York Catholic Middle School
Course Catalog
2023-2024

YORK CATHOLIC
MIDDLE SCHOOL

601 East Springettsbury Avenue
York, Pennsylvania 17403

Table of Contents

Philosophy, Mission, and Belief Statements 3
Six Year Educational Plan 4
Theology Department 5
English Department 6
Study Skills 7
Social Studies Department 8
Math Department 9
Foreign Language Department 11
Science Department 12
Computer Business Department 13
Art Department 13
Physical Education Department 14
Music Department 15

Our Philosophy
We, the community of York Catholic Middle & High School, see ourselves as co-workers with Jesus Christ in the ministry of education rooted in the Gospels, the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and the guidelines of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Operating in a global society, we choose the Christian world-view as our distinct orientation in carrying out what we regard as our essential task: the development of our students as whole Christian persons. We accomplish this by teaching, by fostering a Catholic value system, and by serving the larger community.

Our quest for academic excellence leads us to teach a core curriculum which is continuously and judiciously updated. Our desire to foster Catholic values prompts us to create an environment which develops personal integrity, respect for one another, reverence for God, and stewardship for our world. Our commitment to serve the larger community impels us to foster social awareness and encourage action for the common good.

We recognize this necessarily collaborative effort is one which increasingly demands the support and involvement of students, parents, staff, parishes, alumni, and the community at large.

Thus we envision our mission as the education of our students to become active members of church and society living their faith.

Mission Statement
Guided by a Christian moral compass, we educate our students in an atmosphere of faith, family, and mutual respect, preparing them to serve the global community.

Belief Statements

- We believe in a faith community that promotes Gospel values and a Christian moral compass.
- We believe in valuing and respecting each individual in a safe educational environment.
- We believe collaboration between our students and highly qualified, compassionate faculty fosters academic excellence and lifelong learning.
- We believe everyone is created in the image of God and we strive to develop the faith, heart, body, and mind of each student.
- We believe in the value of diversity and equity, and each individual's unique God-given talents and gifts.
- We believe in the respect and dignity of human life in an atmosphere based upon Catholic moral values.
- We believe in stewardship, promoting the betterment of school, church, community, country, and world.
- We believe service to others is not only a witness to our faith, but a lifestyle.
- We believe in the importance of self-discipline and personal accountability in the development of our students.

Six Year Educational Plan

Grade 7
Theology 7
English Language Arts 7
Pre-Algebra
Life Science
Geography
Introduction to Foreign Language
Enrichment 7 (see below)

Grade 8
Theology 8
English Language Arts 8
Algebra I
Earth Science
US History I
German 1 or Spanish 1
Enrichment 8 (see below)

Grade 9
Theology 9
English 9
Algebra II
Science
U. S. History II
Elective
Required minors (see below)

Grade 10
Theology 10
English 10
Geometry
Science
World History
Elective
Required Minors (see below)

Grade 11
Theology 11
English 11
Mathematics
Foundations of American Government and Economics
Science
Elective
Required Minors (see below)

Grade 12
Theology 12
English 12
Elective
Elective
Elective
Elective
Required Minor (see below)

Required Minor Courses

Enrichment 7
Art
Computer 7
Study Skills
Physical Education

Enrichment 8
Theater
SOAR (Career Exploration)
Health
Physical Education

Minor 9
Physical Education
CLOVER (College and Career Exploration)

Minor 10
Physical Education
CLOVER (College and Career Exploration)

Minor 11
Physical Education
Health

Minor 12
Physical Education

Theology Department

Theology is central to the curriculum at York Catholic Middle School. As such, it serves as the life-giving spirit of our school, permeates all areas of studies and gives impetus to staff, students, and all associated with York Catholic's life. The theology program is devised to deepen one's growth as an individual and as a member of a community of faith. Personal daily witness to Christian living in the Roman Catholic tradition is emphasized. Doctrines of the Church in light of Vatican II and the New Catechism of the Catholic Church are explored and related to current ecclesial, social, political, and economic issues. Believing service is fundamental to genuine faith, teachers afford opportunities for prayer and worship and for involvement in social action.

Service Requirements
To form habits in the area of service, the school monitors a program of Christian Service whereby each student is required to perform hours of non-remunerated service each year within a volunteer program or individually. Middle School students are required to verify twelve (12) hours of service. While this amount of time is minimal over the course of the year, it is important in teaching students the merits of volunteer work.

071 Theology 7 **Grade 7**
This course is designed to build upon previous Religious Education and strengthen the student's knowledge of faith. This course focuses on Scripture with emphasis on the Gospels, the Creed with emphasis on the Incarnation, Pascal Mystery and the Communion of Saints, the Sacraments especially Eucharist, Morality, Prayer traditions, the Liturgical seasons, and Service to others.

081 Theology 8 **Grade 8**
This course builds upon previous knowledge of Scripture, the Creed, the Sacraments, Morality, and Service. Special emphasis is placed on preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students will study the Acts of the Apostles, the Ascension and Pentecost, the Apostles/Nicene Creed, the Sacraments of Initiation, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and a Catholic Christian's obligation to the poor.

English Department

The English department of York Catholic Middle School directs its efforts toward exploring literature and developing writing skills. The department intends to lead the student to discover those positive aspects of his/her personality through which he/she can enhance self-confidence and creativity. Through creative experiences in reading, discussing, and writing, the student comes to an awareness of the universality of the human experience as found in literature, the story of man.

171 English Language Arts 7 Grade 7
Double Block

In English 7, students develop their skills in writing, starting with paragraphs and moving on to five paragraph essays with an emphasis on focus and coherence. Students also choose and read books from the library with a goal of developing a lifelong love of reading. As students begin their journey at York Catholic, they read short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction centered on discovering who they are and how they relate to one another. This class meets two periods daily; this course is designed to provide additional time and support for students who need a more intensive approach to reading and writing.

172 English Language Arts 7 Grade 7
Single Block

In English 7, students develop their skills in writing, starting with paragraphs and moving on to five paragraph essays with an emphasis on focus and coherence. Students also choose and read books from the library with a goal of developing a lifelong love of reading. As students begin their journey at York Catholic, they read short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction centered on discovering who they are and how they relate to one another. This class meets one period daily.

181 English Language Arts 8 Grade 8
Double Block

In English 8, students develop their skills in writing focused, coherent analytical, persuasive, and personal essays. They read short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction centered on the connection between our past and our present, and they write analytical essays with the goal of developing focus, organization, and coherence. Students also choose and read books from the library with a goal of developing a lifelong love of reading. Finally, students give a formal presentation of their research on a historical figure. This class meets two periods daily; this course is designed to provide additional time and support for students who need a more intensive approach to reading and writing.

182 English Language Arts 8 Grade 8
Single Block

In English 8, students develop their skills in writing focused, coherent analytical, persuasive, and personal essays. They read short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction centered on the connection between our past and our present, and they write analytical essays with the goal of developing focus, organization, and coherence. Students also choose and read books from the library with a goal of developing a lifelong love of reading. Finally, students give a formal presentation of their research on a historical figure. This class meets one period daily.

916 Study Skills **Grade 7**

In study skills, students develop both personal and academic strategies. Lessons include time management and organizational skills, effective note taking skills, listening and effective communication skills, and study tips. Students evaluate learning styles and discuss goal setting, decision making, and how to cope with stress.

Social Studies Department

Social Studies represents the integration of all facets of humankind, taking into account their religion, their place in time and space, their interaction with other people, and their interaction with nature. Social Studies education engenders respect for varied ways of life, motivates an exchange of ideas, and stimulates a commitment to free people from injustice. It accentuates the individual's need for recognition of his or her accountability to their fellow persons for the development of a productive and meaningful way of life for all people.

273 Geography **Grade 7**

This course takes a case-study approach to learning the three forms of geography – physical, human, and political. The course relies on primary and secondary sources along with maps, charts, and graphs to allow students to gain a better understanding of our world today. Students will study regions of the world, the people who live there, the advantages they have, and the challenges they face. They will also develop research, presentation, and critical thinking skills as they explore and learn about new people and places.

281 US History I **Grade 8**

This course is a chronological approach to American History, beginning with North America prior to colonization and ending with Reconstruction. In this course, students will develop analytical, reading, writing, and thinking skills by looking at and interpreting relevant primary and secondary sources. They will engage with course content actively, and identify cause and effect relationships throughout history.

Math Department

The Mathematics Department of York Catholic Middle School is committed to accomplishing the following:

1. Develop accuracy and facility in performing fundamental mathematical operations.
2. Present the means for developing the ability to analyze and solve problems of varying types and degrees of difficulty.
3. Encourage an understanding of the nature and structure of math so students will be able to apply and communicate basic principles.
4. Develop in the students an appreciation and recognition of the relationships between mathematics and other disciplines.
5. Expose students to calculators, computers, and manipulatives through the use of application so students develop appreciation of these tools.

370 Pre-Algebra Accelerated Grade 7

This course is designed to have students master topics within the real number system, integers, graphing in one and two dimensional grids, equations and inequalities, polynomials, and problem solving, with an introduction to geometric concepts, area, and volume. This is an accelerated course. Students must maintain an average of 88 along with teacher approval to be recommended for Algebra 1 Accelerated.

371 Pre-Algebra CP Grade 7

This course is designed to have students master topics within the real number system, integers, graphing in one and two dimensional grids, equations and inequalities, polynomials, and problem solving, with an introduction to geometric concepts, area, and volume. Students must maintain a 78 average and have teacher approval to be recommended for Algebra I CP.

372 Pre-Algebra Grade 7

This course offers an on-going study of the following topics: expression and number properties; operations with functions, decimals and percents; ratios, and data analysis; geometric configuring with circles and composite figures; and solving equations and inequalities. Tables, graphs, and functions are constructed and analyzed. Also included is an introduction of operations with integers, as well as solving equations with rational numbers. Lastly, proportionality, including the introduction of slope, is explored. Students from this class will be recommended to take Algebra I.

380 Algebra I Accelerated Grade 8

This course offers an in-depth study of solving equations, inequalities, problem solving, polynomials, exponents, factoring, rational expressions, radicals, and graphs of linear and quadratic equations. This is an accelerated course.
Pre-requisite: An average of 88 in Pre-Algebra, high standardized test scores, and teacher approval. Students must maintain an average of 88 to be recommended for Algebra II Honors.

381 Algebra I CP **Grade 8**

This course offers a study of algebra concepts such as the number line, sets of numbers, properties and operations of real numbers, solving linear equations and inequalities. Other topics include polynomials, exponents, factoring, solving quadratic equations, rational algebraic expressions, and graphs of linear equations.
Pre-requisite: An average of 78 in Pre-Algebra CP with teacher approval. Students must maintain an average of 78 to be recommended for Algebra II CP.

384 Algebra I **Grade 8**

This course offers a study of algebra concepts such as the number line, sets of numbers, properties and operations of real numbers, solving linear equations and inequalities. Other topics include polynomials, exponents, factoring, solving quadratic equations, rational algebraic expressions, and graphs of linear equations.

Foreign Language Department

The study of foreign language serves to introduce students to various cultural, societal, and language norms. Respect, understanding, and appreciation for differing customs are benefits of language study. At York Catholic Middle School students may elect to study one of two foreign languages, Spanish or German. Within all languages, the goal is the development of listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills and continued student growth.

470 Introduction to Foreign Language Grade 7
Students will explore the basics of Spanish and German over the course of the year, taking one semester each of exploratory Spanish and German. Students will then select Spanish 1 or German 1 for 8th grade, based on their preference.
Pre-requisite: Students must have strong grades in Language Arts and teacher recommendation.

479 Spanish 1 – Middle School Grade 8
This course introduces the language within the context of the contemporary Spanish-speaking world and its culture. Emphasis is given to the development of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and formation of grammatical and language structures. The vocabulary presented relates to the students' world and encourages practical use of the language.
Pre-requisite: Passing grade in Introduction to Foreign Language and teacher approval.

481 German 1 – Middle School Grade 8
This course introduces the language within the context of the contemporary German world and its culture. Emphasis is given to the development of listening, comprehension, reading, writing skills, and formation of grammatical and language structures. The vocabulary presented relates to the students' world and encourages practical use of the language.
Pre-requisite: Passing grade in Introduction to Foreign Language and teacher approval.

Science Department

The science curriculum consists of those courses, activities, and units of instruction which are designed to meet every student's educational needs related to science. Emphasis is placed on:

1. The importance of major scientific principles and their understanding and application
2. The development of competence in the use of methods of science
3. The development of desirable attitudes, interest, and an appreciation of science and its application
4. The recognition of and preparation for the role of science in the evolving biological, chemical, and physical technological age

The curriculum provides opportunities for all students to study science to meet their common needs and interests. The science educators strive to provide for individual differences and differential growth within the framework of the science curriculum. An outgrowth of this should be independent academic responsibility.

571 Life Science **Grade 7**

This course is designed to introduce students to the rich diversity of the living world in an engaging and interactive way. Students will learn a variety of skills by participating in labs, projects, and student-centered activities to supplement the content being presented in class. Topics to be covered include the following: Scientific methods, characteristics of life, cell structure and processes, genetics and heredity, evolution, and a comparative study of the six kingdoms of life.

581 Earth Science **Grade 8**

The Earth Science program introduces and develops an understanding of planet Earth. Areas of geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy are covered. All students in the eighth grade are required to write a Design an Experiment report using scientific methods. The course presents a thematic orientation, emphasizing scientific thinking, processing skills for problem solving, and applying scientific methods.

Computer/Business Department

913 Computer 7 **Grade 7**

This first year enrichment course is designed to introduce students to technology and the design process. Students will learn how technology can be used in the classroom to enhance learning and develop an understanding of the responsibilities and ethics of being a digital citizen, the engineering design process, and block coding. By the end of the course, students will be able to design code that creates effective and efficient programs.

915 SOAR **Grade 8**

SOAR is an interactive hands-on class that introduces students to learning styles, employability skills, and career clusters. Throughout the semester-long course, students will explore learning styles and personality traits, develop employability skills, and discover opportunities in the 16 different career clusters. There is a heavy emphasis on participation and self-reflection in this course.

Art Department

The Art program of York Catholic Middle School is essential to the total education of the student. It helps a student to realize their uniqueness as a person and to respect differences in others by giving them the opportunity to think independently and communicate creatively. The student's life is enriched through personal satisfaction, awareness of the environment, and through aesthetic enjoyment by learning to see and appreciate.

912 Art 7 **Grade 7**

Seventh grade art enrichment course introduces the basic elements of art as the fundamental building blocks which comprise a work of art. Class projects present creative/critical thinking problems and utilize a variety of materials for completion.

Physical Education/Health Department

People who exercise regularly tend to live longer and are less likely to suffer from degenerative diseases. Sports usually considered lifetime in nature are best learned and practiced during the adolescent years. Such sports can provide the medium for regular physical activity throughout life. The general aim of the physical education program is to aid in the physical, social, and emotional development of each student through participation in physical activities, sports, and games.

Activities include movement exploration activities, low organization activities, individual and dual activities, team sports, rhythmic activities, tumbling, fitness, and cooperative learning activities. The Physical Education program is designed to:

1. Assist students to attain and maintain a desirable level of physical fitness
2. Promote an understanding of the relationship between regular physical activity and health
3. Develop an understanding of the fundamentals, rules, and skills of various sports
4. Provide sports, games, and other physical activities that promote self-confidence, teamwork, sportsmanship, and competency for participation in physical activities later in life

807 Physical Education **Grade 7**

808 Physical Education **Grade 8**

923 Health **Grade 8**

Health is an enrichment course which includes a strong emphasis on drug education and awareness. It is also designed to use strategies which increase each student's self-esteem and decision-making skills.

Music Department

It is the continuing philosophy of the music department of York Catholic Middle School to provide students with a broad array of educational opportunities for the development of abilities in music and the performing arts. Through competitive and noncompetitive evaluation and instruction, the primary goal is to promote the ongoing development and mastery of cumulative technical and artistic skills reflecting contemporary educational principles. We ascribe to the concept that artistic, aesthetic, and creative standards must be joined with positive inspiration, recognition, and dignity for all the participants. Performance opportunities must promote and assist in the educational development of the students to achieve their greatest potential.

820 Middle School Band **Level G**
0.5 **Grades 7-8**

Middle School Band is offered to all beginning and advanced instrumental music students in 7th and 8th grade. Students will learn about the various styles of instrumental music, and students will participate in school concerts. Students may participate in several school ensembles. Students are eligible to audition for representation in District and Honors Band. Marching Band is an extra-curricular activity.

851 Middle School Choir **Level G**
0.5 **Grades 7-8**

Middle School Choir is open to any student interested in singing. Its primary objective is to develop skills in vocal technique, sight singing, ear training, unison and part-singing, diction, and musical style in the security of a larger ensemble. Students are exposed to a variety of musical styles and forms. This group will have the opportunity to perform in the annual Christmas and Spring Concerts.

857 Theater **Grade 8**

This course is designed as an enrichment course for students to explore all aspects of theater. It includes history and literature, as well as the logistical aspects of theater productions. A portion of the course will be devoted to classic acting techniques, improvisation exercises, monologues, audition skills, and commedia dell'Arte scripts.