



Divine Mercy Catholic School Grade 8



At Divine Mercy, we base our work with young children on current knowledge of child development. We provide a child-centered environment which promotes the spiritual, personal, academic, physical and emotional needs of each child. In order to accomplish this task, we use a variety of teaching styles, state of the art technology, and active discovery learning with developmentally appropriate activities and practices. We develop language, play, move our bodies and explore art and music. And yes, we believe that education can and should be fun!

We believe that each student is a unique, valuable individual because of his/her God-given potential. We understand our educational mission as a quality Catholic education that integrates religion with the rest of learning and living. Christian values and a God-oriented philosophy permeate the atmosphere and entire educational program. Excellence in education is the hallmark that has come to be associated with the Divine Mercy student.

Curriculum Areas

- ❖ Religion
- ❖ Social/Emotional Growth
- ❖ Reading/Writing Development
- ❖ Language Arts
- ❖ Math
- ❖ Science/Social Studies
- ❖ Art/Music
- ❖ Physical Development
- ❖ Spanish
- ❖ Computers
- ❖ Library

Reading & Writing Development

- Understand and use age-appropriate vocabulary
- Build on basic Latin and Greek roots
- Know and apply basic spelling rules and spell age-appropriate words correctly
- Use context clues, dictionary, and thesaurus to clarify word meaning
- Identify parts of speech of words in context
- Compare adjectives and adverbs correctly
- Classify prepositional, participial, infinitive, and gerund phrases as adjective or adverb
- Identify and classify independent and subordinate clauses
- Identify simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences
- Use correct subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement
- Recognize and use nominative and objective pronouns
- Know and apply the rules of Capitalization
- Use punctuation marks correctly
- Correct errors in standard English usage
- Recognize various genres of literature
- Know the five elements of a short story
- Understand, summarize, critique, and respond to literature
- Infer and apply story themes
- Distinguish between relative and subordinate clauses
- Understand cause and effect relationships
- Discover characters' motives
- Distinguish between static and dynamic characters
- Understand internal and external conflict in plot structure
- Analyze plot structure in main and sub-plots
- Recognize and interpret imagery and figurative language
- Distinguish among narrative, lyric, dramatic, epic, ballad, and highly stylized poetic forms
- Identify metric feet in poetry
- Scan poems for rhyme scheme
- Grasp and interpret universal symbols
- Write biographical and autobiographical narratives, descriptive compositions, informative and persuasive essays, literary criticism, letters, and poetry
- Enter a persuasive essay in a writing contest
- Write effective sentences and paragraphs
- Identify and target a specific audience in writing
- Research, write, and deliver a formal report
- Apply technology and multi-media tools to English
- Use MLA formatting and documentation

Religious Development

- Compare and contrast the different world religions
- Understand Divine revelation and the different ways God reveals Himself to us
- Recognize Church traditions and examples of those traditions
- Know the five characteristics of faith
- Know the difference between atheists and agnostics
- Learn the attributes of God
- Learn about the Paschal Mystery
- Know the mysteries of the rosary
- Learn what the Church teaches about the Holy Spirit

- Recognize different images of the Church
- Understand that Catholicism is a way of life
- Identify the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Give service to others through stewardship projects
- Explain the symbols used in the Rite of Confirmation
- Name the sacraments and explain their purpose
- Know how to live the Beatitudes
- Know the Works of Mercy
- Understand how faith communities function to bring Christ into the world

Math Development

- Solve equations
- Solve inequalities
- Solve and apply proportions
- Relate graphs and functions
- Interpret linear equations and their graphs
- Understand and apply systems of equations and inequalities
- Learn, relate, and verify exponents and exponential functions
- Understand and apply polynomials and factoring as tools in mathematics
- Demonstrate, solve, and apply quadratic equations and functions
- Learn about radical expressions and manipulate equations that contain them
- Interpret rational expressions and functions

Social Studies Development

- Become familiar with the Native American tribes in North, Central and South America
- Discuss the early European explorers and their reasons for exploration
- Understand the creation of the original colonies on North America
- Involve themselves in the American Revolution and the creation of the new government including, Declaration of Independence, Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- Increase their knowledge of the branches of the government and the importance of each
- See what reasons there were for colonial expansion to the West
- Discuss events leading up to and through the Civil War
- Be introduced to the Reconstruction and an attempt at equality for all peoples
- Review the reasons behind the immigration of peoples to America
- Introduce Reform, Expansion, and War
- Focus on the events of the last century that have led us up to present day

Science Development

Physical Science

- **The Nature of Science:** Physical science methods; exploring motions and forces.
- **The Nature of Matter:** Solids, liquids and gas; classification of matter; atomic structure; the periodic table
- **Interactions of Matter:** Solutions, chemical reactions; acids, bases and salts
- **Electricity and Energy Resources:** Electricity; magnetism; electronics and computers; radioactivity and nuclear reaction
- Discover hands-on learning in our science laboratory; scientific investigation includes a series of specific behaviors which are validated by use of the senses, measuring tools, technology, and mathematics.
- Taught the importance of lab partners, safety, and proper techniques to use in lab
- Taught the scientific method which allows students to develop practical solutions to everyday problems.
- Participate in a variety of national award programs to encourage creativity and imagination along with a concentration on scientific writing skills.