



Middle School Course Descriptions

Mission:

Saint Bridget School a Catholic, Christ-centered environment that provides a strong academic curriculum and fosters spiritual growth, moral development, and the pursuit of excellence in the whole person.

Vision:

Saint Bridget School, rooted in the richness of Catholic tradition, will creatively and enthusiastically challenge our learning community to:

- Sustain a Christ-centered environment
- Cultivate the potential of each child
- Teach Gospel values and integrate them into daily life
- Provide opportunities for prayer, worship, stewardship, and service
- Prepare each student to be a life-long learner who is able to make responsible choices reflecting the teachings of Jesus Christ
- Challenge and empower the faculty and staff to continually evaluate the present so they can better design the future, building on the school's foundation and rich heritage for present and future generations

6th Grade

Language Arts:

Students develop their abilities to communicate and think creatively and critically through grammar, writing, literature, and vocabulary. Using the 6+1 Traits of Writing program, students focus on development of their writing, specifically creative and expository forms.

Mathematics:

Math 6

The students in this class prepare to take Pre-Algebra in 7th grade. This course reinforces basic mathematical concepts and introduces skills that are essential for all students. Students entering Math 6 should have mastery of the four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) involving whole numbers, fractions, and decimals.

Pre-Algebra

The students in this class prepare to take Algebra 1 in 7th grade. This class is taught at an accelerated pace and extra independent time for study and practice is essential to student success. Students entering Pre-Algebra develop an understanding of rational numbers, variables and exponents, linear equations and inequalities, and functions.

Religion:

The religion curriculum is based on the Diocesan Consensus Curriculum. Sixth grade focuses on four foundational strands, building on previous knowledge and digging deeper into our faith.

Life Science:

The Life Science course assists students in becoming life-long learners who grow in their understanding of the world. The Life Science standards emphasize an understanding of change, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world.

Social Studies:

The students apply social science skills to understand the causes, major events, and effects of Virginia and US History during the mid-1860s up to 1920, including: the Civil War, Reconstruction, late 19th Century, and the beginning of World War I.

World Language:

Introduction to Spanish or Introduction to French

Students take Spanish or French five days a week. This course is a continuation of elementary World Language. Students become more accomplished communicators by developing conversational skills, building basic vocabulary, applying grammar rules, and generating simple sentence structures.

Sixth grade students participate in a Specialty Class rotation consisting of one quarter each of Music, Art, Technology, and Public Speaking. Students also have Health/PE all year, one day a week.

Students also select from Club options.

7th Grade

Language Arts:

Students develop their abilities to communicate and think creatively and critically through grammar, writing, literature, and vocabulary. Using the 6+1 Traits of Writing program, students focus on development of their writing, including the formal research paper process.

Mathematics:

Math 7

The students in this class prepare to take Pre-Algebra in 8th grade. Students taking Math 7 will develop a deeper understanding of real numbers, expressions with variables and exponents, linear equations and inequalities, and proportional relationships.

Pre-Algebra

The students in this class prepare to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Students taking Pre-Algebra develop an understanding of rational numbers, variables and exponents, linear equations and inequalities, and functions.

Algebra 1

This advanced class is a *high-school credit course*.

The students in this class prepare to take Geometry in 8th grade. Students entering Algebra should have mastery of the concepts presented in Pre-Algebra. Students will develop an understanding of rational and irrational numbers, systems of equations and inequalities, and quadratic functions, and graphing and statistics.

Religion:

The religion curriculum is based on the Diocesan Consensus Curriculum. Seventh grade focuses on four foundational strands, building on previous knowledge and digging deeper into our faith.

Physical Science:

The Physical Science course assists students in becoming life-long learners who grow in their understanding of nature and structure of matter and energy.

Social Studies:

The students apply social science skills to understand the causes, major events, and effects of Virginia and US History beginning with the post-World War I time period (1920s) and ending with current events. Topics such as the Jazz Age, the Great Depression, World War II, The Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War, Cold War, and other major historical events will be explored to understand their role in the shaping of the United States.

World Language:

Students participate in Spanish 1A (year 1 of 2) that when continued with 1B complete the first year of high school level language. Students use the target language in class, becoming accomplished communicators in developing conversational skills, building vocabulary, applying grammar rules, and generating simple and complex sentence structures.

A student who successfully completes both 1A and 1B are eligible to receive one high school credit.

Seventh grade students participate in a Specialty Class rotation consisting of one quarter each of Music, Art, Technology, and Introduction to Media Literacy. Students also have Health/PE all year, one day a week.

Students also select from Club options.

8th Grade

Language Arts:

Students develop their abilities to communicate and think creatively and critically through grammar, writing, literature, and vocabulary. Using the 6+1 Traits of Writing program, students focus on development of their writing, including the formal research paper process as well as persuasive writing.

Mathematics:Pre Algebra

The students in this class are being prepared to take Algebra 1 in high school. Students entering Pre-Algebra develop an understanding of rational numbers, variables and exponents, linear equations and inequalities, and functions.

Algebra 1

This advanced class is a *high-school credit course*.

The students in this class are being prepared to take Geometry in high school. Students entering Algebra should have mastery of the concepts presented in Pre-Algebra. Students develop an understanding of rational and irrational numbers, systems of equations and inequalities, and quadratic functions, and graphing and statistics.

Geometry

This advanced class is a *high-school credit course*.

Course content follows Euclidean Geometry. This course uses a variety of applications and general problem solving techniques. Students entering Geometry should have mastery of the concepts presented in Algebra 1.

Religion:

The religion curriculum is based on the Diocesan Consensus Curriculum. Eight grade focuses on four foundational strands, building on previous knowledge and digging deeper into our faith.

Science:Earth Science

This course assists students in becoming life-long learners who grow in their understanding of the major concepts of Geology, Oceanography, Astronomy and Meteorology. Students also strengthen inquiry skills, analysis of data, and manipulation of variables.

GeoScience

This advanced class is a *high-school credit course*.

Course content is a highly interdisciplinary program applying physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics to understand and manage all aspects of Earth and the environment.

Social Studies:Civics and Economics

Students apply social science skills to understand the founding of our nation, establishment of democracy, civil rights and liberties, the branches and functions of the federal, state, and local governments, and economics.

World History

This advanced class is a *high-school credit course*.

Students study the foundational complex societies from each continent leading up to the convergence of global society during the Renaissance in Europe, before the Age of Exploration.

World Languages

Students in Spanish 1B (year 2 of 2) complete the first year of high school level language. Students continue to use the Spanish in class, becoming more accomplished communicators, developing conversational skills, building vocabulary, applying grammar rules, and generating simple and complex sentence structures. A student who successfully completes 1B will be eligible to receive one high school credit.

Eighth grade students participate in a Specialty Class rotation consisting of one quarter each of Music, Art, Technology, and Current Events and Journalism. Students also have Health/PE one day a week. Students also select from Club options.



Specialty Course Rotations

One Quarter of Each Class:

Art

Middle School Art is designed to encourage creative thinking and inspire excitement around the various processes of Art and Design. Students are taught skills that build on the previous elementary curriculum. Students are expected to apply these skills to independent and group work, in both 2D and 3D projects. Students are given broad project ideas from which they are to research, ideate, create, and revise.

Media Literacy

6th Grade-Public Speaking: This course presents students with the opportunity to learn and improve public speaking and debate skills. Students learn different styles of speech writing, study important influential speeches throughout history, apply and identify techniques of rhetoric in speech writing, learn skills necessary for delivering an effective speech, explore cultural and current topics and how to address them through rhetoric, and become comfortable speaking in front of peers.

7th Grade-Introduction to Media Literacy: This course presents students with various forms of media permeating our world and helps students discern the information they encounter. Students identify various forms of media (art, print, radio, television, advertising, music, social) and their influence in today's world, produce their own versions of these media forms, identify messages given by the media, identify techniques used by the media to influence, and apply their understandings to problem solve and improve their encounters with messages sent through the media.

8th Grade-Current Events and Journalism: This course builds on the two previous courses. Students will identify news stories and current events happening in our world, discuss different approaches to presenting news stories, identify bias in news stories, look at how news is disseminated in our world today, discern between credible or non credible news sources, learn to share news through various journalistic techniques: news writing, reporting, interviewing, and even tweeting, and create news stories and articles of their own using current events and personal interviews.

Music

Middle School Music is designed to provide a musical experience for all students. Students are taught specific skills that build on the previous elementary curriculum. Emphasis is placed on developing an affective and cognitive appreciation of music. Through class projects, students brainstorm, create, and perform (using a variety of instruments) improvised melodies and music compositions. Additionally, students learn to read, notate, listen to, and describe music, as well as understand music's relation to history and culture.

Technology

Middle School technology is designed to encourage creative thinking and inspire excitement around the various technologies accessible to our students.

6th Grade -Students learn to use and manage their new device and Google services (email, Google Drive, Slides, etc.). Topics of study include: video creation using green screen technology; 3D design and printing; internet safety/digital citizenship; coding Finch robots; and proper typing.

7th Grade -Students explore emerging technologies and their positive/negative implications. Topics of study include: 3D design and printing; spreadsheet formulas via a real life simulation; current events in technology; virtual reality tour creation; typing practice; coding Finch robots; and social media safety.

8th Grade -Students explore emerging technologies and their positive/negative implications. Topics of study include: 3D design and printing; computer dissection and reassembly; coding Finch robots; current events in technology; instruction in typing; and creation and presentation of Internet Safety lessons.

One day per Week, Year-long:

PE/Health

Middle school students will compete in competitive small-group games with emphasis on fair play, rules and strategy. Students learn to develop an active lifestyle by participating in regular physical activity at school, home, and in the community. Students explore their own health and wellness by studying health topics relating to personal, social, mental, and physical health.