



# September

JR. HIGH ENGLISH, MATH,  
RELIGION, SCIENCE,  
SOCIAL STUDIES



From the desk of Allison Baine, Jr. High Literature & English Teacher

## Genre Studies

All students have started their 8 or 10-week timeline for Genre Studies. 8th grade is reading graphic novels, and 6th and 7th grade are reading old and new Classics. Our journaling project has changed for 7th and 8th grade, as they will be keeping a dialectical journal this year, a conversation with their novel. 6th grade will start with Cornell Notes. Books may be purchased or borrowed from my classroom library, the school library, or the public library. As always, my hope is that they enjoy something unexpected.

## 6th Grade

Many changes come in Junior High, and one of the biggest ones for 6th grade is that books are now read at home. The students have started *Fish in a Tree*, a wonderful book about appreciating the diversity of gifts that God gave us. Using the novel, we will be working on essay writing, figurative language, and plot. We have also started working on Root words in Vocabulary and an introduction to Daily Grammar Practice.

## 7th Grade

Our first novel this year is *The Skin I'm In*, a book about learning to accept and even love oneself. The students will read poetry by Langston Hughes and Bill Broonzy, write a creative diary in segments, and identify figurative language in the text. We have also started working on Root words in Vocabulary and begun a review of grammar before starting level 6.

## 8th Grade

The 8th graders have already started reading The Book Thief, a beautifully sad novel of WWII Germany narrated by Death. Our first essay will be a comparison of John Donne's Death (from his poem "Death, be not proud") and the Death in our novel. We will then focus our discussions on 2 themes, the power of words and brutality vs. kindness, using one for a final essay and the other for a Socratic Seminar. They will also identify figurative language, symbolism, and track a non-linear plot. We have also started working on Root words in Vocabulary and begun a review of grammar before starting level 6.



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# MATH and SCIENCE

From the desk of Madalin Arabo,  
Jr. High Math & Science Teacher

Hi Parents! We have a so very much planned for your children for the month of September! When it comes to science, we're beginning the journey wrestling with the question of what "science" really is, and the process in which we attempt to define and understand it, using the Scientific Method. For math, I will be assessing your children to see where they're at before beginning the appropriate math curricula for each class.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

In science, we will be talking about the different aspects of Earth Science, while also diving into studying the Earth as a system, looking specifically at how the planet attains its energy source, the matter that makes it up, the landforms found on it along with weathering and soil found within. You children will have a grasp on these various topics, and will be introduced to Earth's grid and topographical maps! We begin our journey in math with understanding number senses, while working with both whole numbers and decimals, focusing on basic arithmetic.

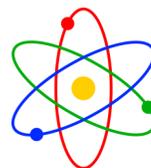
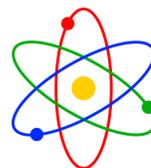
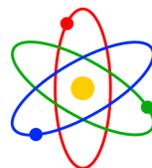
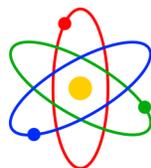
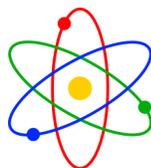
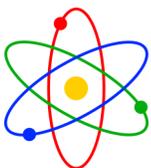
## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

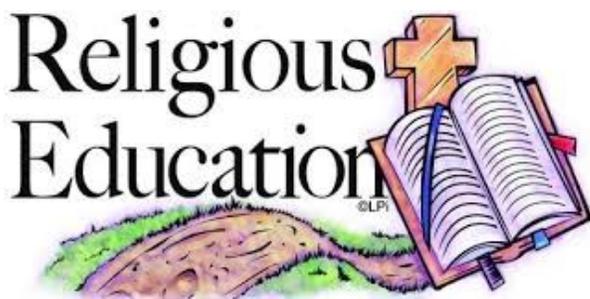
In science, we are going to jump right into Biology with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders, focusing specifically on what it means for something to be living and how we can further classify it. We will also begin looking at the use of light within this process, while also looking at the electromagnetic spectrum, visible light, color, reflection and refraction. In math, we begin looking at and manipulating integers, looking at the different exponential powers and laws, the order of operations and the coordinate plane!

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

In science, we will be jumping right into understanding the standard measurement system in play, focusing on weight, volume, temperature and density, while learning how to convert between the different systems. We will also take a dive into graphing (and interpreting) our data collected while also studying the difference between accuracy and precision. After that, we will begin discussing the different types of matter and the phase changes in between! In math, we begin our journey by focusing on rational and real numbers and how to both calculate and manipulate them.

We have a very full and exciting year ahead of us, and I look forward to working with you and your children!





**From the desk of Ms. Raban,  
Jr. High Religion & Social Studies Teacher**

*"We are to love God for Himself, because of a twofold reason; nothing is more reasonable, nothing more profitable." -St. Bernard of Clairvaux*

It was such a treat meeting all of the students during our first week of classes. It made me all the more excited to teach them this year.



### **6th Grade**

During September, the students will be wrestling with questions on the existence of God. The reason for this is that I cannot lay a foundation for their faith unless that foundation is firmly set on the belief in the existence of God. The students will also be learning about the Trinity, creation and how God revealed himself to us in Scripture.

Using the Studies Weekly series, we will be diving into the planet and its earliest inhabitants. We will be learning how to read maps and archaeology to set a sturdy foundation for the rest of human history.

### **7th Grade**

After reviewing what we learned last year, we will begin diving into the Gospels. The month of September will be dedicated to gaining a deeper understanding of the New Testament and tying Jesus in with the Old Testament characters they learned about last year.

This year, we will be using Studies Weekly to learn about history. Similar to the 6th graders, we will begin with maps and geography before turning toward the Roman Empire through the Byzantine Empire.

### **8th Grade**

Once we finish reviewing what we learned last year, the 8th grade will spend September better understanding the New Testament. From there, we will begin learning about the spread of Christianity and the early Church.

In 8th grade we will be diving directly into the American Revolution and the conception of the US Government as we know it today. In September, we will be spending a lot of time better understanding the roots of politics and the philosophies behind them.

