

Aquin Catholic Schools

Mission Statement

The Aquin Catholic School System is a faith community founded in Christ where all individuals are given the opportunity to develop both their moral character and learning potential.

Goal 1.

To establish a faith community that clearly endorses and promotes Catholic morals, theology, and doctrines.

- A. To learn and teach the “Good News” of Jesus Christ.
- B. To witness Christ in our living and learning.
- C. To provide spiritual opportunities that develop and strengthen our faith in Christ.
- D. To nurture a personal relationship with the triune God.

Goal 2.

To provide a curriculum that challenges everyone to realize their learning potential.

- A. To develop critical thinking skills and self-direction in every person.
- B. To teach a core curriculum that will prepare everyone to be a productive member of society.
- C. To develop individual interests through offerings that foster life-long learning

Goal 3.

To instill a sense of self-worth and community.

- A. To positively influence the physical, moral, social, emotional, and cultural development in all members of the faith community.
- B. To establish an environment of open communication that addresses the interests and needs of each individual.
- C. To motivate positively-always recognizing the good in each person.
- D. To encourage participation in service clubs and extra-curricular activities.

Aquin Catholic Junior Senior High School is accredited by the North Central Association and recognized by the State of Illinois.

AQUIN CATHOLIC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF COURSES

7th GRADE

Religion
Science
American Studies
Math*
Literature
Grammar and Composition
Discovery
Keyboarding
Art
Physical Education

8th GRADE

Religion
Science
American Studies
Math*
Literature
Composition
Discovery
Keyboarding
Art
Physical Education
Health

*Math placement determined by school.

Electives: Choir and Band

FINE ARTS AND MUSIC DEPARTMENT

7th Grade Art: The course will tap the students' inner resources for creative problem solving. The projects are designed to improve students' abilities to communicate more effectively what they see in their "mind's eye". Lessons have a literary component as well as a musical accompaniment that are selected to inspire the project's direction.

Introduction Art and Design (8th Grade): The students will explore fundamental drawing skills including techniques of contour line, negative shape, and proportion drawing skills. There is an introduction to art related careers. Review of the elements of design and introduction to the principles of design will complete the instruction.

Choir (Grade 7-8): Students learn and perform classical, folk, modern, and pop music. Choir students sing as a group for Mass and perform at concerts. Students have the opportunity to participate in Community events, festivals, and Solo and Ensemble contests. They learn basic vocal techniques and how to read music.

Band (Grade 7-8): Primarily a performance-based band which performs at a variety of school functions. Band meets after school.

LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

7th Grade Grammar and Composition: In this course students learn sentence structure, the parts of speech, grammar mechanics, and usage. The basic principles of the writing process, public speaking, and creative writing are learned and applied. Students practice using proper grammar and punctuation.

7th Grade Literature: The course introduces students to a variety of literature genre-elements of fiction and nonfiction, poetry, and drama - with emphasis on reading comprehension.

8th Grade Literature: This course presents literature from a variety of genre. Comprehension is evaluated through literal, interpretive, evaluative, and creative thinking skills. Students are instructed in the fundamentals of proper writing techniques.

8th Grade Composition: A one semester course covering various writing skills. The compositions assigned focus on drafting revising, and editing essays of personal, narrative, expository, and persuasive writing.

Discovery: Study skills/enrichment

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Intro to Computer Applications (7th Grade): This course will allow students to fine-tune keyboarding skills learned elementary school. Using Open Office software, students will be introduced to basic word processing and spreadsheet features, as they expand their document planning/designing and language skills, including proofreading and editing.

Computer Applications (8th Grade): This course will allow students to expand their skills in word processing and spreadsheets. In addition, students will be exposed to Open Office Impress presentation software. A major focus will be on cross-curricular learning activities in order to better utilize the computer skills learned and apply those skills to projects in other classes.

WELLNESS DEPARTMENT

Physical Education: This course is designed to develop competence in basic physical skills, performance and fitness. The areas to be covered include cardiovascular information, flexibility, strength, endurance, and motor skills. The concepts taught are based on building and the social, mental, and physical well being of the student. Activities include soccer, football, tumbling, basketball, weight training, rhythmic activities, and lifetime activities.

Basic Health (8th Grade): Meets the State of Illinois Requirement for 8th Grade health education. The course is an intense study of several health related topics designed to educate students in community health and personal health. Physical fitness, drug, alcohol & tobacco, diet & nutrition, pregnancy, human sexuality and communicable & non-communicable diseases are the topics presented using lectures, films, and speakers.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENTS

Fundamental Math Skills: Emphasis in this course is on concept development, computation, applications, and problem-solving. Students will work to achieve mastery of numeration, computation, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, and percents. They will develop skills in measurement, the metric system, graphing, solving with variables, geometry and spatial sense, statistics and probability.

Math Applications: This course redevelops and extends the students' knowledge, understanding, and skills in working with whole numbers, integers, decimals and fractions in all four basic operations. Algebraic concepts such as order of operations, equation solving, patterns, and functions are covered. Estimation, measurement, number sense, problem solving, ratios, proportions, percents, and geometry are emphasized.

Pre-Algebra (8th Grade): In this course, students begin making the transition from concrete mathematics to more abstract expressions. Algebraic concepts of patterns, equations, and the real number system are enhanced, while continuing practice with integers, number theory, proportions, percents, and inequalities. Geometric concepts of measurement, congruence and similarity are covered.

Algebra I (8th Grade): *Prerequisite: Approval from prior year's mathematics teacher and the Chair of the Mathematics Department.*

In this course students are introduced to all dimensions of understanding algebra: skills, properties, uses, and representations. They learn the basic language of algebra, study number systems and their operations, and solve equations.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

7th Grade- American Studies: This course focuses on United States history from the study of Native Americans to Reconstruction. Study includes understanding Geography and its effect on United States history. The Illinois and United States Constitution tests are given at this grade level.

8th Grade - American Studies: United States history from Reconstruction to the present makes up the course content. Study includes understanding Geography and its effect on United States history.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

7th Grade- Science: This course is designed to give students a general overview of life science and an introduction to physical science.

8th Grade Science: The course gives students a general overview of physical science and earth science.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

7th Grade Message of Jesus: A presentation on the life of Jesus and the beliefs of the Church He founded. Students study specific religious doctrines of the Church and social issues related to those doctrines. Rockford Diocesan “Formation in Christian Chastity” curriculum is included.

7th Grade Prayer of Jesus: A presentation of the kind of person Jesus would like us to become. Students study the specific qualities that comprise a mature Christian adult and the social issues related to those qualities.

8th Grade-The Hope & Glory of Catholic History: The course stresses the story, the people, and the events that have shaped the Catholic Church over its 2000-year history. It provides the students with a sense of connectedness, of belonging, and identification with the universal church. Rockford Diocesan “Formation in Christian Chastity” and “Safe Environment” curriculum is included.

8th Grade Morality: A Course on Catholic Living: The course deals with everyday issues and choices and how the choices effect student’s futures. Students study the meaning of morality, ethics, individual and social sin, social justice, the Ten Commandments, and the Beatitudes.