



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

SEVENTH GRADE

2009 - 2010

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At the core of all classroom instruction will be the Student Learning Expectations. All lessons are planned to ensure that each student becomes spiritually grounded, self-aware, academically proficient, an effective communicator and a globally aware individual.

RELIGION – Mrs. Twomey

Faith First (Resources For Christian Living 2001) series leads the students to understand what we believe as Christians and how to live out those beliefs. This is the process that Jesus used again and again as he taught his disciples. This series is based on a firm foundation made up of three essential elements: beliefs, story, and celebration. Seventh grade focuses on the aspect of liturgy and morality.

FAMILY LIFE – Mrs. Twomey

The instruction provides an opportunity for the student to feel comfortable in a discussion of some topics that may be of concern, such as dating, goals, and the goodness of the sex drive. The program provides the student with a deeper understanding of the nature and importance of human sexuality as informed by Christian faith and values.

PRE ALGEBRA – Mrs. Twomey - Text McDougal Littell (2001)

OBJECTIVES OF PRE ALGEBRA:

- To understand addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of expressions and equations.
- To understand the above operations when working with integers.
- To understand integers using fractions and decimals.
- To understand the number theory and powers and exponents.
- To understand addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers.
- To understand equations and inequalities.
- To understand ratio, proportion, and percent.
- To understand equations in geometry.
- To understand area and volume formulas.

RULES FOR PRE ALGEBRA

- Pencils should be used for all math work.
- Math vocabulary, definitions, and formulas will be noted and kept together in a separate section of the math notebook.
- There will be a number of “pop quizzes” to check progress and preparedness.
- Each chapter covered will be tested.

ENGLISH – Mrs. Stewart

Grammar (Parts of speech, mechanics, sentence structure, developing paragraphs, spelling, vocabulary, and writing).

7th grade text – Houghton Mifflin (1990)

Vocabulary – Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary (2000)

OBJECTIVE: They will extend and apply grammar to writing and to speaking. Students will demonstrate their effective communication skills in both their written and spoken word. Also, students will develop creative powers via creative writing. They will gain an appreciation for various writing structures.

Grading: Students will be graded on unit spelling tests as well as workbook completion. Writing assignments will be graded according to the writing trait being covered, as well as timely completion.

SCIENCE – Ms. Jackson– Text: Life Science, Holt 2007

Holt Science & Technology has been updated and redesigned with new activities and visual resources. The revised middle school science program includes new supplementary resources designed to reach students of all abilities. Numerous labs, hands-on activities, and interdisciplinary connections show students how science interconnects in *their* world.

The science program has been revised to create a new focus on learning theories that helps students grasp science in a meaningful way. The research-proven strategies and materials will help make an even more relevant and effective science program for middle school students.

Grading will be based on a combination of the following:

- Homework
- Preparedness for reading groups
- Participation in reading groups and lab groups
- Assignment in class work and lab
- tests

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Twomey – Text: *World History Medieval to Early Modern Times*, Holt2006

The curriculum for grade 7 is “exploring world civilizations and European history from the fall of Rome to the period of Enlightenment. Students will have an opportunity to study in depth various chronological time periods of history and make multi-perspective associations with the world they live in today.

Students will be discussing the responsibility and gifts that each civilization has given the world. This is in line with the California state framework.

It is my desire that our students get “turned on and tuned in” to history by discovering the “links” they have with the past and what “link” they will contribute towards the now of today and the future of tomorrow.

Outside resources will supplement the curriculum. When possible, students will be provided with “hands-on” experiences and expressions of history. We will investigate the use of the newspaper and other current event resources to enhance our knowledge of the world and the events that shape our lives.

LITERATURE: Ms. Cummings

The 7th grade class will use a literature-based program. Emphasis will be on the four elements of literature; plot, character, setting and theme. The class will use a literature anthology by Prentice Hall that includes short stories, plays, poetry, nonfiction etc. Much of the year will be spent reading individual works, including *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, *Esperanza Rising*, and *The Giver*, with the anthology serving as a resource to cover additional concepts. Later in the year students will be assigned a biography or memoir to be read in literature circles. In addition, a book report will be assigned each quarter. Homework and discipline policies will follow the guidelines of the 6-8 grades. Grading will be based on class work, homework, and tests.

SPANISH – Ms. Ruiz – The students are learning steps to conversational Spanish. They meet two days a week

DISCIPLINE

Corpus Christi School's ultimate goal is to develop in our students the life skills that lifelong learners will need to exhibit consistent self-discipline. The junior high community recognizes that the teachers and staff must impose discipline when students find themselves in situations where danger, disrespect, and/or disruption are present. The teachers will encourage students to demonstrate respect for all, to contribute well to the learning environment, and to follow procedures correctly.

The classroom discipline plan will allow students to accept ownership for their behavior by working in gradual steps:

1. The teacher will coach or cue a student to self-correct.
2. The student will meet with the teacher to review the rule and its consequence.
3. The student will document the difficulty, occasionally by choosing the mode of documentation when the teacher does not predetermine its form. The teacher may have parents review the documentation at that time.
4. The teacher will contact the parents and any other faculty members who might be affected by the student's actions.
5. The teacher will refer the student to the administration for further review.

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

Homework in all subjects is given for the purpose of reinforcing newly established concepts. Homework in Math (Pre Algebra) is given daily. Science homework assignments are given frequently throughout the week. Often times conclusions to science lab experiments need to be finalized at home as homework. Religion homework is rarely given as discussions of value system and critical reflection of human experiences as a means to a greater faith experience are done within the confines of the classroom. Social Studies will require completing study guides, reading assignments, outlining material and long-range projects. Homework is usually not given over a weekend with the exception of a continuation or a completion of a long-range assignment such as a research paper or work on a Science Fair experiment.

All homework assigned on a particular day must be entered conscientiously into a homework booklet. This homework booklet will be checked periodically to insure that it is being kept up to date.

The Homework Web Page is updated daily and contains both short term and long term assignments.

TESTING AND GRADING PROCEDURES

Each chapter in Math, and Social Studies will be tested with a chapter test. In addition to chapter tests, announced quizzes will be given to test for mastery of material.

For Religion, Math, and Social Studies grading is based on a point system. Every assignment is worth a certain amount of points. At the end of each quarter all points will be totaled. That score, divided by the total possible points, equals a percentage. That percentage will equal the grade based on the Corpus Christi grading guidelines.

Math quizzes are given weekly to ascertain whether the student is keeping up with the daily work or whether the student is falling behind with the daily expectations. Quizzes usually cover the week's material.

Attentive classroom participation and completed and corrected homework assignments will help to better a grade. Inversely, homework not completed will lower the total grade.

All students are encouraged to get a parental signature on all tests. Those children scoring a 73% or lower score on a major test must return the signed test or risk receiving a detention.

PROGRESS REPORTS: Progress reports are mailed home to parents' midway through each quarter. Progress reports help to keep parents aware of specific academic and behavior areas that need improvement. Midway through the first quarter, all students will receive a progress report informing the parents of the child's progress so far in the new academic year.

DANCES: The 7th graders will be participating in two daytime dances with the 8th graders and another school or two from the Oakland Diocese. These are held at Corpus Christi. Occasionally another Catholic School will hold a dance and you will be notified.

LETTERS TO PARENTS: Letters will be sent via email on a regular basis to each 7th grade household. The purpose is to inform parents of upcoming important events and to keep parents abreast of past exciting happenings. Emails will also inform parents of major chapter or unit tests, field trips during that month and any other activities that will be coming up that quarter. The class website also has information about important dates and lists all homework for both current and long term assignments. Communication is the key to success.