

Course Description Book 2021-2022



Our Mission:

Developing Personal and Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition

St. Thomas More Middle School

424 Fairmont Blvd.
Rapid City, SD 57703
(605) 348-1477

St. Thomas More Middle School

Program of Studies

Grade 6

CORE COURSES

Theology
Grammar/Composition
Literature
Mathematics
Social Studies
Science

SPECIALS

Physical Education
Technology

ENRICHMENT COURSES

Music Courses

Band
Choir
Orchestra

Exploratory Courses

Art
Philosophy/Logic
World Cultures

Academic Services

Study Skills

Grade 7

CORE COURSES

Theology
Grammar/Composition
Literature
Mathematics
Social Studies
Science

Advanced Courses

Pre-Algebra

SPECIALS

Physical Education
Health

ENRICHMENT COURSES

Music Courses

Band
Choir
Orchestra

Exploratory Courses

Art
Intro to Media (Sem1)
Nutrition & Wellness
Philosophy/Logic
Yearbook (Sem2)

Academic Services

Study Skills

Grade 8

CORE COURSES

Theology
Grammar/Composition
Literature
Pre-Algebra
Social Studies
Science

Advanced Courses

Algebra I (High School Credit)
French I (High School Credit)
Spanish I (High School Credit)

SPECIALS

Physical Education
Health

ENRICHMENT COURSES

Music Courses

Band
Choir
Orchestra

Exploratory Courses

Art
Intro to Media (Sem1)
Nutrition & Wellness
Philosophy/Logic
Yearbook (Sem2)

Academic Services

Study Skills

SIXTH GRADE CORE COURSES

6TH GRADE THEOLOGY

This course is designed for students to journey through the Old Testament. Students will spend time in prayer, look up Scripture, read the Bible, engage in discussion, visit the Chapel, reflect in a Prayer Journal, and make a scroll recording the stories of the Old Testament.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 6th grade students

6TH GRADE GRAMMAR/COMPOSITION

This course develops students' proficiency in writing for clarity, precision, and creativity. Students will be given multiple opportunities for real-world application of writing skills. Students will study how to create, organize, and expand ideas while shaping these thoughts with their voice, mechanics, and presentation. Students will be able to diagram sentences and apply grammar knowledge to their own writing and that of their peers.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 6th grade students

6TH GRADE LITERATURE

This course strengthens students' understanding of literary elements and their application in grade-appropriate literary works by introducing novels, short stories, plays, and poetry throughout the year. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of literacy in their personal and academic excellence. Students are encouraged to read independently each day while engaging in course content through independent, small group, and whole class study.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 6th grade students

6TH GRADE MATHEMATICS

This course's goals are to help students make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. Students will be guided to reason abstractly and quantitatively. Students will be asked to critique the reasoning of others and construct viable arguments to justify their own

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 6th grade students

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

This course is designed to be integrated with the 6th grade math course. Phenomena based labs will follow the scientific method with empirical data being analyzed and justified. General science will be explored in the first semester with Earth/Science and Science Fair Project Creation in the second semester.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 6th grade students

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

This course will allow the student to analyze the development and cultural contributions that gave rise to the earliest human communities and agrarian societies of World History. Students will explore large-scale empires, major religions, and ancient forms of government. They will analyze the cultural contributions that gave rise to economic systems and political institutions. They will learn how events and ideas of ancient civilizations influence humans today.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 6th grade students

SIXTH GRADE SPECIALS

6TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a vital part of a complete education. Students involved in the 6th Grade Physical Education curriculum will be in activities that can enhance their academic performance and classroom behavior throughout the school day. Increasing health knowledge and developing healthy behaviors in our students helps them become well-rounded individuals. Students will be introduced to and participate in activities that will help them remain active through a lifetime, learn to set and achieve health related goals, and work with others in multiple situations.

Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with Computers & Technology, 2/3 day rotation per semester, required of 6th grade students

6TH GRADE COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

Students will be introduced to the basic principles of computer science. The goal of this course is to equip 6th grade students with a basic introduction to computer application skills utilizing Word, Excel, PowerPoint as well as cover topics such as email, various google applications, google classroom, and develop problem solving skills. In addition students will develop practical keyboarding skills, internet research skills as well as online safety and digital citizenship.

Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with Physical Education, 2/3 day rotation per semester, required of 6th grade students

SIXTH GRADE MUSIC ENRICHMENT COURSES

6TH GRADE BAND

The focus of this program is to provide a quality music experience and encourage students to develop proficient techniques on band instruments, to expose students to music preparation, performance, history, theory, composition, and sight reading, to rehearse and perform orchestral transcriptions, band literature standards, and contemporary compositions. Participation in semester concerts is mandatory.

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 6th grade students

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with another music course or study skills, available to 6th grade students

6TH GRADE CHOIR

The focus of the vocal music program is to provide students with the opportunity to learn about music of various styles through performance in a vocal ensemble. Chorus is open to any student who will participate to the best of his/her ability. Chorus grades are based upon participation, attendance, attitude, and completion of assigned class work.

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 6th grade students

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with another music course or study skills, available to 6th grade students

6TH GRADE ORCHESTRA

The focus of the orchestra program is to provide a quality music experience and encourage students to develop proficiency and adequate techniques in violin, viola, cello or bass instruments. Orchestra grades are based upon participation, attendance(at concerts) and attitude.

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 6th grade students

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with another music course or study skills, available to 6th grade students

SIXTH GRADE EXPLORATORY ENRICHMENT COURSES

6TH GRADE ART

The focus of this course is to develop an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. Each unit consists of a number of projects that explore a variety of mixed-media and techniques. Students are encouraged in the areas of drawing, painting, printing, sculpture, and mixed media.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 6th grade students

6TH GRADE PHILOSOPHY/LOGIC

This exploratory course will introduce students to a classical approach to education. The first quarter will explore the virtues according to literature and classic traditional philosophy. Next students will learn the rudimentary skills of formal logic. Throughout the year students will explore perennial questions, riddles, and imaginative exercises to hone their thinking, reasoning and communication skills.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 6th grade students

6TH GRADE WORLD CULTURES

In this class, students will be introduced to the French and Spanish-speaking worlds as well as the Lakota people. We will learn some of the traditions, games, stories, art and foods of these groups. This course will also expose students to the most common words and phrases in French and Spanish - the languages taught later in middle and high school.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 6th grade students

SIXTH GRADE ACADEMIC SERVICES COURSES

6TH GRADE STUDY SKILLS

This course is designed to help students become independent, self-sufficient learners who are able to complete school work and meet challenges with confidence. Organization and time management techniques are incorporated into the curriculum. There are graded requirements in this course and parent participation is required on a weekly basis

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 6th grade students by teacher/admin recommendation only

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with a music course, available to 6th grade students by teacher/admin recommendation only

SEVENTH GRADE CORE COURSES

7TH GRADE THEOLOGY

This course is dedicated to the study of God's saving love as it is revealed through His Son, Jesus Christ specifically through the Gospels. Using the liturgical year to organize the study, students will read through the Gospels to discover how to live as disciples. This year also includes a study of Theology of the Body, which teaches on God's plan for us as men and women.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 7th grade students

7TH GRADE GRAMMAR/COMPOSITION

This seventh-grade course emphasizes the development of specific writing types; arguments, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. Students will demonstrate increasing sophistication in following areas: ideas and content, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and the conventions of writing. A variety of mentor and informational texts serve as models to improve writing skills. Technology is used to enhance reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use. This course fulfills the seventh-grade English requirement.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 7th grade students

7TH GRADE LITERATURE

The course challenges the students through a variety of written works, in which to explore their own understanding and comprehension and how it affects their personal thoughts and opinions. Using a wide range of literature genres, the basic elements of literature will be covered with an emphasis on plot during the first semester and characterization during the second semester.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 7th grade students

7TH GRADE MATHEMATICS

This course focuses on three critical content areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers; (3) working with expressions and linear equations. Students continue to build on perseverance in solving problems and constructing arguments to justify their reasoning. Students will apply skills to create and use scale drawings and find measurements of two and three dimensional geometric figures.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 7th grade students (unless students qualified to take 7th Grade Pre-Algebra)

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

This course will cover the characteristics of living things, plant and animal cell structures and processes, heredity and variation of traits, classification of organisms, the structure and function of human cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems, and biological unity and diversity, and dynamics of ecosystems. We also thread throughout the year, the nature of science which includes teaching students how to safely and correctly use scientific equipment, take measurements, conduct experiments and investigations, collect and analyze data, draw conclusions, evaluate evidence and present their work.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 7th grade students

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

This course covers geography, South and North America, the Industrial and French Revolution, and sections of Church history. Students begin the year learning about the Geographer's toolbox and will apply it to deserts, countries of South America, and the United States. Economic theory and certain philosophers of the Enlightenment Era are covered in this course. At the end of the year, sections of United States history and geography are covered, as well as early Church History through the Crusades.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 7th grade students

SEVENTH GRADE ADVANCED COURSES

7TH GRADE PRE-ALGEBRA

As preparation for success in Algebra I, this course covers algebraic terminology, characteristics of numbers, variables, solving linear equations and inequalities, problem solving, and linear graphs. Students continue the development and understanding of applying proportional relationships and operations with rational numbers and applications of those to Algebra. This course also focuses on data analysis and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Year-long course, meets every day, available to 7th grade students who qualified through a placement test

SEVENTH GRADE SPECIALS

7TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a vital part of a complete education. Students involved in the 7th Grade Physical Education curriculum will, according to multiple documented sources, be in activities that can enhance their academic performance and classroom behavior throughout the school day. Increasing health knowledge and developing healthy behaviors in our students helps them become well-rounded individuals. Students will be introduced to and participate in activities that will help them remain active through a lifetime, learn to set and achieve health related goals and work with others in multiple situations.

Year long course, meets 2-3 days per week in conjunction with Health. Required of 7th grade students

7TH GRADE HEALTH

The goal of the health education program is to have students become knowledgeable about what constitutes physical, psychological, and social wellness. The practice of healthful living will affect students in all areas of learning. The goal of this class is to empower young people with the skills and positive attitudes they need to make informed decisions to promote their own lifelong health and well-being. This philosophy applies to the 6 major topics of our comprehensive Health Education Program, including: Health & wellness, healthy social relationships, emotional and mental health, nutrition and physical fitness, substance abuse prevention, growth & development, and physical diseases and prevention.

Year long course, meets 2-3 days per week in conjunction with Physical Education. Required of 7th grade students

SEVENTH GRADE MUSIC ENRICHMENT COURSES

7TH/8TH GRADE BAND

The focus of this program is to provide a quality music experience and encourage students to develop proficient techniques on band instruments, to expose students to music preparation, performance, history, theory, composition, and sight reading, to rehearse and perform orchestral transcriptions, band literature standards, and contemporary compositions. Participation in semester concerts is mandatory.

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with another music course or study skills, available to 7th/8th grade students

7TH/8TH GRADE CHOIR

The focus of the vocal music program is to provide students with the opportunity to learn about music of various styles through performance in a vocal ensemble. Chorus is open to any student who will participate to the best of his/her ability. Chorus grades are based upon participation, attendance, attitude, and completion of assigned class work.

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with another music course or study skills, available to 7th/8th grade students

7TH/8TH GRADE ORCHESTRA

The focus of the orchestra program is to provide a quality music experience and encourage students to develop proficiency and adequate techniques in violin, viola, cello or bass instruments. Orchestra grades are based upon participation, attendance (at concerts) and attitude.

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with another music course or study skills, available to 7th/8th grade students

SEVENTH GRADE EXPLORATORY ENRICHMENT COURSES

7TH/8TH GRADE ART

The focus of this course is to develop an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. Each unit consists of a number of projects that explore a variety of mixed-media and techniques. Students are encouraged in the areas of drawing, painting, printing, sculpture, and mixed media.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

7TH/8TH GRADE INTRO TO MEDIA

Students will be introduced to different media types. They will explore journalism, learn the fundamentals of graphic design, photography, photo-editing, and advertising as they create a student-based newspaper and the school yearbook.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students, Fall semester Only

7TH/8TH GRADE NUTRITION & WELLNESS

This course is designed to teach individuals how to live a healthy lifestyle, what impacts nutritional choices, and how to change or maintain your own personal health and wellness. This course is based on the four power standards under the Career and Technical Education Standards through the South Dakota Department of Education. Topics include: impacts of cultural and media influences on nutrition, personal health and wellness habits, MyPlate.gov, menu planning, and a cooking safety and preparation unit.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

7TH/8TH GRADE PHILOSOPHY/LOGIC

This exploratory course will introduce students to a classical approach to education. The first quarter will explore the virtues according to literature and classic traditional philosophy. Next students will learn the rudimentary skills of formal logic. Throughout the year students will explore perennial questions, riddles, and imaginative exercises to hone their thinking, reasoning and communication skills.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

7TH/8TH YEARBOOK

The purpose of this class is to develop, edit, and publish a St. Thomas More Yearbook. This class will work together to develop a publication that reflects the events and lives of people involved with St. Thomas More Middle School during the 2020-2021 school year. It will not only include pictures of events but may include student literary works as well as their art. In this course, students will learn how to work as a team, gather information, organize ideas, edit pictures, create articles, as well as format and edit pages publication.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students, Spring Semester only.

SEVENTH GRADE ACADEMIC SERVICES COURSES

7TH/8TH GRADE STUDY SKILLS

This course is designed to help students become independent, self-sufficient learners who are able to complete school work and meet challenges with confidence. Organization and time management techniques are incorporated into the curriculum. There are graded requirements in this course and parent participation is required on a weekly basis

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students by teacher/admin recommendation only

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with a music course, available to 7th/8th grade students by teacher/admin recommendation only

EIGHTH GRADE CORE COURSES

8TH GRADE THEOLOGY

This course is important for all students in helping them prepare for Religion classes in high school, and understanding how they were created in His image and likeness. From personal growth, to diving deep into the history of the Church, to morality and understanding God's plan for each student, along with daily journaling and scripture, this year will help deepen all students' faith journeys. The Apostolic Saint Project is another favorite of each student this year, as everyone will research and choose a Saint (or hopefully a Saint will choose them!), dress like the Saint, and present their Saint's story. Another key part of this course is the Christian Life Speaker Series. Experts from within the Rapid City Catholic School System, the Diocese and within our community, will spend time in class discussing important topics that impact their daily lives (depression, suicide, addictions, evil, vocations, preparing for high school classes, current events and much more). This is a year to establish a strong foundation on which to build for high school.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 8th grade students

8TH GRADE GRAMMAR/COMPOSITION

This course offers students the opportunity to command the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking. Students will begin to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases and understand figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. The goals of this course are to teach students how to effectively write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence, write informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas clearly, and write narratives and other creative texts to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 8th grade students

8TH GRADE LITERATURE

This course exposes students to a variety of literature, including short stories, dramas, novels, poetry, and nonfiction texts. Students will focus on literary analysis as they examine literary elements and devices to deepen their understanding of the texts. The goals of this course are to increase reading comprehension and enhance students' ability to evaluate written information. Students will determine a central idea and cite textual evidence to support and analyze the details.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 8th grade students

8TH GRADE PRE-ALGEBRA

As preparation for success in Algebra I, this course covers algebraic terminology, characteristics of numbers, variables, solving linear equations and inequalities, problem solving, and linear graphs. Students continue development and understanding of applying proportional relationships and operations with rational numbers and the applications of those to Algebra. This course also focuses on data analysis and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 8th grade students (unless students qualified for Algebra I)

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

This course covers physics and chemistry, including physical and chemical changes, atoms, elements, mixtures, and solutions, the periodic table, states of matter, motion, gravity, density, buoyancy, energy, heat, and the properties of waves and light. We also thread throughout the year, the nature of science which includes teaching students how to safely and correctly use scientific equipment, take measurements, conduct experiments and investigations, collect and analyze data, draw conclusions, evaluate evidence, and present their work.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 8th grade students

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

This course covers early American history with a heavy emphasis on the United States Constitution. The *We the People* Curriculum is designed to develop critical thinking skills on our form of government and the student's role in it. Early American history covers the American Revolution through the Civil War. Current Events and how past events have shaped our lives are also discussed. Students dig deep into primary sources including the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, Federalist 10, and testimony from the 'shot heard round the world' at Lexington in April of 1775.

Year-long course, meets every day, required of 8th grade students

EIGHTH GRADE ADVANCED COURSES

8TH GRADE ALGEBRA I

Algebra I is a study of the structure of the real number system and the basic concepts: algebraic terminology, characteristics of numbers, variables, polynomials, factorization, linear equations, inequalities, problem solving, linear graphs, and quadratic equations. Upon successful completion of the End of Course Assessment, parents of students enrolled in this course will receive a letter to sign and return allowing the grades received to be included on the students' high school transcript.

Year-long course, meets every day, available to 8th grade students who qualify through a placement test

FRENCH I

This course will introduce students to the French language as well as the cultures and histories of several French-speaking countries. The course will use speaking, listening, reading and writing for language acquisition. By the end of the course, students should be comfortable with the basic parts of speech, master basic vocabulary on a variety of topics and be able to conjugate verbs in the present, past and future tenses. Students will also increase their cultural awareness as their culture is compared and contrasted to the cultures of French-speaking countries. The class will use a classical textbook and worksheets as well as authentic documents such as movies, television, music videos, websites, books and magazines.

Year-long course, meets every day, French OR Spanish required of 8th grade students

SPANISH I

This course will introduce students to the Spanish language as well as the cultures and histories of several Spanish-speaking countries. The course will use speaking, listening, reading and writing for

language acquisition. By the end of the course, students should be comfortable with the basic parts of speech, master basic vocabulary on a variety of topics and be able to conjugate verbs in the present, past and future tenses. Students will also increase their cultural awareness as their culture is compared and contrasted to the studied cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. The class will use a classical textbook and worksheets as well as authentic documents such as movies, television, music videos, websites, books and magazines.

Year-long course, meets every day, Spanish OR French required of 8th grade students

EIGHTH GRADE SPECIALS

8TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a vital part of a complete education. Students involved in the 8th Grade Physical Education curriculum will, according to multiple documented sources, be in activities that can enhance their academic performance and classroom behavior throughout the school day. Increasing health knowledge and developing healthy behaviors in our students helps them become well-rounded individuals. Students will be introduced to and participate in activities that will help them remain active through a lifetime, learn to set and achieve health related goals and work with others in multiple situations. Eighth graders will also be introduced to Etiquette classes and develop skills they will use for the rest of their life. Teaching dance and dance etiquette will be instructed in their Physical Education Class.

Year long course, meets 2-3 days per week in conjunction with Health, required of 8th grade students

8TH GRADE HEALTH

The goal of the health education program is to have students become knowledgeable about what constitutes physical, psychological, and social wellness. The practice of healthful living will affect students in all areas of learning. The goal of this class is to empower young people with the skills and positive attitudes they need to make informed decisions to promote their own lifelong health and well-being. This philosophy applies to the 6 major topics of our comprehensive Health Education Program, including: Health & wellness, healthy social relationships, emotional and mental health, nutrition and physical fitness, substance abuse prevention, growth & development, and physical diseases and prevention.

Year long course, meets 2-3 days per week in conjunction with Physical Education, required of 8th grade students

EIGHTH GRADE MUSIC ENRICHMENT COURSES

7TH/8TH GRADE BAND

The focus of this program is to provide a quality music experience and encourage students to develop proficient techniques on band instruments, to expose students to music preparation, performance, history, theory, composition, and sight reading, to rehearse and perform orchestral transcriptions, band literature standards, and contemporary compositions. Participation in semester concerts is mandatory.

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with another music course or study skills, available to 7th/8th grade students

7TH/8TH GRADE CHOIR

The focus of the vocal music program is to provide students with the opportunity to learn about music of various styles through performance in a vocal ensemble. Chorus is open to any student who will participate to the best of his/her ability. Chorus grades are based upon participation, attendance, attitude, and completion of assigned class work.

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with another music course or study skills, available to 7th/8th grade students

7TH/8TH GRADE ORCHESTRA

The focus of the orchestra program is to provide a quality music experience and encourage students to develop proficiency and adequate techniques in violin, viola, cello or bass instruments. Orchestra grades are based upon participation, attendance (at concerts) and attitude.

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with another music course or study skills, available to 7th/8th grade students

EIGHTH GRADE EXPLORATORY ENRICHMENT COURSES

7TH/8TH GRADE ART

The focus of this course is to develop an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. Each unit consists of a number of projects that explore a variety of mixed-media and techniques.. Students are encouraged in the areas of drawing, painting, printing, sculpture, and mixed media.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

7TH/8TH GRADE INTRO TO MEDIA

Students will be introduced to different media types. They will explore journalism, learn the fundamentals of graphic design, photography, photo-editing, and advertising as they create a student-based newspaper and the school yearbook.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students, Fall semester Only

7TH/8TH GRADE NUTRITION & WELLNESS

This course is designed to teach individuals how to live a healthy lifestyle, what impacts nutritional choices, and how to change or maintain your own personal health and wellness. This course is based on the four power standards under the Career and Technical Education Standards through the South Dakota Department of Education. Topics include: impacts of cultural and media influences on nutrition, personal health and wellness habits, MyPlate.gov, menu planning, and a cooking safety and preparation unit.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

7TH/8TH GRADE PHILOSOPHY/LOGIC

This exploratory course will introduce students to a classical approach to education. The first quarter will explore the virtues according to literature and classic traditional philosophy. Next students will learn the rudimentary skills of formal logic. Throughout the year students will explore perennial questions, riddles, and imaginative exercises to hone their thinking, reasoning and communication skills.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students

7TH/8TH YEARBOOK

The purpose of this class is to develop, edit, and publish a St. Thomas More Yearbook. This class will work together to develop a publication that reflects the events and lives of people involved with St. Thomas More Middle School during the 2020-2021 school year. It will not only include pictures of events but may include student literary works as well as their art. In this course, students will learn how to work as a team, gather information, organize ideas, edit pictures, create articles, as well as format and edit pages publication.

Semester-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students, Spring Semester only.

EIGHTH GRADE ACADEMIC SERVICES COURSES

7TH/8TH GRADE STUDY SKILLS

This course is designed to help students become independent, self-sufficient learners who are able to complete school work and meet challenges with confidence. Organization and time management techniques are incorporated into the curriculum. There are graded requirements in this course and parent participation is required on a weekly basis

Full time: Year-long course, meets every day, available to 7th/8th grade students by teacher/admin recommendation only

Shared time: Year-long course, meets every other day in combination with a music course, available to 7th/8th grade students by teacher/admin recommendation only