

# ROSARIAN ACADEMY

— Est. 1925 —



## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY 2016-2017

In keeping with the Rosarian Academy mission statement, we offer a solid, sequenced and specific Middle School curriculum dedicated to developing exemplary young citizens with superior academic preparation, moral and ethical decision making capacities, and a growth mindset. Our academic program emphasizes inquiry-based learning, a respect for diverse learning styles, experience in cooperative learning, and the acquisition of interdisciplinary skills. Reference to national standards of best practice in teaching and learning afford us the opportunity to consistently monitor, analyze, and refine all aspects of the students' experience within our Middle School community.

Our core curriculum includes the study of English (grammar, writing, and literature), mathematics, science, social studies, religion, Spanish and the arts. Exploratory and elective courses in art, STEAM education, study skills, debate, theatre, chess, band, and music complement the program. Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders also participate in educational trips and service projects. These activities provide students with the opportunity to build leadership skills, strengthen self-esteem and nurture their capacity for global competence.

## Religion

Rosarian Academy, founded in 1925 by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, is the only independent Catholic School in Palm Beach County. We are rooted in the four pillars of Dominican tradition: prayer, study, community and ministry. We proudly pass on Catholic beliefs, practices, and principles to all students. Students from various religious denominations add to the richness of our curriculum and the fabric of our culture.

Religion classes use Sadlier's *We Believe* Series. The series begins with an emphasis on faith, family, creation and God's love for each individual. Students learn about the sacraments of the Church as well as the commandments. In our study of the Old Testament, students get to know more about the prophets. When studying the New Testament, the emphasis is on the gospels and epistles. Students are also exposed to church history and the social teachings of the Church.

Students learn their faith and call to discipleship through acts of service, experiential learning, and enriching religious traditions found in and out of the classroom. These traditions include monthly liturgies, school gatherings, retreats, and opportunities for community outreach.

## Language Arts

Junior Great Books and Shared Inquiry provide the foundation for our literature program and the Socratic discussions that take place in all Middle School classrooms. The focus of the Language Arts program is the development of the individual student's growth as a reader, writer, speaker, collaborator and thinker. Habits of higher-level thinking and deep comprehension are cultivated through

Shared Inquiry explorations of a large anthology of outstanding literature per grade level. Students learn to ask powerful questions, support ideas with evidence and collaborate with others to explore complex problems. Small group and whole-class group discussions regularly engage students in respectful, civil discourse about essential questions and meaningful issues. The program seeks to engender a love of literature and language by exposing students to many genres that act to enhance their comprehension, vocabulary, and higher level reasoning skills. In addition, our Language Arts program is supported by classic novel selections that integrate our literature, writing and social studies curriculums.

In **fifth grade**, students read: Junior Great Books Series 5, *The Secret Garden*, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *The Sign of the Beaver* and *Which Way Freedom*.

In **sixth grade**, students read: Great Books Roundtable Level 1, *Realms of Gold Volume 1*, *The Odyssey*, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, and *The Prince and the Pauper*.

In **seventh grade**, students read: Great Books Roundtable Level 2, *Realms of Gold Volume 2*, *The Old Man and the Sea* (to support the study of Hemingway's life and writings in Key West in preparation for a class three-day field trip to [Sea Camp](#)), *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Voices of The Holocaust* and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

In **eighth grade**, students read: Great Books Roundtable Level 3, *Realms of Gold Volume 3*, *The Old Man and the Sea* (to support the study of Hemingway's life and writings in Key West in preparation for a class three-day field trip to [Sea Camp](#)), *To Kill A Mockingbird* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

Writing becomes a vehicle for practicing spelling and grammar. Expository and creative writing skills are advanced throughout the grade levels. Students are exposed to all genres of writing in Middle School, including narrative, expository, persuasive, imaginative, and descriptive. While learning how to write across all genres, students are taught how to apply the proper steps of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, evaluation, and finally - publishing. Students are encouraged to follow these steps each time they are given a writing assignment. They are introduced to the formal five-paragraph essay in grade five and practice the form throughout the remainder of their Rosarian years. Grammar is taught as an aid to both writing and speaking. Emphasis is on parts of speech, types of sentences, punctuation and capitalization. In 7th and 8th grade, students will be introduced to diagramming sentences. Rules of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and usages are reviewed and developed across the grade levels.

Public speaking and effective communication skills are addressed on a daily basis. Students speak, read, and recite regularly in front of their classmates. Proper posture, enunciation, paces, and volume are emphasized. Our classrooms are rich in literacy.

## Mathematics

The Middle School Mathematics program consists of six inter-related courses from Saxon Math and Prentice Hall: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math, Course 1, Course 2, Pre-Algebra, Algebra (high school credit), and Geometry (high school credit). These courses are designed to meet the needs of students with a range of mathematical abilities and to accommodate different growth patterns along the concrete and abstract continuum. They are also designed to challenge each student in every course and at every grade level.

The mathematics curriculum is designed to mirror the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Standards. The math program spirals with topics being covered every year with an increasing level of complexity. Problem solving and the steps and strategies of problem solving also spiral with increasing complexity. Concepts are taught for understanding rather than for memorization of math algorithms. Students are asked to show understanding through reflective discussions, regular exams, and writing about mathematics. While problem solving and reflection are an integral part of the program, special emphasis is placed on achieving excellence in arithmetic and algebraic basic skills.

## Science

Scientifically we embrace The Next Generation Science Standards and 21st century skill development. Coding, robotics, problem solving, projects, inquiry-based learning and Socratic discussions enrich our laboratory experiences. Science and engineering practices model what it means to think like a scientist, what scientists do to investigate the natural world, and what engineers do to design and build systems. These practices explain and extend what is meant by “inquiry” in science and the range of cognitive, social, and physical practices that it requires. Students explore the individual science disciplines of physics, chemistry, biology and earth science. The recurring themes of the scientific method, data analysis, organic processes and energy transitions support foundational understandings. Our Middle School science classes follow a systematic approach to the exploration of science supported by McGraw Hill's Integrated Science, Vol.1, 2 and 3. While each domain offers its own rigorous curriculum, integration with other domains creates a dynamic choreography of learning. By experiencing, for example, the interrelationships among science, mathematics, art, and cultural history, students broaden their perspectives and learn how to address situations using ideas from multiple disciplines. A requirement for all eighth-grade students is a formal scientific investigation and research paper, properly formatted and footnoted, on a topic of their choice. All eighth-grade scientific investigations are enrolled in our annual Rosarian Academy Science Fair that takes place in the fall. Each year our award-winning scientists go on to compete at the county and state levels.

## Social Studies

The study of history in the Middle School is a platform to facilitate an understanding of history and its impact on the present. Our curriculum is informed by Facing History and Ourselves and Core Knowledge curriculum which support us as we integrate the study of history, literature, human behavior, perspective taking and ethical decision-making strategies into the fabric of our community.

Fifth graders study United States History beginning with Native American settlement through the Civil War. The sixth grade course covers European history from the fall of the Roman Empire through Renaissance, Reformation, and exploration of the New World. At the end of sixth grade, students take a two-day, one-night journey to St. Augustine, the oldest European city in the U.S. Seventh and eighth graders embark on a two-year study of American history, culminating with a trip to Washington, D.C in April of the eighth-grade year. Current events and geography are threaded through all Middle School courses. Each course uses a current text supplemented by videos, magazines, field trips, and guest speakers. The focus is not only on the content of each course but also on study skills such as mapping, reading for information, note-taking, research, analysis of primary documents, oral arguments, analytical writing, studying for exams and preparing for standardized testing.

## Spanish

The Spanish department offers beginning levels in the fifth and sixth grade through high school credit Spanish I classes, as well as a course for native speakers. Spanish classes are designed to immerse our students not only in the language, but also in the traditions and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. We place needed attention on the ability of our students to communicate effectively in the Spanish language that is very much a part of their daily lives here in South Florida.

Rosarian academy believes that learning a second language is an important skill for the education of the whole person for life in a global community. It is with this philosophy in mind that we identify five goals that encompass the 5 C's as adopted by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards: **Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.**

Through the study of Spanish, students gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of cultures. They cannot fully master the language until they have also mastered the cultural contexts in which the language occurs. Students at Rosarian celebrate the diverse Latin populations in our surrounding communities and throughout the world through music, dance, festivities, holidays, and religious customs. Foreign Language Education Week and National Hispanic Heritage Month provide opportunities for in-depth performances of understanding and school-wide celebrations.

## Physical Education

Our Middle School Physical Education Program follows both the state and national standards. We apply movement concepts and principles while continuing to master motor skills. Our program teaches traditional and non-traditional sports as well as character education. Our physical education program models our Middle School sports offerings. This gives everyone the opportunity to learn the sport, enhance his or her skills, and participate. Educating the Rosarian student in ways to keep fitness fun is a top priority. Our goal is to encourage each student to exhibit an active lifestyle. While we educate each student on how to be fit for life we also emphasize the values of kindness, good character, honesty, respect for self and others, humility, and forgiveness.

Middle School students attend PE two to three times per week.

### **Advisory Program**

The Rosarian Academy Advisory program was developed as a way to strengthen connections and self-identity at the Middle School level. During advisory time, students build character, relationships and trust among themselves, their peers and their adult advisor(s). The advisor promotes communication and provides students with academic and social-emotional support and mentorship. Activities are built around the spirit of school family, creating respect within the school community and beyond.

## Co-Curricular/Elective Classes

Department	Course Title	Grade Level	Course Description	Meeting Times
Fine Arts	Music - 5th	5	This course offers students the opportunity to appreciate music through a global spectrum. Through various projects, students will learn to compose, interpret/reflect and perform (solo & ensemble) different styles of music with an artistic approach, using methods via national standards.	1 day/week
Fine Arts	Art - 5th	5	This course teaches the elements of design and the principles of composition along with media experiences.	1 day/week
Fine Arts	Drama - 5th	5	This course explores the fundamentals of improvisation, monologue, and scene study. All students will be expected to present a fully memorized scene at the end of each trimester.	1 day/week
General	Study Skills - 5th	5	This course addresses basic organizational skills. Students will also learn about time management, goal setting, planning, and test taking strategies.	1 day/week
General	Library - 5th	5	This course will reinforce library organization, research skills and literature appreciation.	1 day/week
Technology	STEAM Lab - 5th	5	Students will work on various projects utilizing Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. This course also teaches the fundamentals of computer programming, including SCRATCH and Kibo.	1 day/week
Technology	Computer Skills - 5th	5	This course teaches the fundamentals of Google applications for application in the classroom setting.	1 day/week
Fine Arts	Music - 6th	6	This course offers students opportunity to appreciate music through a global spectrum. Through various projects, students will learn to compose, interpret/reflect and perform (solo & ensemble) different styles of music with an artistic approach, using methods via national standards.	1 day/week
Fine Arts	Introduction to Studio Art - 6th	6	This course expands drawing and design skills while building creative and critical thinking.	1 day/week
Fine Arts	Drama - 6th	6	This course continues the elements of fundamentals with the addition of actually writing and producing a commercial.	1 day/week
General	Library - 6th	6	This course will reinforce library organization, research skills and literature appreciation.	1 day/week
LangArts	Debate - 6th	6	This course provides instruction and practice in the art of public speaking, with an emphasis on debate. Students will learn the format for Public Forum Debate, interpreting resolutions, developing affirmative and negative case constructions, cross-examination skills, analytical thinking and evaluating arguments. Students will explore issues in order to prepare debate cases.	1 day/week
Technology	STEAM Lab - 6th	6	Students will work on various projects utilizing Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. This course dives deeper into the concepts of computer programming and engineering. Students learn the basics of a written coding language, JavaScript. Students will also be introduced to more complex electronic/robotic devices such as the Arduino and Raspberry Pi.	1 day/week
Technology	Computer Skills - 6th	6	This course expands a student's use of productivity tools for application in the classroom setting.	1 day/week
Fine Arts	Choral Music - 7th	7	This course offers students a comprehensive study of music through solo and ensemble works/projects. Students will have pedagogical insight of the voice and performances while developing their talents with an artistic approach.	2 days/week
Fine Arts	Art Studio 2 - 7th	7	This course focuses on numerous media techniques, tools, and styles in an effort to develop personal self expression and growth.	2 days/week
Fine Arts	Theatrical Arts 2 - 7th	7	This course will utilize skill sets from 5th and 6th grade drama to fully explore the creation of a character in a play or musical.	2 days/week
General	Chess - 7th	7	This course emphasizes additional strategies and levels of play in the game of chess.	1 day/week

General	Study Hall - 7th	7	This course is designed to give students time during the school day for homework completion, independent study, and/or additional academic support as needed.	1 day/week
Fine Arts	Technical Theater - 7th/8th	7, 8	This course will explore the basics of set design, construction, scenic painting, lighting, sound, and stage management. Taught by local professionals, students in this course will be expected to work in these areas in the fall and spring musicals.	1 day/week
LangArts	Creative Writing - 7th/8th	7, 8	Students will create and produce a variety of written projects, such as short stories, online blogs, poetry. Work will be published in different formats and shared with both local and national communities.	1 day/week
Technology	Intro to Web Design -7th/8th	7, 8	This course teaches the fundamentals of HTML and CSS, two languages used in all website design. Students will get hands-on experience designing their own web pages and adding images, links, and videos. Students will also learn about some of the ways that websites can be "hacked" and how to protect your website and personal information from these "attacks."	1 day/week
Technology	Yearbook - 7th/8th	7, 8	In this course, students assist the yearbook advisor with the creation and production of the school's yearbook, to include photography, page layout and design, copy writing, and promotion and ad sales.	1 day/week
Technology	Media Broadcasting - 7th/8th	7, 8	Students will develop story ideas and create video clips for use during RATV morning broadcasts.	1 day/week
Fine Arts	Sculpture - 8th	8	In this course, students will create 3-D sculptures in clay, papier mache and recycled materials.	1 day/week
Fine Arts	Choral Music 2 - 8th	8	This course offers students a comprehensive study of music through solo and ensemble works/projects. Students will have pedagogical insight of the voice and performances while developing their talents with an artistic approach.	2 days/week
Fine Arts	Art Studio 3 - 8th	8	This course is for the student who has an understanding of design, composition and art techniques and wants to focus on personal style and creativity.	2 days/week
Fine Arts	Theatrical Arts 3 - 8th	8	This course will focus on performance of scenes from plays or musicals. Performance may include translating a scene from the page to visual media. Students must have been in at least one spring musical and taken Theatre 1 to be admitted to this course.	2 days/week
General	Chess - 8th	8	This course builds advanced levels of strategy and skills level in the game of chess.	1 day/week
General	Study Hall - 8th	8	This course is designed to give students time during the school day for homework completion, independent study, and/or additional academic support as needed.	1 day/week
Technology	Web Scripting - 8th	8	Expanding on the skills learned in the intro class, students will learn how to use PHP to add more features to their website. We will also explore how data storage has evolved from large filing cabinets to computerized databases and how to use SQL to manipulate these databases.	1 day/week