

**York Catholic Middle School
Course Catalog
2026-2027**



**YORK CATHOLIC
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**601 East Springettsbury Avenue
York, Pennsylvania 17403**

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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
Science 7
World Cultures & Geography
Introduction to World Language
Enrichment 7 (see below)

Grade 9

Theology 9
English 9
Algebra II
Science
U. S. History II
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 8

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

Grade 10

Theology 10
English 10
Geometry
Science
World History
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 7
Music 7
Study Skills
Physical Education

Enrichment 8

Theater 8
Career Exploration
Health 8
Physical Education

Minor 9

Physical Education
Health

Minor 10

Physical Education
SOAR (College and
Career Exploration)

Minor 11

Physical Education
Personal Finance

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 humanity.

171 English Language Arts 7 Double Block

Grade 7

In English 7, students develop their skills in writing, starting with paragraphs and moving on to five paragraph persuasive 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. Presentation skills and public speaking are also a focus. 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 Single Block

Grade 7

In English 7, students develop their skills in writing, starting with paragraphs and moving on to five paragraph persuasive 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. Presentation skills and public speaking are also a focus. This class meets one period daily.

181 English Language Arts 8 Double Block

Grade 8

In English 8, students develop their skills in writing focused, coherent analytical, informative, 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 speech of their research on a historical topic. 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 Single Block

Grade 8

In English 8, students develop their skills in writing focused, coherent analytical, informative, 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 speech of their research on a historical topic. This class meets one period daily.

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 World Cultures and Geography

Grade 7

This course uses a case-study approach to study world cultures and geography. In this course, students will take an educational tour of the world while stopping in various regions. Students will explore the physical geography, human history, culture, and current happenings of each region. Students will gain an understanding of the similar and dissimilar physical, historical, and cultural particulars of each region that have shaped the global and interdependent world we live in.

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

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.

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 Accelerated or an average of 96 in Pre-Algebra, high standardized test scores, and teacher approval.

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 with teacher approval. Students must maintain an average of 78 to be recommended for Algebra II CP.

382 Algebra I

Grade 8

This course is designed for students who need extra time on mathematical concepts and a slower pace in class. 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: Teacher recommendation.

World Language Department

The study of world languages 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 world languages, Spanish or German. Within all languages, the goal is the development of listening, reading, writing, speaking skills, and continued student growth.

470 Introduction to World 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 World 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 World 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 Science 7

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 Science 8

Grade 8

This course introduces students to Earth systems that deal with solid minerals and rocks (geology), plate tectonics (volcanos and tsunamis), and air and water (meteorology). Earth is also studied in relation to the rest of the solar system through astronomy. Students will apply broad scientific concepts to everyday life through peer collaboration, modeling scientific processes, and reinforcing laboratory skills.

Middle School Enrichment Courses

Grade 7

912 Art 7

Grade 7

Art 7 allows artists to experiment with a variety of media and become creative problem solvers as they find new ways to express themselves. Inter-disciplinary connections are made throughout the course, enhancing learning in all subject areas, fostering real-world connections. These connections demonstrate that art can be used and enjoyed not only in the art studio, but throughout life.

911 Music 7

Grade 7

Music 7 is a required course for all seventh grade students. Through singing, playing, composing, listening, group discussion and various classroom and individual activities, students will broadly explore the field of music. Topics will include music notation and terminology, western and non-western music, musical theater, copyright law and composition. Students will have the opportunity to play the ukulele.

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, an introduction to Google Suite, keyboarding skills and study tips. Students evaluate learning styles and discuss goal setting, decision making, and how to cope with stress.

Grade 8

915 Career Exploration

Grade 8

Career Exploration 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.

923 Health 8

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.

857 Theater 8

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.

Physical Education

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

Performing Arts Department

It is the continuing philosophy of the performing arts 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 0.5

**Level G
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 0.5

**Level G
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.