Curriculum Guide

Mazzuchelli
CATHOLIC
MIDDLE SCHOOL

2026-2027

Forming disciples of Jesus Christ through Catholic educational excellence.
Achieve. Lead. Soar.

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Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School

Who is our school named after?
Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli

How do you pronounce his name?
Mazzuchelli's name is Italian and the official pronunciation is: Maht-zoo-KEL-ly. The first syllable has a short "a" sound as in "mama." In Italian a double zz has a "t" sound like "pizza." In his name the "ch" has a "k" sound. The stress is on the third syllable.

Who was Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli?
Born 200 years ago in Italy, Fr. Mazzuchelli became a Dominican priest and moved to America where he was a missionary in the Midwest. In 1835 he worked in Dubuque and created St. Raphael's Parish and started the first Catholic school in that church. In 1847 he established a community of Dominican Sisters at Sinsinawa Mound. In his lifetime he built more than 20 churches and established parishes and schools in more than 30 locations.

Why is Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli a good role model for middle-school age students?
Fr. Samuel responded to God's call to spread the gospel message. He highly valued education and started several Catholic schools. He also was a scientist, architect, and engineer. He is known for being helpful and kind to all who were in need.

Will Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli become a saint?
In 1993 Pope John Paul declared him venerable which is the first step in becoming a saint. In April 2006, the Vatican confirmed a medical miracle that has been attributed to Fr. Mazzuchelli. A group is working toward his beautification, which would be the final step before sainthood.

Quotes from Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli:
"Jesus is still pleased to keep me among his apostles to show that he can do some good with a very improper instrument."

"Let us wake up then, open our eyes in apostolic charity; and if we are called, set out for any place where the work is great and difficult, but where also, with the help of him who sent us, we shall open the way for the Gospel."

Curriculum Overview

The mission of Holy Family Catholic Schools is: Forming disciples of Jesus Christ through Catholic educational excellence. Achieve. Lead. Soar.

The curriculum of our school falls under guidelines and mandates of the State of Iowa Department of Education, the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and Holy Family Catholic Schools.

The purpose of this guide is to provide an overview of topics included in our Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School curriculum. This guide is not intended to be an all-inclusive or exhaustive list. The topics covered, the depth at which they are covered, and their order and pacing is subject to ongoing revision.

Iowa Core

Iowa Core Standards are the official set of standards and benchmarks that are used by Holy Family Catholic Schools for K-12th grade. Standards for Literature, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and 21st Century Skills can be found at www.educateiowa.gov

Behavior Reporting

Monitoring and reporting student progress is important for the behavioral growth of our students. Progress reports will be sent home at the end of each trimester (12 weeks).

Progress Reporting Letter Grades

Monitoring and reporting student progress is important for the academic growth of our students. Progress reports will be sent home at the end of each trimester (12 weeks).

A+	97-100	B+	87-89.99	C+	77-79.99	D+	67-69.99
A	93-96.99	B	83-86.99	C	73-76.99	D	63-66.99
A-	90-92.99	B-	80-82.99	C-	70-72.99	D-	60-62.99

**D range not applicable to Summit classes.*

Religion

As adolescents grow in their journey of faith, Religion integrates their social, intellectual, and spiritual needs. Religion class utilizes various religious texts and resources, as well as prayer services, liturgies, and regular Eucharistic adoration to guide students in this faith journey. Our Religion standards require students to demonstrate knowledge of how Jesus is promised to us in the Old Testament, how Jesus fulfills these promises in the New Testament, and how we still participate in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ today. The main focus of our curriculum is salvation history (God's saving plan): starting in the Old Testament; fulfilled in the New Testament through Jesus Christ; and continues to unfold through us in His Church.

Worship - Students gather as a middle school community each week to celebrate the Eucharist. Each Religion teacher also takes students for frequent visits to the chapel for Eucharistic Adoration.

Prayer - each day at Mazzuchelli begins and ends with prayer. Prayer is integrated into all subject areas but is emphasized particularly in Religion class. Students learn traditional Catholic prayers and are also introduced to, and given opportunities to practice, a variety of ways to pray including but not limited to the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Lectio Divina.

Scripture - In addition to the below grade-level topics, there is an emphasis on the synoptic gospels. Gospel values are also incorporated in all other subject areas.

Theology of the Body - Recently adopted resources are used in middle school for teaching Theology of the Body. Largely based on Pope St. John Paul II's work, Theology of the Body is an examination of what it means to be human, made in God's image and likeness, and how that reality is made visible in our human bodies.

Service - Students accumulate service hours throughout the school year through a variety of opportunities including Faith in Action activities with their mentor groups and projects coordinated by teachers. Service is emphasized throughout the school community as an important way to live out our lives as Christians in our school and local community.

Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
Bible	*Prayer and Reflection on Discipleship*	*Gospel of Mark*
• How to read it and where it comes from	• How should we pray? What does it mean to be a disciple?	• Analyze the life of Jesus in the Gospel through miracles and other parables
Liturgy	Theology of the Body	Theology of the Body
• Parts of the Mass and how to participate	• How should we view ourselves and others? What does it mean to love?	• Understanding we are made in the love of God and we can create relationships to reflect that
Identity and Purpose	The Gospel of Luke	Liturgy
• We are children of God who are loved, good, and redeemed. We are given the purpose to know, love, and serve God	• Who is Jesus? • Beatitudes • Virtues	• Diving deep into the parts of the Mass focusing on the Eucharist/Eucharistic Miracles
Salvation History	Acts of the Apostles	Sacraments
• Jesus is promised to us in the Old Testament, and he fulfills those promises in the New Testament	• What did the apostles do to start the Church?	• Looking into the experience of the sacraments, the symbolism, and how they impact our life.
Gospel of Matthew	Church History	Catholic Social Teaching
• Focus on the life and parables of Jesus in this Gospel	• What are the important events and people throughout the history of the Church?	• Learning how to treat everything around us with dignity and respect
Questions of Faith	Mary and the Saints	
• We learn some reputable places to look when we have questions about our faith	• How are Mary and the saints models of holiness • Mysteries of the Rosary • Mary in scripture	
Theology of the Body		
• We learn how we participate in God's Inner life of Love		
Prayer		
• Memorize the Morning Offering, Memorare, and Hail Holy Queen		
• Learn the process and importance of a wide variety of traditional Catholic Prayers		

English

English includes the integration of the key components of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students are encouraged to reflect on the literary pieces through both written and oral responses. They are also guided to analyze, critique, and evaluate the works. Effective communication through both the written and spoken word will be emphasized, including teaching grammar and spelling tools and strategies. Various genres of writing are incorporated throughout the curriculum.

Reading Literature and Informational Texts

- Key Ideas and Details
    - Read closely and make logical inferences
    - Identify central idea or theme, summarize
- Craft and Structure
    - Structure of text
    - Point of view and purpose
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
    - Content in diverse formats and media
    - Argument claims, validity and relevance
    - Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Writing

- Text types and purposes
    - Argument
    - Informative/Explanatory
    - Narrative
- Production and Distribution of Writing
    - Task, purpose, and audience
    - Use of technology to produce and publish
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge
    - Short and sustained research projects
    - Gather relevant information from multiple and digital sources
    - Draw evidence from literary and informational texts
- Range of Writing
    - Timed writing, extended writing

Speaking and Listening

- Comprehension and Collaboration
    - Prepare, participate, collaborate in a range of conversations
    - Integrate and evaluate presented information
- Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

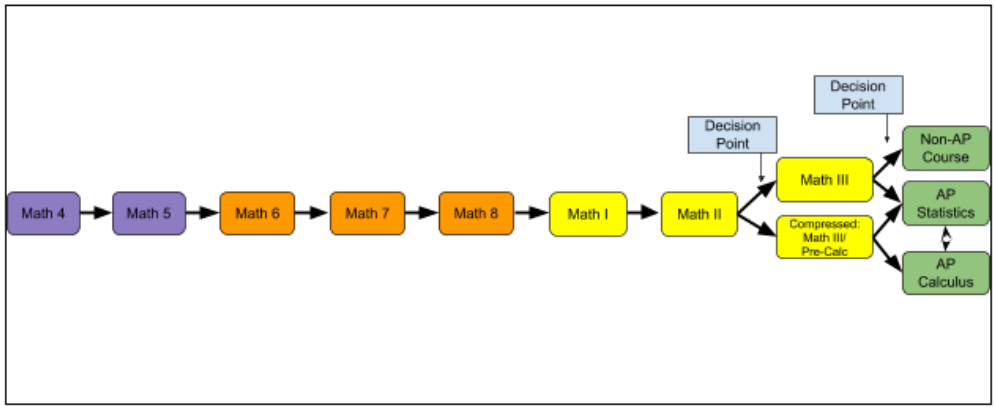
Language

- Conventions of Standard English
- Knowledge of Language
- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

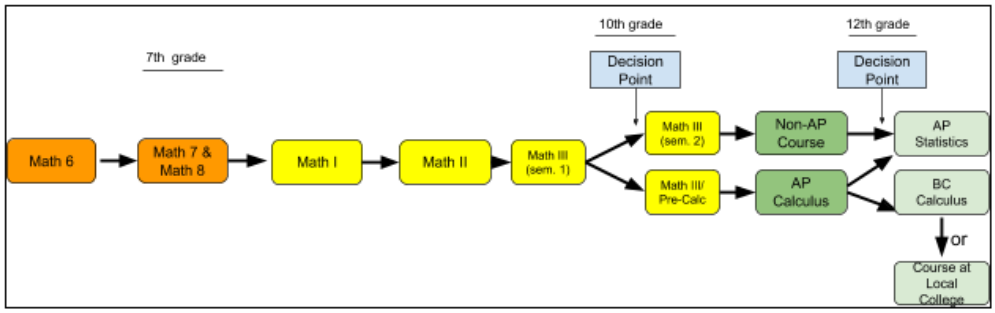
Math

The math curriculum is a rigorous multi-year program to help students more fully develop their math computation and problem-solving skills. The pacing and ability-grouped strands of this program also allow for advanced math students to take above-grade-level math courses.

Mathematics Pathway



Mathematics Compacted Pathway



Science

Our middle school science curriculum is designed to help students grow not only in scientific understanding, but also in wonder, stewardship, and appreciation for God's creation. Using the OpenSciEd curriculum, students engage in hands-on, phenomenon-based learning that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving.

Across grades 6–8, students explore life science, physical science, earth and space science, and engineering design through experiences that connect scientific discovery with our Catholic faith. Students are encouraged to recognize the order, beauty, and complexity of God's world while developing the skills needed to think scientifically and act responsibly as caretakers of creation.

Each unit helps students deepen both their scientific knowledge and their understanding of how faith and reason work together.

Grade 6 OpenSciEd Units

- Unit 1: Light and Matter
- Unit 2: Thermal Energy
- Unit 3: Weather, Climate, and Water Cycling
- Unit 4: Plate Tectonics and Rock Cycling
- Unit 5: Natural Hazards
- Unit 6: Cells and Body Systems

Grade 7 OpenSciEd Units

- Unit 1: Chemical Reactions and Matter
- Unit 2: Chemical Reactions and Energy
- Unit 3: Metabolic Reactions
- Unit 4: Matter Cycling and Photosynthesis
- Unit 5: Ecosystems Dynamics
- Unit 6: Earth's Resources and Human Impact

Grade 8 OpenSciEd Units

- Unit 1: Contact Forces
- Unit 2: Sound Waves
- Unit 3: Forces at a Distance
- Unit 4: Earth in Space
- Unit 5: Genetics
- Unit 6: Natural Selection and Common Ancestry

Social Studies

The History curriculum focuses on the historical, political, geographic, cultural, economic, and religious influences of various areas and time periods. The sixth-grade curriculum studies ancient world cultures through the Middle Ages. Seventh graders study World History from the Renaissance to Current times. In eighth grade, students study American History from the Constitution through the 20th Century.

Sixth Grade

- The First Cultures – Cave Dwellers / Stone Age / Catal Huyuk
- The Fertile Crescent – Mesopotamia / Jumer / Babylon / Assyria
- The Nile River Valley – Egypt
- The Indus River Valley – India / Hinduism / Buddhism
- The Huang He Valley – China / Dynasties
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Rome
- Europe in Transition – Middle Ages

Seventh Grade

- Beginning of Modern Times
- The Renaissance
- The Reformation
- The Age of Discovery
- The Changing World
- Political Revolutions
- Rise of Industry
- Nations and Empires
- The Americas
- Unrest in Europe
- Rise of Imperialism
- The Twentieth Century
- Conflict and Change
- The Cold War Era
- The World Since 1989

Eighth Grade

- New Nation
- Constitution
- 3 branches of government
- 1st Political Parties
- Louisiana Purchase
- War of 1812
- Westward Expansion
- Sectional Differences
- Civil War
- Social Reform Movements
- Challenges to Slavery
- Reconstruction
- Industrialization
- Immigration
- Overseas/Involvement
- World War I
- World War II
- Cold War
- Post-World War II Prosperity
- Vietnam
- Domestic Issues
- Civil Rights Movement

Logic

Logic is a core class offered in 6th - 8th grade. It is designed to strengthen the thinking skills students need for success in middle school and beyond. Students practice careful reasoning, problem-solving, clear communication, and thoughtful discussion as they learn to evaluate ideas, explain their thinking, and support conclusions with sound reasons. Students develop habits of attention, perseverance, and intellectual responsibility. This course helps students become more confident, precise, and charitable thinkers who are prepared to evaluate information across subject areas and engage respectfully with each other. In a Catholic school setting, students are encouraged to seek truth as a gift from God and to communicate with both clarity and charity.

6th Grade Logic

- Clear Thinking and Precise Language — facts and opinions, truth and falsehood, clear definitions, categories, and classification
- Viewpoints, Arguments, and Shared Inquiry — identifying viewpoints and opposing viewpoints, distinguishing discussion from argument, and practicing respectful, evidence-based responses
- Reasons and Evidence — identifying strong and weak reasons, using evidence, and explaining why a conclusion makes sense
- Common Errors in Reasoning — introductory fallacies such as ad hominem, bandwagon, straw man, red herring, false dilemma, and snob appeal
- Greek and Latin Roots — using roots, prefixes, and suffixes to unlock unfamiliar vocabulary and strengthen reading comprehension across all subject areas
- Logic Puzzles and Problem-Solving — deductive reasoning, patterns, visual reasoning, inference, logic grids, analogies, sequences and strategy-based puzzles
- Classical Literature — listening to quality, complex texts and discussing themes of virtue, choice, and character
- Growth Mindset — building the perseverance, responsibility, and confidence students need for middle school success

7th Grade Logic

- Faith and Logic – Students will explore the relationship between faith and logic by asking clarifying questions, examining how faith and reason work together, and discovering the importance of studying logic as they navigate life as disciples of Christ.
- Foundations of Informal Logic – Students will use disciplined reasoning to evaluate arguments, identify flawed logic, and pursue truth through the harmony of faith and reason.
- Introducing Argumentation – Students will identify and apply vocabulary related to arguments, distinguish between inductive and deductive reasoning, evaluate arguments for validity, soundness, strength, and cogency, and construct effective inductive and deductive arguments.
- Cognitive Biases – Students will identify, explain, and evaluate common cognitive biases, recognizing how they influence thinking, decision-making, and the interpretation of information.
- Logical Fallacies – Students will identify, explain, and evaluate common logical fallacies, recognize flawed reasoning in arguments, and develop strategies to avoid being misled by faulty reasoning.
- Developing and Evaluating Arguments – Students will identify, construct, and evaluate logical arguments by organizing propositions, premises, supporting evidence, warrants, and conclusions to develop clear, well-supported reasoning in the pursuit of truth.
- Essential Skills for Life and Learning – Students will develop essential academic, interpersonal, and practical life skills through instruction and application in written communication, respectful disagreement, effective note-taking, study strategies, organization, cursive handwriting, and other everyday tasks.

- Greek and Latin Roots – Students will use knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes to determine the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary and strengthen reading comprehension across all subject areas.

8th Grade Logic

- Foundations of Logic and the Laws of Thought — Reviewing the nature of truth, knowledge, reasoning, and argumentation. Students will study the three fundamental axioms of thought: identity, noncontradiction, and excluded middle. They will explore the three acts of the mind, entailment, validity, soundness, and the relationship between premises and conclusions.
- Categorical Logic and Classification — Understanding how concepts, categories, and terms relate to one another. Students will learn to classify statements, distinguish between universal and particular claims, and translate ordinary language into the four categorical forms (A, E, I, and O). They will explore the Square of Opposition, distribution, and immediate inferences.
- Syllogisms and Deductive Reasoning — Learning to construct and evaluate categorical syllogisms using major, minor, and middle terms. Students will study mood and figure, determine whether arguments are valid or invalid, identify common formal fallacies, and use counterexamples to expose faulty reasoning.
- Propositional Logic and Symbolic Language — Translating ordinary statements into symbolic notation using propositional variables and logical connectives. Students will learn negation, conjunction, disjunction, conditionals, and biconditionals while developing the ability to recognize and construct complex propositions.
- Truth Tables and Logical Relationships — Using truth tables to evaluate propositions and determine logical relationships. Students will investigate tautologies, contradictions, consistency, equivalence, and entailment. They will learn how truth tables can demonstrate whether an argument is logically valid.
- Formal Proofs and Rules of Inference — Developing the ability to prove the validity of arguments through formal systems of reasoning. Students will practice rules of inference, rules of replacement, conditional proofs, and reductio ad absurdum. They will learn to follow logical steps systematically to establish whether a conclusion necessarily follows from given premises.
- Debate, Argumentation, and Rhetoric — Applying formal logic to structured debate and persuasive communication. Students will explore debate ethics, resolutions, burdens of proof, affirmative and negative arguments, constructive speeches, rebuttals, and strategies for responding to opposing arguments.
- Intellectual Virtue and Responsible Reasoning — Developing intellectual humility, precision, patience, and a commitment to truth. Students will learn to use logic as a tool for understanding and communicating rather than simply winning arguments. They will practice defending their conclusions while remaining willing to recognize and correct errors in their own reasoning.

Wellness

Life is about making healthy choices from a Christian perspective. Wellness class involves studying health and safety issues that may affect the choices students make for their well-being. Classes vary using community resources, guest speakers, simulations, and other media. The Scholastic magazine "Choices" is also used as supplements to the Wellness Class. This is a general list of topics covered over the course of the year, but many times we will address pressing issues dealing with health and wellness over the course of the year that are not listed.

Sixth Grade

- Intro to Health and Wellness
- Drug Education
- DARE (10 Lessons)
- Nutrition/Basics
- Puberty/Grooming
- Personal Safety
- Home and Outside Safety
- Digital Citizenship
- Stress Relief

Seventh Grade

- Four Parts of Health
- Drug Effects
- Pregnancy/ Childbirth
- Growth & Development
- Emotional Health
- Sport Safety
- 1st Aid
- Heart Health
- Stress Relief

- Eighth Grade

- Four Parts of Health
- Drug/Alcohol Education (Brain & Consequences)
- Addiction
- Cancer
- Personal Health/ Sleep
- Sexual Health
- Brain Health
- Digital Citizenship
- Brain Changes

Physical Education

The focus of Physical Education will be on:

- Helping students develop and maintain acceptable levels of health and skill related fitness.
- Helping students develop basic movement and manipulative skills.
- Helping students develop the ability to use good sportsmanship.
- Helping students enjoy and seek out physical activity.

Sample Activities:

- Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge
- Softball
- Football
- Volleyball
- Hockey
- Basketball
- Lacrosse
- Tennis/Racquet Sports
- Soccer
- Frisbee/Frisbee Golf
- Jump Rope
- Recreational Activities
- Functional Fitness

Each grade level utilizes all activities. The skills required for each activity become more advanced each year.

Spanish

By the end of 8th grade, students will have learned an equivalent level of content to that of Spanish 1. Class activities will be centered on students learning to communicate (speaking, listening, reading, writing) in the Spanish language. Students will build a working vocabulary and use the language to express their own ideas to others and also to obtain information from others. Class activities will also focus on specific cultural aspects of the Hispanic world. By comparing the history and traditions of their own families and cultures to the history and traditions of Hispanic cultures, students will become more aware of their own significance in the world. General topics that will be covered each year are listed below.

Sixth Grade

Vocabulary topics:
- Greetings
- Numbers
- School Supplies
- Body Parts
- Weather / Seasons

Skills:
- Tell Time
- Tell Likes / Dislikes
- Describe Things

Cultural topics:
- Who speaks Spanish?
- Hispanic Holidays

Seventh Grade

Vocabulary topics:
- School schedules/ subjects
- Classroom
- Food
- Hobbies / Sports
- Places to visit

Skills:
- Use -ar, -er, -ir verbs
- Ask questions
- Use prepositions
- Begin irregular verbs

Cultural topics:
- History / Geography of Mexico
- Hispanic influence in the U.S.

Eighth Grade

Vocabulary topics:
- Family
- Table / Restaurant
- Furniture/ House
- Clothing
- Stores / Shopping

Skills:
- Continue irregular Verbs
- Show ownership
- Use adjectives
- Give commands

Cultural topics:
- History/ Geography of Spain
- Hispanic mealtime customs

General Music

Across 6th through 8th grade, the general music curriculum builds comprehensive musical literacy, vocal performance skills, theatrical production experience, and digital composition capabilities.

6th Grade: Focuses on foundational choral technique, vocal health, and music theory. Students develop sight-reading skills using solfege, master rhythm notation, and analyze dynamic markings, tempo, and form. Students explore instrument families, timbre, and musical textures, culminating in collaborative melody composition and performance projects.

7th Grade: Explores musical theater, dramatic arts, and theatrical production. Students trace the history of western musical theater from Italian opera to contemporary works, learn stage/crew responsibilities, and practice improvisation techniques. Key projects include short film planning, playwright analysis, character development, and participating in a one-act play production.

8th Grade: Focuses on modern digital music composition and global music appreciation. Students explore American popular music genres and diverse global musical traditions. Practical applications include digital notation and arrangement using digital audio workstations (e.g., MuseScore), songwriting, and critical music evaluation.

Art

In Art class students will explore various art techniques and media such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and the use of technology. They will use different techniques and media to generate artwork to demonstrate their knowledge of what they have learned throughout each lesson. The students will also be completing written critiques of some of their works. This will help them understand how to view their work critically. Being able to critiques one's own work to recognize areas that need improvement is important for future success. Students will be working on projects to develop their creativity, which will help them in their future endeavors. Additionally, study and critique of Art History is incorporated into each unit.

Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
Focus on Drawing	Focus on Painting/Collage	Focus on 3-D Art
Art History	Art History	Art History

Gateway to Technology

Students take Gateway to Technology (GTT) every day for one trimester. This course is part of Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a nationally recognized STEM program that focuses on hands-on, real-world learning.

In GTT, students don't just learn about science and technology—they *do* it. They work in teams, solve problems, and create projects that connect to real life. Along the way, they build skills in teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking, while also exploring different STEM careers.

6th Grade – App Creators

In App Creators, students learn how to design and build their own mobile apps. They use simple coding tools to create apps that solve real-world problems or meet everyday needs. This unit helps students think logically, be creative, and see how technology can be used to make an impact.

7th Grade – Medical Detectives

Medical Detectives puts students in the role of a doctor or scientist. They investigate medical cases, study how the body works, and figure out what might be causing different illnesses. It's a fun, hands-on way to learn about health, the human body, and careers in the medical field.

8th Grade – Automation and Robotics

In Automation and Robotics, students learn how machines and coding work together. They use the VEX Robotics® system to design, build, and program robots that use sensors and motors to complete tasks.

Students work in teams to solve problems, test their ideas, and improve their designs—just like real engineers. This unit is hands-on and helps students see how robotics and automation are used in everyday life.

Spanish Accommodations for Immersion Students

For our immersion students, in order to maintain and build on their Spanish reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, the following program offerings are available.

Social Studies via Spanish Immersion

Immersion students may choose to take their Social Studies course in Spanish. The curriculum will be similar to that of other students, although the sequence during the three years of middle school will be different. The entire course will be taught in Spanish. This will help students to maintain their fluency skills and be an extension of the immersion experience they had in previous years.

Religion via Spanish Immersion

Immersion students may choose to take their Religion course in Spanish. The curriculum will be similar to that of other students. The entire course will be taught in Spanish. This will help students to maintain their fluency skills and be an extension of the immersion experience they had in previous years.

Advanced Spanish

Immersion students students will take Advanced Spanish in place of the traditional Spanish class. Students will focus on writing, grammar, speaking, and other Spanish Language skills.

Formal Assessments

Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP)

The ISASP is given to all 6th-8th grade students in the spring. This is a series of standardized tests in the areas of Reading, Written Expression, Conventions of Writing, Vocabulary, Mathematics, Computation, Social Studies, and Science. The ISASP generally takes parts of several days to administer, and a student's scores are sent to parents when they become available. The ISASP results are used in a variety of ways including measuring student progress from year-to-year, measuring a student's overall achievement, and school-wide measurement of a grade-level or subgroup's academic achievement.

FastBridge Assessment (FAST)

All students in grades 6-8 will take the FAST assessment three times per year. The FAST assessment provides teachers with immediate data to help them learn how students are performing in reading and math relative to grade-level benchmarks. Teachers will use this data to improve student learning through implementation of additional classroom support.

Guidance

Guidance will be taught in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The counselor will go into classrooms approximately once per month. Classroom Teacher Mentors, individually or as a team, will be provided with materials from the counseling office to complete as a mentor group focusing on the 16 Habits of Success.

In addition to classroom guidance, the counselors will be available for referrals for individuals as well as group counseling as those needs surface during the school year.

The following are topics that will be covered throughout the year by the School Counselor. Classroom guidance will be presented during Wellness classes in collaboration with the Wellness instructor.

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
• Harassment and Bullying • Conflict Resolution • Expressing Feelings and Emotions • Appreciating Differences • Friendship • Grief and Loss • Character Education	• Harassment and Bullying • Conflict Resolution • Stress Management • Understanding self and others • Family Dynamics and Relationships • Protection for Children	• Harassment and Bullying • Cyber Bullying • Trust/Community Building • Expressing Feelings • Individual Differences • Gratitude and finding joy • High School and Career Planning • Grief and Loss • Transitions to high school

Campus Ministry

Attending Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School is an extension of one's connection to the primary faith communities of family and parish. Campus Ministry at our school works in conjunction with parishes, parents, and staff to help our students live out our Catholic faith through the four pillars: message, worship, community, and service. Campus Ministry helps each of us to more fully understand God's love through these four pillars.

The Campus Ministry Team consists of our 6-12 Campus Minister and a team including the grade-level Religion teachers. They coordinate religious activities for the school, assist staff and students in planning liturgies, and serve as a liaison to the local parishes. The Campus Ministry Team also coordinates Mass planning with the campus chaplain.

Message

Students have Religion class as a core course. Sixth grade emphasizes the Old Testament, 7th grade studies the New Testament, and 8th grade applies the previously learned knowledge to their own life. In addition, Gospel values are incorporated in all other subject areas.

Worship

School Masses are held on a weekly basis. Weekly adorations in religion class, school-wide reconciliations and adoration holy hours, and other worship / sacramental experiences are part of student life at Mazzuchelli Catholic.

Community

The Director of Catholic Mission serves as a contact to our local parishes and other non-profit and/or religious organizations. They relay information to our students about parish activities and opportunities for our young people. They also coordinate visits from youth ministers, pastors, and other religious organizations.

Service

The Director of Catholic Mission helps facilitate service as a way of life for our students. They post opportunities for service in our school, parishes, and community. The Director of Catholic Mission also works with staff members for school-wide service projects and activities.

Concert Band / Jazz Band

Concert Band

There are two separate bands, one for 6th grade and one for 7th/8th grade. Each band will rehearse two times per week during the school day and each student will have an individual/semi-individual lesson every week. Students will be graded on participation, practice, and overall effort.

The purpose of Band is to expand on basic musical principles and grow to be a more well-rounded musician. Students work specifically on rhythms, notes, and musical stylings. The focus is on playing in an ensemble and learning a variety of different styles of music, including classical, popular, jazz, ballads, marches, etc. Participants will work at a pace tailored to individual students, focusing on technique as well as the previously mentioned items. Band members will play in three concerts during the year – near the end of each trimester.

There is no activity fee for Concert Band.

Jazz Band

Mazz Jazz is an extra-curricular activity open to students currently enrolled in Concert Band. It meets 7:15-7:35AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays (dates and times are subject to change). Mazz Jazz is a smaller ensemble than the Concert Band and parts are more intense and individual. The focus is on various styles of jazz, including swing, rock, Latin, and ballads. Participants will also work on improvising and learning different scales used in jazz music.

There is no activity fee for Jazz Band.

Choir / Show Choir / Spring Musical

Choir

The 7th and 8th Grade Choir meets two times per week during the school day. This ensemble is open to all 7th and 8th grade students. Students will be graded on understanding of rehearsal procedures as well as performance at their concert and the expectations this includes.

The purpose of Choir is to help students explore and develop their vocal talents and general musicianship while learning to work as a team and perform as an ensemble. Students will work specifically on vocal technique, music reading, and singing different styles of music, including classical, popular, folk songs and spirituals. The choir will perform in four concerts during the year – at the end of each trimester and once before school dismisses for Christmas. Attendance at these performances will be graded, and students who miss will be given a graded make-up assignment.

There is no activity fee for Choir.

Show Choir

Ignite! Show Choir is an extra-curricular activity open to 6th-8th grades. Students who participate in Show Choir are encouraged to enroll in Band or Choir. The Middle School Show Choir season runs from September through March. *Ignite!* is a singing and dancing ensemble incorporating choreography and some drama elements into our performances. The music will include songs from a variety of styles, such as pop, jazz, and musical theater. *Ignite!* will perform multiple times, including 2-3 competitions near the end of the season.

A $120.00 costume fee is required for participation in *Ignite!* Show Choir.

Spring Musical

The Spring Musical is an extra-curricular activity open to all 6th through 8th grade students. Participants will audition, rehearse, and perform a fully-staged musical, including a full set, costumes, lights, make-up, acting, singing, and dancing. The general timeline will be as follows: auditions in mid-December; rehearsals 2-4 days per week January through April; show dates in April/May. Many parent and student volunteers will be needed to work in all areas of the production. Students in the cast should be prepared for daily rehearsals outside of school time.

Orchestra

Orchestra

There are two separate orchestras, one for 6th grade and one for 7th/8th grade. Each orchestra will rehearse two times per week during the school day and each student will have an individual/semi-individual lesson every week. Students are graded on lessons, concert participation, and various assignments.

The purpose of orchestra is to expand on basic musical principles and grow to be a more well-rounded musician. Students work on rhythms, notes, musical stylings, and specific string techniques. Orchestra helps students to improve social skills, learn teamwork, develop a sense of responsibility and students benefit from improved cognitive skills. Orchestra members will play in four concerts during the year.

There is no activity fee for Orchestra.

Chamber Orchestra

Chamber Orchestra

Chamber orchestra is an extra-curricular activity. This ensemble is an auditioned ensemble for students in grades 6-8. Students audition at the beginning of the school year. This ensemble meets once a week and plays advanced music, with a heavier focus on classical music. This ensemble is great for students looking to hone their skills and gain experience needed for participation in honor orchestras.

There is no activity fee for Chamber Orchestra.

Co-Curricular Activities

In order to enhance the regular academic program, Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School offers a variety of co-curricular activities. The activities vary from year-to-year based on availability and student interest. These activities include but are not limited to:

Battle of the Books

Career Fair (8th Grade only)

Essay Contests

Engineering Day (7th Grade only)

First Tech Challenge

Intramurals (6th Grade only)

Math Counts

Quiz Bowl

Religion Bee

Science Fair

Science Bowl

Spelling Bee

Interscholastic Athletics

Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School is a member of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. Students compete against students from other middle schools in four separate seasons:

Aug. – Oct.	Football / Cross Country / Girls' Volleyball
Nov. – Dec.	Wrestling / Girls' Basketball
Jan. – Feb.	Boys' Basketball
Mar. – May	Track & Field

Only 7th and 8th graders are allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics. A sports physical and signed concussion form are required for all 7th/8th graders participating in any sport.

Prayers, Basic Beliefs & Practices

Enclosed is a list of prayers, basic beliefs, and practices for each grade as outlined in the Holy Family Catholic Schools Policy Handbook. We encourage parents to incorporate these prayers in their homes to help facilitate student memorization.

Sixth Grade
- Sign of the Cross
- Grace Before/After a Meal
- Our Father/The Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Morning Prayer
- Angel of God
- Act of Contrition
- Communion Fast
- Communion Regulations
- The Ten Commandments
- Apostles' Creed
- The Rosary
- The Two Commandments of Love
- Liturgical Year
- Jesus Prayer
- Act of Faith
- Act of Hope
- Act of Love
- Seven Sacraments
- Beatitudes
- Mysteries of the Rosary
- The Stations of the Cross
- Morning Offering
- Memorare
- Hail Holy Queen
- The Five Precepts of the Church
- Parts of the Mass

New Prayers, Beliefs and Practices introduced at this level are:
- The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy
- The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy
- The Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Four Gospels
- The Golden Rule

Seventh Grade
- Sign of the Cross
- Grace Before/After a Meal
- Our Father/The Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Morning Prayer
- Angel of God
- Act of Contrition
- Communion Fast
- Communion Regulations
- The Ten Commandments
- Apostles' Creed
- The Rosary
- The Two Commandments of Love
- Liturgical Year
- Jesus Prayer
- Act of Faith
- Act of Hope
- Act of Love
- Seven Sacraments
- Beatitudes
- Mysteries of the Rosary
- The Stations of the Cross
- Morning Offering
- Memorare
- Hail Holy Queen
- The Five Precepts of the Church
- Parts of the Mass
- The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy
- The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy
- The Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Four Gospels
- The Golden Rule

New Prayers, Beliefs and Practices introduced at this level are:
- Nicene Creed
- Come, Holy Spirit (Prayer to the Holy Spirit)
- Angelus
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Regulations for Fast and Abstinence
- The Three Theological Virtues
- The Four Cardinal Virtues

Eighth Grade
- Sign of the Cross
- Grace Before/After a Meal
- Our Father/The Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Morning Prayer
- Angel of God
- Act of Contrition
- Communion Fast
- Communion Regulations
- The Ten Commandments
- Apostles' Creed
- The Rosary
- The Two Commandments of Love
- Liturgical Year
- Jesus Prayer
- Act of Faith
- Act of Hope
- Act of Love
- Seven Sacraments
- Beatitudes
- Mysteries of the Rosary
- The Stations of the Cross
- Morning Offering
- Memorare
- Hail Holy Queen
- The Five Precepts of the Church
- Parts of the Mass
- The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy
- The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy
- The Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Four Gospels
- The Golden Rule
- Nicene Creed
- Come, Holy Spirit (Prayer to the Holy Spirit)
- Angelus
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Regulations for Fast and Abstinence
- The Three Theological Virtues
- The Four Cardinal Virtues

New Prayers, Beliefs and Practices introduced at this level are:
- Prayer of St. Francis
- Mary's Prayer (Magnificat)
- Psalm 23
- Confiteor
- The Seven Capital Sins
- The Four Last Things