



## 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 special 8th Grade Class of 2022 webpage located at [www.serraschool.org](http://www.serraschool.org)  
Click on Academics/Grades 3-8/CLASS OF 2022: EIGHTH GRADE NEWS**

### Online Contact Information

Administration:

Mr. Tim Tolzda, Lead 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. Elaina Stokes, Assistant Principal Grades 5-8 - [estokes@serraschool.org](mailto:estokes@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal Preschool-Grade 8 - [eburrola@serraschool.org](mailto:eburrola@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Samantha Adams, Assistant Grades 5-8 - [sadams@serraschool.org](mailto:sadams@serraschool.org)

Homeroom Teachers:

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

Specialty Teachers:

Mr. Mark May, Grade 8 Math Advanced Plus – [mmay@serraschool.org](mailto:mmay@serraschool.org)  
Mr. Shaun Supernaw, Small Group Math & 8th Grade Science - [ssupernaw@serraschool.org](mailto:ssupernaw@serraschool.org)  
Ms. Lynne Pantano, Grade 8 ELA Advanced Plus – [lpantano@serraschool.org](mailto:lpantano@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Ana Wenstrom, Grade 7 & 8 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. Kim Taylor, Music – [ktaylor@serraschool.org](mailto:ktaylor@serraschool.org)

Mrs. Hillary Olson, Creativity Lab -- [holson@serraschool.org](mailto:holson@serraschool.org)

Mr. Chris Gray, Social Studies- [cgray@serraschool.org](mailto:cgray@serraschool.org)

Instructional Assistant:

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

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## **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 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.
- 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 student absence, any missed work is the responsibility of the student. Students must communicate with the teacher to discuss what they missed and make a plan for any work that needs to be made up. Students should check Canvas before emailing their teachers so they understand what happened in class while they were gone. Students are granted as many days as they were absent to make up the missed work without penalty. After the allotted time expires for make-up work, 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 that they are going to 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 Stenzil'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 and to 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
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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:

- *New Kid*, by Jerry Craft (ISBN 9780062691194)
- *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.

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## **Science**

Text: Prentice Hall Series, 2005 Edition *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 are 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 and engineering design process in lab investigations and write-ups, observation skills and attention to detail, data collection and organization, careful adherence to lab instructions and safety procedures, and written and oral presentation skills. 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, textbook 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. For any assignments that require students to work in small groups, each student will be graded separately. Students will be required to electronically turn in many assignments via Google Classroom, Canvas, or other online applications. Students' science composition books will be used for most formal lab analyses and write-ups.

**Tests & Quizzes:** Tests will be given at the end of each unit covered with approximately one week of advance notice of the particular date. Quizzes will often be given with 1-2 days advance notice. Unannounced quizzes applicable to assigned reading may also be given without prior notice; however, these will generally be worth fewer points and will be part of the 20% category.

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## **Creativity Lab**

We are excited to offer the St. Junipero Serra 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Creativity Lab as an additional enrichment to our science program meeting twice weekly. The 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.

The 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. 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 students' overall Science course, as students demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and experience they gain while working in the Creativity Labs.

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## **Math - Advanced, Level, and Small Group**

Texts:

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

*Simple Solutions: Standards-Based Mathematics Grade 8*, 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 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 and will only be part of the 20% category. 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](http://www.SavvasRealize.com)

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## **Math - Advanced Plus**

Texts:

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

*Simple Solutions: Standards-Based Mathematics Grade 8*, 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, 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 from **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 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 include 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

In accordance with the previously outlined grading scales, projects will be graded using the following scale:

Score of 4: 50-40 points

Score of 3: 39-30 points

Score of 2: 29-20 points

Score of 1: less than 20 points OR not completed/turned in.

**Late Work:** Deadlines for assignments will be set in advance. It is the students' 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 a positive!

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## Music:

**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 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. We will be using NearPod to help deliver instruction and to aid in student engagement during lessons. Students will complete their study of musical items including dynamics, tempo, tonality, music history, music theory, 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 when it is safe to do so.

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 (90% and above)
- 3 Proficient (70% -89%)
- 2 Emerging (51% - 69%)
- 1 Deficient ( 0 to 50%)

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 if there are any missing assignments at the end of the trimester, your final grade can only be a 3 (three). 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.

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## 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 three 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 is talking, or any other teacher, adult visitor or peers.

- 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, but they must wear their PE shorts underneath.
4. Closed-toe athletic shoes, laced up and tied, 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 excuse 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.

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## Graduation – Class of 2022 (June 3, 2022)

### **Eighth Grade Information**

**Retreat:** The 8th-grade class plans to participate in a yearly retreat scheduled this year on Thursday, March 24, 2022. Additional information will be provided.

**High School Placement Test:** TBD

As part of our regular curriculum in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students practice test-taking strategies and skills. Parents should contact the high school of their choice to register for the High School Placement Test. During both ELA and math, the teachers will dedicate time to present an overview of the exam, the skills that will be assessed, and how the class placement will be handled at the high school level (in general).

**Graduation Robes:** Graduation robes will be sent home a couple of days prior to photo day. The graduation photo will take place on Thursday, October 7, 2021; 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. 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 the Graduation Prayer Service and Graduation Mass.

**Graduation Activities (tentative dates):**

8th-Grade Finals Week	May 16, 2022 - May 25, 2022
8th-Grade Recognition Night	Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Graduation Prayer Service	Tuesday, May 31, 2022
Graduation Evening Mass	Friday, June 3, 2022



**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 Mr. Bill Catey will supervise and answer questions for the boys while Mrs. Bassett, Ms. Tsichlis, Ms. Hubert, and Mrs. Fiore will do the same for the girls. On Pam Stenzel's website ([www.pamstenzel.com](http://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 10, 2021**

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.

Please return this completed form to your homeroom teacher by **Friday, September 10, 2021**

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 10, 2021**

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 Student Support Team Director.
- Proceed with Disaster Student Support Team Director to Command Post for new roll call and assignment. (Put on 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 10, 2021.**

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