



Notre Dame Academy  
St. Julie Division  
7th and 8th Grade  
Course Catalog  
2019-2020

## ST. JULIE DIVISION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

- NDA 7th and 8th graders will follow a curriculum that is fully integrated for grades 7-12, allowing our students to master basic skills before reaching ninth grade classes.
- NDA 7th and 8th graders will study six core subjects, each 85 minutes in length, which meet every other day. They will also have classes in the arts, technology/project-based learning, wellness, and seminar.

- **Grading Scale:**

98 and above.....	A+
93 - 97.....	A
90 - 92.....	A-
87-89.....	B+
83 - 86.....	B
80 - 82.....	B-
77 - 79.....	C+
73 -76.....	C
70 - 72.....	C-
67 - 69.....	D+
63 - 66.....	D
60 - 62.....	D-
59 and below.....	F

## GRADE SEVEN COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Pre-Algebra (107)**

This course is designed to transition students from arithmetic to algebra by practicing and developing their previously learned mathematical skills, while moving from concrete mathematical applications to an abstract understanding of algebraic concepts. Topics will include integers, solving equations and inequalities, decimals and equations, operations with rational numbers, ratios, proportions and percents

### **English Foundations in Literature and Learning (207)**

This course provides an introduction to the skills used in concise and effective writing, active reading, and clear communication. The foundations of sentence structure and paragraphing will shape the writing strategies, while the ability to process questions and effectively respond will also be nurtured. Grammar and vocabulary skills will be integrated into the curriculum.

### **Geography/Civics (306)**

In the 1st half of the course, students will use the knowledge, skills, and understanding of the five themes of geography (location, place, region, movement, and human-environment interaction) paired with the basic core areas of culture, economics, history, governance and civics, to study the human and nonhuman features of Earth, principally in North and South America. Students will acquire, organize, and analyze geographic information utilizing maps, statistics, graphs, and illustrations. In the 2nd half of the course, students will focus on governance and civics. They will explore the foundations of government, examining the purpose, forms, and limits of government. They will learn how our Constitution was created and what some of its key characteristics are. Students will learn what it means to be a U.S. citizen

and how citizenship is obtained. They will compare and contrast personal and political rights with social responsibilities and personal duties.

### **World Language Exploration (407)**

Students will take each of the following languages for one quarter, establishing a solid base for their future study of World Language: French, Spanish, Mandarin, and Latin.

In *French and Spanish*, students will work with the following topics: introductions and greetings, the alphabet, calendar vocabulary, numbers, colors, weather and seasons, classroom vocabulary, and prepositions of location

In *Mandarin*, students will learn the Pinyin system and develop basic communication skills in listening and speaking. Students will also explore selected elements of Chinese culture and art.

In *Latin*, students will review the fundamentals of English grammar and be exposed to basic Latin sentence structure, including the concept of declensions and conjugations. Students will learn Latin vocabulary words with an emphasis on exploring English derivatives, leading to enhanced reading and writing abilities across all subject areas.

### **Integrated Science (507)**

Students in grade 7 will study systems and cycles. This course will enable students to build on their knowledge of structures and functions, connections and relationships in systems, and flow of matter and energy. Topics will include plate tectonics, interactions of humans and earth processes, organism systems to support and propagate life, ecosystem dynamics, motion and energy, and technological systems used by society. Students will be encouraged to apply concepts and skills across the disciplines, since most systems and cycles are complex and interactive. This course will create a foundation for exploring cause and effect relationships in more depth in grade 8.

### **Discovering Faith (607)**

This course centers on the person of Jesus: His life, ministry, and invitation to discipleship. Some major questions will be “Who is God?” with a focus on the Creed, our personal relationship with God, and the Trinity; and “Who is Jesus?” with a focus on the Jesus of the Gospels. Basics of Catholicism, such as the Sacraments, 10 Commandments, traditional prayers, the lives of the Saints, and major celebrations of the Church Liturgical Year will also be presented, as well as an introduction to St. Julie and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

### **Physical Education and Health (902)**

This course develops competency and proficiency in many movement forms by applying movement concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills. This course exhibits a physically active lifestyle to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of fitness and fosters responsible behavior in a physical activity setting with an emphasis on understanding and appreciating that physical activity provides opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction. Students will explore fundamental concepts and skills that foster healthy habits and behaviors.

### **Creative Arts (907)**

Designed to introduce students to the visual and performing arts and to encourage students to experience these arts as participators, this course is team-taught by members of the various arts departments. Students are introduced to the masters of dance, painting, music, and

drama while they themselves learn some basics in acting, dance and music performance, and explore pottery, printmaking, painting, drawing, and sculpture.

### **Seminar (971)**

The Student Services Dept. will work with students throughout the year to help them with their study skills, library skills, and with general advising.

### **Technology/Project Based Learning (972)**

## **GRADE EIGHT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Math**

#### **Math 8 (108)**

This course is designed to transition students from Pre-Algebra topics to Algebra 1 by practicing and developing their previously learned mathematical skills, while moving from concrete mathematical applications to an abstract understanding of algebraic concepts. Topics will include: linear functions, graphing, powers, nonlinear functions, real numbers, right triangles, and geometry concepts.

or

#### **Algebra 1 (112)**

The Algebra 1 course covers the following topics: Simplify and/or evaluate algebraic expressions, solve one-variable equations and inequalities, graph 2 variable linear equations, solve systems of equations by substitution and elimination, properties of exponents, factor quadratic polynomials, word problems. Special emphasis is on the use of technology. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required

### **English Foundations in Literature and Language (208)**

This course will reinforce the literary topics and foundations begun in grade 7. A continued focus on grammar, vocabulary, and writing strategies will be emphasized with writing assignments taking on more variety and depth. The student's ability to respond to concepts and develop ideas will be cultivated through writing tasks as well as verbal communication. There will be an expansion on the skill sets needed for grade nine's genre study

### **Classical World History (308)**

This course traces the development of world events in the Common Era up to 1500. Topics include classical Greece and Rome; the Byzantine Empire and Islamic civilization; the civilizations of Africa, Asia, and the Americas; and Europe in the Middle Ages. In addition to political history, topics include society and culture, and economic changes. Students will learn to use maps and graphs, analyze data, interpret primary sources, and develop critical thinking skills. Attention is given to reading comprehension, taking notes in class, study skills, and using electronic resources. In Grade 9, students will take World History II.

### **Mandarin Studies (409)**

Students will continue to develop basic communication skills in listening and speaking. They will also learn to read more Chinese characters. Practical topics such as numbers, colors, and family members will be taught through active learning. Chinese culture will continue to be part of the 8th grade curriculum.

**French 1 (412)** French 1 is an introductory course for students who have had little or no French or whose language skills need strengthening before they advance to French 2. In this class, basic grammatical structures, vocabulary, verb forms, and idiomatic expressions are introduced. Students develop basic communication skills in spoken and written French through the use of interactive, communicative activities, and through authentic materials appropriate for this level. Students are introduced to the varied cultures of French-speaking countries through readings and class discussions.

### **Spanish (416)**

This course is a continuation of Spanish 7 (1A). Further basic communication skills in spoken and written Spanish will be developed. This course continues to introduce basic vocabulary and grammatical structures to allow students to advance in their communication skills in the context of descriptions of friends and family, places in the community, living spaces, leisure-time activities, and clothing. Solid listening, speaking skills, and proper pronunciation are achieved primarily by interaction with the teacher along with the use of ancillary audio/video technology. The teaching of Spanish culture is considerable. This course is the second year of a two-year sequence.

### **Integrated Science (508)**

This course will allow students to use more abstract thinking skills to explain causes of complex phenomena and systems. Using the foundation built in grade 7, students in grade 8 will gain an understanding of the cause and effect of key natural phenomena and designed processes. This will enable students to explain patterns and make predictions about future events. These will include causes of seasons and tides, causes of plate tectonics and weather or climate, the role of genetics in reproduction, heredity, and natural selection, and the interaction of atoms and molecules to explain matter and change. Developing the ability to analyze phenomena for evidence of causes and processes that often cannot be seen, and developing the skills to conceptualize and describe those, will be significant goals and outcomes for students in grade 8.

### **The Living Church (617)**

This course centers on the Living Church. Some major questions will be “How is Jesus Christ alive in the Church today?” and “How does the Church live as the body of Christ?” The seven Sacraments will be explored in depth, as well as our responsibilities as disciples of Jesus. Basics of Catholicism, such as the 10 Commandments, Works of Mercy, traditional prayers, lives of the Saints, and major celebrations of the Church Liturgical Year will also be covered; as well as the life of St. Julie and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

### **Physical Education & Health/Wellness (903)**

This course continues to develop competency and proficiency in many movement forms by applying movement concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills. This course exhibits a physically active lifestyle to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of fitness and fosters responsible behavior in a physical activity setting with an emphasis on understanding and appreciating that physical activity provides opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction. This required course for all 8th grade students, will continue to teach fundamental concepts and skills that foster healthy habits and behaviors. The curriculum is developmentally appropriate as well as flexible to allow for the current needs of students and current events.

**Creative Arts (908)**

Designed to introduce students to the visual and performing arts and to encourage students to experience these arts as participators, this course is team-taught by members of the various arts departments. Students are introduced to the masters of dance, painting, music, and drama while they themselves learn some basics in acting, dance and music performance, and explore pottery, printmaking, painting, drawing, and sculpture.

**Seminar (975)**

The Student Services Dept. will work with students throughout the year to help them with their study skills, library skills, and with general advising.

**Technology/Project Based Learning (974)**