

**Ascension School**  
**GRADE 8**  
**Curriculum**

**Religion**

**GOALS:**

The students of Ascension School will:

- Demonstrate comprehension of Call to Ministry.
- Use and respect sacred scripture.
- Prepare for Confirmation.
- Identify the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- Identify and recognize sacramentals.
- Increase knowledge of the sacraments of Initiation.
- Realize how to imitate Christ from the lives of His disciples.
- Grow in respect of life and the basic human rights of all people.
- Celebrate the feasts of Mary and the Saints & seasons of the liturgical year.
- Celebrate the feasts of Mary and the saints.
- Express love for God through spontaneous prayer.
- Consider the beliefs of others, both Christian and non-Christian and learn to respect their faith.
- Consider ethical decisions based upon conscience and morality.
- Recall formal prayers.
- Participate in liturgy and paraliturgical celebrations.

**CONTENT:**

- Beatitudes
- celebrating Advent, Lent, Christmas, Easter and holy days
- New Testament stories
- spontaneous and formal prayers
- social justice/human dignity
- Commandments
- sacraments of initiation
- preparation for Confirmation

Reviewed September, 2014

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**Language Arts**

**GOALS:**

The students of Ascension School will:

- Write narrative, descriptive and expository paragraphs.
- Revise and proofread paragraphs.
- Write sentences of varying lengths and form in paragraphs.
- Write several types of business and social letters.
- Write conversation with correct punctuation and capitalization.
- Identify and use good.

**CONTENT:**

- grammar
- capitalization
- punctuation
- parts of speech
- writing letters
- creative writing
- speaking and listening skills
- portfolios

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**Literature**

**GOALS:**

The students of Ascension School will:

- Analyze and identify literary terms: plot, theme, setting, style, mood, etc.
- Define and understand motivation, suspense, climax, character traits, point of view, descriptive details, flashback and tone.
- Name and recognize types of fiction.
- Examine conflict, sequence of events, logical reasoning, predictions, allusions, inferences, author's purpose, figurative language, atmosphere and attitudes of a short story.
- Understand elements of a biography, autobiography, and memoir.
- Explore types of poetry.
- Define and appreciate myths, legends and folklore, and the elements of each.
- Identify and recognize literary elements of novels.
- Keep a portfolio of writing examples.

**CONTENT:**

- literary terms
- motivation, character traits, types of fiction
- conflict, sequence, reasoning, predictions, allusions, inferences, figurative language
- short stories, essays, poetry, drama, biographies
- portfolios
- literary elements of novels
- book reports
- creative writing of essays, poetry and narratives

Reviewed September, 2014

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**Algebra**

**GOALS:**

The students of Ascension School will:

- Evaluate numerical and algebraic expressions.
- Solve systems of equations by the methods of substitution, graphing and elimination.
- Review commutative, associative, & distributive properties.
- Review additive identity, additive inverse, multiplicative identity and multiplicative inverse properties.
- Set up & solve proportions.
- Graph linear equations & linear inequalities.
- Learn the Pythagorean Theory.
- Simplify radicals.
- Add, subtract, multiply & divide radical expressions.
- Solve Quadratic equations by factoring, completing the square, & using quadratic formula.
- Learn how to find quotients of powers; powers of quotients.
- Multiply polynomials.
- Find common monomial factors of polynomials.

**CONTENT:**

- ordering decimals and fractions
- prime factorization
- algebraic equations
- variables & algebraic expression
- linear functions, solving linear equations
- solving systems of equations
- algebraic equations
- multiplying fractions and decimals
- strategies for word problems
- mental math
- polynomials, factoring
- ratio and proportion problems

Reviewed September, 2014

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**Social Studies**

**GOALS:**

The students of Ascension School will:

- Identify and use Social Studies words and terms and define words by context clues and glossary use.
- Strengthen skills in maps, graphs and charts.
- Utilize technology for research and independent projects.
- Examine the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction.
- Learn about the causes for settling the West.
- Study the rise of big business and labor unions.
- Appreciate the impact of immigration socially, economically and politically at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Learn about the involvement of America in imperialism.
- Understand the causes and results of World War I.
- Analyze the boom of the 1920's and Great Depression of the 1930's.
- Recognize the causes of World War II and the US involvement.

**CONTENT:**

- Reconstruction
- Settlement of the West
- Big Business and Labor Unions
- Immigration
- American imperialism in the late 1800's and early 1900's
- World War I
- Roaring Twenties and Depression Thirties
- World War II

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**Science**

**GOALS:**

The students of Ascension School will:

- Utilize metric measurements.
- Understand the composition of the periodic table.
- Describe the properties of matter.
- Understand the forces that control matter.
- Utilize the periodic table to explain the relationship between types of matter.
- Analyze the significance of an ever-changing world.
- Identify the Earth's core, mantle, and crust.
- Identify the forces of nature.
- Study physical properties of the earth.

**CONTENT:**

- metric measurements recorded in all activities
- basics of an element, including properties
- properties of an element
- states of matter via hands-on activities
- friction, gravity
- Newton's Law

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**Science**

**GOALS:**

The students of Ascension School will:

- Utilize metric measurements.
- Describe the universe, stars and characteristics.
- Describe the solar system.
- Describe the sun and its relation to planets.
- Study igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.
- Identify the Earth's core, mantle, and crust.
- Learn how to map the ocean floor.
- Study the atmosphere.
- Identify the forces of nature.
- Classify rocks and minerals.
- Use and interpret different types of maps.
- Describe the composition of the oceans and the effects of tides, currents and waves.
- Describe effects of earthquakes, plate tectonics, and topographical features.
- Study the oceans.
- Study physical properties of the earth.
- Examine the effects of space exploration on mankind.

**CONTENT:**

- metric measurements
- the plant and animal kingdoms
- characteristics of living things
- maps and mapping
- atmosphere
- physical properties of the earth
- rock and mineral classification
- oceans
- space exploration

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**Art**

**GOALS:**

The students of Ascension School will:

- Improve amount of realism in art works.
- Express own mood through art work.
- Express personal creativity.
- Continue growing in problem-solving.
- Apply color theory to art.
- Grow in understanding theory in art..
- Distinguish art styles, i.e. Egyptian, Roman, etc.
- Use facial charts to complete a portrait.

**CONTENT:**

- tempera paints
- opaque and transparent mediums
- mood
- realism
- freehand drawing
- art history
- portraits
- clay



# Ascension School GRADE 8 Curriculum

## Library Skills

### GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Use the library as a place to find materials for enjoyment and information.
- Practice proper book care.
- Choose appropriate books.
- Practice library manners.
- Know check-out and return procedures.
- Understand the terms fiction and non-fiction.
- Note that fiction and non-fiction are in different sections.
- Learn to use the electronic library card catalog. (OPAC)
- Know and locate the different basic reference books.
- Understand the vocabulary of books.
- Learn the 5 major genres of literature.
- Review the subheadings of the five genres.
- Learn the meaning and location of biography and autobiography.
- Do research using a variety of materials.
- Choose appropriate materials independently.

### CONTENT:

- book care
- library manners
- check-out and return procedures
- fiction and non-fiction
- OPAC
- Basic reference books
- Dewey Decimal System
- genres

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**Music**

**GOALS:** The students of Ascension School will continue to develop and refine their musical skills by:

- Singing and playing instruments;
- Participating in a world music drumming ensemble;
- Learning to play varied parts in a mallet ensemble including the use of recorders and drums;
- Singing two and three part music;
- Improvising original music to sing and/or play;
- Learning music history by attending a "Jazz St. Louis" concert;
- Applying their written skills to evaluating and responding to a classical piece of music through the St. Louis Symphony's program, "Express the Music";
- Preparing for a performance that utilizes their musical skills;
- Composing a setting for a Psalm refrain; and
- Understanding how music is a part of the Catholic Faith.

Revised: September, 2014

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**Physical Education**

**GOALS:**

The students of Ascension School will:

- Perform to the best of ability in all activities.
- Realize the importance of a healthy body.
- Recognize self-improvement through effort in assigned activities.
- Show improvement by practicing tasks outside of regular physical education classes.
- Exhibit self-discipline in independent practice of skills.
- Recognize and value role of physical fitness in total well-being.
- Develop sportsmanship and Christian behavior during all sports.
- Perform physical fitness skills.
- Show leadership within and out of P.E. class.
- Demonstrate personal and social responsibility in physical activity participation.

**CONTENT:**

- team sport rules
- independent and group practice skills
- development of sportsmanship
- physical; fitness skills
- practicing skills
- understanding and applying concepts to the development of motor skills and fitness

**Ascension School**  
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**Spanish**

**GOALS:**

- The students of Ascension School will:
- Engage in conversation and exchange information and opinions orally and in writing in the target language.
  - Understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics in the target language.
  - Present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics in the target language.
  - Gain knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the relationship among practices, products, and perspectives of cultures other than his/her own.
  - Develop insight into the nature of language and culture by comparing his/her own language(s) and culture(s) to others.
  - Comprehend the spoken language in the form of directions, commands, questions, and structured conversations and simple descriptions.
  - Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the Hispanic geographic areas.
  - Understand the importance of a second language in procuring employment and in job advancement.
  - Learn church songs in Spanish.
  - Exchange information and opinions orally and in writing in the target language.
  - Perform plays using authentic functional language situations to empower the student to communicate many of the same ideas they would use in English.

**CONTENT:**

- introductory phrasing
- regular verbs in present, preterite and imperfect tenses
- perfecting pronunciation skills
- vocabulary expansion on topics of occupations, food, animals, vacations, the future, location, body, climate, calendar, numbers, classroom, house

(more)

- comparisons: adjectives, negatives, physical descriptions, personality traits
- Hispanic countries and nationalities
- possessive adjectives and pronouns
- idiomatic expressions
- direct and indirect pronouns
- reflexive verbs
- numbers to one million
- telling time
- gender and adjective agreement
- possessive pronouns
- irregular verbs in present, preterite and imperfect tenses
- writing plays for performances to primary children
- study of Aztec and Mayan cultures

Reviewed September, 2014

# Ascension School

## GRADE 8

### Curriculum

## Technology

### GOALS:

The students of Ascension School will:

- Become equipped to use and efficiently produce outcomes through technology.
- Be led to an understanding of computer resources.
- Be provided with opportunities for use of word processing, data bases, keyboarding, desktop publishing, telecommunications, graphics, computer assisted instruction software and robotics.
- Learn the process of gathering needed data, organizing it into useful format, and applying the information to problem solving.
- Use technology to reinforce basic skills through the use of computer assisted instruction.

### CONTENT:

- computer resources
- word processing, data bases
- keyboarding, desktop publishing
- graphics
- gathering data
- organizing data
- applying the information to problem solving
- basic skills