



St. Pius X Middle School Guide

The mission of St. Pius X Catholic School is to provide superior academics in a joyful, safe, welcoming, Catholic, family environment.

This handbook is to help students and parents with any questions that they may have. When changes occur, which conflict with information in this guide, parents will be notified.

Curriculum

Religion: We strive to pass on the Catholic faith so that it is understood, valued, and integrated into the whole of a student's life. Throughout St. Pius X Catholic School's curriculum, students are taught the Gospel values of love, forgiveness, honesty, compassion, and service, as well as the difference between right and wrong. In Religion class, each grade has a specific area of study. In sixth grade, students study the life of Jesus and the Old Testament. In seventh grade, students study the life of Jesus and the New Testament. In eighth grade, students study the history of the Catholic Church.

Spelling: Students will be responsible for spelling and vocabulary in a more authentic way at St. Pius X. The vocabulary and any and all lessons will come from the words represented within their language arts course work and not from former spelling books, etc.

Social Studies: Students will study Western Hemisphere in sixth grade, Eastern Hemisphere in seventh grade, and U.S. History from the end of the American Revolution through Reconstruction in eighth grade. In sixth and eighth grade, U.S. Government and Civics is taught. Note taking is an important skill that is taught throughout the Social Studies curriculum, and students are encouraged to read their notes daily for ten to fifteen minutes.

English: English class has three parts: grammar, speaking, and writing. During the grammar portion of class students will learn parts of speech, sentence structure, punctuation, and many other topics related to the correct use of the English language. Students will practice speaking in both formal and informal situations. The students do some writing each day during class time. They will also be composing formal papers using different modes of writing.

Literature: Students will use a Literature Anthology, as well as read short stories, poems, and nonfiction. Throughout the year, students will read novels and complete writing activities along with the readings. Students are required to read and record their independent reading. **Independent Reading:** Students in fifth grade are required to read 300 pages per month. Students in sixth grade are required to read 350 pages per month. Students in seventh grade are required to read 400 pages per month. Students in eighth grade are required to read 450 pages per month. Book reports based on independent reading will be assigned throughout the year.

Science: During science class, students can expect to take notes and utilize that information in generating a hypothesis, performing experiments, drawing conclusions from observations and collected data. Students will have written response questions and take home projects for homework that are meant to be an extension of what we do in class and challenge students to think scientifically outside of the classroom and labs. Scientific fields to be covered are the Earth Sciences, Force and Motion, Life Science, and the Scientific Method.

Math: In math, a new lesson is taught every day. Students are always given practice problems to complete in class before the homework is assigned. It is important that all students have mastered basic multiplication and division facts, as these are not re-taught at the middle school level. Specific concepts covered at each grade level can be found on Ms. Chamberlain's website.

Specials

Specials consist of Band, Physical Education, Computers, Music, and S.T.E.A.M.. Students are expected to follow the same classroom policies in these classes as they do in the core curriculum classes. Teachers of the specials classes hold the students to the same standards and expectations as the core curriculum teachers. Students must turn their work in on time and be respectful to the specials teachers.

Band: The band elective is a blend of musical performance as well as instrumental. Students have two major performances of the year and are graded weekly.

S.T.E.A.M.: This special is designed to introduce students to the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Design, along with Mathematics. Students will be doing large project based learning activities that will involve 2 or more of these fields to successfully complete the tasks required. Students will also take virtual tours of businesses, on site investigations, and participate in live discussions with professionals who work in one of these areas of emphasis.

Physical Education: Students must change for gym class, which accounts for part of their grade. Students must adhere to a dress code for gym class. **This policy can be found in the student handbook on pages seven and eight.** It states that students must wear a t-shirt and gym shorts or pants. Unacceptable clothing: short shorts (shorts may not be shorter than 2 inches above the knee), tight fitting clothing, tank tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, and pajamas. No skin around the middle may be shown. Athletic shoes must be worn for gym class. Health Class will be part of the gym class.

Notes, detention slips, and Friday Folders generally come through the homeroom teacher; however, these are not necessarily from that teacher. If you would like to speak to an individual teacher you may contact him/her by calling the school office (810) 235-8572 or emailing him/her:

Student Grades

We will continue to provide internet access to grades for parents and students. Parents and students will be given information about passwords as soon as it is available. Parents and students are strongly encouraged to use their account to track grades in all classes. Teachers will post grades within 5 days of an assignment being handed in; please do not expect them to be posted on the day assignments are due.

Grading Scale

100-92% A 91-83% B 82%-69% C 68-60% D 59% and below E

Cheating

Some examples of cheating are copying someone's homework, vocabulary definitions, study guide answers, test or quiz answers, or telling/showing someone an answer, or even allowing another student to see your work by not properly covering your work up. The consequences of cheating may include, but are not limited to, a meeting with the principal and a zero for the assignment or test/quiz.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating and is the dishonest presentation of another's words or ideas as one's own. One example of plagiarism is copying phrases or sentences word-for-word from an encyclopedia or website

and including them in a report as if they are the student's original ideas. Another example is copying a sentence from a source and changing keywords by using synonyms. This is a serious offense and will result in serious consequences.

To help students avoid plagiarism, they are taught to read research material carefully and write notes **in their own words**. If a direct quote is used, it should have quotation marks around it and credit must be given to the author. This skill is taught in each class that requires research reports.



Assignment Books

This is an excellent organizational tool for both students and parents. Students are expected to write in their assignment book daily and parents are required to check the assignment book nightly and **sign it**.

Friday Folders

Friday folders should be used as an indication of academic achievement. Each Friday students will bring home a folder with their graded work and important notes containing information regarding school. Parents are encouraged to go through the folders to assess how their student is doing. Parents must sign the folder, and students must return the folders to their homeroom teacher on Monday.

Missed Work Due to Absence

In case of absence from class, it is the responsibility of the student to speak with his/her teachers concerning classroom work AND missed assignments. If a student is absent, he/she has one day to turn in work for each day he/she were absent. For example, if a student is absent for two days, he/she has two days after he/she returns to school to turn in missed work. Please note that tests and long term projects must be turned in on the due date regardless of an absence. Please speak to the teacher if special circumstances apply. ***When homework is requested before a planned absence, it is expected that the student will turn in the work on the day he/she returns to school.***



Homework Partners

The homeroom teacher will assign a student to collect homework for an absent student; **however, it is the responsibility of the student who was absent to speak with each teacher to make sure he/she has all of the missed work**. Work will be available for pickup in the office at the end of the school day unless other arrangements have been made.

Late Work

Work that is turned in on time will receive full credit. If an assignment is late (except because of absence), 10% will be deducted for each day the assignment is late. Work that is more than five days late will not receive credit over 50%. Students who do not turn in work on the day it is due will receive recess detention that day. Parents will know a detention was served that day because work will be marked late in the grade book.

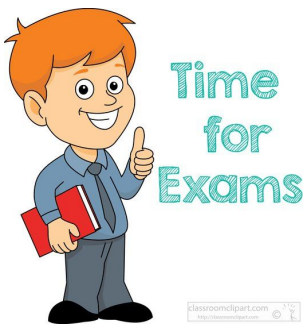
Redo Policy

Students may redo work that is not satisfactory. If a student receives a 68% or lower on daily work, the student is expected to redo the assignment for a higher grade (again- it is expected that they will re-do it). However any child can redo any assignment (there could be some exceptions) that they feel they could have scored better on. Redo assignments should be sent home in the Friday Folders and are due back the following Friday (this gives the student one week to complete a redo). **To receive full credit on a redo, all questions and work must be written out on a separate piece of paper and stapled to the original assignment- This is the only way a redo is accepted.** Once the assignment is redone the grade will be an average of the first grade and the redo grade. Quizzes and tests are not allowed to be redone unless specified by the teacher.

Necessities for All Assignments

All assignments must be completed in dark blue or black ink and written in cursive. Math must always be completed in pencil. Teachers may give exceptions to specific assignments and/or students. Assignments that are not completed correctly will be handed back to the student to be redone. All assignments completed on loose-leaf paper should be headed in the top left corner with the student's name, date, and assignment.

Semester Exams



Eighth grade students will take semester exams in the subjects of Religion, Math, Social Studies, Science, Literature, and English. Semester exams will count for around 10% percent of the collective semester grade. The exams are cumulative to help students prepare for high school. The first semester exams will take place in mid-January, and the second semester exams will take place at the beginning of June. Please note that the Religion exam is taken in April in the form of the Diocesan Eighth Grade Religion Test. Students in grade 7 will take one final exam at the end of each semester to get them ready for the experience in 8th grade.

Standardized Tests

Our Middle School students will be assessed in math and reading periodically through the year using our standardized assessment tool. They will also be taking the Aspire test in the spring. Both tests will be used to show each individual student's progress. Results will be reported to parents.

Discipline

Students who misbehave in any class are required to fill out an ORANGE Discipline Slip. One orange slip equals a recess detention, and two orange slips results in an after school detention. Students who are late to class, out of dress code, chewing gum, or have left their supplies or homework in their lockers are required to fill out a BLUE Responsibility Slip. Five BLUE Responsibility Slips (for 5th and 6th grade or four BLUE Responsibility Slips for for 7th and 8th grade equal one recess detention. **After school detentions are scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 3:00pm-4:00pm and should not be rescheduled unless it cannot be avoided and the parents contact the principal or teacher. *The Middle School discipline policy is progressive for the students. Children in Sixth grade will have more opportunities before earning a detention in the first quarter of school. The discipline policy will be adjusted for eighth graders in the second semester to better prepare them for high school.***

Teachers may write automatic after school detentions for children that are disrespectful in anyway or exhibit non-virtuous behaviors.

These are our Middle School Guidelines; however, teachers may have additional policies within their classrooms that students are expected to follow.