They are also offered the opportunity to experience quality based literature including works by the following authors: Scott O' Dell, John Steinbeck, Mark Twain, Wilson Rawls, and Paul Zindel.

SEVENTH GRADE -

Seventh grade students use oral language, written language, and media and technology for expressive informational, argumentative, critical and literary purposes. Students also explore the structure of language and study grammatical rules in order to speak and write effectively. We do this through:

Expressing individual perspectives in response to personal, social, cultural, and historical issues.

Interpreting and synthesizing information

Critically analyzing print and non-print communication.

Using effective sentence construction and editing for improvements in sentence formation, usage, mechanics, and spelling.

Seventh grade reading is an integral part of all content areas. Students are offered the opportunities to read and comprehend content-based text. They are also offered the opportunity to experience, interpret and evaluate a wide range of literature including works by the following authors:

John Steinbeck

William Barrett

Robert Newton Peck

Mark Twain

Theodore Taylor

Paul Zindel

Athletics

Corpus Christi Catholic School has a comprehensive sports program for boys and girls in the fifth through eighth grades. A member of GRACEAC (Grand Rapids Area Catholic Elementary Athletic Council), our school competes against other Catholic middle schools within the Grand Rapids Diocese. GRACEAC provides programs for boys' football, soccer, basketball, cross country, track, and baseball. Girls' sports include soccer, basketball, volleyball, and softball. Our school also has a cheerleading squad that competes with other area cheerleading teams. Financial, equipment, and event management support for our athletic teams are provided largely by the Corpus Christi Catholic School Athletic Boosters.

Friday Focus

Our Friday Focus elective program provides students with the opportunity to explore a variety of topics for six-week periods throughout the school year. Electives have included School Newspaper, Odyssey of the Mind, Religions of the World, Turning Points in American History, Middle School Skills, and Art studies, computers, Drama etc.

Cross-curricular Projects

Each year teachers select a unit of study for 6th, 7th & 8th grade students to explore together in and in all of their core classes. Topics have included:

The Holocaust

Civil Rights

Lewis & Clark

Ancient Civilizations such as Greek and Greek Mythology

Field Trips

Middle School students enjoy a variety of field trips, all designed to enhance their educational and religious experience. These have included:

Fredrick Meijer Gardens

Mel Trotter/God's Kitchen/Degage' Ministries/Holland Rescue Mission

Aquinas College & Hope College

Retreat Days at Our Lady or the Lake and St Francis

Camp Manitou-lin Team Building

Saugatuck Sand Dunes



Mathematics: In 6th, 7th and 8th grade students integrate estimation, mental calculations, logical thinking skills, and technology to become critical thinkers, problem solver and competent communicator in the following mathematical areas:

Number sense and numeration, number operations, mathematical thinking, patterns, relationships and functions, geometry and measurement, data analysis, statistics and probability, reasoning and problem solving strategies

6th Grade Mastery:

Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts with whole numbers (0-12), decimals and fractions, and solving basic algebraic equations

Geometry vocabulary and area and perimeter formulas

7th Grade Mastery

Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with integers, application problems with percents, use of a protractor, applications with three-dimensional figures such as volume and surface area, and solving 2 step algebraic equations

8th Grade

Students are placed into Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, or Geometry based on placement tests, grades and effort in math classes through 7th grade, the student's school of choice for high school, and teacher recommendation.

Pre-Algebra Mastery

Solving 1 and 2 step algebraic equations, and graphing and solving linear equations

Algebra Mastery

Manipulate variables, expressions and radicals, solve equations, inequalities and systems of equations algebraically and graphically, applications with basic statistics and probability, and graphing and interpreting non-linear equations

Geometry - An online Geometry program (and also Algebra 1 as needed) is offered through the Christian Learning Center Network. These courses require mastery of the high school benchmarks for their respective courses.

6th, 7th and 8th grade math classes use the *Glencoe Mathematics Course 2, Mathematics Course 3, Pre-Algebra and Algebra I series*



EIGHTH GRADE -

Eighth grade students use oral language, written language, and other media and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes. They continue to refine their study of language and grammar in order to speak and write effectively. Students also:

Express individual perspectives through analysis and personal response.

Refine understanding and use of argument.

Critically analyze print and non-print communication.

Use effective sentence construction and edit for improvements in sentence formation, usage, mechanics, and spelling.

Reading is a critical skill for all students in all grades. In eighth grade the development of critical thinking as implied through the written word is emphasized. Students are experiencing character development, searching for themes and symbolism. We do this through top literature and authors:

Victor Hugo

Gaston Leroux

John Steinbeck

Robert Louis Stevenson

William Shakespeare

Harper Lee

SPANISH

PROGRAM GOAL -

The learner will become a well-rounded global citizen who can communicate and appreciate various cultures while applying and making relevant the knowledge learned from the language and the culture.

The Spanish Program is offered for all grades Pre-K to 8th. Each year, the classes will review the information from the previous year and then extend that vocabulary through listening, speaking, reading and writing as appropriate for each grade level. The program curriculum follows the diocesan curriculum. The students use the *Spanish for Mastery I* text for all three years.

SIXTH GRADE -

The students will review commonly used expressions, numbers, weather, telling the time and the date. The focus for the year will be conjugating regular "ar" verbs, sentence structure, and learning the Act of Contrition in Spanish.

SEVENTH GRADE -

The focus for the year will be conjugating regular "ar" verbs, irregular verbs, sentence structure, and learning the Apostle's Creed in Spanish. The students will also research a Spanish-speaking country of their choice.

EIGHTH GRADE -

The focus for the year will be conjugating regular "ar", "er", and "ir" verbs, irregular verbs, more complex sentence structure, and learning the Nicene Creed in Spanish. The students will also create bilingual children's books that will be read to the younger grades.

The **ADVANCED SPANISH** students will focus on their writing skills. The students will write plays, poems, essays, short stories, and beginner chapter books. These will be read to different classes.

Religion

6th Grade Religion:

The main focus in 6th grade religion is for the student to have a deeper understanding of the roots of our faith by studying the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Major concepts of study include:

- ◆ God's covenants / Creation
- ◆ Roots of our Faith
- ◆ Trinity / Early Church view of Jesus
- ◆ Faith Community / Scripture: Inspiration and Reflection

7th Grade Religion:

Students will study the Catholic faith and be able to apply these beliefs in their actions through various service, prayer, and decision making opportunities. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the living truths of their faith through the Christian Scriptures. Major concepts of study include:

- ◆ Four main parts of Christian Scriptures
- ◆ Covenant
- ◆ Mary's discipleship
- ◆ Holy Spirit
- ◆ Jesus (divine/human)
- ◆ Paschal Mystery
- ◆ Nicene Creed
- ◆ Jesus' mission/ministry continues today
- ◆ Personal nature of God

8th Grade Religion:

Students will study the Catholic faith and be able to apply these beliefs in their actions through various service, prayer, and decision making opportunities. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in the formation of the Church in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Major concepts of study include:

- ◆ Examining the Acts of the Apostles also analyze the role of the Holy Spirit in building the early Church.
- ◆ Analyzing how the Holy Spirit organized the Church through the use of Church Councils
- ◆ Learn about the lives of the Saints as a model of the Holy Spirit in action.
- ◆ Explore church doctrine and daily life.
- ◆ The students will examine Catholic Social Teaching and how it applies to daily life.
- ◆ How the Holy Spirit brings about changes throughout history
- ◆ Confirmation preparation

Science: In 6th, 7th and 8th grade students nurture & develop their curiosity for and understanding of our universe, including a sense of stewardship towards God's creation. Students discuss new ways to explore and solve scientific problems to create new and ethical solutions for the future, and relate scientific knowledge and developments to the 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching with a specific focus on outdoor ecology.

SCIENCE PROCESSES for 6th, 7th and 8th grades:

- ◆ Observation, question generation, conducting investigations, and data collection
- ◆ Use tools and equipment appropriate to scientific investigations
- ◆ Construct charts and graphs from data and observations & analyze data
- ◆ Evaluate data and scientific claims and then communicate and defend findings of observations and investigations
- ◆ Draw conclusions from sets of data from investigations and developing solutions to problems through reasoning and observation
- ◆ Describe the effect humans and other organisms have on the balance of the natural world
- ◆ Describe how science and technology have advanced because of the contributions of many people throughout history and across cultures

SCIENCE CONTENT KNOWLEDGE BASE AREAS of STUDY

6th Grade Units of study: Science Processes, Outdoor Ecology, Plate Tectonics, and Matter

7th Grade Units of study: Science Inquiry & Process Skills, Weather, Cells, Kingdoms of Living Things and Outdoor Ecology

8th Grade Units of study: Science Inquiry & Process Skills, Earth Science, Heredity, Chemistry and Outdoor Ecology

6th, 7th and 8th grade science classes use a combination of texts: 1997 Prentice Hall Science Unit text series, TOPS activities, and 2008 Project Based Inquiry Science series by It's About Time