

THE AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF ROCHESTER
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Program of Study

PHILOSOPHY of AQUINAS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The Aquinas Junior High School offers a nurturing but challenging educational environment for our students. We believe that honor and respect are the cornerstones of a successful junior high experience and should govern all of our interactions and behaviors. It is expected that all Aquinas Junior High School students model the Basilian motto “Teach me goodness, discipline, and knowledge,” as well as the Aquinas motto "Credo Quid Quid Dixit Dei Filius" (I believe whatever the Son of God has said).

We believe that strong values, collaboration, dedication to study, personal excellence, reading, and hard work are essential to academic success. The faculty acknowledges the dignity of each student and strives to put scholarship within reach of all students. Academics are first and foremost at Aquinas. Students are expected to give all courses the time and effort that are required of a serious student. Aquinas also recognizes the importance of co-curricular activities. There are many opportunities for students to be involved: athletics, band, chorus, theatre, or one of the many clubs or activities.

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

The curriculum of Aquinas Junior High School exceeds the New York State minimum requirements and challenges student’s intellectual curiosity. Teachers emphasize creativity, discussion, and project based assignments, in addition to traditional teaching styles. Students will learn fundamental skills that will allow them to be successful in their future academic endeavors. They will learn to write and read critically. They will practice skills necessary for working in groups, discussing ideas, and collaborating with others. All students will gain skills in note taking, organization of time and materials, analysis, and critical thinking. Above all else, Aquinas Junior High School is committed to challenging students to be young men and women of integrity and honor, educated in faith.

PROGRAM

8th Grade	8th Grade -- Accelerated
ELA-8	ELA-8
Social Studies-8	Social Studies-8
Science-8	Living Environment (NYS Regents Biology)**
Math-8	Integrated Algebra (NYS Regents)**
Language Other Than English (LOTE)*	Language Other Than English (LOTE)*
Religion-8	Religion-8
Fine Arts/Technology-8	Fine Arts/Technology-8
Exploration or Enrichment	Exploration
PE	PE

* Students may earn one (1) high school credit in Language Other Than English

** Students successfully completing Living Environment and/or Integrated Algebra will earn one (1) high school credit for each course.

CORE SUBJECT CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English Language Arts curriculum focuses on learning and demonstrating the following:

- ♣ read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding
- ♣ read, write, listen, and speak for literary response and expression
- ♣ read, write, listen, and speak for critical analysis and evaluation
- ♣ read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction

Social Studies curriculum focuses primarily on the history of the United States and the State of New York by employing a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate understanding in major ideas, themes, developments, and turning points in:

- ♣ the history of the United States and New York
- ♣ world history and examine the broad sweep of history from a variety of perspectives
- ♣ geography of the interdependent world in which we live—local, national, and global—including the distribution of people, places, and environments over the Earth’s surface
- ♣ how the United States and other societies develop economic systems and associated institutions to allocate scarce resources, how major decision-making units function in the U.S. and other national economies, and how an economy solves the scarcity problem through market and non-market mechanisms
- ♣ the necessity for establishing governments; the governmental system of the U.S. and other nations; the U.S. Constitution; the basic civic values of American constitutional democracy; and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, including avenues of participation

Science curriculum focuses on developing understanding in:

- ♣ applying scientific concepts, principles, and theories pertaining to the physical setting
- ♣ applying scientific concepts, principles, and theories pertaining to the living environment
- ♣ recognizing the historical development of ideas in science
- ♣ a hands-on laboratory experience

Mathematics curriculum focuses students learning and demonstrating the following:

- ♣ understand the concepts of and become proficient with the skills of mathematics
- ♣ communicate and reason mathematically;
- ♣ become problem solvers by using appropriate tools and strategies through the integrated study of number sense and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and statistics and probability.