



COURSE CATALOG

Holy Cross Academy is a unique school system that was designed to help parishes work collaboratively to create the highest quality of Catholic education for their students. The program exists to help each child develop a personal relationship with Christ – fostering a specifically Catholic identity. Students and parents will find Holy Cross Academy a place where our Catholic faith is a lived reality, felt in every aspect of the curriculum and activities.

Holy Cross Academy is committed to educating a wide spectrum of learners, using differentiated instruction, active learning, and technology integration to engage and challenge students of all ability levels. The Academy employs highly qualified staff who are deeply committed to our Catholic identity as well as being skilled at both the art and the science of teaching.

This curriculum has been designed with the 21st Century learner in mind, making sure learning is a balance between foundational knowledge and skills that are applicable in real world situations. Students at Holy Cross Academy are a part of a community that recognizes the important role they play as a part of the Body of Christ. As a three parish community, we support our students in the development of their talents while empowering them to use those talents to impact our world.

Curriculum: K – Grade 5

RELIGION

Our Religious Education is an on-going process to provide spiritual formation and instruction for all children in Kindergarten to Grade 5. We believe that we are called to respond to Christian witness throughout our lives. Our students will develop a relationship with Christ by demonstrating this witness through a sense of faith history and Catholic identity as they come to realize that the Lord is a just, righteous, and merciful God. They will share in the biblical message of salvation by growing in faith and developing meaningful roles within the Church. The students will act in accordance with the basic doctrines of the Catholic Church while experiencing the faith community within our school. At the appropriate grade level, sacramental preparation will be an integral component of the curriculum. However, the reception of the sacrament will occur at the parish of residence. Holy Cross Academy students will participate in liturgies and worship and learn to pray in both traditional and personal ways. Our students will regard all of creation with respect by participating in various service projects and activities.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The K-5 Language Arts curriculum at Holy Cross Academy is designed to introduce students to core concepts that are further developed and expanded as students progress through each grade level. This process allows students to develop the skills necessary to: 1) comprehend and interpret texts, written as well as audio and visual, and to develop an appreciation of quality Children's Literature and the literary value of the Bible; 2) compose a variety of types of texts, including those critical to the 21st century; 3) effectively communicate and interact with others in group

situations; and 4) communicate information through different modes of presentation. The Holy Cross Academy Language Arts curriculum integrates the processes of reading, writing, and listening/speaking in order to help students communicate and interpret information in a variety of modes.

MATHEMATICS

Holy Cross Academy stresses rigorous concept development, presents realistic and relevant tasks, and keeps a strong emphasis on computational skills. At all grades, the curriculum encourages students to reason mathematically, to evaluate mathematical arguments both formally and informally, to use the language of mathematics to communicate ideas and information precisely, and to make connections among mathematical topics and to other disciplines including the social teachings of the Church.

Our mathematics curriculum is organized into five content strands: number and operations, measurement, geometry, foundational algebra, and data analysis and probability. At each grade, there are process standards that emphasize problem solving, reasoning, representation, connections, and communication. Additionally, this curriculum requires that mathematics classrooms at every grade be student-focused rather than teacher-focused, using a balanced approach to instruction. Working individually or collaboratively, students will be actively engaged in inquiry related to real-life experiences. Multiple representations of mathematics, alternative approaches to problem solving, and the appropriate use of technology are all fundamental to achieving the specified goals of the curriculum.

Curriculum: K – Grade 5

SCIENCE

The K-5 students of Holy Cross Academy will develop a positive and engaged interest in science by participating in hands-on inquiry based activities, researching basic concepts of life, natural, chemical, and physical science, and showing respect for God's creation. Furthermore, our students will develop proficiency with the use of laboratory equipment and technology by interacting in cooperative learning situations. These interactions allow for crucial sharing and clarification of ideas while laying a foundation for the application of the scientific method.

SOCIAL STUDIES

At Holy Cross Academy, our goal is to develop informed Missouri citizens who understand the history of the United States and our place in an ever increasing interconnected world. It is essential that students understand their past and how that past influences the present day and the future. Our students will identify and apply geography skills while developing an understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. They will use problem solving and critical thinking skills by bridging the past, present, and projected future events on a local, national, and world level. The use of children's literature will also be incorporated. Overall, the students of Holy Cross Academy will be able to apply principles of Christian morality in dealing with the challenges of an ever-changing world.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The mission of the program is to foster in our students global awareness, sensitivity and responsibility. The vision of the program is to teach students to communicate effectively in another language and to sharpen their language skills in order to succeed at the next higher level.

In grades K-5 students will begin with an introduction to simple vocabulary through songs and basic grammar and language. Progressing through this basic program will prepare Holy Cross Academy students with a foundation for composition, speech, and literature at the middle school level.

Initially, instruction in Spanish will be offered as part of the basic curriculum. However, the utilization of community and university resources will be accessed to offer at least one another language as a possible elective in 2013-2014.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is an integral part of the total education of every Holy Cross Academy child from Kindergarten through grade 5. It is the role of our physical education program to help students develop health-related fitness, physical competence in movement activities, cognitive understanding, and positive attitudes toward physical activity so that they can adopt healthy and physically active lifestyles. It is an objective of Holy Cross Academy to develop within each child a respect of his/her body as a gift of God. Our physical education program is integral in providing experiences that meet a student's developmental needs, which in turn helps to improve the mental alertness, academic performance, readiness, and enthusiasm for learning of each Holy Cross Academy child.

Curriculum: K – Grade 5

FINE ARTS

At Holy Cross Academy, we believe the arts cultivate the whole child, gradually building many kinds of literacy while developing intuition, reasoning, imagination, and dexterity into unique forms of expression and communication.

Art, as taught by Holy Cross Academy will promote self-esteem and positive relationships. Each student will develop their self-confidence and personal awareness while engaging in higher-level thought processes. Students will be able to analyze and demonstrate use of sensory, formal, technical, and expressive qualities in their own work and the work of others. K-5 students will demonstrate the basic skills necessary to create a visual work of art as they reflect/express our faith. The creation of art offers opportunities for highlighting student achievement through school and community exhibits.

Music is an essential element in the fabric of a fully developed human being. The study of music at Holy Cross Academy grades K-5 uniquely embraces a sequential and quality performance-based curriculum that is developmentally appropriate to all learners. Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of the use of the elements of music. They will use vocabulary and notation in responding to, and creating improvisational and compositional performances. Holy Cross Academy students will be given the opportunity to participate and experience instrumental and choral music. Students will sing and perform with appropriate techniques and expression, and recognize and appreciate different styles of music including liturgical music. Our students will learn to respond to music aesthetically, intellectually, and emotionally.

COMPUTER LITERACY

The Holy Cross Academy Computer Literacy K-5 program offers students the chance to master basic computer skills while embracing ongoing advances in the field of technology. Students will work with current technological tools while exploring innovative co-curricular learning activities. They will complete hands-on projects that will focus on creating an age-appropriate proficiency in Word, Power Point, and Excel. Holy Cross Academy students will understand and adhere to ethical and privacy standards related to the use of computers and the internet.

Curriculum: Grade 6 – Grade 8

THEOLOGY

Grade 6 – *Scriptural Foundations*

Sixth grade students at Holy Cross Academy will spend first semester immersed in the culture and context of the Hebrew or Old Testament Scriptures. They will study the patriarchs of our Catholic faith as well as the Scriptural foundations for Jesus' mission and ministry. Students will come to understand Scripture as the Word of God by applying its message to the reality of their lives today. During the second semester, students will switch their focus to the New Testament. Students will study the beginnings of our Roman Catholic faith as told through Scripture. Students will broaden their understanding of Christ as they study his words and actions as recorded in Scripture. The focus of this class will be cultivation of the understanding of Scripture as the Living Word of God, applicable to all lives and all seasons.

Grade 7 (First Semester) – *The Divine Person of Christ*

Students will study the themes of the life and ministry of Jesus as told in the Gospel stories. They will deepen their personal relationship with Christ through activities designed to help them actively engage in learning about Jesus as man and Jesus as divine. During 7th grade, students will investigate the mystery of the Holy Trinity and how God, Man, and Spirit are united. Students will analyze the teachings of Jesus as they pertain to the time in which they were written as well as their call to a life of morality and a commitment to social justice today. The focus of this class will be the development within each child of a deep and personal relationship with Christ.

Grade 7 (Second Semester) – *Sacramental Life*

During the second semester of seventh grade students will study the seven sacraments including their Scriptural origins and connection to Christ. They will reflect upon the power of the sacraments and the grace of God that is bestowed upon those who receive them. Students will study each individual Sacrament, reflecting on their own reception, as well as, the significance and meaning of each of the sacrament. They will apply this knowledge to real life events as they come to understand receiving the sacraments as a call to living a grace filled life. The focus of this class will be the cultivation within each child of an understanding that our relationship with Christ calls us to be people of action.

Grade 8 – *Roman Catholic Christianity*

During their eighth grade year, students will review the origins of the Catholic faith. They will study the scriptural roots as well as the history of the Catholic Church. They will come to understand the many rituals and symbolism that are inherent throughout our faith. Students will learn to read and understand the liturgical calendar, its symbols and their meanings. Students will study the Catholic catechism, its origins, as well as applying its teachings and guidelines to real world situations. This class will focus on creating within each child, ownership of his/her Catholic faith.

Curriculum: Grade 6 – Grade 8

LANGUAGE ARTS

The middle school curriculum at Holy Cross Academy focuses on providing learning experiences in which students will recognize, develop, and apply effective communication skills at an age-appropriate level in the areas of reading, writing, spelling, speaking, and listening across the curriculum, enabling the student to be a life-long learner in an ever-changing society. The importance of technology and communication awareness in an information age will be acknowledged and promoted. Communication proficiency, aesthetic appreciation, and creativity are also emphasized and encouraged throughout the language arts curriculum. Students will engage in strategies that allow them to be knowledgeable and proficient thinkers who will make positive contributions to society through further education and/or employment.

Grade 6

The Holy Cross Academy student will focus on reading and analyzing fiction and nonfiction texts while developing guiding research questions, organizing ideas and information, and discovering patterns, structures, and relationships. Students will apply decoding strategies, identify and develop vocabulary, and apply reading strategies during reading to assist them in reading at their individual skill level. Students will use text details to analyze the influence of setting on characters, plot, and resolution, explain cause and effect, and identify the problem-solving processes of characters and the effectiveness of solutions. Students will record and organize relevant information using a variety of note-taking strategies to assist them in writing summaries from magazines, newspapers, and informational text. Using the writing process, students will paraphrase, summarize, reflect on beliefs and discoveries, and practice formal and informal writing while developing their own unique personal voice. Students will learn to identify and explain appropriate figurative language through reading a number of fiction, nonfiction and

poetry selections. They will use conventions to be able to write complete sentences with subject/verb agreement, correct punctuation, capitals, word usage, and parts of speech. Activities in this unit will provide opportunities for cross-curricular studies, especially with art and technology/computer classes. Students will identify and explain viewpoints conveyed in various media including videos, pictures, websites, artwork, plays and/or news programs.

Grade 7

The Holy Cross Academy middle school student focuses on reading and writing fiction and nonfiction. Students will identify and organize information using a newspaper/magazine article, editorial, or a news program. During reading, students develop and apply reading strategies to self-question and correct, infer, visualize, and predict and check. In addition, notes are taken to identify and explain media techniques used to convey messages in various media. Students will focus on figurative language (symbolism, hyperbole, and imagery) in fiction (poetry and prose) and nonfiction texts. Using selected novels, students apply pre-reading strategies to aid comprehension, and post-reading strategies to comprehend and interpret. Students will analyze consumer texts such as product information and identify and interpret figurative language. Students will also analyze propaganda techniques and write multi-paragraph expository essays. Using a theme of understanding propaganda, students will demonstrate active and critical listening behaviors, use an organized note-taking system, and effectively use visual and audio media to demonstrate and present their understanding of key concepts within a designated time limit. Holy Cross Academy students will use methods for constructing sentences using parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, with subject/verb agreement, correct punctuation, capitals, word usage, and parts of speech.

Curriculum: Grade 6 – Grade 8

LANGUAGE ARTS *continued*

Grade 8

Students at Holy Cross Academy will focus on their ability to comprehend and analyze what they read, see, and hear. Students will develop and apply their skills in vocabulary, reading comprehension strategies, note-taking, and summarizing. Students will focus on an overall evaluation of fiction and nonfiction text, including text features; problem-solving processes and the effectiveness of solutions; author's purpose; author's viewpoint; the accuracy and adequacy of information; word choice and connotation and precise language; and organizational effectiveness, including the use of cohesive devices such as transitions, repetition and parallelism. Students will develop their writing skills, focusing on the use of precise word choice, developing personal voice, expanded use of punctuation in compound and complex sentences, and editing while writing business communication from two different points of view.

MATHEMATICS

Grade 6 – *Foundations of Math*

Foundations of Math will help students solidify basic mathematical skills gained in elementary school by applying them to real world situations. Students will multiply and divide fractions and decimals as well as calculating area, surface area, and volume. They will enhance their knowledge of statistics by studying probability, statistical variability, and through the creation of their own graphs and statistical representations. Students will convert units in the metric and standard systems. The Holy Cross Academy student will lay the foundation for future math classes by learning to add and subtract algebraic equations including equations with dependent and independent variables, as well as, equations with more than one variable.

Grade 7 – *Pre-Algebra*

Seventh grade students at Holy Cross Academy will learn Pre-Algebra mathematical concepts and skills designed to prepare them for success in eighth grade Algebra. Students will learn about equations, inequalities and variables as well and polynomial expression and graphing. Students will solve real life mathematical problems by measuring angles, area, surface area, and volume. Online mathematical programs will be used to support classroom learning, as well as, to create opportunities for differentiated instruction for all Holy Cross Academy learners.

Grade 8 – *Algebra*

Holy Cross Academy eighth graders will complete algebraic processes such as factoring polynomials and solving polynomial equations. They will understand and be able to apply the quadratic formula and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will solve linear equations using substitution and elimination as they learn to graph linear equations. Students will be given many opportunities for advanced learning, including access to online activities and assessments that will allow for differentiated instruction in order to meet the needs of all Holy Cross Academy students.

Curriculum: Grade 6 – Grade 8

SCIENCE

Grade 6 – Ecology

At Holy Cross Academy, science begins with the study of our universe and solar system. Students will learn about the planets and the creations of planet earth. Sixth graders will use scientific inquiry to study the aspects of the earth sciences of geology and oceanography. Students will identify fossils to determine how animal species have changed over time as well as studying rock cycles and plate tectonics. Students will actively investigate the scientific phenomena of earthquakes and volcanoes. Students will use a hands-on approach to study major land and water biomes, as well as, investigating air pressure, temperature, and humidity and their impact upon weather patterns. Students will study ecology and the impact human activity has upon our earth. Sixth graders at Holy Cross Academy will apply their knowledge to real world situations by taking action to reduce the carbon footprint of Holy Cross Academy campuses.

Grade 7 – Life Science

Using scientific inquiry and hands-on learning, students will demonstrate a clear understanding of basic life processes, cell theory and structure, osmosis, and diffusion. Students will study the life cycle of plants. They will learn to classify all living things based on their characteristics as well as studying viruses and bacteria. Seventh graders at Holy Cross Academy will study the structure and function of DNA and the processes by which human characteristics are passed from generation to generation. Students will apply

knowledge to real world experiences by studying common ailments of the body caused by viruses and bacteria, as well as, the impact unhealthy life styles can have on the body. Students will also study the systems of the human body including the nervous, circulatory, and the endocrine system.

Grade 8 –Intro to Chemistry and Physics

8th grade students at Holy Cross Academy will be given a strong foundation in chemistry and physics necessary for high school success. Students will learn about the periodic table, chemical elements, and covalent and ionic bonds through hands-on interactive instruction. Students will support their hands-on learning by becoming skilled at balancing chemical equations. Students will conduct regular science experiments to learn about chemical reactions and the states and properties of matter.

Eighth graders will study the properties and states of matter. They will study thermal contraction and expansion as well as Newton's laws of motion. Students will investigate light refraction. They will use scientific inquiry to study the basic concepts of force, motion, and work while understanding and applying the laws of physics to the world around them.

Curriculum: Grade 6 – Grade 8

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies curriculum, although divided into separate course offerings, at all grade levels incorporates an introduction to the principles of constitutional democracy, principles and processes of governance systems, economic concepts and principles, elements of geographical study and analysis, the relationships of individuals and groups to institutions and traditions, and the tools of social science inquiry.

Grade 6 (Two Semesters) – *Ancient Civilizations*

The sixth grade Holy Cross Academy student will explore ancient civilizations of the eastern and western hemispheres, with an emphasis on the empires of Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome; the development of the Chinese culture; and the history of Europe and its relationship to Asia and Africa.

Grades 7 and 8 (Four Semesters) – *American History*

Coursework encompasses American history from the Age of Discovery to the present. Summer readings prior to entry into both of these grade levels will be utilized to explore topics of student interest.

A research project will be a course expectation of the second semester of the eighth grade.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The mission of the program is to foster in our students global awareness, sensitivity and responsibility.

The vision of the program is to teach students to communicate effectively in another language and to sharpen their language skills in order to succeed at the next higher level.

Holy Cross Academy students will expand on the foundation of foreign language for composition, speech, and literature at the middle school level.

Initially, instruction in Spanish will be offered as part of the basic curriculum. However, the utilization of community and university resources will be accessed to offer at least one another language as a possible elective in 2013-2014.

COMPUTER LITERACY

There is a presumed level of competency in basic computer skills through the active participation and completion of Holy Cross Academy K-5 technology courses. Students will use the technology skills they have acquired to expand their knowledge in all subject areas. The technology curriculum for Holy Cross Academy middle school supports the use of technology to improve and increase learning of all students.

Interaction with technology is a necessity in today's society. Technology will be integrated into the learning environment whenever appropriate to enhance and expand the core curriculum. Holy Cross students are to be problem solvers, critical thinkers, communicate and compute effectively and accurately, acquire knowledge and skills to utilize technology in an ethical way to benefit self and society, therefore becoming a contributing, responsible member of society.

Curriculum: Grade 6 – Grade 8

FINE ARTS

The commitment to individual and spiritual development at Holy Cross Academy is reflected in the philosophy and practices of the Fine Arts program. Student motivation, performance, and achievement are enriched through the study and analysis of the various genres within the fine arts. The fine art elective courses offered at Holy Cross Academy middle school classes will be flexible and varied to meet individual student's needs and interests, while generating an appreciation for the arts and develop self-confidence, self-esteem, poise, self-motivation, dedication, perseverance, and responsibility.

Art is man's attempt to mirror God's beautiful creation. Through art, the Holy Cross student will be able to enrich his understanding of God's love, goodness, wisdom, and power, and develop, express, and share his God-given artistic talent. Students will continue to increase appreciation of the visual arts by developing and exploring creative experiences. The intended outcome is for the Holy Cross student to become introspective as they move to develop their own level of competence and personal style.

Ideally, students have completed a rich and comprehensive K-5 program in music before entering the middle school music program. Because of the musical background developed in elementary school, students will be prepared and motivated for more advanced musical experiences. The middle grades program is designed to act as a bridge between the elementary and high school music programs. Teachers guide students through developmentally appropriate experiences in music which help to build necessary skills for success in both music and other facets of life. Singing experiences are adjusted appropriately to accommodate the changing voice. Students work more frequently within a group of peers, demonstrating skills of cooperation, and learning to compromise and be team players.

Students will have many opportunities to experience music at the middle school level. They may choose to participate in general, choral, and/or instrumental music courses.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A variety of activities will be provided, including team and individual games and fitness training/testing, which promote mental, social, and physical well-being. Principles of exercise, fitness, and movement skills will also be addressed.

The Holy Cross Academy middle school curriculum objectives for Health and Physical Education address the areas of safety, nutrition, mental health, disease prevention, violence prevention, human life cycles, alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention.

The Physical Education Program at Holy Cross Academy will be aligned with state requirements and guided by the six national standards for physical education. They are:

1. Demonstrates competency in motor skills and movement patterns to perform a variety of physical activities.
2. Demonstrates understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities.
3. Participates regularly in physical activity.
4. Achieves and maintains a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.
5. Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings.
6. Values physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.