

# **2009-2010 CURRICULUM**

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN A  
SIMPLE AND BRIEF OVERVIEW  
OF  
QUEEN OF PEACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
CURRICULUM.

IT IS MEANT TO BE AN INTRODUCTION  
TO SOME OF THE BASIC MATERIAL  
THAT IS COVERED AT EACH GRADE LEVEL.

# Special Subjects

**SPECIAL SUBJECTS ARE SCHEDULED WEEKLY  
IN THIRTY TO FORTY-FIVE MINUTE PERIODS.  
EACH CLASS HAS ONE SPECIAL SUBJECT PER DAY.**

## **ART**

Each month students focus on a new artist and study his/her style of expression as well as the medium used in his/her artistic work. Students will learn about the contribution that this artist has made to the world of Art. These artists include: Edward Munch (“The Scream”); Vincent Van Gogh (“Starry Night”); Leonardo da Vinci (“Mona Lisa”); MC Esher (Mosaic Heart); Picasso (Self-Portraits); and Eric Carle (“The Very Hungry Caterpillar”)

## **COMPUTER/LIBRARY**

**Computer/Library classes are combined so that one half of the students go the library and one half of the students go to the computer room; then, the students rotate to the alternate area.**

**In Computer Education,** students are taught to recognize the keyboard; to practice creative writing and graphics; to play educational games in math, science, and social studies; and, to explore Internet research in coordination with the classroom curriculum.

**In Library,** students are taught the primary functions of the library. They will develop thinking and problem-solving skills in locating, evaluating and using informational resources beyond the textbook. They are given the time to enjoy reading about topics of personal interest, famous literature and reading for pleasure.

## **INTRODUCTION to WORLD LANGUAGE**

**(K to 2)** Students learn a variety of on-going formative processes and assessment in basic introduction to Spanish: Colors, Numbers, Shapes, Family Names, Classroom Items, Phonetic Sounds of the Alphabet, Songs and Prayers.

**(Grades 3 to 8)** Students perform a variety of oral and written activities that help create dialogue, comprehension and appreciation for Spanish as a language. Students will imitate appropriate gesture and common idiomatic expressions of target vocabulary. They will be provided with purposeful and challenging activities in which to recite, write, read and listen to Spanish in order to acquire confidence in speaking a new language. Students will be empowered to communicate effectively and appreciate this new language.

### **MUSIC**

The Music curriculum is a sequenced approach to understanding the elements of music beginning in Kindergarten and continuing through Grade 8. Music skills and concepts are taught and reinforced through singing, note reading, performing, creating and movement. Cultural enrichment is provided by utilizing all types and styles of secular and religious music.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**

Students learn the importance of sportsmanship while working on their large motor skills. Junior High students learn to play organized sports, learning the particular skills and rules of the various games.

Health class includes hygiene, nutrition, stranger danger, drugs, alcohol and medicine with age appropriate information presented to each class.

# KINDERGARTEN

## **RELIGION**

Students are introduced to God, the Creator, and will learn about all of the gifts He has given to us. Families help us to discover God's World and share His love. Jesus is the greatest gift that shows God's love.

## **MATH**

Students are introduced to sorting, categorizing, geometry, patterns, positions, numbers 0-31, graphs, tables, fractions, addition and subtraction readiness, and simple money, time and measurement concepts.

## **READING**

Students are introduced to beginning literacy skills. They develop phonemic awareness and move from recognition of sound to symbol and then blending and decoding sounds into words. They also begin to develop comprehension as words combine into story formation.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/GRAMMAR/SPELLING/CREATIVE WRITING**

Students are introduced to the simple sentence. They learn about capitalization of important words and names. They learn about common punctuation marks. They are also introduced to naming words (nouns), describing words (adjectives) and action words (verbs).

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students are introduced to important holidays throughout the year, national remembrances and celebrations. They also learn how to be social; work in groups; listen to each other and respect their friends.

## **SCIENCE**

Students learn simple information about each area of science concepts: life science, physical science, earth science, health and human body (5 senses, growing, changing and being healthy) through a selection of books read orally and then experienced in various hands-on learning centers.

# FIRST GRADE

## **RELIGION**

Students learn about the story of creation through to the beginning of the early Church with Saint Paul. Daily prayers and prayers for Mass are emphasized through repetition and attendance at Mass each First Friday of the month. Students are introduced to the seven sacraments and parish families.

## **MATH**

Students begin basic facts of addition and subtraction, geometry, graphing and simple money, time and measurement. Students practice both oral and written counting to 200 and higher.

## **READING**

Students complete six basic readers emphasizing sight vocabulary and word attack skills. Teachers read to the class each day covering various topics of interest and building comprehension skills. Word families and spelling patterns are also introduced and applied.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/GRAMMAR/SPELLING/CREATIVE WRITING**

Students are introduced to simple parts of speech, different kinds of sentences, beginning grammar mechanics and creative writing in their journals. Various forms of writing are covered: personal narrative, descriptive, explanatory and writing that compares.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students discuss current events, holidays, customs and traditions as well as family interactions through books, hands-on learning center activities, videos and Art projects. Map skills, famous Americans and American symbols are also introduced.

## **SCIENCE**

Students study animal habitats, three states of matter, nutrition, five senses, energy, magnets, dinosaurs, planets and stars, hibernation, bugs, earth conservation and recycling, and signs of the changing seasons.

# SECOND GRADE

## **RELIGION**

Students will learn the seven sacraments with special emphasis on Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. They also learn about the church year, the Ten Commandments, holy days and the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the opening and closing prayers of the Mass.

## **MATH**

Students continue to memorize addition and subtraction facts, regrouping, two and three digit numbers, data and graphing, place value to 100, geometry, money, time and measurement.

## **READING**

Students begin to read stories in depth, focusing on settings, predictions, drawing conclusions, author's purpose and character descriptions. They learn about realistic fiction and animal fantasy while practicing comprehension and vocabulary skills. Students also begin to practice looking up words in the dictionary.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/GRAMMAR/SPELLING/CREATIVE WRITING**

Students continue to practice sentence structure and punctuation; parts of speech; dictionary skills; personal narratives and letter writing.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students begin to recognize and study maps; holidays and celebrations; famous Americans; neighborhood and community helpers; and, other famous people and places in history. Students are also introduced to the individual states of the U.S.A.

## **SCIENCE**

Students begin scientific exploration through hands-on learning center activities about five senses, habitats, states of matter, dinosaurs, magnets, energy, bugs, nutrition, recycling and conservation of our planet earth and simple machines.

# THIRD GRADE

## **RELIGION**

Students will focus on the Church and its beliefs. They learn that Jesus gives us the Church. We are members of the Church which leads us in worship. We are all called to discipleship.

## **MATH**

Students learn place value, number sense and comparison; operation sense and meaning; addition and subtraction with regrouping; one digit multiplication and division; measurement, time, geometry and spatial sense.

## **READING**

Students learn phonemic awareness, concepts of print; decoding words and reading strategies; word recognition and vocabulary in context; reading fluency; inferring word meanings from prefixes, suffixes and root words; drawing conclusions and inferences; recognizing theme and purpose of writing and summarizing.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/GRAMMARSPELLING/CREATIVE WRITING**

Students begin to practice the writing process (pre-write, draft, revise and edit). Students continue to identify parts of speech and to write sentences using correct grammar and usage principles and proper spelling.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students will explore communities: past, present and future. They identify responsibilities to family, community, nation and world. Students begin to practice map skills.

## **SCIENCE**

Students learn about the basic needs of organisms, the diversity of life, and living systems (food chains, matter, energy and organization); the structure and properties of matter, motion, force and energy transformation; atmosphere, water, properties and processes that shape the planet earth, the galaxy and the universe.

# FOURTH GRADE

## **RELIGION/FAMILY LIFE**

Students learn that we are called as a community to hear and live God's word through the teachings of sacred scripture, prayer and the celebration of the sacraments. Students deepen their faith by exploring the basic teachings of the Church. Through the Ten Commandments, they develop healthy moral attitudes in their relationship with God and with others.

Family Life consists of three basic themes which are addressed with age-appropriate discussion and activities: 1) Respect for Life; 2) Relationships; and 3) Life-Giving and Love-Giving.

## **MATH**

Students learn to apply several problem solving techniques; to use calculators; to make simple and complex computations using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students will advance their skills in multi-digit multiplication and long division and will understand various uses and methods of measuring. They are introduced to calculators, geometric properties and statistics.

## **READING**

Students understand and can now apply the knowledge of context clues, multiple meaning words and phonetics to become more independent readers. They read a variety of materials and texts with fluency and comprehension. They employ self-monitoring skills, comprehension, graphic organizers and previously learned strategies to improve reading skills. They begin to recognize different genres of literature.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/GRAMMAR/SPELLING/CREATIVE WRITING**

Students practice writing in clear, concise and organized language that varies in purpose. They recognize complete sentences and parts of speech. They practice correct spelling, punctuation and grammar mechanics.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students examine the history, geographical features and government of their home state, New Jersey. They also explore the geography of the regions of the United States.

## **SCIENCE**

Students explore four different areas of scientific study: Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science and the Human Body. Through these explorations, they learn to think critically, logically, analytically, creatively and ethically.

# FIFTH GRADE

## **RELIGION/FAMILY LIFE**

Students learn about the sacraments; Jesus' life shared in us; and, carrying on Jesus' mission of loving and serving others. Review and assessment reinforce the essential content of each lesson. Music and prayer echo and anticipate liturgical celebrations.

In Family Life, there are three basic themes with age-appropriate discussion and activities: 1) Respect for Life; 2) Relationships; 3) Life-Giving and Love-Giving. "Wonders of life" is a special 4<sup>th</sup> session in Grade 5 which addresses the physical and emotional changes occurring in the transition from childhood to adolescence.

## **MATH**

Students learn about decimals and fractions with an age-appropriate introduction to key algebraic topics. Geometry readiness topics are integrated as students build measurement skills; increase understanding of geometric relationships; and, develop visualization skills. Problem solving lessons encourage students to approach problems in a variety of ways. Students analyze, interpret and draw conclusions throughout the year.

## **READING**

Students explore five critical areas of reading: Phonemic Awareness; Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension, in addition to Oral Language, Alphabetic Knowledge, Decodable Text, Listening Comprehension, Informational Text and ongoing Assessment. Before, during and after reading strategies and vocabulary development are also stressed throughout the classes.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/GRAMMAR/SPELLING/CREATIVE WRITING**

Students write in many genres: descriptive, persuasive, narrative, biographical and autobiographical and poetry using English conventions of sentence structure, grammar usage, capitalization, punctuation and spelling. Spelling is included in the Language Arts curriculum. Critical thinking skills such as opinion vs fact and effects of media are also explored.

Grammar includes all parts of speech and sentence structure; study skills using reference materials; paragraph, essay and report writing; and, proof reading and editing.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students learn about the history and geography of early life in Eastern and Western hemispheres; early American life, American Revolution and Civil War, United States expansion, U.S. in world relations and current events of the present day. Map and globe skills are also integrated into this curriculum.

### **SCIENCE**

Students learn seven human body systems; life cycles and reproduction; structure and behavior of matter; motion forces and energy transformation; sound and electrical energy; ecosystems and cycles; and, earth science and rock changes. Students are also introduced to scientists and inventors and their contribution to our civilization.

# SIXTH GRADE

## **RELIGION/FAMILY LIFE**

Students learn more about God's love for His people and His action in their lives throughout history. They learn the truths of the Catholic faith in Sacred Scripture and Tradition in accordance with the doctrines of the Church.

In Family Life, there are three basic themes with age-appropriate discussion and activities: 1) Respect for life; 2) Relationships; 3) Life-Giving and Love-Giving.

## **MATH**

Students develop number sense and perform standard numerical operations, spatial sense and the ability to use geometric properties, relationships and measurements. They represent and analyze relationships among variable quantities and solve problems involving patterns, functions and algebraic concepts. Finally, they develop an understanding of the concepts and techniques of data analysis, probability and discrete mathematics. They use them to model situations, problem solving as well as analyze and draw appropriate inferences from data.

## **LITERATURE**

The students are introduced to strategies that will increase their comprehension through consistent instruction that reinforces literary analysis and reading strategies. They review and assess comprehension of all reading selections.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/GRAMMAR/SPELLING/CREATIVE WRITING**

The students continue their journey in grammar usage and mechanics of written language by further identifying the eight parts of speech to help enhance the student's written expression. The students experience several forms of writing (narrative, persuasive, informative, poetry, etc) and learn how to write as a process (pre-write, drafting, revision, proof reading and publishing). Students incorporate weekly spelling words and their application in context, thereby also striving to improve their writing skills.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students explore geography, the ancient world and medieval times. They activate prior knowledge and make predictions. They confirm predictions, take notes, ask questions and, finally, recall information through assessments and hands-on projects.

### **SCIENCE**

Students explore life Science, Physical Science and Earth Science. They employ twelve process skills for science inquiry: observing communicating, classifying, estimating, measuring, inferring predictions, making operational definitions, making and using models, formulating questions and hypotheses, collecting and interpreting data, identifying and controlling variables and experimenting.

# SEVENTH GRADE

## **RELIGION/FAMILY LIFE**

Students will study who God is (including the Blessed Trinity, Scripture and Tradition) and God being the source of all life. They also concentrate on who Jesus is (Messiah, Healer, Bread of Life and Savior of the World).

In Family Life, there are three sessions: 1) Respect for life; 2) Relationships and 3) Life-Giving, Love-Giving and Virtue.

## **PRE-ALGEBRA**

Students learn algebraic equations and integers. They solve one-step equations and inequalities. They work with decimals and equations; operations with fractions; ratio, proportions and percents; two-step equations; area and volume; and, an introduction to geometry. Video tutors and lesson quizzes are available online.

## **LITERATURE**

Students explore and study the following genre: fiction, non-fiction, drama, poetry, short story and folk literature. Literary analysis is reinforced and reading strategies are provided. CD selections reinforce listening skills. In addition, there is an in-depth study of a novel (literary classic), Treasure Island. Textbook is available online.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/GRAMMER/CREATIVE WRITING**

All mechanics and usage of grammar is reinforced. Students review types and parts of a sentence; all parts of speech; subject/verb agreement; oral communication; the writing process and all types of writing; and, the “How-to” essay and research report. Spelling is reviewed in all writing.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students study historical events from the period of the exploration of North America up to (and including) the period of Reconstruction after the Civil War. Textbook is available online.

### **SCIENCE**

Students study the scientific process and science and society and the nature and process of technology. They learn about energy and living systems, bio-evolution, reproduction and heredity in Life Science. In Physics, they study motion, energy and transformation. In Physical Science, the students are introduced to chemistry. In Earth Science they learn about weather, atmosphere, and earth properties. In Environmental Science they study nature systems and human interactions.

# EIGHTH GRADE

## **RELIGION/FAMILY LIFE**

Students examine the Church from her beginning at the Pentecost event through her history. This concept is reinforced through supplemental exploration of feasts, rituals and doctrine. We practice our faith together at liturgy, devotion to the rosary, commemorating the Stations of the Cross and a variety of prayer services.

Family Life study helps us to make correct moral decisions in our lives.

## **ALGEBRA**

Students are prepared for advanced study in Algebra---to discover mathematical concepts and to learn to apply what they know. A solid algebraic foundation is in place by the end of the school year. Integration of computer skills is incorporated.

## **LITERATURE**

Various forms of literature are explored: the novel, short story, poetry, drama, nonfiction and folk tradition. Students are introduced to various techniques which address differentiation of learning style. Major focus is placed on the study of the novel To Kill a Mockingbird.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/GRAMMAR/CREATIVE WRITING**

In Grammar, the students identify the parts of speech and their usage; phrases and clauses used in effective writing; punctuation and capitalization are presented and practiced.

In Writing, students practice the various forms of writing: narrative, descriptive, persuasive, exposition and research.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students master core American history content, gain an awareness of current events and issues pertinent to a global society. Internet activities supplement differentiated learning techniques in an effort to accommodate all students.

### **SCIENCE**

Students understand the different areas of Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science and Environmental Science. They learn through textbook usage, Internet activities, projects, outside resources and hands-on experiments. Students are encouraged to develop their higher level thinking skills which will enhance the different learning styles of all students.

