



Saint Gabriel School

Middle School Program of Studies

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Accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges

Mission Statement

The mission of Saint Gabriel School is to provide a strong spiritual, academic foundation within a nurturing environment, which enables students to reach their potential. Saint Gabriel School recognizes learning as an ongoing process whereby students can achieve personal enrichment, integrate faith and Catholic values into everyday life, and develop a positive self-image. Saint Gabriel School encourages its students to have a commitment to the well being of family, Church and society.

Philosophy of Saint Gabriel School

Saint Gabriel School believes that the purpose of Catholic education is to teach our students Catholic doctrine and provide them with academic opportunities in an atmosphere of warmth, support, and mutual respect. The school is committed to assisting parents in their responsibility to educate their children by promoting intellectual, spiritual, social and emotional growth and development. Saint Gabriel School strives to be a successful support system for our community of families.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Saint Gabriel School welcomes students of every faith, race, nationality or ethnic origin. It does not discriminate in the administration of hiring practices, educational policies, admission, athletic, or other school-administered programs.

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

The purpose of Saint Gabriel School is to foster the spiritual, academic and social growth of all its students and staff. Open to members of all faiths, our school teaches and lives by the doctrines of the Catholic Church. As Saint Gabriel School approaches its 50th anniversary, we take great pride in the accomplishments of both our current students and alumni.

Saint Gabriel School is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and offers an extensive, rigorous curriculum. As a result, the performance of the students at our school is exceptionally high. The teachers are dedicated, professional educators who believe that students will rise to meet their expectations. Higher-order thinking skills are stressed throughout the curriculum as well. Students who graduate from Saint Gabriel School are accepted into academically rigorous secondary schools.

Tuition accounts for only a portion of the true cost of our students' education. The remainder of the cost is offset by the generosity of individuals, grants, and fund-raisers. We are blessed with a community of teachers, staff, students and families who work together as a family to provide a supportive, nurturing environment, essential for effective education.

We trust that as you review our curriculum and extra-curricular activities, you will agree that Saint Gabriel School is a place in which your student will achieve his/her greatest potential at a reasonable cost. With the constant blessings of God, we shall continue to strive to foster our students to grow spiritually and academically into productive, moral citizens.

Yours in Christ,



Peter I. Donnelly, M.A., M.A

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School Curriculum

The core curriculum of Saint Gabriel School is regulated by both mandates of the State of Connecticut and Archdiocesan policies. It consists of: Religion, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Computer Science and Physical Education.

Across the curriculum, emphasis is placed on flexibility that is sensitive to and focused on the individual needs of the child. Students move along a continuum as the mastery of skills and concepts dictate.

Core Course Descriptions

Religion and Family Life – Daily

Religious teachings in the classroom are augmented by school-wide monthly masses. Each grade has an opportunity to sponsor, organize and participate in the mass.

Grade 6

In Religion and Family Life students will explore the biblical roots of the Catholic Faith, focusing on the history of salvation as it is told in the books of the Old Testament.

Text: [Come Follow Me](#) © 1997

Grade 7

The focus of this course is on Jesus Christ--especially His life, His teachings and His presence in the Church today. In addition, the course

covers the New Testament and reviews the sacraments. The class will be looking at Jesus through the eyes of history.

Family Life focuses on contemporary issues in today's society so that our young people are able to make responsible choices.

Text: Come Follow Me © 1997

Grade 8

This course focuses on the Church, including a detailed review at how the followers of Jesus approach the ultimate questions of life, including how Catholics are guided by moral and sacramental vision. In addition, the Church history through the personalities of many of our great Catholic teachers, including Saint Thomas Aquinas, will be explored. The course is designed to serve as a transition from middle school to high school religious education. The lessons will also allow us to reaffirm our shared faith as the students prepare for high school with all of its joys and sorrows, highs and lows, and opportunities and challenges. The Family Life series will continue to be utilized as we prepare our students to make the right decisions in the future.

Text: Come Follow Me © 1997

Mathematics – Daily

Grade 6

In Grade 6, the first year of Middle School, students are grouped together.

Topics covered include: Whole numbers, Representing data, Decimals, Multiplying and Dividing decimals, Graphing, Fraction concepts, Fraction operation, Ratio, Proportion and Percents

Text: Tools for Success Course 1 © Prentice Hall, 1997

Grade 7

In Grade 7, grouping is arranged for Mathematics where achievement and aptitude are assessed.

The 7th grade math is divided into two levels, "A" and "B", in order to concentrate on each individual's needs and obtain a better "one on one" learning environment.

Math Group A

Topics covered include: Whole Numbers, Integers and Variable Expressions, Algebraic Equations and Inequalities, Graphing in the Coordinate plane, and Applications of Percents.

Text: Prentice Hall Middle Grades Math - Tools for Success Course 3
© Prentice Hall, 1997

Math Group B

Topics covered include: Whole numbers, Interpreting data, Application of Decimals, Number Theory, Fraction application, Introduction to Algebra, Geometry, and Measurements.

Text: Prentice Hall Middle Grades Math - Tools for Success Course 2
©, Prentice Hall, 1997

Grade 8

In Grade 8, grouping is arranged for Mathematics where achievement and aptitude are assessed.

The 8th grade math is divided into two levels, "A" and "B", in order to concentrate on each individual's needs and obtain a better "one-on-one" learning environment.

Math Group A: Algebra

Topics covered include: Tools of Algebra, Algebraic Concepts and Simple Equations, Equations and Inequalities, Polynomials, Exploring Quadratic Functions, Graphs, Families of Functions.

Text: Prentice Hall Algebra - Tools for a Changing World © Prentice Hall, 1998

Math Group B: Pre-Algebra

Topics covered include: Integers and Expressions, Solving Equations, Decimal and Equations, Number Theory, Rational Numbers and Expressions, Ratios, Proportions, and Percent, Equations and Inequalities, Algebra in Geometry and Measurement, Area and Volume Formulas.

Text: Prentice Hall Pre-Algebra © Prentice Hall, 1992

Science – 4 Times per Week

Grade 6

Classes are focused in General Science, which includes Physical and Chemical Properties of Matter, Forces and Motion, Astronomy, and Living Things

Text: General Science, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill ©1999

Grade 7

Students in Grade 7 study Life Science beginning with the chemistry of living things. This includes a look at chemical compounds and how they relate to organisms. The second part of the year incorporates the study of organisms from the simplest to the most complex, including a look at

body structure, methods of obtaining food and types of reproduction. The final project of the year is frog dissection.

Text: Life Science, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill ©1999

Grade 8

Students study Earth Science, which includes a look at the physical and chemical properties of the earth, the formation of volcanoes and other earth processes, rocks and minerals Astronomy and Oceanography are also studied.

Text: Earth Science, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill © 1999

Hands on activities are a regular part of the science curriculum.

In January, students in middle school participate in the Annual Science Fair by creating a project or writing a paper discussing a scientific concept of their choice. Judges from outside of the school evaluate the projects. Winners receive recognition by awards. Seventh and eighth grade winners move on to the State Science Fair to compete with other students around the state in their categories.

Also in January, Atlantic salmon eggs are brought to the Science room from the Connecticut River Salmon Association. Middle school students are responsible for maintaining the tank and collecting data to determine the developmental rate of the eggs, and after they have hatched, to keep track of their growth. Grade 8 students are given the opportunity to teach a Salmon lesson to the elementary grades and share some of the things that they have learned. In May, students release the salmon into a local stream. Students then perform observations and experiments in order to determine the health of the environment in which the salmon will make their home.

English – Daily

Grade 6

Students focus on the basic mechanics of English grammar. Parts of speech, sentence structure, and construction of paragraphs are emphasized. Basic research papers on general topics are assigned. Modern Language (MLA) citation style is introduced at this level.

Text: Language Network (Level Six – Yellow) McDougal Littell Inc. © 2001

Grade 7

With a focus on writing, students learn paragraph composition and short essays. This will also be applied in Reading tests. Grammar mechanics are fine-tuned. Assigned research papers utilize primary and secondary resources, which are incorporated into the MLA format. Original poetry and short stories will be created throughout the year.

Text: Language Network (Level Seven – Red) McDougal Littell Inc. © 2001

Grade 8

The high school entrance exam preparation is a major role in the first part of the year. More in-depth research papers are required. Students use a greater number of sources for validation of the material. Also, oral presentations are performed without notes. Spontaneous essays on reflective topics are given to the students, as well as diagramming sentences, parts of speech, and figurative expression is encouraged.

Text: Language Network (Level Eight – Green) McDougal Littell, Inc. © 2001

Reading - Daily

Grade 6

Basal readers are used as an introduction and example of various genres. They are also used to guide students through higher level thinking, by connecting themes, settings, characterizations, and lessons to “trade books” (paperback novels). Novels read during the year are: The Incredible Journey, My Brother Sam is Dead, and Johnny Tremain (All novels subject to change).

Text: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes Copper Level, Prentice Hall © 2000

Grade 7

Basal Reader is used for examples of biographies, short stories, and plays. Novels read during the year are: Let the Circle be Unbroken, The Red Badge of Courage, Where the Red Fern Grows, and Night (All novels subject to change).

Vocabulary and dictionary usage is stressed through specialized word lists, which are obtained from each novel.

Text: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes Bronze Level, Prentice Hall © 2000

Grade 8

The basal reader serves as a guide with the main focus on novels. Contrasts and comparisons between novels are stressed, with an emphasis on human nature and young people’s dealings with society and family.

Vocabulary and dictionary usage is stressed through specialized word lists, which are obtained from each novel.

Text: The Language of Literature Level 8, McDougal Littell © 2002

Social Studies – 6/Daily, 7&8/4 Times Per Week

Grade 6 – Daily

World History

Students will focus on the ancient civilizations of Islam/Middle Ages, Egypt, Rome, Greece, China and India. Students will be expected to learn geographic and historical concepts as they apply to ancient civilizations. Special emphasis will be placed on map interpretation and critical thinking skills.

Text: The World and its People, Silver Burdett Ginn © 1997

Grade 7 – 4 Times Per Week

American History

Topics studied are United States History from the colonization of the New World to the Civil War, including Colonial Life, The War for Independence, The Constitution, The Federalist Period, The Frontier, and Sectionalism. The class will touch on many skills, including map skills, reading and comprehension skills, language arts, and critical thinking skills.

Text: Call to Freedom v. 1, Holt, Rinehart and Winston © 2003

Grade 8 – 4 Times Per Week

United States History

Topics studied are United States History from Reconstruction to the present day, including The Industrial Age, Immigration, The Populist and Progressive Movements, Expansion Overseas, World War I, The Great Depression, World War II, The Cold War, The 1960s and 1970s. The class will touch on many skills, including map skills, reading and comprehension skills, and language arts and critical thinking skills.

Text: Call to Freedom v.2, Holt, Rinehart and Winston © 2003

Geography – 3 Times Per Week

Grade 7

The course is designed so that the students will meet the Geography for Life: National Geography Standards. In grade 7, the following areas are covered: The Five Themes of Geography, Physical and Human Geography, The United States, Canada and Latin America.

Text: World Geography: Building a Global Perspective Prentice Hall © 2000

Grade 8

The course is designed so that the students will meet the Geography for Life: National Geography Standards. The following topics are covered: Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Northern Eurasia, Southwest Asia, Africa, South and East Asia.

Text: World Geography: Building a Global Perspective, Prentice Hall © 2000

Foreign Language – Spanish

Grade 6 - 2 Times per Week

This course includes an introduction to basic vocabulary and the creation of simple sentences.

Text: Converso Mucho, National Textbook Co ©. 1990

Grade 7 - 3 Times per Week

The program builds on the vocabulary, studies verbs and develops reading and writing skills.

Text: Spanish is Fun Book One, Amsco © 2000

Grade 8 - 3 Times per Week

Students advance their verb skills using more tenses, and increase vocabulary for more involved reading and writing.

Text: Spanish is Fun Book 2, Amsco © 1989

Health – 1 Time Per Week

Health issues are dealt with on a grade level basis.

Grade 6

The curriculum includes the three basic areas of Health: Mental/Emotional, Social and Physical Health. Students are given the opportunity to discuss how these areas relate to everyday life through readings and class discussions.

Text: Teen Health Course 1 Glencoe/McGraw-Hill © 2003

Grade 7

The curriculum includes the three basic areas of Health: Mental/Emotional, Social and Physical Health. Students are given the opportunity to discuss how these areas relate to everyday life through readings and class discussions.

Text: Teen Health Course 2 Glencoe/McGraw-Hill © 2003

Grade 8

The curriculum includes the three basic areas of Health: Mental/Emotional, Social and Physical Health. Students are given the opportunity to discuss how these areas relate to everyday life through readings and class discussions.

Text: Teen Health Course 3 Glencoe/McGraw-Hill © 2003

Specialty Classes Course Descriptions

Computer Science – 1 Time Per Week

The computer science program fully supports the mission of Saint Gabriel School to provide a strong academic foundation and a nurturing environment that enables students to fully reach their potential. With strong computer skills, students are able to be more productive and better prepared to face the academic challenges of today. Students are encouraged to use computers within the computer lab and classrooms to complete assignments.

The computer lab consists of 30 new Micron computers. All computers are networked and have internet access. Students have access to a color printer and a laser printer. A scanner is also available for use.

The goals of the computer science department are:

1. To use technology with integration in other subject areas.
2. To be proficient in word processing, database, presentation, and spreadsheet software.
3. To use computers as productivity tools and for learning and creativity.
4. To use computers as information and communication resources.
5. To have a working knowledge of computer operations and vocabulary of computer related terminology.
6. To be comfortable working with various operating systems.

Music Education – 1 Time Per Week

The middle school students will learn to flourish as an independent musician. They will grow through exposure to the art form and explore the history of music. They will listen to different genres of music and study the composers that represent that type of music. Their learning will be enhanced by auditory, as well as, visual educational material.

They will research biographies of famous musicians and great composers. They will also learn to classify them by their notable works, genre and by era.

The middle school students will present two musical productions per year, the Christmas Carol Sing-a-long and the Memorial Day Celebration. Both concerts will be open to the public and serve as an outreach to the community.

Art – 1 Time Per Week

The objective of the art class at Saint Gabriel School is to encourage creative thinking and expression and to master a wide variety of approaches for personal expression to communicate ideas, feelings and knowledge through their art images. This allows the students to use visual perception as a means of creativity, through drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media, and cultural diversity. This talent provides opportunities for integration throughout the curriculum.

Students will be made aware of the variety of media, purchased art supplies and recycled unusual items available for creative expression. Students will gain understanding and appreciation of past and present artists in areas of expertise such as Claude Monet's Impressionism.

Students will be introduced to the elements of design, texture, color, space, value, shape, and form. They will also be introduced to the principles of design: balance, gradation, repetition, contrast, harmony, and unity.

Students develop skills in listening and following directions, cooperation, the ability to share ideas and develop a positive attitude and gain self confidence, self esteem, and pride in their art work and exhibits in the community.

Physical Education – 1 Time Per Week

Through physical education, children learn how to become physically fit in an enjoyable, healthy environment where structure and guidance are provided for all participants. Team play, good sportsmanship, and a sense of individual success are the goals of the physical education curriculum. Participation, rather than competition, is stressed. The creation of class squads of boys and girls with different levels of athletic skills enables all children to participate in traditional and non-competitive games on a fair playing field. Strategies and teamwork are far more important than score keeping. Each physical education class begins with a warm-up. Activities related to the current sports unit precede playing a game. Throughout the year, discussion of physical fitness includes nutrition, recreational fitness, and mind/body awareness.

Academic Evaluation & Achievement Recognition

Grading Scales

The following elements are necessary for consideration in any final mark or grade given to the student.

1. Tests, Project & Written Work - the grading will take into account substance, neatness, accuracy, spelling, grammar usage and written skills.
2. Class Participation – verbal expression of knowledge content and the ability to express this logically and in an intelligent manner.
3. Homework – the responsibility of the student to complete all given assignments in a timely manner.
4. Attitude and Effort – will be marked accordingly.

A+	100 - 98
A	97 – 94
A-	93 – 90
B+	89 – 87
B	86 – 83
B-	82 – 80
C+	79 – 77
C	76 – 73
C-	72 – 70
D	69 – 65
F	Below 65 (Failing)
S	Satisfactory for this child
N	Improvement is needed
U	Unsatisfactory for this child

Honor Roll Requirements

Saint Gabriel School is a proud member of the National Junior Honor Society.

Students in 6th through 8th grades are eligible for the Honor Roll, which is established as a means to build personal initiative and effort in conjunction with the spirit and philosophy of Saint Gabriel School.

The guidelines are as follows:

Marks from the following major subjects areas will be considered: Religion, Mathematics, Science, Reading, Social Studies, English, Spelling and Spanish.

All other subjects must be passed in order to achieve honors (e.g. music, art, physical education and computer science).

Conduct will be given serious consideration and can keep a student from honor roll recognition.

High Honors: All A's (A+, A and A-)

Honors: A's and B's (B+, B and B-)

Honorable Mention: A's and B's with one C+

Each quarter, students achieving High Honors, Honors and Honorable Mention are recognized at an Honors Breakfast. Each student receives a Certificate of Achievement.

Extracurricular Activities

Student Council

Saint Gabriel School has a student council. Students in the 6th through 8th grades vote and/or run for an office. The student council works throughout the year on various community projects.

Athletic After-School Program

This program runs from 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The days will be announced once school starts. The Athletic program is for students in 5th through 8th grades. Students only need to wish to benefit from additional exercise and group activities to participate.

This is an excellent opportunity for your student to engage in a very worthwhile experience with their fellow students.

School Band

Instrumental music instruction at Saint Gabriel School is provided through Future Musicians Inc. (FMI), who has provided successful music education programs for private and parochial schools since 1975. Lessons are offered to students in 4th through 8th grade on flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion. As students progress on their instruments, additional instruments may be chosen. Once a week students receive a half hour lesson in a small group. Students are grouped by ability and as progress is made, lesson groups are altered. Lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis during the day to avoid interference with the same subject matter each week.

During the first year students are part of the Cadet Band, which rehearses during recess. Upon completing one year of study, most students are promoted to Advanced Band. Advanced Band is comprised of students in their 2nd through 5th year of playing and it

meets for 45 minutes immediately following school dismissal. The Saint Gabriel Advanced and Cadet Bands perform for school functions such as Grandparent's Day, and the Christmas and Spring concerts.

Once students complete Book I, they are invited to audition for the Future Musicians Inc. Eastern Regional Band. This higher-level band has full instrumentation and meets during October with a culminating concert. Participants of the three FMI Regional bands audition in January for placement into one of the three FMI All State Bands. Students are placed according to their audition results into the All State Concert, Symphonic, and/or Jazz Band. These three bands hold a culminating concert at Central CT State University. Additionally these bands travel to New York and perform at Lincoln Center and also perform outside at the Old State House in Hartford. Most Saint Gabriel Advanced Band students participate in the All State program.

Computer Club

The Computer Club is an after school activity that runs for two sessions. One session meets in the fall and one session meets in the spring. It is opened to all students in 4th through 8th grades. Students must sign up for a seven-week session. The club meets in the computer classroom from 2:30 - 3:45. In the computer club students will be able to take apart a computer, learn how to create a web page, design multimedia presentations, and make movies.

Newspaper Club

The newspaper club is responsible for creating a monthly newspaper *The Saint Gabriel Gazette* for the school. It is by the kids, for kids, and about the kids. It is opened to all students in 4th through 8th grades. The newspaper club runs the entire school year. Students meet at lunchtime to discuss articles and ideas. Students write stories, construct the layout of the newspaper and work on distribution.

Middle School Dances

Saint Gabriel School hosts middle school dances throughout the year. Students are responsible for fundraising, arrangements etc. Other students of nearby middle schools are regularly invited to join the fun.

Basketball

Saint Gabriel School participates in the Saint Gabriel CYO Basketball League. Male and Female teams are organized for competitive play across the Hartford Archdiocesan area.

Cheerleading

Saint Gabriel offers a cheerleading program for interested and enthusiastic students to develop skills and provide team spirit at sporting events.

Other Important Initiatives

Community Service

Caring of others and giving to those in need is an integral tenet of the teachings and learning at Saint Gabriel School.

Student Recognition

Deserving students are nominated and recognized at monthly masses with a Fidelitas ad Christum Certificate. Students earning such recognition are those who have demonstrated a genuine concern for his/her neighbor(s) and a genuine sense of Christian humility.

Organized Projects

Specific activities to assist those in need are organized on an as needed basis throughout the year. Some examples include a penny drive for phone cards for soldiers, project warm a friend to collect gloves, hats and scarves for less fortunate and funding drives for victims of natural disasters. Over the Christmas holidays, families in need are adopted and provided for by the children of Saint Gabriel School.

In addition to school-wide activities, each class incorporates the Christian value of giving into its everyday activities and undertakes a community service project.

DARE

Middle School students participate in the DARE drug awareness program, under the direction of the Windsor Police Department.

Retreats

These are held periodically for spiritual development and leadership growth to supplement the learning of Saint Gabriel Students.

Student Oration Contest

Students in 5th through 8th grades have the opportunity to enter the "School Speech Contest", which is sponsored by American Woodmen Insurance Company. Through this contest, students gain poise and self-confidence, as well as presenting their original perspective on a pre-determined topic.

Junior National Young Leaders Conference

The Junior National Young Leaders Conference helps students develop and sharpen leadership skills by examining the leaders of the past and empowering them to make a positive social impact in their community and the world. Students are nominated by the Middle School teachers. Through a national committee, these nominees are accepted to represent their region, along with students from across the country, to visit Washington, D.C. and/or Boston, MA for a week-long conference.

People to People World Leadership Forum

Middle School teachers nominate students who demonstrate academic promise, leadership potential, and a strong interest in diplomacy and government. Originated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, this forum brings students from across the United States to Washington, D.C. for a week to participate in seminars and visits to historic landmarks.

Faculty & Staff

Pastor	Rev. Richard Neumann
Principal	Mr. Peter I. Donnelly
Office Manager	Mrs. Betty Caruso
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Martha Erickson
Librarian	Mrs. Laura McCaffrey
Math/Physical Education/ Grade 6 Homeroom	Mr. Darren White
English/Reading Grade 7 Homeroom	Mrs. Victoria Doty
Science/Health/Vocabulary/Spanish Grade 8 Homeroom	Ms. Meg Rosa
Religion/History/Social Studies/ Geography	Mr. Michael Conlin
Art	Mrs. Bonnie Sherwood
Music	Mrs. Sandy Ferrante
Computer Science/Librarian	Mrs. Laura McCaffrey
Band Director	Mrs. Debbie Morse
Nurse	Mrs. Maureen Pepin