



St. Helen Catholic School 2023-2024

Middle School Religion and Science

Welcome to Religion and Science! I am looking forward to getting to know each of you and to serve you as your teacher this year.

Curriculum Overview

6th grade religion: In sixth grade, students focus on studying the story of Salvation History. We use the Spirit of Truth curriculum published by Sophia Institute. The Sacred Scriptures are the students' main resource in understanding the story of God's love for humankind.

6th grade science: The major topics in science this year will include physical properties of matter, elements, compounds, energy resources, conservation of energy, force and motion, solar system exploration, Earth materials, plate tectonics, taxonomic groups, and ecosystems. The curriculum we use is Science Fusion.

7th grade religion: In seventh grade, students take an in-depth look at the Seven Sacraments and also study morality. We use the Spirit of Truth curriculum published by Sophia Institute. The Sacred Scriptures, particularly the Gospels, are the students' main resource in understanding how to hear and respond to Christ's call to radical discipleship.

7th grade science: The major topics in science this year will include flow of energy, force and motion, factors impacting Earth systems, life in our solar system, organisms and the environment, structure and function of cells, structure and function of living systems, physical, chemical and energy changes in digestion, homeostasis, genetics, and genetic variations and adaptations. The curriculum we use is Science Fusion.

8th grade religion: In eighth grade, students focus on studying Church History. We use the Spirit of Truth curriculum published by Sophia Institute. The Sacred Scriptures, the lives of the saints, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church are the students' main resources in understanding how the Church has developed over time.

8th grade science: The major topics in science this year will include atoms, the periodic table, chemical formulas, equations, and reactions, force and motion, Newton's laws, forces that change the Earth, climactic interactions, Earth cycles, characteristics of the universe, interdependence among living systems, and experimental design. The curriculum we use is Science Fusion.

As part of our religion curriculum, St. John Paull II's **Theology of the Body** will be taught at the beginning of the year for grades 6-8 (as appropriate for each grade). This unit will be taught within 3-4 weeks to give students a foundation in human anthropology and deeper self-knowledge to face the challenges of our culture. Resources used for this unit will include the Sacred Scriptures, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the Ruah Woods Theology of the Body curriculum to teach key concepts of what it means to be human (male and female), the call to communion through self-gift, and the vocation and call to holiness.

Assignments and Assessments: All assignments should be turned in on the given due date. This expectation covers everything that is assigned in class, including individual work, group projects, labs, and formative assessments. Time will be given in class for students to complete their work. These classes do not have homework, so all work should be completed on time and turned into the designated area.

Re-Takes: Students may re-take a test once if they receive a 70% or below. It is the student's responsibility to come see me and ask for a re-take once they receive their grade. Ordinarily, projects and quizzes may not be re-done.

Grading: Religion grades are based on in-class work. These include Scripture Reflections, Essays, Seminars, and Tests. Science grades are also based on in-class work. These include Science Notebooking Folders, Labs, Projects, Essays, and Tests. Each of these in-class assignments has a specific, routine rubric given for the students to follow.

Communication: Students, please come to me in person in order to discuss difficulties regarding the material in class, grades and/or prayer intentions that you may have. Parents, feel free to contact me via email (sisternaryconsolata@shcslions.org) or in person when needed!

Be assured always of my prayers as we strive to be the saints Jesus calls us to be this year!

God bless you,

Sister Mary Consolata Klucik, O.P.