



SEVENTH GRADE BENCHMARKS

Saint Hilary students are challenged to be true Christians, inspired learners and effective communicators. Students are encouraged to develop self-advocacy skills. Students are encouraged to develop self-advocacy skills. Our departmentalized curriculum in the middle form includes a core academic program of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Spanish, Religion, Physical Education, Art and Music. Strong support for all students are provided through the use of differentiation strategies, adaptive technology, teacher aid support and learning resources.

Students are encouraged to explore their curiosity around spirituality and faith. Students gather for daily prayer to contemplate God's grace. Students are strongly encouraged and provided various opportunities to serve others and live out the Gospel Message.

The seventh grade students have a heightened sense of self-awareness as role models and as future leaders of the school. They demonstrate focus and dedication toward faith, academics, and service to the seventh grade experience. In safe and supportive environments seventh grade students face new expectations and challenges in the curriculum as they continue on the path of becoming lifelong learners.

MATH AND ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) – Based on Common Core Standards:

- [Common Core for Parents](#)
- [Ten Things Parents Should Know About the Common Core State Standards](#)
- [Growth Mindset and Common Core](#)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In grade seven, students will continue to develop the ability to cite relevant evidence when interpreting or analyzing a text or supporting their points in speaking and writing. Your child will also build academic vocabulary as he or she reads more complex texts, including stories, plays, historical novels, poems, and informational books and articles.

- Analyzing how the form or structure of a play or poem contributes to its meaning
- Analyzing how particular elements of a story or play interact (like how the setting shapes the characters or plot)
- Determining how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text
- Conducting short research projects, drawing on several sources and identifying related questions for further research and investigation
- Engaging in a range of classroom discussions on topics and texts, expressing ideas clearly and building on the ideas of others
- Identifying a speaker's argument and specific claims and evaluating the reasoning and evidence behind these claims
- Using clues such as word roots or add-ons to a word (such as the prefix hyper-, which means 'excessive' in the words hyperactive and hypersensitive) to determine the meaning of a word
- Interpreting figures of speech or references to literature or mythology in a text
- Writing for a range of purposes and audiences

MATH

In grade seven, students will further develop their understanding of rates and ratios, using tables, graphs, and equations to solve real-world problems involving proportional relationships. Students will also work on quickly and accurately solving multi-step problems involving positive and negative rational numbers—any number that can be made by dividing one integer by another, such as $\frac{1}{2}$, 0.75, or 2. Additionally, students will expand their knowledge of geometry and apply the properties of operations to solve real world problems involving the measurement of multidimensional objects. Activities in these areas will include:

- Determining whether two quantities are in a proportional relationship and using knowledge of rates, ratios, proportions, and percentages to solve multi-step problems
- Identifying the unit rate of change (the constant rate at which the value of a variable changes) in tables, graphs, equations, and verbal descriptions
- Calculating the unit rates associated with ratios of fractions, including quantities measured in different units (for example, the ratio of $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile for every $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour means that you travel 2 miles in an hour)
- Solving problems using equations to find the value of one missing variable
- Applying the properties of operations to generate equivalent mathematical expressions
- Solving multi-step word problems by adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive and negative rational numbers in any form (including whole numbers, fractions, or decimals)
- Understanding that numbers cannot be divided by 0
- Converting rational numbers to decimals using long division
- Describing situations in which positive and negative quantities combine to make 0
- Finding the area of two-dimensional objects.

RELIGION (as outlined by the Archdiocese of San Francisco)

- CREED Students will:
 - recognize that they are called into a loving relationship with God
 - explain the Church's teaching about the mystery of the Incarnation
 - identify Jesus' message of God's mercy and forgiveness, responsibility and judgment, and compassion and justice as found in His teachings, parables, actions, and miracles
 - define the Paschal Mystery as Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension
- SCRIPTURE Students will:
 - explain how Catholics understand divine inspiration of the Bible
 - name and explain the significance of the major stories in salvation history
 - demonstrate an understanding of the demands of discipleship as found in the Sermon on the Mount
 - tell stories from Scripture that describe the person and ministry of Jesus Christ
- PRAYER/WORSHIP Students will:
 - articulate the cycles of the Liturgical Year, including Feasts
 - discuss the value of participating in a communal reconciliation service during Advent and Lent
 - recognize how the Sacraments celebrate the presence of Christ in our most important life experiences
 - recognize the Mass as the central act of Catholic worship and
 - identify the specific parts and order of the Mass and be able to partake in all of the Mass responses
- CHRISTIAN LIVING Students will:
 - demonstrate an understanding of the call to discipleship as lived by Mary and the Apostles

- articulate their role as members of the Church in building the Kingdom of God
- recognize the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and apply them in their daily lives
- understand personal choices in relationship to the Christian moral life
- PRAYERS
 - Nicene Creed
 - Leading simple prayer celebrations
 - Lectio Divina
 - Christian Meditation

SCIENCE

- LIFE SCIENCE
 - Students will:
 - understand that all living things are composed of cells know the differences between a plant cell and an animal cell
 - know the difference between life cycles and reproduction methods
 - understand that environmental factors and genetic variation cause diversity of organisms recognize the different levels of structure and functions in plants and animals
 - Know how resources impact natural populations
 - know how muscles and bones work together to allow for movement
 - understand the different organ systems
 - Understand the relationship between natural selection and evolutionary history

NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) were developed so that students could do less memorizing and more critical thinking, make connections between the Common Core and Science, align classroom practice with scientific research all while encouraging students to apply their knowledge in an appropriate framework. Please use the link below learn more and view the standards.

- [About the NGSS Standards](#)
- [The Standards](#)
- [Why Science Matters](#)

SOCIAL STUDIES (per California State Standards)

- Students will:
 - analyze the causes and effects of the vast expansion and ultimate disintegration of the Roman Empire
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Islam in the Middle Ages
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of china in the Middle Ages
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the sub Saharan civilizations of Ghana and Mali in Medieval Africa
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval japan
 - analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Europe
 - analyze the origins, accomplishments, and geographic diffusion of the Renaissance analyze the historical developments of the Reformation
 - analyze political and economic change in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries (the Age of Exploration, the enlightenment, and the Age of Reason)