



2018 - 2019 Bishop Dunne Catholic School – Middle School Course Descriptions

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

6th Grade: Language Arts

Students in the sixth grade increase their independence as readers, practicing reading comprehension strategies as they work with texts from a variety of literary genres. Students learn the conventions of writing while developing their vocabulary, implementing these skills into the writing process as they create original works of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Finally, Language Arts classes in the sixth grade provide frequent opportunities for students to develop public speaking strategies and critical listening skills. Summer reading assignments are required.

7th Grade: English

In this class, students will increase their vocabulary and apply its usage to their writing. Students will learn to recognize and write different types of paragraphs and to use grading symbols to revise their compositions. Students will improve sentence structure in their writing and will learn basics of analytical writing, focusing on topic sentences, thesis statement, and evidence choice.

7th Grade: Pre-AP English

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval and Enrollment in 7th Grade Pre-AP Literature

This course is designed to prepare the students for English 8 Pre-AP. The content of this class is the same as English 7; however, more emphasis is placed on composition and deep analysis of literary work under study. In addition, more emphasis is placed on the acquisition of writing skills through exercises and written assignments. Composition will include the writing of in-class timed paragraphs with a strong topic sentence and the selection and inclusion of supporting evidence. Students are introduced to AP style assessments.

7th Grade: Literature

In this class, students will learn to read, understand, and appreciate a selection of short stories, poetry, oral tradition, and prose. While students will focus on aspects such as literary analysis, including figurative language, sound devices, and characterization, they will also work on their writing skills through composing their own poetry, myths, and short stories. Summer reading assignments are required.

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7th Grade: Pre-AP Literature

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval and Enrollment in 7th Grade Pre-AP English

This course is designed to prepare the students for Literature 8 Pre-AP. The content of this class is the same as English 7; however, more emphasis is placed on composition and deep analysis of literary works under study. Summer reading assignments are required.

8th Grade: English

This course continues to develop necessary skills in grammar and mechanics and covers elements such as phrases, clauses, sentences, parts of speech and vocabulary. In composition students learn the fundamentals of the writing process by incorporating daily instruction in outlining, analytical voice, and refining paragraph composition.

8th Grade: Pre-AP English

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval and Enrollment in 8th Grade Pre-AP Literature

This course prepares students for ninth grade pre-AP English by building on pre-existing skills in grammar and writing mechanics. Elements covered are phrases, clauses, sentences, parts of speech, and vocabulary. In composition students learn the fundamentals of the writing process by incorporating daily instruction in outlining, analytical voice, and refining paragraph composition.

8th Grade: Literature

This course surveys prose, poetry, and drama with a focus on building a strong basis for literary analysis. While students will learn to identify literary elements within texts such as characterization, theme, and style, they will also explore the aesthetic elements of the texts, and the emotions, experiences, and questions it arouses within them. Summer reading assignments are required.

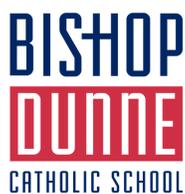
8th Grade: Pre-AP Literature

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval and Enrollment in 8th Grade Pre-AP English

This course is designed to prepare the students for English I Pre-AP. The content of this class is the same as 8th grade literature; however, more extensive reading selections will be required. Composition will include the writing of in-class timed AP style essays and multi-paragraph essays with a strong thesis and supporting evidence. Summer reading assignments are required.

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MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

6th Grade: Math

Sixth grade math is an exploration of math techniques and concepts designed for students who have mastered fifth grade standards. This class is taught from a college preparatory perspective and is designed to give students superior skills in problem solving and knowledge of mathematical operations. Students who take this course could be ready to enter Pre-Algebra in the seventh grade. The course content follows the standards set forth by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas.

7th Grade: Math

Seventh grade math is designed to enhance a student's proficiency with mathematical skills by building on important concepts that have previously been taught and introducing new skills that will prepare them for success in future math courses. This class will promote problem solving, reasoning, making connections, designing and analyzing representations in addition to reinforcing concepts that are instrumental in ensuring a solid math background.

7th Grade Math Honors

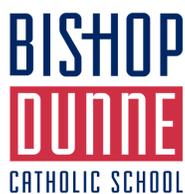
This course is designed to prepare students for advanced study of math at the high school level, including Pre-AP and AP courses. This course covers all the concepts of Mathematics 7, but at an advanced rate. During the first semester, students will master mathematical operation-based concepts such as integers, decimals, fractions, rates and ratios, and problem solving requiring advanced critical thinking skills. The second semester will include an introduction to Pre-Algebra concepts. The students will use Pre-Algebra in working with problem-solving, geometry, number theory, linear equations and rational numbers. Students must have a first and second semester average of a 92 or above in sixth grade math to be considered for this class.

8th Grade: Pre-Algebra

This course reinforces mathematical skills taught in the sixth and seventh grades with additional advanced computation including an emphasis on algebraic concepts. Students study fractions, decimals, percentages, integers and rational numbers. They become more proficient in using ratios, proportions and solving algebraic equations, both one and two step problem solving involving fractions, decimals, and whole numbers. Students will develop and expand problem solving skills (creatively and analytically) to solve word problems. Successful completion of this course prepares students for success in Algebra I.

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Pre-AP Algebra I

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

Algebra I is designed to develop the student's proficiency with mathematical skills using the real number system. The course will enlarge mathematical vocabulary and enable the student to acquire the facility to apply algebraic concepts and skills and to use them in deductive reasoning and problem solving. As an honors course, each area will be covered in greater detail than in Algebra I.

Students may receive one high school math credit for successful completion of this course.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

6th Grade: Science

Earth Science emphasizes the four branches of Earth Science, including geology, meteorology, astronomy, and oceanography. The course will include the formation processes, erosional forces, the water cycle, plate tectonics, and geologic history. Upon completion, students will understand the Earth's surface and interior, oceans, atmosphere, and the Earth's place in the universe.

Physical Science

Co-requisite: Pre-Algebra

Physical Science introduces middle school students to the world of physics and chemistry. It stresses the importance of observation of the world around us as part of the scientific method. The course includes topics from physics and chemistry, including motion, forces, waves, electricity, atomic structure, states of matter, and chemical reactions.

Pre-AP Physical Science

Co-requisite: Pre-Algebra

Physical Science Pre-AP introduces middle school students to concepts found in physics and chemistry. In this course, students are asked to observe the world around them as well as in the controlled laboratory environment. The course includes topics from physics and chemistry, including motion, forces, work and energy, electricity and magnetism, atomic theory, chemical bonding, and chemical reactions.

Life Science

This discovery-based course emphasizes an understanding of change, cycle patterns, microscopic

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organisms, plants, animals, and ecology. Cellular organization and the classification of living things are also studied, and learning through investigation is a main focus of this course.

Pre-AP Life Science

Pre-Advanced Placement Life Science is a rigorous laboratory course, which emphasizes a complex understanding of change, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the living world. Students build on basic principles related to these concepts by exploring cellular organization and the classification of organisms; the dynamic relationships among organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems; and change as a result of the transmission of genetic information from generation to generation.

Data analysis and experimentation are emphasized. The difference between the regular and advanced course lies in more advanced content, complex tasks, and in-depth independent investigations. Students are challenged to think like scientists and expand their abilities through the independent application of scientific concepts.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

6th Grade: World Cultures

In World Cultures, students will be introduced to the five themes of geography (place, human environment, interaction, movement, and regions), the tools of geography, introduction to world languages, and mapping and graphing skills. Students will be expected to use this knowledge to explore the cultures and languages of the continents of the world. Students will begin the process of learning critical thinking skills, basic research techniques, and reading content comprehension. Students will be expected to learn how to demonstrate their mastery of the content in a variety of ways, including test taking, project creation, and oral presentations.

7th Grade: Texas History and Geography

In Texas History and Geography, students will learn the significance of prominent individuals, movements, cultures, and events throughout the history of Texas and how each one molded and shaped Texas into what it is today. We will study the geographic, economic, political, and social developments throughout the history of Texas. Each student will learn to think critically and evaluate information through hands-on application and in-class learning activities. Students will also learn skills such as note taking, map reading, researching, document reading, and essay writing.

7th Grade: Texas History Honors

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In Texas History Honors, students will learn much the same material as in the Texas History class, including the significance of prominent individuals, movements, cultures and events throughout the history of Texas and how each one molded and shaped Texas into what it is today. Geography, economics, and politics will also be stressed. In the Honors class, more attention will be paid to primary source material, critical thinking, and communication and writing. Students will be expected to read more critically, and to be able to utilize formal thinking to create unique interpretations of Texas history.

8th Grade: U.S. History and Geography

In U.S. History and Geography, students will learn the significance of prominent individuals, movements, cultures and events throughout the history of the United States from colonization up until Reconstruction and how each one molded and shaped the U.S. into what it is today. We will study the geographic, economic, political, and social developments throughout the history of the U.S. through Reconstruction. Emphasis will be placed on the political and economic developments in U.S. history, as well as the cultural impact of institutions such as Federalism, Anti-Federalism, slavery, abolitionism, and regionalism. Each student will learn to think critically and evaluate information through hands-on application and in-class learning activities. Students will also learn skills such as note taking, map reading, researching, document reading, and essay writing.

8th Grade: Pre-AP U.S. History and Geography

This course provides a survey of the history of the United States from initial colonization to the Civil War. Emphasis will be placed on the political and economic developments in US history, as well as the cultural impact of institutions such as Federalism, Anti-Federalism, slavery, abolitionism, and regionalism. Additional emphasis will be placed on developing the skills necessary for promotion into the AP Social Studies program. Students will strengthen reading, writing, geography, and study skills, as well as document analysis in order to prepare them for the rigors of the AP classes.

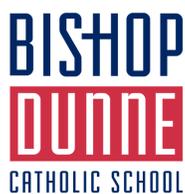
WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

7th Grade: French I-A

French I-A is the first year of a two-year introductory French course. The completion of both French I-A and French I-B is equivalent to one year of high school credit. This class allows students to become familiar with the French language and to develop a working vocabulary in both written and verbal communications. This course includes the basic principles of French grammatical structure. Students learn to exchange information in simple terms about a variety of topics, and communication through interactive, cooperative learning is encouraged. The course will also introduce the student to the culture

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of French-speaking countries and regions.

8th Grade: French I-B

Prerequisite: French I-A

French I-B is the second year of a two-year introductory French course. The completion of both French I-A and French I-B is equivalent to one year of high school credit. This class builds upon the basic vocabulary and grammar skills that the students acquired in French I-A to help them develop more natural, complex French language skills. Students will be actively engaged in the language through speaking, reading, writing, and listening. The course will expose students to a more in-depth study of French culture.

Students may receive one high school French credit for successful completion of French I-A and French I-B.

7th Grade: Spanish I-A

Spanish I-A is the first year of a two-year introductory Spanish course. The completion of both Spanish I-A and Spanish I-B is equivalent to one year of high school credit. Spanish I-A allows students to become familiar with the Spanish language and to develop a working vocabulary in both written and verbal communications. Students learn to exchange information in simple terms about a variety of topics, and communication through interactive, cooperative learning is encouraged. This course introduces students to the basic principles of grammatical structure and offers an insight into the Spanish culture.

8th Grade: Spanish I-B

Prerequisite: Spanish I-A

Spanish I-B is the second year of a two-year introductory Spanish course. The completion of both Spanish I-A and Spanish I-B is equivalent to one year of high school credit. This class builds upon the basic vocabulary and grammar skills that the students acquired in Spanish I-A to help them develop more natural, complex Spanish language skills. Students will be actively engaged in the language through speaking, reading, writing, and listening. The course will expose students to a more in-depth study of Spanish culture.

Students may receive one high school Spanish credit for successful completion of Spanish I-A and Spanish I-B.

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Spanish I Honors

This course is designed for the students with some prior knowledge and experience with Spanish who are looking to boost vocabulary and reading comprehension while reviewing the fundamentals of Spanish grammar. Students typically take this course as 8th graders as a transition course to prepare them for Spanish I Pre-AP in 9th grade. Alternatively, this course is an accelerated course for 9th grade students who need more challenge than the basic vocabulary presented in Spanish I but who are not prepared to pursue the Pre-AP track.

Students may receive one high school Spanish credit for successful completion of this course.

Spanish I PreAP

Prerequisite: Department recommendation only.

This course is designed to build upon fundamental listening and speaking capabilities of students. The course will also develop and increase underlying skills in reading, spelling, and writing competency and creativity while improving overall language skills for use with mass communication and daily life situations. Summer enrichment assignment required.

Students may receive one high school Spanish credit for successful completion of this course.

7th Grade: Latin I-A

Latin I-A is the first year of a two-year introductory Latin course. The completion of both Latin I-A and Latin I-B is equivalent to one year of high school credit. Latin I-A is designed to guide each student towards an understanding of the grammatical structure of Latin, to acquire a common Latin vocabulary, and to enable the students to achieve increased language proficiency in this and other languages. Students of Latin I-A will begin to master the art of recognizing Latin roots in English words, and understanding how to guess at the meanings of unfamiliar English vocabulary. In addition, students will begin to develop an understanding and appreciation for ancient Roman culture and its influence on the modern world.

8th Grade: Latin I-B

Prerequisite: Latin I-A

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Latin I-B is the second year of a two-year introductory Latin course. The completion of both Latin I-A and Latin I-B is equivalent to one year of high school credit. This class builds upon the basic grammar and vocabulary skills acquired in Latin I-A to encourage the students to achieve a solid understanding of the language as a whole, with a strong emphasis on reading and writing. Students will also be able to use their Latin language skills to reinforce their study of English grammar and vocabulary. Students will continue to study ancient Roman culture and its influence on the modern world.

Students may receive one high school Latin credit for successful completion of Latin I-A and Latin I-B.

Russian I

In this beginners' Russian language course, students will learn the Cyrillic alphabet and the fundamentals of Russian pronunciation. Students will acquire knowledge of the language through the use of varied activities that develop contemporary conversational, reading and writing skills. The course also provides an introduction to modern Russian culture.

Students may receive one high school Russian credit for successful completion of this course.

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

6th Grade: Old Testament

A strong foundation in our Catholic Christian faith begins with the Old Testament, the canon that Jesus studied and knew well as a person of the Jewish faith. Students learn to grow in Jesus through the study of the Old Testament stories such as the story of Creation and The Ten Commandments. Further, students learn that God calls us all to holiness and faithfulness as they explore the story of the Israelites. In addition to the study of the Old Testament, young believers also learn the gift of personal prayer and reflection on Scripture, and students are introduced to the formal prayers of the Catholic Church.

7th Grade: Morality/New Testament

Morality

Through God's law and God's grace, we are called to form our consciences and make moral decisions as followers of Christ and members of the Church. Within the deeper framework of moral *decision* making, this course explores the Ten Commandments in greater detail but concentrates on the gospel formation of these (the Beatitudes) and on what it means to live a life of virtue. This course will enable young people to navigate through challenging times with a clear and positive moral attitude.

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New Testament

Young Christians need to become familiar with the culture of Jesus and his times. Likewise, they need to know that in Scripture things are not always what they appear to be. Scripture presents so much more, and young students should never be afraid of the truth as presented in Scripture. This course will introduce them to questions people have asked over the ages: Were the Magi historical figures? Did Jesus really raise people from the dead, or were they just asleep? Did Jesus really die, and did his body really come out of the tomb? This course introduces the young students to appreciate the contemporary Catholic understanding of Scripture and introduces them to the tools necessary to avoid fundamental interpretations which distort the meaning and intent of the inspired authors.

8th Grade: Creed: A Course on Catholic Belief

Through divine revelation, we come to know God through the experiences of our lives and the gift of faith that enables us to respond to this divine revelation. We are the Church, the people of God. But, who are we, as a people of God, and what does it mean to be a part of this group, the people of God? This course introduces us to the basic doctrines and tenets of the Christian church (with an emphasis on the Catholic tradition), in word, in thought, and in action. Its starting point is an examination and study of the doctrine of the Trinity, the core from which the rest of the church teachings are traced. To make the teachings meaningful and relevant, the course concludes with a study of Mary and the communion of saints.

Liturgy and Sacraments

Through the Church's liturgy and the seven sacraments, we celebrate all that God has done for us through Christ and the Holy Spirit. This course is an exploration of this aspect of our faith life in which our faith is proclaimed, formed, and nourished. An examination of the paschal mystery of Christ's passion, death, resurrection, and ascension helps us understand the role of the Holy Spirit within our lives as members of the people of God. The course concludes with a detailed study of the sacred actions of the Church's liturgy.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

7th and 8th Grade: PE

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This course will prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century by providing opportunities to attain the skills and knowledge to be physically active as part of a healthy lifestyle. Students will explore concepts of fitness, social, physical, spiritual, and mental behavior changes, rules and ethics of a variety of sports and recreational games, sportsmanship, strength and conditioning, body composition, and stretching techniques that will focus on personal improvement with respect to your gender, skill level, and ability.

Athletic Conditioning

Athletic Conditioning is a physical education course focusing on the skills and techniques of weight training, and aerobic conditioning.

Drill Team

Fall Semester

This course is designed for current 7-12th graders who are chosen from May tryouts. The course consists of major grade performances at football and basketball game performances and self-choreographed routines. Quiz grades consist of knowledge of routine and dance styles. Lastly, daily grades are taken for class participation, appropriate dress, conditioning, attitude, and leadership. Grades are pass/fail.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

8th Grade: Multimedia

Semester Course

The Multimedia course is a hands-on, 8th grade elective offered for high school credit, designed to challenge the advanced, computer-savvy student, as well as the relative novice. The focus will be on gaining an understanding of the language used in computing, and the basic elements of business software applications, graphics, video, and animation software. In particular, this course will concentrate on the integration of various software suites, storyboarding and sequencing, formatting of pages, file and folder management, developing problem-solving skills, and applying those skills. As a prerequisite, Multimedia requires that students have some experience in the basics of computing.

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FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

7th Grade: Art

Semester Course

The 7th grade art course is an introductory art course that focuses on the exploration of media through a study of art elements. Students will be introduced to art history, aesthetics, and art criticism throughout the semester while focusing on problem solving and creative thinking.

8th Grade: Introduction to Art

Semester Course

Art I is an introductory studio drawing course with emphasis on developing basic drawing skills and fundamental design and composition concepts. In addition to technical skills, an exploration of creative thinking, problem solving, and critical analysis will be studied. Students will be encouraged to develop an expression of individual style.

Students may receive one half high school Fine Art credit for successful completion of this course.

Beginning Acting

Semester Course

Beginning acting is an introductory course designed to teach the basic elements of acting and theatrical vocabulary. The students will create characters physically and emotionally within the given circumstances of the playwright. The students will use improvisation, monologues and scenes during the semester. The course provides many team building opportunities, as well.

Students may receive one half high school Fine Art credit for successful completion of this course.

Choir

Semester Course

Choir is an introduction to music course designed to develop basic singing techniques, sight-reading skills, and music theory concepts. Students will perform at various important school functions throughout the year.

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Students may receive one half high school Fine Art credit for successful completion of this course.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

6th Grade Band

This class is for 6th Grade only; the focus is on beginning band fundamentals. Students with prior experience may be given additional/more difficult assignments, based on ability. Completion of this class should yield mature, informed, disciplined, and competent young musicians, prepared for intermediate band.

Intermediate Band

This class is for all 7-8th grade band students, focusing on improved fundamentals and technique, using early level literature. This is open to beginners in the 7-8th grades; however, extra effort will be required to perform at the same level as the other musicians. Completion of this class should yield mature, informed, disciplined, and competent young musicians, prepared for advanced and marching band.

Marching Band

Fall semester

Marching Band is for experienced 9-12th grade musicians and interested and capable 8th grade musicians; this is the most active and well known of the ensembles, performing at football games, parades, marching contests, etc. This is a class for a grade, and it will meet on Tuesday/Thursday at 7:00 a.m.-7:50 a.m. Extra rehearsals may be called as needed. Students who have participated in this class in the fall will be expected to participate in any marching events during the spring semester, such as the Mardi Gras parade and others. Completion of this class should yield mature, informed, disciplined, and competent young musicians, prepared to enter the college marching and pep band levels by the end of their senior year.

Students in marching band may receive one half high school physical education credit

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Strings

This course is for the student who wishes to begin and learn one of the four orchestral string instruments (violin, viola, cello, or string bass). Students will learn how to read music, basic musicianship concepts, and how to play their string instrument. No previous musical experience is necessary. The class will also perform as a string ensemble at the Christmas and/or Spring concert(s). Students must rent or own their own instrument.

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