



**DEPAUL CATHOLIC
EIGHTH GRADE
Course Descriptions 2019 - 2020**

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the **DePaul Catholic Eighth Grade Prep Course Handbook**.

As a college preparatory school, the goals of the DePaul Eighth Grade Prep are twofold. Students begin to experience learning as a rich adventure through the prism of varied areas of study and have the opportunity to acclimate to the rigors of a high school program in a nurturing environment.

Our experienced faculty and staff foster spiritual growth, and encourage our students to strive for academic excellence. They demonstrate a level of dedication to our students and their families that is second to none. Students who attend the Prep have use of their own laptop tablet PC which expands learning beyond the classroom, and helps to develop the technological tools necessary in today's society.

In addition to our core curriculum, we provide opportunities for accelerated academic study, and offer programs in music and art. Students participate in all school wide liturgies, assemblies and pep rallies and are invited to join in any of the clubs offered, helping to create a smooth transition from eighth grade to their high school years.

DePaul Catholic Eighth Grade Prep is definitely the place to be engaged academically, the place to be challenged to succeed, and the place to experience high school in eighth grade.

If DePaul Catholic is ***The Place to Be***, our 8th Grade Prep is the ***Place to Begin!***

Russell D. Petrocelli
Principal

Nicholas J. Lombardi
Eighth Grade Coordinator

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INTRODUCTION

The curriculum offerings provide for differentiated course levels. The number of levels in a department is flexible according to the needs of the students. Students are assigned to classes based on their scholastic history, teacher recommendations, past grade achievements, and test data. Periodic reviews of a student's course level assignment are conducted. If it appears justified that a student is misplaced in a course level, an opportunity will be provided for movement to a more suitable group where possible.

Honors (H)

These courses are designed for the superior student who displays initiative, creativity, industry, and high aptitude. A student selected for these courses has had a past history of grades which justifies inclusion in the honors strata of curricula. The Honors courses require greater depth of material comprehension, extensive work and assignments, and considerable independent work.

College Prep (CP)

These courses are broad-based, in-depth courses designed for the student who wants to learn the content area of a subject. Students in college preparatory courses have the requisite ability to succeed at a high level of academic achievement.



GRADE CALCULATIONS AND GPA ADDED VALUES

For purposes of computing grade point averages, courses will be weighted in direct proportion to their assigned number of credits. All credit courses will be included in the computation.

Grades earned in Honors or AP courses are awarded GPA added values. Grades earned in Honors Courses are awarded an additional 0.33. Grades earned in Advanced Placement courses are awarded an additional 0.67. Perhaps an example will prove helpful. In the default grade system these are the GPA values for each grade:

A+ 4.33	A 4.00	A- 3.67	B+ 3.33	B 3.00	B- 2.67
C+ 2.33	C 2.00	C- 1.67	D+ 1.33	D 1.00	F 0.00

In a College Prep course, a B is awarded 3.00 GPA points. In an Honors level course, a B is awarded 3.33 GPA points due to the 0.33 added value. No added value points are awarded for an F in an Honors course.

Semester and cumulative averages appear on each student's semester report card.

THEOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTION

(CP) THEOLOGY 8

This course is a survey of Catholicism that will help the youth of today come to a greater knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. The survey contains the main elements of the USCCB framework including the Trinity, Salvation History, Sacraments, Scripture, Church History, Social Justice and Morality. Students will also participate in service-learning projects.



ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTION

All students at DePaul Catholic have a summer reading assignment, which expected to be completed before the first day of school.

(CP) ENGLISH 8

Students in this course deepen their skills in literary criticism with continuing emphasis on the decisions authors make when creating theme, character, and plot. A cross-curricular research paper allows students to learn how to use MLA format and develop research skills. Journals and shorter writing assignments develop patterns of thinking that are both critical and creative. The study of vocabulary and grammar continues within the context of reading and writing along with the use of specific exercises.



WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

(CP) ITALIAN 1

This first-year course in Italian presents the student with the elements needed to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in the target language. Grammar, thematic vocabulary and basic syntax are supported by written and oral drills. Appropriate grade-level reading and writing assignments, cultural materials and situations for cooperative learning experiences are provided.

(CP) SPANISH 1

This first-year course in language endeavors to provide the student with the four essential skills needed for foreign language acquisition: i.e. to speak so as to be understood, to listen and be able to understand, to read with comprehension and to write with clarity. Current, relevant vocabulary is presented thematically, and grammar structures and basic rules of usage and syntax are included. Textbooks, workbooks and student manuals provide reading selections and cultural materials for cooperative learning and formal grammar presentation.



MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grade 8 students will be placed into a mathematics course based on the placement tests.

(CP) MATH 8

The Math 8 course preparing students for Algebra 1 the following year. In this course students apply concepts learned in previous courses to solve complex problems. They expand their knowledge of numbers with regard to estimation, measurement, geometry, statistics, probability, patterns, and functions. Students further their problem-solving capabilities by generating equations and inequalities designed to answer questions encountered in everyday life.

(CP) ALGEBRA 1

This course is a modern treatment of elementary algebra, with a balance of concentration on concepts and on skills. Fitting within the logical structure of algebra, there is a progression from the natural numbers to a basic understanding of the real number system. The course includes a development of relations, functions, mathematical sentences and their graphs, from simple linear equations and functions, to systems of linear equations, quadratic equations and functions. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as on real-life applications.

(H) ALGEBRA 1, HONORS

This course is designed for freshmen in the Honors program. It will cover the main topics in the college prep Algebra 1 course and, in addition, an in-depth study of other topics of Algebra 1 with emphasis on more advanced and original problem-solving techniques and applications. Selected advanced topics are covered according to group background.

(CP) GEOMETRY

This course introduces the students to techniques of logical reasoning while at the same time strengthening their basic algebraic skills. The students develop the ability to interpret and intuitively approach such areas as coordinate geometry, solid geometry, and practical applications of geometric principles.



SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTION

(CP) SCIENCE 8

In this course, students are introduced to the Scientific Method as they explore the physical world through basic Chemistry first semester and basic Physics and Earth and Space Science second semester. This study provides students with both tools and concepts to think clearly about matter, atoms, molecules, chemical reactions, motion, force, momentum, work and machines, energy, waves, electricity, and light. Among other subjects, students study the structure of atoms; forces, including gravitational, motion, acceleration, and mass; and energy, including light, thermal, electricity, and magnetism.



SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTION

(CP) SOCIAL STUDIES 8

This course covers the history of the United States from the Colonial Era to the present with emphasis on providing students with an understanding of how the United States was founded and how it expanded to its present size. The students will study the role of the Native Americans and immigrant groups played in the development of the United States. The fundamentals of geography will also be presented.



FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

(CP) ART (semester)

Students explore the elements and principles of good design while learning basic skills in various media. Drawing, painting, and mixed media work are the focus of the program. Basic perceptual and organizational skills are stressed, as students become attuned to their unique aesthetic awareness and creative self-expression.

(CP) MUSIC APPRECIATION (semester)

Throughout our daily lives, we are bombarded with musical messages through TV, Internet, radio, and various other media. In this course, students become more aware of the music in their lives. The course familiarizes the student with basic musical terminology and a rudimentary understanding of music theory as it explores the visual, aural, and emotional role music plays in commercials, movies, and plays.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTION

(CP) PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education classes are designed to practice and develop skills in activities that will help students maintain fitness throughout their life. Students will be introduced to life-long activities designed to increase their likelihood of exercising in the future. Students will understand the benefits that regular exercise can provide for a person's mental, physical, and social health.

