
Elementary Campus

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Middle School Campus

1110 Four Mile Road NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
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September 22, 2017

New Curriculum Transition

At All Saints Academy we believe that we can all grow!

The Diocese of Grand Rapids Catholic Schools drafted a new Curriculum which teachers have begun implementing this school year. All subjects K-12, except religion, have been redrafted based on founding documents and organizations such as Catholic Curriculum Standards, Cardinal Newman Society, Encyclical Letters, various National Councils (Mathematics, Social Studies etc.), Michigan state curriculum frameworks, ISTE Standards, and College Board SAT and AP objectives.

This new curriculum emphasizes cross-content literacy standards and seeks to form learners who are: empowered, digital citizens, knowledge constructors, innovative designers, conceptual thinkers, creative communicators, and global collaborators.

As the religion curriculum draft is being written this year, our middle school teachers are transitioning to a textbook series called [*Spirit of Truth by the Sophia Institute*](#). Lessons in this series are written by a team of teachers and theologians. Each lesson is built on scripture, The Catechism of the Catholic Church, lives of the Saints, and religious art.

Background:

During the 2016-2017 school year teachers engaged in an interactive process with our assistant-superintendent as curriculum standards were drafted, reviewed and edited. Each subject has a program goal draft similar to the statement below for the study of mathematics:

“All logic and order have come from the existence of God and the human capacity to organize and classify God’s earthly creation (CCC 299). The study of mathematics provides a foundation of logic, reasoning and calculation skills and an experience in current technology which enables the student to succeed in his/her chosen earthly vocation...”



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Curriculum drafts have been reviewed by our bishop and several pastors with education backgrounds, as well as the Aquinas School of Education, and a number of other “experts in the field.”

2017-2018 will be a transition year as teachers will begin incorporating new curriculum standards, while working to tie in skills and sequencing from the previous curriculum to assure there are no gaps in learning for students. Due to the transition, there may be report card standards marked as “not scored at this time” this year and additional standards added into comments.

For the 2018-2019 school year you will see a slightly new report card format to align with the new curriculum. Once the final copy of the new curriculum is approved, it will be shared and posted publicly, most likely in the spring of 2018.

What changes will you see this year?

Teachers will be sharing resources with other diocesan Catholic schools and working to gather supplemental material throughout this curriculum transition. Once teachers have had a chance to work with the new standards this year, we will review materials recommendations to determine what additional resources we need at All Saints Academy moving forward.

As we move into this new curriculum you may notice a few developing changes in programming, specifically at the middle school. We are working to incorporate more project and place based work into all core classes. As teachers adapt the new curriculum to our unique school, students, needs, and space through universal design for learning strategies our “electives” program is transitioning as well. Some of the activities reserved for elective classes will begin to work their way into core classes and larger school projects like our ASA community garden. There also are several specials classes incorporated into all ASA middle school students’ weekly schedules including Band, Art, Spanish, and Technology.





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For the 2017-2018 school year, all students in 4th-8th grade at All Saints Academy have a weekly STEM “elective.” This hands-on, interactive class will be “graded” for participation and effort and expose students to the interactions of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. In May, STEM Class will culminate with an Invention Convention where students will present their unique inventions to the ASA community. We are also looking forward to offering an after-school archery program for 4th-8th grade students. More details to come! As we continue to creatively innovate the idea of electives we are always open to feedback and input.

You may also notice some minor changes to expectations in math supported by this new curriculum. At ASA we will continue to hold all students accountable for all 8th grade math standards upon graduation. We will also continue to meet students where they are at and offer additional advanced math coursework in class or at our partner high schools for students who qualify.

For math instruction K-8 at ASA this new curriculum gives us the opportunity to evaluate the Go Math series adopted 3 years ago in K-5 and make a decision about what textbook series will best align our 6th-8th grade math classes for a smooth schoolwide math program of instruction at All Saints Academy.

As partners in education with you, we certainly welcome any questions or comments that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact either Miss Giroux or Mr. Debri. Our doors are always open!

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Debri".

Michael Debri
Executive Director/Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abby Giroux".

Abby Giroux
Principal

