

St. Isidore Catholic School's curriculum is fully aligned to the Diocesan Learning Standards and the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools. Furthermore, our curriculum is vertically aligned from grades preK through 8. Our curricula is strengthened even more by using a continuous improvement framework based on Response to Intervention / Multiple Tiered System of Supports, scientifically based instructional strategies, formative and summative assessment, and positive behavior management.

The Whole Child

A complete **Grade Five** experience revolves around developing the skills of the whole child. At St. Isidore Catholic School, it is our goal to provide an opportunity for children to grow not only academically, but spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically as well. We will instruct the children in Christian values, social skills and manners, independence, and the structure and routine of school. It is our quest to build a foundation for the children to become not only life-long learners, but loving and caring individuals. Through partnering with parents, we are able to meet these high goals.

Religion

Jesus is at the center of everything we do at St. Isidore Catholic School. All 5th through 8th grade students focus on different topics in Religion throughout the year, but also participate in some joint service projects and activities, such as:

- Adoration
- Reconciliation
- Living Rosary
- Plan and participate in weekly liturgies
- 5th grade researches and reenacts the life of a saint

The Religion program for **Fifth grade** students focuses on the importance of the Sacraments and Scripture. Students begin by learning how Jesus shares God's life with us, beginning with the seven Sacraments. Students learn through prayer, scripture, activities, and discussions. **Fifth graders** also participate in an interdisciplinary Family Life Unit. In this unit, students learn about family relationships

with an emphasis on Catholic values and virtues, and the consequences of our choices. **Fifth grade** students will:

- Develop an understanding of grace
- Develop a deeper understanding of the seven sacraments
- Become acquainted with the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Review and study the Commandments and Beatitudes
- Deepen their knowledge of sacred scripture
- Participate in celebrations of the sacraments
- Celebrate seasons and feast of the Church
- Participate in activities celebrating the liturgical year
- Continue to explore and develop practical ways to live out the social teaching of the church
- Continue to develop experiences of spontaneous prayer, formal prayer, and meditation
- Continue to explore the concept of stewardship
- Plan and participate in liturgies

English Language Arts

The English Language Arts program is all encompassing and includes reading, phonics, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively.

Two affective goals of our Middle School ELA program are to:

1. Encourage students to discover the intrinsic joy of reading and
2. Foster independence in an environment that nurtures community and empowers students to grow in wisdom.

As a part of our ELA program, students will use literary texts and materials to:

- Seek God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness
- Identify ways to practice Christian virtues
- Live out the social teachings of the Church

All 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th graders will:

- Write three major pieces of writing each year: one narrative, one persuasive | argument, and one informative | explanatory

- Write routinely
- Demonstrate a command of the conventions of standard English, punctuation, capitalization
- Determine meanings of words and phrases used in literary and Biblical texts, including Greek and Latin roots
- Study literary devices like figurative language, allegory, and personification
- With an appropriate Catholic response, read, comprehend, and defend literature, stories, dramas, poems, and other fiction

Fifth graders will read texts in a variety of genres from the basal reader and novels that focus on six different themes. For example, Catholic Social Teaching and Biblical texts will be connected to literature. Interdisciplinary connections will be made to the American Revolution and immigration during ELA. All Diocese of Joliet Standards for reading, language, speaking and listening, and writing will be achieved in addition to other diocesan standards as needed (e.g., Faith Formation Standards). Students will read, discuss, write, listen, produce visuals, use technology, ask questions, and present to classmates.

Mathematics

Middle School students will develop their mathematical ability while learning to value mathematics and its uses in daily life. Solving problems using a variety of approaches and communicating ideas clearly and logically are emphasized. Technology is integrated through ALEKS, a web-based assessment and learning system. Select students participate in an advanced mathematics course, including possible attendance at a local high school.

MATHEMATICAL PRACTICAL STANDARDS:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning
- Use mathematical vocabulary

Fifth grade students will be able to:

- Write and interpret numerical expressions
- Analyze patterns and relationships
- Understand the place value system
- Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths
- Use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions
- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions
- Convert like measurement units within a given measurement system
- Represent and interpret data
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and addition
- Graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems
- Classify two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties

Science

Science is a gift of human intellect, which is given to us by God to help us understand His Creation. Science is the study of interdependent relations in our Earth's systems and structures that reflect God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness. Students participate in interactive discussions and hands-on experiences through lab work and demonstrations to understand physical science, life science, and earth science. Students identify problems, formulate and test hypotheses, and evaluate experimental results to better understand the scientific method and experimental design. Students demonstrate proficiency by identifying relationships, asking questions, developing and using models, and constructing explanations of the core ideas.

In **Fifth grade**, students learn an introduction to Earth and Space Science, Physical Science and Life Science.

Studies focus on:

- Earth's Place in the Universe
- Earth's Systems
- Earth and Human Activity

- Matter and Its Interactions
- Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions
- Energy
- Structures and Processes of Organisms
- Ecosystems: Interactions, energy and dynamics

Social Studies

Social Science is the study of society and the relationship of individual members within a society, which we use to uncover the truth of our connection with one another through time and across geographic barriers. This study also helps to discover the deeper truth of each one's relationship with God.

Fifth grade students learn about the history of our world through studying the five themes of Geography: location, place regions, cultures, and movement in respect to American history.

Units studied are:

- Themes & Elements of Geography
- Planet Earth
- Climate, Environment, Resources
- People | Culture around the world

Physical Education

In Fifth through 8th Grade, our students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will maintain personal fitness, develop muscle strength, endurance, and flexibility; use rules, safety, and strategies of sports and games; and demonstrate sportsmanship and participation in sports and games.

Fifth grade will specifically explore Life skills.

Technology

As part of our STEM focus, **Fifth grade** students will begin to develop digital skills enabling cross curricular activities that integrate technology in the classroom. Students will engage in STEM activities that emphasize the creative use of multiple technologies.

All fifth through eighth grade students will:

- Produce digital content including text, images and video using a variety of digital tools
- Solve simple and complex problems using various technologies
- Continue to expand and develop computer programming skills
- Responsibly use the internet for research purposes
- Become proficient in keyboarding skills
- Continue to understand what it means to be a good digital citizen

The Arts

Middle School students have the opportunity to express themselves through various art forms. Elements and principles of art are practiced and artistic expression is encouraged. Students are encouraged to use vocabulary throughout their curriculum. Different artists, cultures, and their effect on society are explored and studied in various subjects. Technology is used to promote understanding and express ideas.