
8th Grade Religion Syllabus 2026-2027

Mrs. Martinez
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Office Hours: By appointment

SPIRIT OF TRUTH: THE COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Google Classroom Code: [733e6urv](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will be using different tools to help in the faith formation process of every student. We will be using the Spirit of Truth series by the Sophia Institute as our main curriculum. To help the students with their Social Emotional Learning, we will be using Arise. We will also use the Credible Catholic curriculum by the Magis Center to help our students with apologetics. If a student is able to defend their faith, they have internalized the teachings of our Saviour in their hearts. Finally, students will be participating in different service opportunities in and out of campus. Some will be provided by the school and some will have to be sought out by the student.

Spirit of Truth: The students will build on their understanding of personal growth, with an emphasis on our vocation to love and our responsibilities to God and each other.

Arise: Arise invites middle school students to actively participate in understanding and growing their own minds, helping them develop secure relationships, a strong sense of agency, and the ability to reflect on their own thoughts and emotions. Combining insights from neurobiology with the Catholic call to holiness, Arise equips students and the adults who guide them to navigate adolescence with confidence, growing toward happiness, wholeness, and purpose.

Credible Catholic: The students will view evidence of a creation of our universe from contemporary science—specifically, the Borde-Vilenkin-Guth Proof of a beginning of all expanding universal systems, the evidence from entropy applied to the universe as a whole, and the fine-tuning of universal constants implying the intelligence of a creator.

Service Hours: The students are required to complete a total of 8 hours per trimester. Students may complete more if they would like to achieve the STAR Service Award.

Age Group	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level
Kids (5-10 years old)	26-49 hours	50-74 hours	75+ hours
Teens (11-15 years old)	50-74 hours	75-99 hours	100+ hours

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to...

- explore the various relationships and responsibilities that help us to grow and develop in our vocations.
- take an in-depth look into the history of the Church, while exploring its nature and mission.
- take a deep dive into morality.
- look at what it takes to be a worthy citizen and what it means to be a just government.
- learn about the Theology of the Body and touch upon some difficult but important subjects for

teenagers.

- defend evidence of God's existence obtained through science.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:

- *Spirit of Truth: The Communion of the Faithful* Workbook by the Sophia Institute.

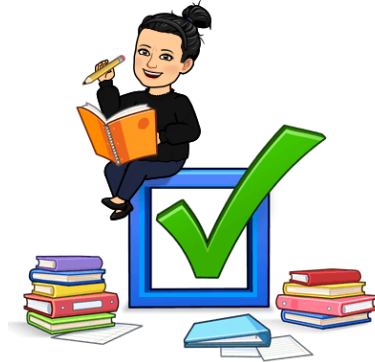
REQUIRED MATERIALS: Students are expected to come to class with all of the necessary materials to have a successful and engaging lesson.

- Workbook
- Notebook
- Planner
- Pencils, Pens, and Art Supplies
- iPad

GRADING:

- Homework/Classwork: 30%
- Assessments: 25%
- Projects: 25%
- Participation: 10%
- Service Hours: 10%

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D < 60% = F



GENERAL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE & LATE WORK: If absent, it is the student's responsibility to find out what the missing assignments are. They will be posted on SchoolSpeak. You have the amount of days that you were absent, for an excused absence, to submit late work. For Example, if you were absent two days, you will have two extra days upon your return to submit late work before points get deducted.

MISSING & LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Any late classwork or homework assignments will receive no more than 50% if completed within three days past the due date. For late projects and presentations 20% will be deducted from the grade per day for up to three days.

COMMUNICATION: Feel free to email me if you have questions about your course work. If you email me after 6:00 PM, I might not respond until the following day.

PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC OFFENSES: Plagiarism and cheating of any kind are not tolerated and will result in a score of "0" without the opportunity to resubmit, regardless of the assignment type. This may also result in a teacher-parent conference.

One Rule Classroom:

Do whatever is necessary to be successful, as long as it does not interfere with your learning or that of those around you.