

Ascension School
GRADE 8
Curriculum

Science

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Utilize metric measurements.
- Describe the universe, stars and characteristics.
- Describe the solar system.
- Describe the sun and its relation to planets.
- Study igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.
- Identify the Earth's core, mantle, and crust.
- Learn how to map the ocean floor.
- Study the atmosphere.
- Identify the forces of nature.
- Classify rocks and minerals.
- Use and interpret different types of maps.
- Describe the composition of the oceans and the effects of tides, currents and waves.
- Describe effects of earthquakes, plate tectonics, and topographical features.
- Study the oceans.
- Study physical properties of the earth.
- Examine the effects of space exploration on mankind.

CONTENT:

- metric measurements
- the plant and animal kingdoms
- characteristics of living things
- maps and mapping
- atmosphere
- physical properties of the earth
- rock and mineral classification
- oceans
- space exploration

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Algebra

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Evaluate numerical and algebraic expressions.
- Solve systems of equations by the methods of substitution, graphing and elimination.
- Review commutative, associative, & distributive properties.
- Review additive identity, additive inverse, multiplicative identity and multiplicative inverse properties.
- Set up & solve proportions.
- Graph linear equations & linear inequalities.
- Learn the Pythagorean Theory.
- Simplify radicals.
- Add, subtract, multiply & divide radical expressions.
- Solve Quadratic equations by factoring, completing the square, & using quadratic formula.
- Learn how to find quotients of powers; powers of quotients.
- Multiply polynomials.
- Find common monomial factors of polynomials.

CONTENT:

- ordering decimals and fractions
- prime factorization
- algebraic equations
- variables & algebraic expression
- linear functions, solving linear equations
- solving systems of equations
- algebraic equations
- multiplying fractions and decimals
- strategies for word problems
- mental math
- polynomials, factoring
- ratio and proportion problems

Revised September, 2009

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Language Arts

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Write narrative, descriptive and expository paragraphs.
- Revise and proofread paragraphs.
- Write sentences of varying lengths and form in paragraphs.
- Write several types of business and social letters.
- Write conversation with correct punctuation and capitalization.
- Identify and use good.

CONTENT:

- grammar
- capitalization
- punctuation
- parts of speech
- writing letters
- creative writing
- speaking and listening skills
- portfolios

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Literature

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Analyze and identify literary terms: plot, theme, setting, style, mood, etc.
- Define and understand motivation, suspense, climax, character traits, point of view, descriptive details, flashback and tone.
- Name and recognize types of fiction.
- Examine conflict, sequence of events, logical reasoning, predictions, allusions, inferences, author's purpose, figurative language, atmosphere and attitudes of a short story.
- Understand elements of a biography, autobiography, and memoir.
- Explore types of poetry.
- Define and appreciate myths, legends and folklore, and the elements of each.
- Identify and recognize literary elements of novels.
- Keep a portfolio of writing examples.

CONTENT:

- literary terms
- motivation, character traits, types of fiction
- conflict, sequence, reasoning, predictions, allusions, inferences, figurative language
- short stories, essays, poetry, drama, biographies
- portfolios
- literary elements of novels
- book reports
- creative writing of essays, poetry and narratives

Revised September, 2009

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Religion

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Demonstrate comprehension of Call to Ministry.
- Use and respect sacred scripture.
- Prepare for Confirmation.
- Identify the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- Identify and recognize sacramentals.
- Increase knowledge of the sacraments of Initiation.
- Realize how to imitate Christ from the lives of His disciples.
- Grow in respect of life and the basic human rights of all people.
- Celebrate the feasts of Mary and the Saints & seasons of the liturgical year.
- Celebrate the feasts of Mary and the saints.
- Express love for God through spontaneous prayer.
- Consider the beliefs of others, both Christian and non-Christian and learn to respect their faith.
- Consider ethical decisions based upon conscience and morality.
- Recall formal prayers.
- Participate in liturgy and paraliturgical celebrations.

CONTENT:

- Beatitudes
- celebrating Advent, Lent, Christmas, Easter and holy days
- New Testament stories
- spontaneous and formal prayers
- social justice/human dignity
- Commandments
- sacraments of initiation
- preparation for Confirmation

Revised September, 2009

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Science

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Utilize metric measurements.
- Understand the composition of the periodic table.
- Describe the properties of matter.
- Understand the forces that control matter.
- Utilize the periodic table to explain the relationship between types of matter.
- Analyze the significance of an ever-changing world.
- Identify the Earth's core, mantle, and crust.
- Identify the forces of nature.
- Study physical properties of the earth.

CONTENT:

- metric measurements recorded in all activities
- basics of an element, including properties
- properties of an element
- states of matter via hands-on activities
- friction, gravity
- Newton's Law

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Social Studies

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Identify and use Social Studies words and terms and define words by context clues and glossary use.
- Strengthen skills in maps, graphs and charts.
- Utilize technology for research and independent projects.
- Examine the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction.
- Learn about the causes for settling the West.
- Study the rise of big business and labor unions.
- Appreciate the impact of immigration socially, economically and politically at the turn of the 20th century.
- Learn about the involvement of America in imperialism.
- Understand the causes and results of World War I.
- Analyze the boom of the 1920's and Great Depression of the 1930's.
- Recognize the causes of World War II and the US involvement.

CONTENT:

- Reconstruction
- Settlement of the West
- Big Business and Labor Unions
- Immigration
- American imperialism in the late 1800's and early 1900's
- World War I
- Roaring Twenties and Depression Thirties
- World War II

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Art

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Combine various media in one art work.
- Complete works in watercolor, crayon, charcoal, ink, chalk and tempera.
- Express mood of another through facial drawings.
- Identify and express critical opinion of art works of famous artists.
- Identify and distinguish architectural styles from ages and cultures.
- Use perspective and observation points to construct art projects.
- Be encouraged in creative self-expression.
- Incorporate multicultural themes and ideas into students' projects.
- Apply color theory in art.
- Understand and apply symbolism in art.

CONTENT:

- variations of media
- watercolor, crayon, charcoal, ink, chalk & tempera
- facial drawings
- critical opinion of famous artwork
- architectural styles
- self-expression
- multicultural themes

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Library Skills

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Use the library as a place to find materials for enjoyment and information.
- Practice proper book care.
- Choose appropriate books.
- Practice library manners.
- Know check-out and return procedures.
- Understand the terms fiction and non-fiction.
- Note that fiction and non-fiction are in different sections.
- Learn to use the electronic library card catalog. (OPAC)
- Know and locate the different basic reference books.
- Understand the vocabulary of books.
- Learn the 5 major genres of literature.
- Review the subheadings of the five genres.
- Learn the meaning and location of biography and autobiography.
- Do research using a variety of materials.
- Choose appropriate materials independently.

CONTENT:

- book care
- library manners
- check-out and return procedures
- fiction and non-fiction
- OPAC
- Basic reference books
- Dewey Decimal System
- genres

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Music

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Work with the changing voice in order to help the students develop confidence in their vocal development and to encourage them to continue singing correctly during the time of vocal change.
- Review and apply to various music projects the musical knowledge learned in grades K-7.
- Strengthen those areas of music knowledge that reveal a weakness or lack of knowledge based upon music pre-test given at the start of the year.

CONTENT:

- age appropriate music and singing
- one or more of the following projects in order to utilize all the music knowledge acquired thus far:
 - a. write and present an original commercial
 - b. research the history of a Christmas carol
 - c. write a short Christmas play
 - d. write and perform an original percussion piece
 - e. write an original melody with lyrics
 - f. research and perform a number from the era of rock and roll
 - g. write and perform the Eighth Grade Farewell Assembly
- music history and composers

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Physical Education

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Perform to the best of ability in all activities.
- Realize the importance of a healthy body.
- Recognize self-improvement through effort in assigned activities.
- Show improvement by practicing tasks outside of regular physical education classes.
- Exhibit self-discipline in independent practice of skills.
- Recognize and value role of physical fitness in total well-being.
- Develop sportsmanship and Christian behavior during all sports.
- Perform physical fitness skills.
- Show leadership within and out of P.E. class.
- Demonstrate personal and social responsibility in physical activity participation.

CONTENT:

- team sport rules
- independent and group practice skills
- development of sportsmanship
- physical; fitness skills
- practicing skills
- understanding and applying concepts to the development of motor skills and fitness

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Spanish

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Engage in conversation and exchange information and opinions orally and in writing in the target language.
- Understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics in the target language.
- Present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics in the target language.
- Gain knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the relationship among practices, products, and perspectives of cultures other than his/her own.
- Develop insight into the nature of language and culture by comparing his/her own language(s) and culture(s) to others.
- Comprehend the spoken language in the form of directions, commands, questions, and structured conversations and simple descriptions.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the Hispanic geographic areas.
- Understand the importance of a second language in procuring employment and in job advancement.
- Learn church songs in Spanish.
- Exchange information and opinions orally and in writing in the target language.
- Perform plays using authentic functional language situations to empower the student to communicate many of the same ideas they would use in English.

CONTENT:

- introductory phrasing
- regular verbs in present, preterite and imperfect tenses
- perfecting pronunciation skills
- vocabulary expansion on topics of occupations, food, animals, vacations, the future, location, body, climate, calendar, numbers, classroom, house

(more)

- comparisons: adjectives, negatives, physical descriptions, personality traits
- Hispanic countries and nationalities
- possessive adjectives and pronouns
- idiomatic expressions
- direct and indirect pronouns
- reflexive verbs
- numbers to one million
- telling time
- gender and adjective agreement
- possessive pronouns
- irregular verbs in present, preterite and imperfect tenses
- writing plays for performances to primary children
- study of Aztec and Mayan cultures

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Technology

GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Become equipped to use and efficiently produce outcomes through technology.
- Be led to an understanding of computer resources.
- Be provided with opportunities for use of word processing, data bases, keyboarding, desktop publishing, telecommunications, graphics, computer assisted instruction software and robotics.
- Learn the process of gathering needed data, organizing it into useful format, and applying the information to problem solving.
- Use technology to reinforce basic skills through the use of computer assisted instruction.

CONTENT:

- computer resources
- word processing, data bases
- keyboarding, desktop publishing
- graphics
- gathering data
- organizing data
- applying the information to problem solving
- basic skills