



ST. AUGUSTINE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Eighth Grade Course Catalog





St. Augustine Preparatory School

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message from the Head of School 7

Humanities 8

English
Social Studies
Logic & Civil Discourse
World of Language
Theology

STEAM 12

Mathematics - Pre-Algebra
Mathematics - Algebra
Science
Coding
Fine Arts
Intramurals





ST. AUGUSTINE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

From the Desk of the Head of School

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE ST. AUGUSTINE PREP COMMUNITY,

Young men who join the Prep Community in eighth grade have the distinct advantage of exploring an introduction to a Catholic, Augustinian education. Students benefit from a strong academic and co-curricular program which prepares each one of them for high school. Eighth grade students are encouraged to develop self-advocacy skills, and take risks in our learning community that values each student's individual gifts.

The eighth grade curriculum builds upon skills acquired in previous learning experiences and provides a foundation for future success. In keeping with the Augustinian mission to nurture the whole person, the program provides a unique learning environment where students can mature, be challenged, and develop critical thinking skills. Our faculty, staff and leadership team strive to help each young man develop self-confidence, an appreciation for diverse views, respect for others and all creation.

We are delighted to share this publication with you. As you review the various facets of the eighth grade educational program, you will see that St. Augustine Preparatory School continues a six decade tradition of excellence grounded in our core Augustinian values of Truth, Unity, and Love.

IN CHRIST THROUGH AUGUSTINE,

FR. ROBERT J. MURRAY, O.S.A., PH.D.
HEAD OF SCHOOL, ST. AUGUSTINE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



HUMANITIES

Eighth Grade at St. Augustine Prep

English

This course incorporates grammar, literature, speaking, and writing. Students explore literary analysis through the study of literary elements and by reading a variety of genres. Students practice analysis through essay writing, as they plan, draft, proofread, and revise using personal, peer, and teacher feedback. Students practice creative writing skills through a variety of experiences and grow through the writing process with consistent writing exercises. Students also study and incorporate concepts of grammar and mechanics to enhance the clarity and accuracy of their speaking and writing.

Social Studies/Civics & Geography

In the Civics component of this course, students will learn how the United States government works, study elections and voting, and utilize current events to frame and discuss issues in a civil manner. Students strengthen their academic skills by writing frequently, analyzing primary sources, reading regularly, conducting research, and participating in group activities.

In the geography portion of this course, students study humans around the world while integrating diversity awareness and an appreciation of all cultures and their contributions to society. Students explore major landforms, climates, and bodies of water. This is followed by a study of countries and population centers-- their development, standards of living, systems of government, and economics. Through the eyes of a geographer, students synthesize the patterns and interdependent relationships that make the world dynamic.

Logic & Civil Discourse

In this course (which complements the entirety of the 8th-grade curriculum) students continue to refine their communication skills, master paraphrasing, learn to detect logical fallacies, and understand how reasoning goes wrong-- critical to all academic work. Students recognize argument forms, craft effective arguments based on well-informed research, and respond to opposing viewpoints using the principles of civil discourse which include:

- Respectfully speaking with and listening to others
- Developing an appreciation and respect for the voices, talents, and perspectives of all
- Engaging in self-reflection
- Encouraging and ensuring the voices of the disenfranchised

A critical component of this course is examining the ways in which misinformation thrives in our increasingly digital world. Students will be equipped with tools of digital citizenship that allow them not only to distinguish truth from fiction but also to combat dangerous and deceptive material online. Students will also learn respectful online communication and behavior.

World of Language

Language (verbal and non-verbal) impacts the daily lives of every person on Earth, and through words, gestures, and tones, allows us to express our feelings, desires, and curiosity. The World of Language course studies this impact and prepares students for success in their high school world language classes. Throughout the year, students explore the origins and history of human language and are introduced to Spanish, Arabic, and Latin. In addition to linguistic lessons, students participate in cultural studies, furthering their appreciation for diversity.

Theology /Igniting the Flame - A Faith Journey

In utilizing the Bible and Church documents, this course offers a comprehensive and dynamic approach to the study and understanding of the Catholic faith. The students will explore Catholicism in a language fit for young people. The course covers much of the Catholic faith in four parts: 1. What We Believe, 2. How We Celebrate the Christian Mysteries, 3. How We Are to Have Life in Christ, and 4. How We Should Pray. The Theology Department attempts to develop and sharpen the life skills of our students. Special focus is placed on improving speaking skills, listening skills, social skills, time-management skills, critical reading skills, writing skills, computer skills, and decision-making skills. Sufficient instructional time is allotted to enhance the students' knowledge of Sacred Scripture. The course also attempts to broaden the faith knowledge of our young men to assist them in living wholesome, fruitful, and honest lives.

STEAM

Eighth Grade at St. Augustine Prep

Math - Pre-Algebra

This course focuses on developing fluency with rational numbers and proportional relationships. To this end, students learn to think flexibly about relationships among fractions, decimals, and percents. Also, students are introduced to concepts that serve as a transition into formal Algebra and Geometry. Algebraically, students learn to recognize and generate equivalent expressions and solve single-variable equations and inequalities. Geometrically, students investigate angle relationships in parallel lines and triangles and examine the volume and surface area of cones, cylinders, and spheres. Students develop critical thinking and creativity skills by exploring mathematical relationships and developing multiple strategies for analyzing complex situations. Also, in this course, students enhance communication by analyzing situations verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically to grow their literacy in mathematics and to establish meaningful connections to their life experiences via modeling, collaborative problem-solving, developing viable arguments, and practicing precision of language.

Math - Algebra 1

In this course, students develop and refine their problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Upon entering this course, students are expected to be fluent in their ability to complete operations with rational numbers (decimals, fractions, percentages, proportions, and integers) without the use of a calculator. Algebra 1 focuses on methods to analyze and graph linear equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials, systems of equations, multiplying binomials and polynomials, and factoring. Additionally, students investigate introductory probability, statistics, and function notation for use in future math classes. Students examine real-world applications, display creativity, and collaborate as they communicate solution strategies and present solutions to their classmates. In this course, students engage in activities that enable them to discover, understand and apply mathematical concepts.

Science - Energy: A Multidisciplinary Approach

The main goal of this course is to develop an understanding of modern science and technology through experimentation and inquiry in order to build the foundational skills for success in future science classes. With an overarching theme of a multidisciplinary approach to the vast scientific concept of “energy”, this course embodies a student-centered approach to learning and is separated into four major topics: biology, environmental science, chemistry, and physics. In biology, the content focus is living organisms, selection and adaptation, and cellular energy. The environmental science component addresses concepts involving stability and change on Earth, human impact, and alternative energy sources. The chemistry content focus is a survey of matter, the electromagnetic spectrum as it applies to energy, the energy of reactions, and energy measurements via calorimetry. In physics, the content focus is forces and energy, the law of conservation of energy, and types of energy. Additionally all students participate in the design and construction of a SeaPerch Robotics project to reinforce the concepts and to introduce students to project organization, problem solving and the Engineering Design Process. In this course, differentiated activities develop skills in technical writing, scientific inquiry, data analysis, critical thinking, information synthesis, time management, and collaboration. As there is a need for strong, research-based science instruction in all levels of education, this course challenges students to generate questions, investigate, and conduct research to design solutions to solve real-world problems. Finally, the fundamentals taught throughout the year will give the students the foundation to continue deciphering the new and more complex concepts found within the ninth-grade Physics Modeling curriculum.

Coding

The course will focus on the basic construction and language of a computer, developing a logical thinking process used in software design and data analysis. Students develop an understanding and appreciation of computer technology and software languages through investigation, experimentation and inquiry in order to build an interest and foundational skills in computational thinking for success in future computer and science classes. The knowledge and skills gained will be used to design and code real world solutions through a variety of projects and topics.

Fine Arts

Eighth grade students participate in a course on the basics of ukulele. Fundamental chords are introduced using popular strum styles, and students learn and memorize songs using the Tablature system of note-reading. In the second half of their Fine Arts coursework, students learn the basics of reading western classical music notation, as well as an introduction to ensemble singing and playing. They sing a variety of music ranging from hymns and folk songs, to pop tunes and classical as they learn about voice works and how to be expressive singers. Students also play music as a handchime ensemble-- putting all they have learned about notes and rhythm into practice.

Intramurals

Intramurals contribute to student education by promoting an understanding of the development of the body as an integral aspect of the total individual. This course provides the necessary health and movement experiences to enable each student to reach his fullest potential as an individual in a physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual environment. Intramurals fosters an appreciation for a strong, healthy body and helps individuals realize the importance of maintaining an optimum level of fitness throughout life. The course consists of active participation, various forms of exercise, discussions, and a diverse selection of sports.



BROTHERHOOD *Begins*

St. Augustine Prep students defy conventional classifications. They are not simply students, or athletes, or artists – they are young men of multiple interests and talents, young men filled with curiosity and a desire to better themselves and those around them through a top-notch education rooted in the Augustinian Values of Truth, Unity, and Love.

If you aspire to grow and learn in the company of like-minded young men, St. Augustine Prep is where you should be!

AT THE HEART OF A ST. AUGUSTINE PREP EDUCATION
ARE THE CORE VALUES OF VERITAS (TRUTH), UNITAS (UNITY), AND CARITAS (LOVE) –
LIVED PRINCIPLES IN EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE AT THE PREP.



LEARN MORE ABOUT ST. AUGUSTINE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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