

Middle School Curriculum Updates for 2022-23

St. Peter Catholic School lives up to the reputation of having an accelerated curriculum for all of our students. Now, our students will reap the benefit of that accelerated curriculum by earning high school credit.

Courses getting updates: Math, Spanish, Social Studies and Fine Arts

Math

Sixth and 7th grade students will continue their accelerated math program as is.

In Eighth grade, all students will continue to take Math 1, divided into 2 groups.

- Math 1 is for those who enjoy math and catch on quickly. All Math I students will take the NC End of Course Exam.
- Intro to Math 1 is for those who do not prefer Math or lack confidence in Math. These students will take a regular final exam and will have the option to take the NC End of Course Exam based on their classroom performance and teacher recommendations.

Spanish

Sixth graders will continue to build on their knowledge of the Spanish language and culture.

Seventh graders will take the high school course Spanish 1A, which has an emphasis on writing in Spanish.

Eighth graders will take the high school course Spanish 1B, which has an emphasis on speaking in Spanish.

Students will graduate with the high school credit for Spanish 1 without needing to take the Spanish 1 Bypass Exam. Spreading the content of one high school class over two middle school years will allow greater understanding of the language at a pace at which students can be successful.

Social Studies

Sixth graders will take World History, including early civilizations through the Renaissance and Industrialization.

Seventh graders will take US and NC History, including the impacts of colonization on Africa and Asia.

Eighth graders will take Honors World History. Students will graduate with this high school credit; no state exam needed. Mrs. Wingfield will teach World History Honors while integrating it with her ELA class.

Fine Arts

Students in grades 6-8 will have a special class called Fine Arts that will replace Music. This class, taught by Mrs. Margi Wright, will allow the children to explore a variety of activities, including music. Other topics may include dance, theater, and photography.

Mrs. Wright is a certified Fine Arts teacher who is excited to work with our middle school students in thithieative new way. Students will continue to have their other traditional special classes of Art, Computer and PE.

Why is high school credit so beneficial?

1. Entering high school with one or more credits creates more freedom within a student's schedule. Spanish 1 credit can help a student complete multiple years of foreign language while in high

school, which is attractive to colleges. The credit can potentially help fulfill a college or university's foreign language requirement before the student ever gets to campus.

2. A heavy emphasis is placed on a college-bound student's grade point average (GPA) in high school. Having some high school credits takes the pressure off the student achieving an A or B in a subject they may struggle with in the accelerated pace of high school learning.
3. Students at SPCS already work at a more rigorous pace than their peers. This change to curriculum allows them to get credit for that work.

Students who want more of a challenge continue to add enrichment through extracurricular activities, while students who need assistance can still get the support they need.