

GRACE EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE



Grace is a joyful environment where students are eager to learn, and Christ-like values are lived. Our campus fosters a sense of wonder through hands-on exploration and discovery, with a special emphasis on the beauty of our outdoor spaces. By nurturing the mind, body, and spirit of each student, we deepen the connections that positively impact our community.

We believe that education is meaningful work and are deeply committed to developing the whole child.



LANGUAGE ARTS

Students develop strong communication, analytical, and writing skills through literature, composition, and research.

Writing and Research

- Support claims with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate evidence from credible sources.
- Write informative and explanatory texts with clear organization and analysis.
- Compose narratives, creative writing, and poetry that demonstrate voice, structure, and creativity.
- Cite evidence accurately and follow MLA format, including a properly formatted Works Cited page.
- Interpret evidence and quotations to deepen understanding rather than merely paraphrasing.

Literary Analysis

- Determine an author's point of view or purpose and analyze how it is distinguished from others.
- Identify and analyze themes, tracing development through characters, setting, and plot.
- Examine figurative, connotative, and technical word meanings, analyzing their impact on tone.
- Analyze works of art in relation to literature to explore shared themes and expressions.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Students strengthen foundational math skills and explore advanced concepts in preparation for Algebra.

Number Operations & Algebra

- Develop proficiency with integers and rational numbers.
- Write, solve, and analyze algebraic expressions and equations.
- Solve and graph inequalities.

Ratios, Proportions, & Functions

- Read, write, and apply ratios and proportions, including to similar figures.
- Convert fluently between percents, decimals, and fractions.
- Explore linear and nonlinear functions, graphing, and exponents.

Geometry & Measurement

- Identify and manipulate real numbers and right triangles.
- Solve equations using distance and angle relationships.
- Calculate surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes.

Data Analysis & Probability

- Analyze data using statistics and probability concepts.

ALGEBRA

Students build on foundational math skills to master advanced algebraic concepts and apply mathematical reasoning to problem-solving.

Number Operations & Algebra

- Master operations with real, integer, rational, and irrational numbers.
- Solve linear equations, inequalities, and functions, as well as exponential, quadratic, and rational expressions and equations.
- Factor polynomials and manipulate algebraic expressions efficiently.

Mathematical Reasoning & Applications

- Develop fluency in proportional reasoning, geometry, probability, and statistics.
- Deepen understanding of data distribution, comparison of data sets, and probability using permutations and combinations.
- Graph linear and quadratic equations to interpret and solve real-world problems.

Communication & Collaboration

- Communicate mathematical ideas clearly using precise terminology.
- Collaborate in groups, collect and analyze data, and present findings effectively.

SCIENCE

Students develop scientific reasoning and inquiry skills through hands-on investigations and real-world applications.

Scientific Inquiry & Engineering

- Use the scientific method and engineering design process to plan, conduct, and evaluate investigations.
- Conduct investigations, make observations, and identify evidence to support conclusions.

Chemistry & Physics

- Study the organization and structure of the periodic table.
- Explore chemical and physical principles through hands-on experiments.
- Apply scientific ideas to design, test, and refine understanding of chemical reactions and laws of physics.

Communication & Vocabulary

- Utilize scientific vocabulary to communicate findings orally and in writing.
- Analyze and explain results using evidence-based reasoning.

AMERICAN HISTORY

Students explore the people, events, and ideas that shaped the United States while developing analytical, research, and critical thinking skills.

Historical Analysis

- Compare interpretations of key events using art, writings, music, and artifacts.
- Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- Compare relationships among the British, French, Spanish, and Dutch during colonization.

Founding & Early Government

- Understand the causes, course, and consequences of the American Revolution.
- Apply rights and principles from the Constitution and Bill of Rights to contemporary life.
- Study early government, focusing on the writings of Washington, Hamilton, and Jefferson.
- Analyze perspectives of Federalists and Anti-Federalists and their impact on the development of political parties.

Expansion & Conflict

- Examine Westward Expansion and its impact on Native Americans.
- Investigate causes, effects, and major battles of the Civil War.
- Explore the Reconstruction Era and its lasting societal effects.

Research Skills

- Gather information from multiple sources and assess credibility.
- Quote or paraphrase data appropriately while avoiding plagiarism.
- Use a standard format for citation.

8TH



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DEVELOP ENGAGED LEARNERS AND CONFIDENT LEADERS
WHO SINCERELY MODEL THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

SPANISH

Students develop proficiency in the Spanish language while exploring the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

Daily Language Practice

- Engage in routines including greetings, prayers, attendance, weather reports, and discussions.
- Review “gustar” and stem-changing verbs, numbers up to 1,000, and irregular conjugations.

Vocabulary & Thematic Units

- Learn sports, hobbies, shopping, travel, and vacation vocabulary.
- Create travel blogs, skits, and role-play scenarios to apply language skills.

Grammar Skills

- Master “ser” vs. “estar” and “saber” vs. “conocer.”
- Conjugate verbs for present progressive, reflexive actions, and commands.

Cultural Exploration

- Complete quarterly mini-units on Spanish-speaking countries.
- Participate in the Spanish Fair for Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Attend cultural field trips such as Flamenco Ballet performances and authentic dining experiences.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Visual Arts

- Study famous artists, works of art, and periods of art history.
- Explore advanced techniques: blending, cross-hatching, stippling, and chiaroscuro.
- Work with acrylics, watercolor, and mixed media; design graphic art projects.

Music & Performing Arts

- Study music periods, composers, and genres.
- Practice public speaking and speech writing.
- Compare performances to analyze artistic choices.
- Create original musical compositions.

STEM

Students engage in year-long forensic science, applying scientific principles and methods to real-world investigations.

- **Problem-Solving:** Develop creative solutions using design-based thinking.
- **Critical Thinking:** Analyze information, evaluate data, and make evidence-based decisions.
- **Collaboration & Communication:** Work effectively in teams and present findings clearly.
- **Creativity:** Apply imagination to approach complex challenges and generate original solutions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Students deepen faith, explore Biblical teachings, and apply Christian principles to daily life.

Faith & Relationship with God

- Explore relational living through programs such as Godspeed and Alpha Youth.
- Support a personal walk with Christ, understanding His love, grace, and mercy.

Liturgical & Biblical Studies

- Follow the liturgical calendar to understand the church seasons.
- Study the Bible’s overarching theme of God’s plan for us.
- Examine sacraments and living out the Gospel.

Church History & Service

- Explore Church history, key figures, and traditions.
- Provide a collaborative homily and serve as chapel leaders.

8TH

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students develop physical fitness, coordination, and teamwork through structured activities and games.

Fitness & Body Awareness

- Practice body awareness and self-care through regular exercise.

Skill Development

- Improve throwing, catching, kicking, aim, and endurance.

Sportsmanship & Teamwork

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship in all activities.
- Participate in JCAL and NFISAC sports leagues, including volleyball, soccer, and flag football.

WELLNESS

Students will learn to nurture their physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being through intentional daily practices and self-awareness. They will explore how healthy habits support balance, resilience, and strong relationships. Key areas of study include:

Mindfulness & Gratitude

- Discover the value and benefits of a daily gratitude practice to cultivate positivity and emotional balance.
- Learn and apply regular breathwork techniques, such as 4-7-8 breathing, to manage stress and promote relaxation.

Self-Care & Healthy Living

- Develop and practice self-care skills that include nutrition, exercise, mindful eating, organization, empathy, self-control, perseverance, and conflict resolution.
- Understand how small, consistent habits contribute to lifelong wellness and a balanced lifestyle.

Relationships & Emotional Health

- Identify the qualities of a healthy relationship and learn to establish and maintain healthy boundaries.
- Gain exposure to effective coping strategies for managing challenges and emotional stress.
- Practice conflict resolution skills to promote empathy, respect, and strong interpersonal connections.



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