

events which led to the outbreak of the Civil War. The impact of development and expansion on Native Americans is also highlighted, as is the effect of judicial opinions on the expansion of slavery. The role geography played in the growth of the United States is also a key component in the curriculum. Students work with the text, The Nation, as well as a variety of maps, diagrams, charts, internet resources, and supplemental materials. There is extensive note-taking, with stress on critical thinking and writing skills, as well as group work and hands-on activities.

### **Spanish**

The eighth grade students complete the Spanish I text and continue with grammar, culture, speaking, reading, writing and listening comprehension. Throughout the year, students focus on reading and writing comprehension to prepare them for Spanish II in High School.

### **Homework**

Homework is assigned on a daily basis. Students must complete all assignments and are expected to turn them in on the assigned date. Projects are assigned well in advance. Students must plan their time accordingly to meet deadlines.

### **Conferences**

Two formal parent and teacher conferences are scheduled each school year. Parents are also encouraged to meet with their child's teacher to discuss academic progress.

### **Specials**

Students participate in a variety of classes to enhance the basic curriculum which include: Art, Music, Physical Education, Media Science, Spanish, Computer and Study Skills.

“Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with God”

-Micah 6:8

## **EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM**

### **Religion**

### **Language Arts**

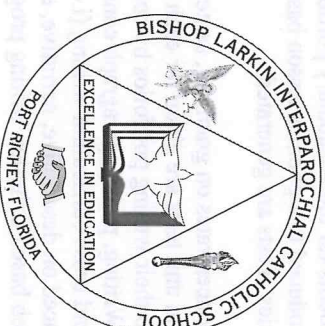
### **Math**

### **Science**

### **Social Studies**

### **Spanish**

### **Homework**



## **Bishop Larkin Catholic School**

8408 Monarch Drive

Port Richey, FL 34668

(727) 862-6981

*Accredited by Florida Catholic Conference*

## **Religion**

The eighth grade program focuses on morality/creed and church history. This course of study expands their knowledge of our faith, and develops a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They learn what it means to be Catholic. Through scriptural study, and faith expansion, students will develop the concept of their Catholic identity. Various activities are involved: projects, research, praying, singing, skits, and drama.

## **Language Arts**

**Reading-** The basis of the reading program utilizes Prentice-Hall literature. Each text is divided into 10 themes that incorporate a variety of genres. Each piece of literature focuses on a different literary skill that is reinforced by several activities included at the end of each piece of work. Students demonstrate their comprehension of the literature and related skills by completing individual tests based on the piece or tests based on the entire unit of study. Each class also reads at least one novel and completes various projects, quizzes, and tests based on the novel. Students are also expected to read at least five books independently each quarter for a project grade.

**Vocabulary-** In the vocabulary workshop program, students study three hundred key words and are introduced to hundreds of other words in the form of synonyms, antonyms, and other relatives. Mastery of these words enables students to become better readers, writers, and speakers. In addition, these words serve to prepare students for the vocabulary portions of standardized tests.

**Spelling-** Students are introduced to a phonics lesson based on the selection of study in their literature series. Tests are generated from these lessons.

**English-** The curriculum concentrates on grammar, sentence structure, usage, and mechanics. Quizzes and unit tests are given for each part of speech. Students continue to add to their writing portfolios by completing assignments utilizing the Six Traits of Writing, poetry, paragraph construction, various creative writing samples and cross curriculum writing (i.e. science research paper). An emphasis is placed on descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive writing. The web based Criterion writing program is utilized weekly.

## **Math**

The McGraw-Hill math series provides the basis for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade math program. The course of study involves the formulation and reasoning of Algebraic expressions and equations, including multi-step equations and systems of equations. They use the concept of functions and using functions when describing relationships, including graphing and using a graph for predictions. They further analyze the different aspects of Geometry including area, surface area, volume, and circumference of different figures. Students then learn to

identify and classify polynomials and nonlinear functions, including quadratic functions.

The accelerated 8<sup>th</sup> grade math class is considered an Algebra I Honors course at the high school level. Their course of study will continue to build on their Algebraic foundation. Students will learn more about Algebraic expressions, equations, and functions and how to use them to solve real-world problems; both in one- and two- variable equations. They will build on their knowledge of proportional reasoning. They will study linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, including how to graph them. Students will learn to add, subtract, multiply, and divide polynomials, and to factor polynomial expressions in order to solve problems, including the use of the quadratic formula. They will learn to use the different operations on rational expressions, solving radical equations, parabolic functions and the application of the distance formula.

## **Science**

Utilizing the Glencoe Science Series the eighth grade science program focuses on science as an inquiry process. The use of hands-on activities and labs provide educational opportunities for students to develop the ability to critically evaluate information, to solve novel problems and to make connections between the science content they learn and things that they encounter in their everyday lives. This approach allows students to use critical and logical thinking, to use scientific instruments and equipment, and to develop scientific habits of mind.

The practice of science is spread throughout the year as students formulate questions, construct investigations and evaluate data. All students also complete a long-term, individual scientific investigation and participate in the school science fair with winning projects continuing on to the regional and state levels.

Specific topics covered during properties and changes in matter include the structure of atoms, the periodic table, characteristic properties, chemical reactions and the Law of Conservation of Mass. During the unit on matter and energy transformations in living things, students learn about the processes of photosynthesis, cellular respiration and the carbon cycle. The unit on the Earth in space and time covers the Solar System, the universe, the electromagnetic spectrum, the Law of Universal Gravitation and the use of technology in the exploration of space.

## **Social Studies**

The curriculum focuses on American history from the Age of Discovery up to the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. Emphasis is placed on the development of the English colonies, the American Revolution, the growth of the nation and westward expansion, plus the