

ROSARIAN ACADEMY

— Est. 1925 —



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY 2019-2020

Aligned with Rosarian Academy's mission, we offer a solid and sequenced Middle School 'course of study' dedicated to developing exemplary young citizens with superior academic preparation, moral and ethical decision making capacities, and a growth mindset. Our academic program emphasizes inquiry-based learning, a respect for diverse learning styles, experience in cooperative learning, and the acquisition of interdisciplinary skills. Reference to national standards of best practice in teaching and learning afford us the opportunity to consistently monitor, analyze, and refine all aspects of the students' experience within our Middle School community.

Our core curriculum includes the study of English (grammar, writing, and literature), mathematics, science, social studies, religion, Spanish and the arts. Exploratory and elective courses in art, STEM education, study skills, theatre and music complement the program. Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders also participate in educational trips and service projects. These activities provide students with the opportunity to build leadership skills, strengthen self-esteem and nurture their capacity for global competence.

Religion

Rosarian Academy, founded in 1925 by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is the only independent Catholic School in Palm Beach County. We are rooted in the four pillars of Dominican tradition: prayer, study, community and ministry. We proudly pass on Catholic beliefs, practices, and principles to all students. Students from various religious denominations add to the richness of our curriculum and the fabric of our culture.

Religion classes use Sadlier's *We Believe Series*. The series begins with an emphasis on faith, family, creation and God's love for each individual. Students learn about the sacraments of the Church as well as the commandments. In our study of the Old Testament, students get to know more about the prophets. When studying the New Testament, the emphasis is on the gospels and epistles. Students are also exposed to church history and the social teachings of the Church.

Students learn their faith and call to discipleship through acts of service, experiential learning, and enriching religious traditions found in and out of the classroom. These traditions include monthly liturgies, school gatherings, retreats, and opportunities for community outreach.

Language Arts

The focus of the language arts program is the development of the individual student's growth as a reader, writer, speaker, collaborator and thinker. Habits of higher-level thinking and deep comprehension are cultivated through Shared Inquiry explorations of a large anthology of outstanding literature per grade level. Students learn to ask powerful questions, support ideas with evidence and collaborate with others to explore complex problems. Small group and whole-class group discussions regularly engage students in respectful, civil discourse about essential questions and meaningful issues. The program seeks to engender a love of literature and language by exposing students to many genres that act to enhance their comprehension, vocabulary, and higher level reasoning skills. In addition, our language arts program is supported by classic novel selections that integrate

our literature, writing and social studies curriculums.

Writing becomes a vehicle for practicing spelling and grammar. Expository and creative writing skills are advanced throughout the grade levels. Students are exposed to all genres of writing in middle school, including narrative, expository, persuasive, imaginative, and descriptive. While learning how to write across all genres, students are taught how to apply the proper steps of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, evaluation, and finally - publishing. Students are encouraged to follow these steps each time they are given a writing assignment. They are introduced to the formal five-paragraph essay in 5th grade, and students practice the form throughout the remainder of their middle school years. Grammar is taught as an aid to both writing and speaking. Emphasis is on parts of speech, types of sentences, punctuation and capitalization. In 7th and 8th grade, students will be introduced to diagramming sentences. Rules of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and usages are reviewed and developed across the grade levels.

Public speaking and effective communication skills are addressed on a daily basis. Students speak, read, and recite regularly in front of their classmates. Proper posture, enunciation, paces, and volume are emphasized.

Science

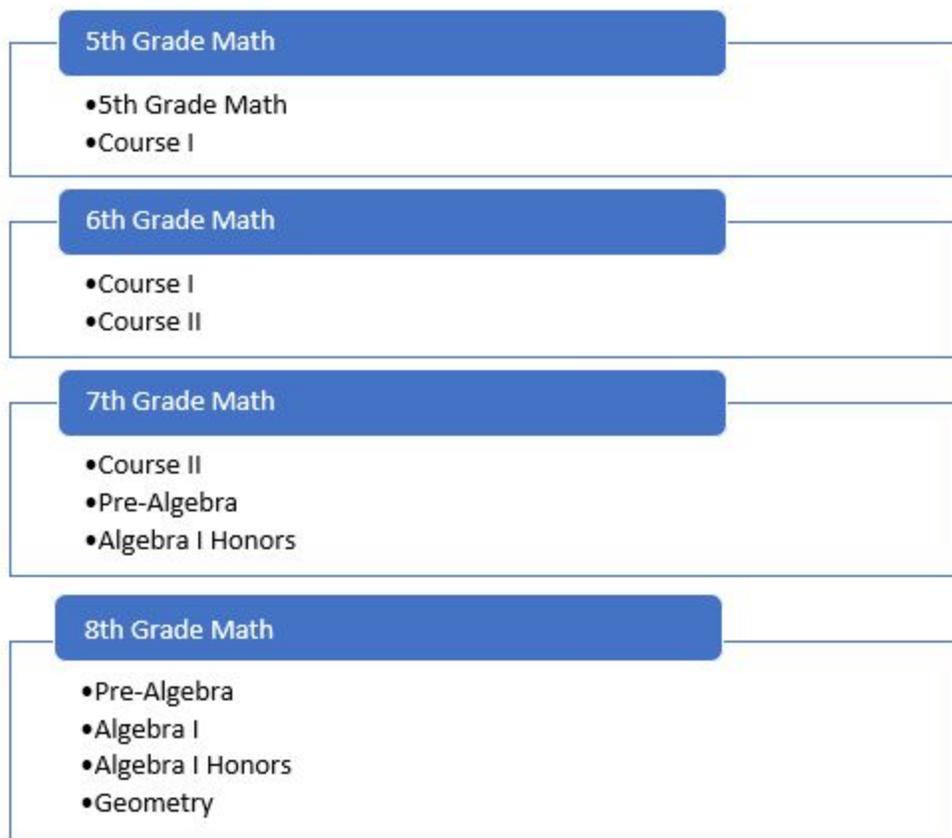
Scientifically, we embrace the Discovery Education series. Utilizing an inquiry-based format built on the Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate (5E) model, each Science Techbook includes rich, standards-aligned content such as video, audio, text, interactives with hands-on activities, and virtual labs for students and educators. Additional student features include bilingual text-to-speech, leveled reading tools, and note-taking and highlighting capabilities. The Science Techbook series also includes valuable STEM resources. These STEM Project Starters encourage students to connect math, technology, and engineering to their understanding of science concepts to produce creative solutions to real world problems.

Additionally, the Discovery series brings real-world, engaging educational content from partners like MythBusters, Cheddar, NBA, Shark Week, MLB, and Street Science into the classroom. This ever-growing collection offers a variety of resources that mirror the unique interests of students, helping them make relevant and lasting connections between science and their everyday lives. Because every student learns in their own way, this series is specifically developed for diverse student audiences and curated by experts for ease of access. High quality multi-modal content is essential to improving academic vocabulary by breaking down barriers to learning, providing all students with multiple ways to shine, and engaging students in higher-level thinking. Science Techbook supports students of different abilities, learning styles and language needs by delivering information through interactive games, multimedia resources, text-to-speech, and the ability to adjust to Lexile levels.

Mathematics

The Middle School Mathematics program consists of six inter-related courses from Sadlier Math and Prentice Hall/Pearson Math: 5th Grade Math, Course 1, Course 2, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I (high school credit), and Geometry (high school credit). These courses are designed to meet the needs of our students with a range of mathematical abilities and to accommodate different growth patterns along the concrete and abstract continuum. They are designed to challenge each student in every course and at every grade level while differentiating instruction based on various learning styles.

Further, Rosarian's mathematics curriculum maintains quality content with research-based approaches that support the needs of our students. Daily integrated intervention and powerful test prep help all students master content and prepare for high-stakes assessments. The middle school mathematics department provides each student with a cohesive grouping of lessons that foster conceptual understanding of mathematical skills and concepts through explicit instruction, cognitively demanding practice, and real-world applications.



Social Studies

The study of history in the Middle School is a platform to facilitate an understanding of history and its impact on the present. Our curriculum is informed by Facing History and Ourselves and Core Knowledge curriculum which support us as we integrate the study of history, human behavior, perspective taking and ethical decision-making strategies into the fabric of our community.

Fifth graders study World Geography, Geography of the United States, Meso-American Civilizations, European Exploration, and the American Revolution. In addition, students study Economics and visit JA BizTown to show mastery of what they have learned in the classroom. The sixth grade course covers World Geography, Ancient Greece and Rome, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, Immigration, and the Civil War.

Seventh graders study World Geography, the Spirit of Reform, America as a World Power, World War I, the Russian Revolution, the Fall of European Monarchies, the Roaring Twenties, and the Great Depression. The eighth grade course covers World Geography, World War II and the Holocaust, the Cold War, America's Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam Years, and America from the late 1960's -Present.

In the spring, sixth grade, students take a two-day, one-night journey to St. Augustine, the oldest European city in the United States. Seventh and eighth graders embark on a two-year study of American history, culminating with a trip to Washington, D.C in April of the eighth-grade year. Current events and geography are threaded through all Middle School courses. Each course uses a current text supplemented by videos, magazines, field trips, and guest speakers. The focus is not only on the content of each course but also on study skills such as mapping, reading for information, note-taking, research, analysis of primary documents, oral arguments, analytical writing, studying for exams and preparing for standardized testing.

Spanish

The Spanish department offers beginning levels in the fifth and sixth grade through high school credit Spanish I classes, as well as a course for native speakers. Spanish classes are designed to immerse our students not only in the language, but also in the traditions and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. We place needed attention on the ability of our students to communicate effectively in the Spanish language that is very much a part of their daily lives here in South Florida.

Learning a second language is an important skill for the education of the whole person for life in a global community. It is with this philosophy in mind that we identify five goals that encompass the 5 C's as adopted by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards: **Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.**

Through the study of Spanish, students gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of cultures. They cannot fully master the language until they have also mastered the cultural contexts in which the language occurs. Students at Rosarian celebrate the diverse Latin populations in our surrounding communities and throughout the world through music, dance, festivities, holidays, and religious customs. Foreign Language Education Week and

National Hispanic Heritage Month provide opportunities for in-depth performances of understanding and school-wide celebrations.

Physical Education

Our Middle School Physical Education Program follows both the state and national standards. We apply movement concepts and principles while continuing to master motor skills. Our program teaches traditional and non-traditional sports as well as character education. Our physical education program models our Middle School sports offerings.

This gives everyone the opportunity to learn the sport, enhance his or her skills, and participate. Educating the Rosarian student in ways to keep fitness fun is a top priority.

Our goal is to encourage each student to exhibit an active lifestyle. While we educate each student on how to be fit for life we also emphasize the values of kindness, good character, honesty, respect for self and others, humility, and forgiveness.

Middle School students attend PE two times per week.

Advisory Program

The Rosarian Academy Advisory program was developed as a way to strengthen connections and self-identity at the Middle School level. During advisory time, students build character, relationships and trust among themselves, their peers and their adult advisor(s). The advisor promotes communication and provides students with academic and social-emotional support and mentorship. Activities are built around the spirit of school family, creating respect within the school community and beyond.