Eighth Grade Curriculum

Theology - At Salve Regina Academy, the study of theology is infused in every subject throughout our day as students encounter stories of the Saints and biblical lessons in their study of Language Arts, and as they learn to view the world as God's creation in Science and Social Studies. By starting our day with our school-wide Theology Practicum, our students will learn to apply theology to their everyday life through time spent worshipping God in the Church at Mass, or engaging various prayers or devotionals. We will also follow the Spirit of Truth curriculum from Sophia Institute. During their eighth-grade year, middle-school students build on their understanding of personal growth, with an emphasis on our vocation to love and our responsibilities to God and each other. Their lessons will touch on Morality, Church History, Citizenship and Government, and God's Plan for Marriage and the Family.

Language Arts - Language of God Level G from Catholic Heritage Curricula is an English grammar and composition workbook that is divided into four parts: I–Parts of Speech provides review and practice with complex subjects and predicates, appositives, linking verbs, progressive tenses, and indefinite pronouns through quotations, stories, poetry, and non-fiction. II–Usage offers many examples and exercises using participial phrases, gerunds, sentence diagramming, and subject-verb agreement. III–Mechanics focuses on commas, colons, semi-colons, quotation marks, italics, and other technical aspects of writing. IV–Composition walks students through diction, researching, pre-writing, drafting, editing, proofreading, and presenting essays, reports, and narratives.

Social Studies - Our social studies curriculum will be taught on a rotating schedule and this year's social studies text for our 6/7/8 class is All Ye Lands: Origins of World Cultures. This text covers world history and culture from prehistory through the Greeks, the rise of Christianity, up through the Middle Ages, as well as developments in China, Japan, Russia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas up to the mid-1800s. It is a Catholic text that provides a balanced exploration of all major peoples and civilizations.

Science - Due to our multi-grade classes, science will be taught on a rotating schedule. This year's science text for our 6/7/8 class Earth Science: God's World, Our Home unites a Christian perspective with up-to-date geological science. This program takes a mastery approach to science, focusing on long-term mastery of the most fundamental concepts of Earth Science, rather than a temporary familiarity with a range of topics too broad to cover in depth. Topics studied include the seasons, lunar phases, and eclipses; minerals and the rock cycle; plate tectonics and mountain building; volcanoes and earthquakes; weathering, erosion, and soils; surface water and groundwater; landforms and glaciers; geologic history; oceanography; the atmosphere; weather and climate; and Christian stewardship. Earth Science features eight, in-depth Experimental Investigations, which range from rock and mineral identification to studying volcanoes and glaciers with topographical maps. In addition to learning the material from this textbook, students will also be exposed to native animals and plants, and local agriculture through adventure-based learning. Furthermore, students at this age will have the opportunity to participate in "A Mountain Classroom" hosted by the Appalachian Mountain Club and will learn outdoors skills such as how to read a map, use a compass, leave no trace ethics, planning and preparing for a trip, and trail etiquette.

Mathematics – HMH Into Math was built from expert insights and real teacher feedback to deliver a student-centered, outcomes-driven approach to learning mathematics that supports deeper understanding of concepts along with true procedural fluency and application embedded throughout. These solutions were designed to foster a longstanding culture of learning that helps students to grow
and continue growing year after year by allowing teachers to tailor lessons to the needs and learning styles of their students. At the core of this curriculum is the belief that growth at every level is possible, and its driving goal is to create fearless problem solvers.

**Art - Ever Ancient Ever New Level 2** from Catholic Heritage Curricula is an art textbook that combines art history, art theory, art appreciation, and art practice into one program. In the Art History component, students will be exposed to Renaissance, Mannerism, Baroque, Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, etc. The Art Theory component focuses on the principles of design, tints, color saturation, visual weight, asymmetrical balance, abstraction, etc. During these lessons, students will complete picture studies of masterpieces to foster Art Appreciation. And finally, students practice art with projects that teach fine art skills such as advanced human figure drawing, working with acrylic paints and oil pastels, still life drawings, contour drawings, grid drawings, using saturated and desaturated colors, creating regular and irregular rhythm, compositional skills and more!

**Library** - We will be using the Gorham Public Library in order to provide a wide range of reading material for our students to explore. Our students are encouraged to acquire their own library card so that they can take full advantage of the variety of books available to them. Teachers and library staff will be available to assist students in finding books with both familiar and unfamiliar subject matters in order to expand each student's knowledge base.

**Music** - Music plays an enormous role in a child's education and assists with brain development, particularly with relation to language and reasoning. Music will be incorporated into our Theology lessons as children learn liturgical music as well as various songs that assist with memory retrieval. Students will learn to read sheet music and they will be introduced to various musical instruments. They will also participate in our school-wide concerts which will incorporate seasonal music as well as classic selections.

**Physical Education** - Our goal is to foster a life-long love of physical activity and to introduce our students to various ways to enjoy God's creation. At the Eighth-Grade level, this is completed by challenging students through fun and engaging games to improve their physical abilities, balance, strength, and endurance. Lessons will also include the basic rules and techniques to playing golf, tennis, pickleball, lacrosse, and various other sports. Along with our whole school, students will be participating in hikes and nature walks which will also expose them to the beautiful trails that we have here in the White Mountains. Furthermore, over the course of their time at Salve Regina Academy, students will be introduced to diverse age-appropriate outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, swimming, ice skating etc.

**Language** - Salve Regina Academy students will participate in our school-wide language program The Latin and Greek Roots Challenge by The Rooted Mind. This is a fun, educational program designed to introduce students to Latin and Greek roots, prefixes, and suffixes along with their meanings, which are the "building blocks" of over 60% of the English language. The underlying intent of the program is to instill in students the discipline to "deconstruct" words into their component roots and, therefore, to unlock the meaning of those words.