



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Back-to-School Night Packet 8th Grade

Included in the Back-to-School-Night Packet

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Please visit the 8th-grade page located on our school website at www.serraschool.org
Click here to access the 8th-grade news site: [EIGHTH GRADE NEWS: CLASS OF 2023](#)

Online Contact Information

Administration:

Mr. Tim Tolzda, Sr. Principal – ttolzda@serraschool.org
Mrs. Carol Reiss, Principal Preschool-Grade 4 – creiss@serraschool.org
Mrs. Julie Radzai, Principal Grades 5-8 - jradzai@serraschool.org
Mrs. Elaina Stokes, Assistant Principal Grades 5-8 - estokes@serraschool.org
Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal Preschool-Grade 8 - eburrola@serraschool.org
Mrs. Patricia Dominguez, Assistant Grades 5-8 - pdominguez@serraschool.org

Homeroom Teachers:

8A - Ms. Christina Tschlis, Language Arts – ctschlis@serraschool.org
8B - Ms. Heather Hubert, Language Arts -- hhubert@serraschool.org
8C - Ms. Carrie Fiore, Math – cfiore@serraschool.org
8D - Mr. Dave Bohmfalk, Math/Religion – dbohmfolk@serraschool.org
8E - Mrs. Joleen Bassett, Religion/Social Studies – jbassett@serraschool.org

Specialty Teachers:

Mrs. Allison Guilas, Grade 8 Science - aguilas@serraschool.org
Mrs. Maria Vasquez, Grade 8 Science - mvasquez@serraschool.org
Mr. Mark May, Grade 8 Math Advanced Plus – mmay@serraschool.org
Mr. Shaun Supernaw, Small Group Math - ssupernaw@serraschool.org
Mrs. Gina Christman, Grade 8 Academic Skills - gchristman@serraschool.org
Mr. David Woolgar, Grade 8 ELA Advanced Plus – dwoolgar@serraschool.org

Mrs. Monica Pradere, Grade 7 & 8 Spanish mpradere@serraschool.org

Mrs. Jessica Kim-Saad, Art – jkim-saad@serraschool.org

Mr. John Rodriguez, Physical Education – jrodriguez@serraschool.org

Mrs. Kim Taylor, Music – ktaylor@serraschool.org

Mrs. Hillary Olson, Creativity Lab – holson@serraschool.org

Mr. Chris Gray, Social Studies – cgray@serraschool.org

Instructional Assistant:

Mrs. Jean Leet Middle School Grades 6-8 Instructional Support jleet@serraschool.org

The eighth-grade teachers use email as their main source of communication. Please allow a 24-hour response time during the school week.

Grading Policy

Trimester grades will be determined by the following:

- 80% Authentic Assessment
- 20% Approaches to Learning

The students will be continually assessed using a variety of instruments such as rubrics, classroom activities, research papers, individual and group presentations, projects, quizzes, and tests. Activities that support learning—such as group work, classwork, and homework—will comprise a smaller portion of the student’s total grade.

Formative assessment

The goal of formative assessment is to monitor student learning and to provide ongoing feedback that teachers can use to improve their teaching and that students can use to improve their learning.

More specifically, formative assessments:

- help students identify their strengths and weaknesses as well as target areas that need work.
- help faculty recognize where students are struggling and address problems immediately.

Summative assessment

The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against standards and/or benchmarks.

Examples of summative assessments include:

- quizzes or exams
- a final project
- a research paper/essay

Information from summative assessments can be used formatively when students or teachers use it to guide their efforts and activities in subsequent units or courses.

8th Grade Late-Work Policy

Completing assignments is an organizational skill that is critical to student success in middle school and beyond. Assignments must be completed and submitted by the due date. A strict late-work policy will be enforced, and the grades for any late work will be as follows:

- 1 Day Late = A reduction of 20%
- 2 Days Late = A reduction of 40%
- 3+ Days Late = Assignments will receive a grade of 50%

8th Grade Absent-Work Policy

In the event of a student's absence, any missed work is still that student's responsibility. Students must communicate with their teachers to discuss what they missed and plan for anything that needs to be made up. Before communicating with their teachers via email, the student should check Canvas to understand what happened in class while they were gone and ask clarifying questions. Students are granted as many days as they were absent to make up the missed work without penalty. After the allotted time for make-up work expires, the Late-Work Policy will apply.

Long-term projects are due on the scheduled due date regardless of student absence. Late projects will be scored following the Late-Work Policy outlined above. If students know they will be absent on a day when a major project, paper, or presentation is due, they must make prior arrangements with their teacher to complete and turn in the project on time.

Eighth-Grade Curriculum

Religion

Text: *We Live Our Faith*: Sadlier
Family Life: Benziger
Bible

8th Grade Religion Curriculum and Activities:

- Diocesan Standards of Religion
- The Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral Life and Prayer
- The Life, Community, and History of the Church
- The Church's Missionary Life and Service
- Chapel visits for Mass, prayer services, rosary prayer, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (TBD)
- New Testament: Continued teachings of the New Covenant of Jesus focusing on the Gospels
- Nativity study and performance (TBD)
- Family Life: The Five Components of God's; Pam Stenzel's Program
- The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Spiritual Retreats
- On-going Service in Action: Outreach Projects and Service Opportunities
- Integration of Religion into all areas of instruction

The students will participate in class discussions and creative projects, complete research assignments, and make oral presentations. The students will be expected to take notes during class and to read and understand the information contained in the textbook.

Social Studies

Text: *United States History: Independence to 1914*: Houghton Mifflin

The class will study the history of the United States from the founding of Jamestown through the Civil War using the textbook and appropriate film clips. The students will be expected to take notes during class as well as read and understand the information contained in their textbooks. Students will participate in class discussions, creative projects, and independent research. Students are expected to be able to discuss the following topics:

- How the original colonies were established
 - Causes, battles, and results of the Revolutionary War
 - The origins and early development of the United States government
 - The early presidents
 - Causes, battles, and results of the Civil War
 - Beginning of the Reconstruction
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English Language Arts (ELA) - Advanced Plus, Advanced, and Leveled

ELA Course Objectives:

As in previous middle school grades, eighth-grade English Language Arts includes literature, composition, grammar, and vocabulary-building.

Part I: Literature

The literature program is designed to prepare students for high school and focuses on strengthening reading comprehension and analytical skills. Throughout the year, students will read, annotate, analyze, and discuss a variety of literary forms, including poetry, short stories, graphic novels, prose novels, and drama. Students will respond to literature in multiple ways and will use their understanding of the author's craft to create original written work. Each unit focuses on developing critical thinking through discussion, written assignments, and projects.

Textbook:

- **Text:** Savvas *My Perspectives*
- **Website:** <https://www.savvasrealize.com/community/home>

Novels:

- *Yellow Star*, by Jennifer Roy (ISBN 978-0-545-07101-7)
- *Across Five Aprils*, by Irene Hunt (ISBN 978-0-425-18278-9) (Leveled)
- *Moon Over Manifest*, by Clare Vanderpool (ISBN-13: 978-0375858291) (Advanced and Advanced Plus)
- Additional novels may be added to the syllabus based on the teacher's discretion

Part II: Basic Skills for Success

In addition to reviewing basic grammatical skills, instruction is individualized to sharpen each student's ability to study effectively. Students will learn new study skills and test-taking strategies that are focused on critical thinking, verbal reasoning, reading comprehension, and language skills in preparation for standardized testing and high school placement exams.

Part III: Composition & Grammar

Students will continue writing multi-paragraph essays using the Jane Schaffer Multi-Paragraph Essay format. Students will focus on enriching their sentence structure and using precise vocabulary. Analytical content, grammar, and correct spelling will be emphasized. Throughout the year, eighth-graders will have ample opportunity to practice their composition and grammar skills as they write a variety of complex compositions. All formal writing will adhere to MLA format and the conventions of standard written English.

Formal Essay Writing:

- Expository/Analytical Essay
- Personal Nonfiction Narrative Essay
- Argumentative/Persuasive Essay

Part IV: Vocabulary Building

In eighth grade, students are required to complete 60 minutes per week of vocabulary development through the adaptive program Membean. Membean is an online vocabulary-learning system that helps students develop an excitement for words and an expertise in the precise use of those words. Membean is fully automated and is personalized based on a student's current vocabulary knowledge and growth plan.

Science

Text: *Nitty Gritty Science, Grade 8: Physical Science*

This course introduces students to fundamental concepts of Physical Science within the context of faith and God's creation. A combination of pedagogical and inquiry-based instructional approaches is used; these approaches are designed to give students an understanding of key concepts as well as to motivate and inspire students to explore science through hands-on learning. Students also gain an appreciation for the fact that science is vital to today's careers. Major areas of study center on the science standards for Grade 8 - Physical Science, including:

- Matter and Its Properties
- Atoms and the Periodic Table
- Bonds and Chemical Reactions
- Motion and Stability: forces and interactions
- Energy and Heat
- Waves (and their applications for information transfer), Electricity, Magnetism
- Engineering Design NGSS standards (Next Generation)

Classwork and laboratory work will focus on the comprehension of key concepts, higher-level thinking skills, note-taking, and study skills. The ability to correctly employ the scientific method along with the engineering

design process through hands-on lab investigations will provide students with observation and writing skills necessary for high school. Students may be asked to complete some lab assignments at home.

Students can expect to receive assignments on a regular basis, including reading and/or writing assignments, web-based assignments, and projects. Students are expected to spend time each week studying and reviewing science (i.e., reviewing notes taken in class, reading, etc.) in addition to completing assigned homework. This is imperative for understanding the material discussed in class and preparing for assessments. Assignments will be given in class and posted in Canvas. Each student will be graded separately for any assignments requiring students to work in small groups. Students will be required to electronically turn in many assignments via Canvas or SeeSaw. Students' science composition books will be used for most formal lab write-ups.

Tests & Quizzes: Summative Assessments will be given at the end of each unit with approximately one week of advance notice of the particular date. Quizzes will be given weekly at the end of each 3-day cycle and will be considered an authentic assessment (80% category).

Creativity Lab

We are excited to offer the St. Junipero Serra 5th-8th Grade Creativity Lab as an additional enrichment to our science program. 8th-grade students will have class in the Creativity Lab second trimester and will be meeting Monday-Friday every week during that trimester. The lab is a 21st-century learning lab for students of all interests, ages, and abilities. Creativity Labs puts technology and learning resources in the hands of students, engaging learners in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) while building critical 21st-century skills.

The Creativity Lab features a project-based, student-centered curriculum, supporting STEAM and other core academic content. The Creativity Lab is a powerfully integrated and comprehensive learning solution that combines technology with academics to prepare students for college and career success.

St. Junipero Serra's Creativity Lab features unique opportunities for students to explore, learn, and work in areas such as alternative energy, circuitry, computer graphics, digital communications, mechanical structure, robotics, scientific data and analysis, and software engineering. In our Creativity Labs, students keep a daily record of their work, create final presentations, and self-assess their efforts. The science teachers will be working in tandem with the Creativity Lab to create a well-rounded, hands-on experience for students. The creativity lab will be part of the student's overall Science course, as students demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and experience they gain while working in the Creativity Labs.

Work completed in the Creativity Lab will be graded and entered into the student's Science grade.

Math - Advanced, Level, and Small Group

Texts:

Pearson *Algebra 1 Common Core*, 2015 (ISBN 0-13-328114-0)

Simple Solutions: Mathematics Algebra 1 - Part A, by Bright Ideas Press, Inc.

The Pearson Algebra-1 textbook and corresponding online activities will be utilized as the primary curriculum resources. Students in Advanced Math will complete all of the CC curriculum standards for Algebra-1. Students in Level Math and Small Group Math will cover the California CC Standards for 8th Grade Mathematics and progress into selected additional CC Standards for Algebra-1 but at a slower pace than the Advanced Math class. Thus, even though students in Level and Small Group Math classes are using the Algebra-1 textbook, they will not complete all of the CC Standards for Algebra-1.

All students will also utilize the *Simple Solutions* resources to help facilitate ongoing cumulative review and reinforcement of both prior-year and current-year concepts.

Students will utilize a variety of approaches to gain strong foundations in mathematics, including a solid understanding of concepts, a high degree of procedural skill and fluency, abstract reasoning, and the ability to apply the math they know to solve problems inside and outside the classroom. Classwork and related homework will focus on the development of analytical and advanced problem-solving skills, thorough note-taking and study skills, utilization of class notes to complete homework, and showing supporting work in an organized manner.

Homework: Homework is vital to reinforcing and extending the instruction, discussion, and directed practice that students experience in class. Students can expect to receive homework assignments on a nightly basis, including both *Simple Solutions* and new material being taught (e.g., textbook). Problems assigned for homework will generally be limited to those that most students should be able to successfully complete based on concepts already covered in class or extensions thereof. A portion of class time will be devoted to reviewing homework and addressing questions.

Completion of daily homework will be graded primarily based on completion effort, although some weight may be given to accuracy for certain assignments. Homework must be completed in pencil only, with final answers boxed/highlighted, and students must neatly show supporting work in an organized manner with full effort on every problem to receive full credit. Assignments will be given in class and posted in Canvas. However, in the event that an assignment cannot be posted online (e.g., computer issues), assignments announced in class will still apply.

Tests & Quizzes: Major assessments will be given at the end of each chapter or unit covered with approximately one week's advance notice. Smaller quizzes will be given more frequently. Unannounced quizzes may also be given without prior notice; however, these will generally be worth fewer points. All tests/quizzes must be completed in pencil only, with all supporting work shown in an organized manner and answers boxed/highlighted. Credit will not be given for answers without sufficient supporting work.

Required Materials: Students should bring the following to class each day: Simple Solutions workbook, notebook, charged Laptop, pencil pouch (with pre-sharpened pencils & eraser, pencil sharpener, red pen, yellow highlighter). Textbooks will remain in class, but students also have access to the textbook online.

Extra Help: Students will be continually encouraged to ask questions in class and offer assistance to each other in a positive, respectful environment. However, at times a student may need additional individual help with a particular concept or skill beyond the assistance that is provided in class. It is very important to address questions and any areas needing attention as soon as possible, given the sequential nature in which concepts continually build upon prior concepts. Parents are asked to encourage students to solicit additional help from their teacher as needed.

Digital content (homework, quizzes, etext, supplementals, and online tutoring) integrated into the Pearson math curriculum will be located on the following website: www.SavvasRealize.com

Math - Advanced Plus

Texts:

Pearson *Algebra 1 Common Core*, 2015 (ISBN 0-13-328114-0)

Simple Solutions: Mathematics Algebra 1 - Part B, by Bright Ideas Press, Inc.

This course focuses on the mastery of Algebra 1 standards while introducing Algebra 2 standards. Students are expected to be active participants in discussions, take notes, do their homework, ask questions, and seek assistance as needed from peers or Mr. May.

Homework: Homework will be given every night to reinforce and practice the lesson taught in the classroom. Daily homework will be graded primarily on completion and effort. Homework and Class Participation accounts for 20% of a student's grade.

Tests/Quizzes: There will be announced quizzes, pop quizzes, and chapter tests. Authentic assessment accounts for 80% of a student's grade.

Required Materials: Students should bring the following to class each day: Textbook, Simple Solutions workbook, notebook, charged Laptop, pencil pouch (with pre-sharpened pencils & eraser, pencil sharpener, yellow highlighter)

Extra Help: Mr. May will be available every afternoon from **2:40pm-3:30pm Monday-Friday**.

Spanish:

Students continue their study of Spanish by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. Each unit consists of a new

vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, understand common vocabulary terms and phrases, use a wide range of grammar patterns in their speaking and writing, participate in conversations and respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

The main objective in Spanish is to develop, reinforce, and refine communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Cultural competency will also be developed and explored. Class will be conducted in Spanish 90% of the time. In order to learn to communicate in Spanish, you must listen, read, write and speak in Spanish as much as possible.

Overall course objectives:

- Expand vocabulary
- Gain a deeper understanding of a wide range of grammar patterns and grammatical tenses.
- Gain confidence speaking Spanish
- Communicate more meaningfully in Spanish in real-life situations
- Read, write, speak and listen for meaning in Spanish.
- Analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries.

Homework: Assignments will be given almost on a daily basis; these assignments will be checked in class and credit is given for completion.

Participation: A large part of learning a foreign language is conversing in the language. Students are required to participate in class by answering questions, asking questions, singing and participating in group activities. A good attitude is very important. Appropriate interaction and participation contributes to 20% of the grade.

Tests/Quizzes/Assorted projects: There will be listening, reading and cultural comprehension quizzes, pop quizzes, and unit tests that assess students' mastery of the vocabulary words and grammar concepts presented, including both oral and written. Assessment accounts for 80% of a student's grade.

Additional Materials: Students will be required to bring a notebook, pencil, assorted colored pens and 1 heavy-duty plastic folder with pockets and fasteners.

Specialty Classes

All Specialty Elective classes will use 4-1 Grading Rubrics

- 4 Highly Proficient
- 3 Proficient

2 Emerging

1 Deficient

Art:

Text/ Required Materials: Students will be crafting their own sketchbooks this year through methods of traditional bookbinding techniques. Students will be provided graphic organizers, which will be posted to Canvas. All materials will be provided for classroom use only.

This class is designed to expose students to a variety of drawing and painting techniques, develop knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design, and introduce students to artists, styles, and movements from the past to the present. This course will teach, develop and inspire knowledge of the following:

- The Elements of Art and Principles of Design
- Art vocabulary and history
- The Art Process
- Technical skills through the use of various media
- How to work creatively and become emotionally aware of one's self.

Through Art, any person can access the beauty of God's Creation and their part in His Divine Plan for their lives.

Participation: Participation in Art Class is actively engaging in every lesson and activity—even if you are not particularly fond of the material or the subject.

Be PRESENT. Be OPEN. Be CONSIDERATE. Be KIND.

Projects: Students will work on one or two to three projects per trimester. Projects are any artwork made in class that includes a Rubric when the student submits it to Canvas for grading. The majority of work done for art is in-class work completed in your student's sketchbook. For ease of grading, students will be responsible for submitting all work on Canvas or, on occasion, SeeSaw.

All projects are graded on the following FOUR categories:

1. Composition (how the artwork is organized/use of space given)
2. Craftsmanship (Neat and careful presentation of project; care/concern/effort put forth in your project/assignment)
3. Skill & Techniques (drawing ability/effort placed into drawing subject accurately--using each media effectively and properly)
4. Reflection (the student responds to various questions reflecting on the creative process and content of their artwork).

Project Points are broken down as follows:

Composition
Craftsmanship
Skill & Technique
Reflection

Late Work: Deadlines for assignments will be set in advance. It is the student's responsibility to meet these deadlines. Any and all late assignments must be worked on and completed outside of regular class meetings.

Assignments more than 2 weeks late will not be accepted.

Students are expected to engage in every project; therefore, no extra credit opportunities are offered.

However, assignments completed and turned in on time may be redone or reworked and resubmitted if the student is unsatisfied with his/her original grade. Work on said project must be done outside of normal class hours and submitted with the original grading rubric. Any project a student wishes to redo/rework must be received no later than 2 weeks after the original project grading, and within the date range of the trimester, it was assigned in. The final project of each trimester will be due on the last regular instructional day of the trimester. Based on the aforementioned criteria, the final project of each trimester is not eligible to be redone/reworked.

Important Encouragements:

Ask Questions! Don't be afraid to ask for clarification!

Check your email often for Notifications and Announcements!

Have fun!

Keep positive!

Music:

Participation in Music Class means actively engaging in every lesson and activity—even if you are not particularly fond of the material or the subject. Be PRESENT. Be OPEN. Be CONSIDERATE. Be KIND. Participation will be followed, attendance will be taken, and parents will be notified if issues with behavior or grades arise.

Text/Required Materials: Although we do not have a specific text, lessons in Serra music classes will be pulled from various music texts and websites. Students will be asked to download materials from Canvas throughout the year. It is expected that students will have school-issued headphones for music class during the third trimester this school year. Students will complete their study of musical items, including the elements of music, music theory, music today vs. music history, and other musical subjects. We will sometimes use “choice boards” that will include things like a songwriting project, dance lessons, body percussion, and discussion of clips from movies and musicals. Students will also participate in either the Nativity or musical portion of the annual Christmas concert and prepare for monthly Masses and the Graduation Mass.

Students are responsible for completing assignments on time. There will be no extra credit available, but students will be able to complete all assigned work before the end of the trimester. Any late work will not be eligible for the top grade and will follow a similar scale for core classes:

Grades for any late work will be as follows:

- Classwork is due during class. If it is not submitted in Canvas on the day we complete the work in class, a Zero will appear in the gradebook, and a note will be in the comments. You may turn in the work, but it will be graded by the following rules:
- 1 Day Late = Zero until turned in and top score is 3.
- 3+ Days Late = Zero until turned in and top score is 2.
- If work remains incomplete, the grade of Zero will remain until the grading period ends.

Music Grades will be related to the 4-point scale used for Specialty Classes. Percentages have been included to aid in the understanding of expectations:

4 Highly Proficient (93% and above)

3 Proficient (75% -92%)

2 Emerging (65% - 74%)

1 Deficient (50% to 64%)

Please feel free to contact me if you feel like you are falling behind in music. I am willing to help anytime and know I cannot help if I do not know there is a problem. Music is for everyone and we hope you will find a part in the world of music that belongs to you.

Physical Education:

St. Junipero Serra's physical education curriculum will teach students new and challenging activities while emphasizing and encouraging the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Strategies will be taught to promote healthy life decisions. We will challenge all students to learn and grow while maintaining good character and building positive relationships.

The Physical Education program will focus on two main areas of student development and learning;

1. The students will develop the values of sportsmanship and fair play and be able to transfer those learned skills into their everyday life.
2. The students will work throughout the year to increase their total fitness level and evaluate their improvement through the Fitness Testing Program.

PE Expectations:

- Safety is the number one priority. Students must use the equipment appropriately and be aware of their surroundings.
- Show good sportsmanship by being respectful and responsible to other classmates and teachers.
- During prayer, absolutely no talking or disrespectful behavior.
- Do not talk while the teacher, adult visitors, or peers are talking.
- Come ready to participate. A large percentage of your grade is on participation.
- Be at your number when taking attendance, and make sure you come prepared (dressed in your PE uniform and gym shoes).
- The St. Junipero Serra Catholic Code of Conduct will be adhered to at all times.
- Be positive, help others, enjoy and participate.

Uniform Policy:

1. The PE Uniform can be worn all day if the student has PE class on that particular day (Formal Dress Day Policy Below).
2. Shorts must be worn at waist level (especially the boys), and the shorts may not be rolled up at the waist or worn too high (especially the girls); all uniform policies and decisions are made at the discretion and judgment of the Physical Education Department and Principal.
3. Students may wear the designated school sweats any time of the year.
4. **Closed-toe athletic shoes, laced up and tied, as well as socks, are required for all PE classes.**
5. The school policy, in regard to PE uniform requirements on Formal Dress Uniform Days, is that the students are to stay in their formal uniform. Students will not change for Physical Education.

Injuries/Sickness/Medicals:

Any condition that requires a student to sit out of PE activities must have a parent signed note, or e-mail, to be excused for that day. If there is a recurring problem with a student missing due to notes, it may require a change in grading criteria or a conference with a parent to remedy any issues that may arise. A parent note is good for only three days of excused Physical Education. A doctor's note is needed for any extended period of time beyond that. If a student has forgotten a note and is not feeling well, please have them communicate with the school nurse or the teacher. While sitting out, the student will be assigned a task (scorekeeper, timer, written assessment, etc.). During class, students must notify the teacher immediately of any injury that occurs, even if they are still able to participate. During a medical absence, the student is responsible for all assignments or information given out in class.

Catholic High School Information

JSerra Catholic High School Visitation Day: Wednesday, September 7th

Santa Margarita Catholic High School Visitation Day: Tuesday, October 18th

High School Recommendation Forms: Friday, October 28th

All High school recommendation forms must be received by Friday, October 28th, to allow the ELA and Math teachers time to complete them. Please refer to emails from Mrs. Radzai about specifics related to each high school.

High School Placement Test: See testing dates below

- JSerra HSPT #1: Saturday, January 14, 2023 (8:00am - 12:00pm)
- JSerra HSPT #2: Saturday, January 28, 2023 (8:00am - 12:00pm)
- SM HSPT: Saturday, January 28, 2023 (8:00am - 12:00pm)
- SM HSPT: Saturday, February 11, 2023 (8:00am - 12:00pm)

Eighth Grade Information

Retreat: The 8th-grade class plans to participate in a yearly retreat scheduled this year on **Monday, October 17, 2022**. Additional information will be provided.

Washington DC Trip: Sunday, April 23, 2023, through Friday, April 28, 2023

The 8th-grade class plans to participate in the School Tours Washington DC trip. More information will be provided by Mrs. Stokes for those that are interested in attending.

Graduation Fee: Cost of Fee TBD

The graduation fee will be sent out at a later time and includes all of the graduation events plus graduation gowns, 8th-grade sweatshirts, diplomas/diploma covers, awards, a class gift, and other miscellaneous grad items. 8th-grade families will be billed through FACTS.

Graduation Robes: Graduation robes will be sent home a couple of days prior to photo day. The graduation photo will take place on **Tuesday, October 4th**; students should wear dress clothes and the graduation robe. Dress Clothes: Boys are expected to wear collared shirts with a tie and slacks. Girls are expected to wear a dress or a skirt and blouse with a neckline that does **not** show above the neckline cut of the robe. Light make-up must be in keeping with school guidelines. Students will be permitted to remain in their dress clothes for the remainder of the day; students may change into their uniforms if they prefer. The robes will remain in your possession until Graduation Week.

Graduation Activities (tentative dates):

8th-Grade Finals Week	Monday, May 15, 2023 - Friday, May 19, 2023
8th-Grade Recognition Night	Tuesday, May 23, 2023 (5:00 – 6:30pm)
8th Grade Siempre Adelante Celebration	Thursday, May 25, 2023 (10:00 – 11:30am)
8th Grade Graduation Dinner and Dance	Thursday, May 25, 2023 (6:00 – 9:00pm)
8th Grade Disneyland Field Trip	Tuesday, May 30, 2023 (8:30am to 8:00pm)
8th Grade Graduation Evening Mass	Wednesday, May 31, 2023 (5:00 – 7:00pm)



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Eighth Grade Family Life Program

Dear Parents,

During the year, our eighth-grade students will complete a family life program as a part of their religion class. We believe you as parents are the primary educators of your children and that the church and school communities are to be supportive partners with the family. In order to fulfill our part in this relationship, Bishop Vann has mandated that schools educate the students in Catholic morality and in the teachings of the church.

Benziger Family Life espouses and reinforces a major priority in the church today: the preservation and sacredness of the family. Through this program, your child will have an opportunity to develop and practice the healthy choices, moral values, and virtues of a Christian family life.

Pam Stenzel's series "Sex, Love, and Relationships" will also be part of the curriculum. This video is written up as follows: "Sex, Love and Relationships" deals with the real physical, emotional and spiritual consequences of sexual activity outside a lifetime commitment (marriage). It will give them practical, easy-to-follow guidelines for some of the most important choices every teenager must make."

An email will be sent out with a link to view the video. We encourage you to watch it without your child present so that you will be familiar with the material your child will be viewing and able to reinforce the standards presented in the DVD at home with your child. Boys and girls will view the DVD separately. Mr. Dave Bohmfalk and another male teacher will supervise and answer questions for the boys while Mrs. Bassett, Ms. Tschlis, Ms. Hubert, and Mrs. Fiore will do the same for the girls. On Pam Stenzel's website (www.pamstenzel.com) the video is written up as follows: 'Sex Has a Price Tag', internationally renowned communicator Pam Stenzel combines her personal story and extensive pregnancy counseling experience into a hard-hitting look at the consequences of sexual activity outside of God's design for sex, which is marriage. In this captivating and inspiring talk, Pam tackles the tough issues of sex with candor, insight, humor, and a challenge for young people to get the 'abstinence advantage.'"

Pam Stenzel often speaks at the Catholic Religious Education Congress. For the last several years, we have had the opportunity to view this film with the eighth-grade classes. It has proved to be a good opportunity to discuss the importance of abstinence before marriage. We believe that viewing this film will make a difference in helping your child make good choices during high school and beyond.



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School

Eighth Grade Family Life Permission Slip

Please return this completed form to your homeroom teacher by **Friday, September 9, 2022**

Student Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

The above-named student has my permission to participate in the Eighth Grade Family Life Program including viewing Pam Stenzel's "Sex Has a Price Tag" and related materials.

Please initial as appropriate.

_____ The above-named student has my permission to view these videos and materials.

_____ The above-named student does not have my permission to view these videos and materials.

Parent Name: _____ Date: _____
(Please Print)

Parent Signature: _____



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School

Movie Permission Slip for U.S. History

Dear Parents,

During the course of this school year, some movie clips will be shown to supplement the material presented in the lectures and textbook. Since we are studying the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, some scenes depicting military battles and actions will be included. Scenes involving excessive violence will not be used, but the students will learn that these wars were won at a cost. Selected scenes from the following movies will be used:

- John Adams – 7-part miniseries (rated PG) This is the incredible story of John Adams – a man who dreamed of a nation and helped it come into being. The series is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *John Adams* by David McCullough.
- Glory (rated R) This is the story of the first black regiment to fight for the North in the Civil War. The graphic battle schemes that caused the “R” rating will not be shown.
- Gods and Generals (rated PG) This movie, based on Jeffrey Shaara’s bestseller, *Gods and Generals*, recounts the fierce allegiances and conflicts of the early Civil War.
- Gettysburg (rated PG) This movie portrays the Battle of Gettysburg, the turning point of the Civil War.
- The Civil War – A Film by Ken Burns – An 11 hours PBS miniseries about the Civil War.
- Grant and Lee – A 2-hour History Channel movie about the Civil War.
- George Washington – Mini-Series about the life of George Washington
- The Revolution – A History of the American Revolution
- The Crossing – A portrayal of the Battle of Trenton
- Hidden Figures (rated PG) - A portrayal of women mathematicians at NASA during Civil Rights.
- National Treasure (rated PG) - An adventure movie focused on Washington DC and Philadelphia.
- Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (rated PG) - A comedic representation of the museum.

Please return this completed form to your homeroom teacher by **Friday, September 9, 2022**

Student Name: _____

Homeroom: _____

Permission:

_____ The above-named student has my permission to view clips from the aforementioned movies.

_____ The above-named student does not have my permission to view clips from the aforementioned movies.

Parent Name: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School -
Disaster Preparedness Plan Student Runner Permission Slip**

Please return this completed form to your homeroom teacher by **Friday, September 9, 2022**

Dear Eighth Grade Parents:

In the event of a disaster such as an earthquake, your child may be asked to serve on a Student Support Team. Please see below for a “job description.”

“Personnel” pre-selected students are in-serviced on emergency procedures with parental permission to serve in this capacity. Students will never be placed in hazardous or potentially traumatic situations or unsupervised positions of responsibility for the safety of others. Students will be asked to assist by the Disaster Student Support Team Director on an “as-needed” basis.

Responsibilities

- Report to classroom location for roll call.
- After attendance is taken, gather and wait for the Student Support Team Director.
- Proceed with Disaster Student Support Team Director to Command Post for new roll call and assignment. (Put on a safety vest).
- Runners for student release or delivery of written information to/from Command Post.
- Assist in the setup of student release and other response locations.
- Assist Student Care Director by delivering or assembling equipment (portable toilets and enclosures), distributing water, or acting as information runners.
- Assist in recreational activities for students.

If you give permission for your child to perform the duties as outlined above, please sign and return this permission slip to your child’s homeroom teacher. Thank you.

We, the undersigned, request that our son/daughter _____ be allowed to participate as a student assistant. We hereby consent to release Serra Catholic School or any and all of its agents from any liability arising out of or in any manner related to this activity.

In the event of a medical emergency, we further consent to the decision made by the school or any and all of its agents relating to the provision of medical assistance.

As a school-sponsored and supervised activity, we understand that the school accident insurance is in effect. This permission will be valid for a reschedule of the same event.

Parent Name: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back-to-School Night ~ Eighth Grade
Parent/Student Acknowledgement Form

Please sign and date once you have read the Back-to-School Packet and return it to your homeroom teacher **by Friday, September 9, 2022.**

We have read the Eighth Grade Back-to-School-Night packet in its entirety and are affixing our signatures to verify that we (parent(s) and student) understand its content and will comply with the aforementioned guidelines to the best of our ability.

Teacher Name: _____

Grade/Homeroom: _____

Student Name (printed)

Student Signature /Date

Parent Name (printed)

Parent Signature /Date

Parent Name (printed)

Parent Signature /Date