



## St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Back-to-School Night Packet 7th Grade

### Included in the Back-to-School-Night Packet

- Online Contact Information
- Grading Policy
- Curriculum Outline
- Back-to-School-Night Acknowledgement Form due Friday, September 10th

### Administration:

Mr. Tim Tolzda, Senior Principal – [ttolzda@serraschool.org](mailto:ttolzda@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Carol Reiss, Principal Preschool-Grade 4 – [creiss@serraschool.org](mailto:creiss@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Julie Radzai, Principal Grades 5-8 - [jradzai@serraschool.org](mailto:jradzai@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal - [eburrola@serraschool.org](mailto:eburrola@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Elaina Stokes, Assistant Principal - [estokes@serraschool.org](mailto:estokes@serraschool.org)  
Ms. Sam Adams, Assistant Grades 5-8 - [sadams@serraschool.org](mailto:sadams@serraschool.org)

### Homeroom Teachers:

7A Ms. Lisa Bell, English Language Arts (ELA) – [lbell@serraschool.org](mailto:lbell@serraschool.org)  
7B Ms. Kirsten Swanson, ELA/Social Studies – [kswanson@serraschool.org](mailto:kswanson@serraschool.org)  
7C Mrs. Diana Wilkinson Math/Religion - [dwilkinson@serraschool.org](mailto:dwilkinson@serraschool.org)  
7D Mrs. Allison Guilas, Math/Science - [aguilas@serraschool.org](mailto:aguilas@serraschool.org)  
7E Mr. William Catey, Religion/ Social Studies - [wcatey@serraschool.org](mailto:wcatey@serraschool.org)

### Specialty Teachers:

Mr. Mark May, Advanced Plus Math – [mmay@serraschool.org](mailto:mmay@serraschool.org)  
Ms. Lynne Pantano, Advanced Plus Language Arts – [lpantano@serraschool.org](mailto:lpantano@serraschool.org)  
Ms. Becca Hanna, Science - [rhanna@serraschool.org](mailto:rhanna@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Ana Wenstrom, Spanish - [awenstrom@serraschool.org](mailto:awenstrom@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Jessica Kim-Saad, Art – [jkim-saad@serraschool.org](mailto:jkim-saad@serraschool.org)  
Mr. Brock Gozbak, Physical Education – [bgozbak@serraschool.org](mailto:bgozbak@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Hillary Olson, Creativity Lab - [holson@serraschool.org](mailto:holson@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Kim Taylor, Music – [ktaylor@serraschool.org](mailto:ktaylor@serraschool.org)

### Instructional Assistant:

Mrs. Jean Leet, Middle School Grades 6-8 Instructional Support -- [jleet@serraschool.org](mailto:jleet@serraschool.org)

The seventh grade teachers use email as their main source of communication. Please allow a 24-hour response time.

### **Grading Policy**

Grades will be entered into the grade books in the following weighted categories:

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, class work, and homework, will make up 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 can be used by teachers to improve their teaching and by students to improve their learning.

More specifically, formative assessments

- help students identify their strengths and weaknesses as well as target areas that need work and
- help faculty recognize where students are struggling so they can 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:

- a chapter or midterm exam
- 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.

### **Homework and Late Work**

Completion of homework is an organizational skill that is critical to student success in middle school and beyond. A strict homework policy will be enforced. Homework is expected to be completed and submitted on the due date. Students will have two days to submit late work. After that, the assignment will be accepted as a 50%.

Any work missed due to student absence is the responsibility of the student. If absent, students should first check Canvas and then obtain any additional work when they return to school. Students are allowed as many days as they were absent to make up the missed work without it being considered late. After the allotted time, the late work policy will be enforced.

### **Long-Term Projects**

Long-term projects are due on the due date regardless of student absence.

## **Seventh-Grade Curriculum**

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### **Religion**

Text: *We Live Our Faith As Disciples of Jesus*

Sadlier Publishing eBook

*The Catholic Youth Bible*: NRSV Saint Mary's Press

Family Life: Benziger

- Chapel for Mass, prayer services, rosary prayer, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Diocesan Standards of Religion
- New Testament: Continued teachings of the New Covenant of Jesus
- The Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral Life, and Prayer
- Living Stations of the Cross study and performance
- Family Life: The Five Components of God's Gifts
- The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Spiritual Retreats
- Ongoing Service in Action: Outreach projects and service opportunities
- Integration of Religion into all areas of instruction

The students will participate in formal note taking, class discussion, and research projects. Additionally, students will read, reflect, and write in a journal on daily scripture. As tests/major projects will account for 80% of the grade, it is imperative that students spend time every night preparing for upcoming tests by reviewing the textbook and notes. If a student is absent on the original test date, he or she will have an opportunity to make up the test during school time.

### **Catholic Faith Formation Program**

In an effort to help our students become stronger members of our Catholic faith, the SJSC faculty will present additional Religion curriculum revolving around basic catechism, including the Creed, liturgy and sacraments,

Christian morality/justice, and prayer.

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## **Social Studies**

**Text** *Medieval to Modern Times* – California Standards Based: Holt

The Social Studies curriculum will cover World History. Students will examine European history from the decline of the Roman Empire through the Age of Enlightenment. They will study other cultures and history as well, including but not limited to China, Japan, the Middle East, India, Africa, and civilizations of the Americas. Students will also interpret maps to see where important events occurred and analyze how geography has influenced history. The students will participate in formal note taking, class discussion, current events, and research projects. Students will regularly receive homework assignments. As tests/major projects will account for 80% of the Social Studies grade, it is imperative that students spend time every night preparing for upcoming tests by reviewing the textbook and notes. If a student is absent on the original test date, he or she will have an opportunity to make up the test during the school day.

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## **English Language Arts (ELA)--(all levels)**

### **Part I: Literature**

**Text** *myPerspectives*

#### **Novels:**

- *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl
- *Hoot*, by Carl Hiaasen
- *Crispin: Cross of Lead*, by Avi
- Additional novels may be added to the syllabus based on the teacher's discretion and the pace at which the class is able to progress.

Our literature program is designed to prepare students for high school literature classes; it includes instruction in comprehension, vocabulary, and written and verbal skills. Students will become familiar with the literary devices used to analyze a work of fiction and will be able to apply that terminology both in writing and orally. Some literary devices that will be explored include theme, conflict, characterization, symbolism, imagery, metaphor, and simile. Students will read class novels (which will be provided to them) during the course of the year.

In addition, students will have independent or team reading requirements. Students in the Leveled and Advanced classes will be required to complete one book project each trimester based on one of their chosen novels, and students in the Advanced Plus class will be required to complete three independent reading books per trimester and write a book card for each. Directions for the book cards will be distributed and explained to students during the first or second week of class.

## **Part II: English Composition (Writing and Grammar)**

Text: *myPerspectives* (ISBN 0-03-056492-1)

*Easy Grammar* (ISBN 978-0-936981-46-8)

Membean (online vocabulary program)

- The Jane Schaffer format for writing essays will be taught this year beginning with the single paragraph and working towards the multi-paragraph analytical essay. Students will keep a folder of Jane Schaffer materials, samples, and exercises. Students will be given a rubric addressing all the requirements for their final paragraphs/essays before they write them. Analytical content will be important, but students must also conform to the conventions of standard written English: grammar, spelling, format, punctuation, etc.
- Other forms of writing are explored in the 7th-grade language arts curriculum, including persuasive essays, narratives, creative writing and poetry, research projects, essay questions on tests, memoirs, and letter writing.
- Vocabulary will be taught through the online Membean program. Students will be required to complete 60 practice minutes each week and will be tested every other week (or as the teacher sees fit). This is a self-paced, adaptive program that allows students to acquire new vocabulary at speeds that are most appropriate for them.
- English grammar will be taught from the *myPerspectives* curriculum, *Easy Grammar* book, and additional supplemental materials.
- Additional help for anyone struggling with grammar will be given during class, after school, or at lunchtime, at the teacher's discretion.

If your child is struggling in grammar, please email his or her teacher.

### **NOTE:**

- The Advanced Plus Language Arts course is designed to follow and expand on the curriculum of its grade-level counterpart.
  - Students in Advanced Plus Language Arts will analyze both literary and informational texts.
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## **Academic Skills**

Academic Skills class supports literacy skills that are beneficial across all content areas. Each trimester we will focus on targeted standards related to reading comprehension, writing, and vocabulary development. Students will complete assignments and assessments related to:

- Silent sustained reading
  - Vocabulary development
    - Membean Vocabulary (<http://membean.com/>)
    - Vocabulary activities and projects
  - Informative and narrative writing
  - Comprehension of informative and literary texts
  - Other content standard related course work
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## **Science**

Texts: Nitty Gritty Science Google Slide Shows available weekly on Canvas.

*Discovery Education Tech Book* [www.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.discoveryeducation.com)

Students will develop a deeper understanding of concepts covered in life science and biology through the use of making models, developing and testing hypotheses and hands-on labs. Students will create inquiry based units through the use of Nitty Gritty Science, which aligns with the Next Generation Science Standards . Thorough, accurate note-taking skills will be developed. Class participation is required. Weekly concept quizzes will be given when we do not have labs. Chapter tests will be announced approximately one week before the exam date. It is recommended that students spend approximately 10 to 15 minutes nightly reviewing their notes in order to familiarize themselves with the material.

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## **Creativity Lab**

We are excited to share with your child the St. Junipero Serra 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>-Grade Creativity Lab. The Creativity Lab is a 21st-century learning lab for students of all interests, ages, and abilities. Creativity Labs put 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.

Creativity Lab features 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. Together these records create a portfolio demonstrating the depth and breadth of each student's learning. We store the portfolio electronically, so students may use the term "ePortfolio" to describe the collection of work they maintain to demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and experience they gain while working in the Creativity Lab.

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## **Math (Small Group, Leveled, Advanced)**

Text: *enVision Math 2.0 Grade 7 Edition*, 2017 Edition  
*Simple Solutions: Common Core Mathematics Grade 7*

The California Common Core State Standards will be the focus of every lesson. Students also will incorporate the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Both sets of standards can be viewed at <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/>. **The website for the math text is: <https://www.pearsonrealize.com>**

**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.

**Tests/Quizzes:** There will be announced quizzes, pop quizzes, and chapter tests

**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, red pen, yellow highlighter)

### **Math 7 Advanced Plus**

Text: *enVision Math 2.0 Grade 7 Edition*, 2017 Edition  
*enVision Math 2.0 Grade 8 Edition*, 2017 Edition  
*Simple Solutions: Common Core Mathematics Grade 7*

The California Common Core State Standards will be the focus of every lesson. Students also will incorporate the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Both sets of standards can be viewed at <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/>. **The website for the math text is: <https://www.pearsonrealize.com>**

This course focuses on mastery of Math 7 and 8 standards while introducing Algebra 1 standards. Students are expected to be active participants in discussions, work collaboratively, 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, as well as a trimester final for all 3 trimesters. 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  
**2:40pm-3:30pm Monday- Friday**

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## Spanish

Texts:

Textbook (Al Agua Patos)

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.

### GOALS:

- Learn new vocabulary
- Build familiarity with grammar
- Gain confidence speaking Spanish
- Communicate in Spanish in real life situations
- Interpret written Spanish

**Homework:** Assignments will be given almost on a daily basis, these assignments will be checked in class and credit is given for completion. But it's important to know that Spanish class will have homework EVERYDAY, even if nothing specific is assigned in class that day. This homework consists of reviewing and practicing for 10-15 minutes **every night** the lesson taught in class, by using flashcards or asking a family member to quiz you.

**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.

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

**Additional Materials:** Students will be required to bring a notebook, pencil, and charged Chromebook.

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### Specialty Elective 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 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.

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:

Composition=10 points

Craftsmanship=10 points

Skill & Technique=10 points

Reflection=10 points



- 3 Proficient
- 2 Emerging
- 1 Deficient

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. 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.

At this time, if you have an interest in playing a band instrument, please contact me via email for more information. We currently have a small ensemble and are looking forward to more members joining, at a distance, at this time.



**Physical Education**

St. Junipero Serra’s physical education curriculum will engage students in new and challenging activities while encouraging a healthy lifestyle. Strategies promoting healthy life decisions will be taught. We will challenge all students to learn and grow while maintaining good character and building positive relationships. The Physical Education program will focus on three main areas of student development and learning:

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

**PE Expectations**

- Students are expected to use the equipment appropriately and be aware of their surroundings. Safety is the number- one priority.
- Students are expected to show good sportsmanship by being respectful and responsible to other classmates and teachers.
- Students are expected to behave reverently during prayer. Absolutely no talking or disrespectful behavior will be tolerated.
- Students are expected to refrain from talking while the PE teacher, another teacher, an adult visitor, or another student is talking. .
- Students are expected to come to class ready to participate. A large percentage of the PE grade is based on participation.
- Students are expected to be at their numbers while the teacher takes attendance and be dressed in an SJSC PE uniform and gym shoes.
- Students are expected to follow the St. Junipero Serra Catholic Code of Conduct at all times.
- Students are expected to be positive, help others, and participate in class.

**Uniform Policy**

1. The PE Uniform can be worn all day if the student has PE class on that particular day, unless it is a formal dress day. (See the Formal Dress Day Policy below.)
2. Shorts must be worn at waist level (especially the boys) and 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 day they have PE class, but they must wear their PE shorts underneath.
4. Closed-toe athletic shoes, laced up and tied, are required for all PE classes.
5. On Formal Dress Days, students will stay in their formal uniforms. Students will not change clothes for PE class.

### **Injuries/Sickness/Medical Concerns**

Any condition that requires a student to sit out of PE activities must be communicated to the school in a note or email signed by a parent. If a student misses multiple PE classes, a change in grading criteria and/or a conference with the student's parent may be required. A note from a parent will excuse a student from only three PE classes. A doctor's note is needed to excuse a student from any additional PE classes. If a student does not have a note and is not feeling well, he or she may communicate with the school health room coordinator or a teacher. Students sitting out of PE class will be assigned tasks (scorekeeper, timer, written assessment, etc.). Students must notify the teacher immediately of any injury that occurs during class, even if the individual affected is still able to participate. During a medical absence, the student is responsible for all assignments or information given in class.

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### **Potential Curricular Enrichment Activities**

#### **Pig Heart Dissection (TBD)**

This classroom on-the-go program, paired with the Science unit on the Human Body System, helps students compare a pig heart to the human heart by mapping the chambers of the heart and tracing the blood's pathway through the circulatory system.

**Best Wishes to you and your child for a successful year; together we are partners in their success.**

**The 7th Grade Teaching Team**



**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School**  
**Seventh Grade**  
**Family Life Permission Slip**

Dear Seventh Grade Parents,

Our seventh grade students will complete a family life program as a part of their religion class. We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children and that the church and school communities are partners with the family. To fulfill our part in this relationship, our bishop has mandated that schools educate the students in Catholic morality and in the teachings of the church.

*Benziger Family Life* reflects 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 attitudes, moral values, and virtues of a Christian family life.

The seventh grade students will also be participating in the Kids and Company: Safety Education Program mandated by Bishop Kevin Vann for all children in Catholic schools or religious education programs.

Sincerely,  
William Catey  
Seventh Grade Religion Teacher

Please sign and return to Mr. Catey by **Friday, September 10, 2021**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Homeroom:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I **do** grant permission for my child to be included in the family life program in their religion class.

\_\_\_\_\_ I **do not** grant permission that my child be included in the family life program in religion class.

Parent Name: (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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

Please sign and date once you have read the Back-to-School Packet and return to your homeroom teacher by **Friday, September 10th.**

We have read the Seventh 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 (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date