

## 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

### Religion

Religion instruction focuses upon our Catholic heritage through the study of the Bible, the sacraments, moral principles, and social justice. Students experience formal and informal prayer through participation in weekly Mass and prayer services. Students also engage in service learning opportunities both within and beyond the school community. Fifth grade students study the symbols, stories, and background of the sacraments while sixth grade students investigate information about the Old Testament.

### Language Arts / Reading

The Saint Susanna fifth and sixth grade Language Arts curriculum is focused on five key aspects of language: reading, writing, media literacy, listening, and speaking. Reading instruction incorporates the study of vocabulary skills and genres through the use of textbooks, novels, periodicals, web-based resources and our independent reading program. Saint Susanna students observe teachers writing, modeling, and working through the writing process within the format of a writing workshop. This approach assists students with the development of analytical thinking skills and effective writing skills. Our grammar instruction is encapsulated within our writing program through the use of mini-lessons. Knowledge, skills, and critical thinking are assessed through a variety of methods.

### Math

In fifth grade we will be focusing on five common core standards associated with mathematics:

1. Division of Whole Numbers (develop an understanding of why division procedures work, based on the meaning of base-ten numbers and properties of operations).
2. Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimals (apply knowledge and understanding of fractions and fraction models to represent the addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators as equivalent calculations with like denominators).
3. Algebraic Operations (develop the fundamental concept of the order of operations which include exponents, parentheses, brackets or braces in numerical expression).
4. Geometry (develop the idea of linking an algebraic equation to a graph, by ordered pairs that fit in a linear equation, plotting as points in a grid and drawing the resulting straight line).
5. Measurement and Data (use the formulas to calculating perimeters, areas of triangles, parallelograms, trapezoids, and recognize volume as an attribute of three-dimensional space, etc.)

In sixth grade we will be focusing on five common core standards associated with mathematics:

1. The Number System (use the meaning of fractions, the meaning of multiplication and division and the relationship between multiplication and division to understand and explain why the procedures for dividing fractions make sense).
2. Ratios and Proportional Relationships (use reasoning about multiplication and division to solve ratio and rate problems about quantities).
3. Expressions and Equations (understand the use of variables in mathematical expressions).
4. Geometry (build in previous work by reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume).
5. Statistics and Probability (learn to describe and summarize numerical data sets, identifying cluster, peaks, gaps, and symmetry, considering the context in which the data was collected).

### Science/Health

The Science and Health Curriculum in fifth and sixth grade at Saint Susanna is designed to give students the opportunity to participate in enquiry-based and hands on learning. Focusing on physical science, Earth science, life science and health, the curriculum strives to use

students' natural curiosity to investigate, make hypothesis, test, and draw conclusion about the world in which they live. Social networking, classroom experiments, field observations and visiting experts all provide students the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to interpret, interact with, and discover the fascinating world of science.

#### Social Studies

The Saint Susanna fifth grade students focus on the five themes of geography and United States development from European explorers through the Revolutionary War. A special geography focus is on the culture of Canada and Central/South America. The Saint Susanna sixth grade Social Studies curriculum is a survey of world history from ancient civilizations through the Renaissance and Reformation. Active learning strategies are used to help bring life to history. There is a special geography focus on Africa.