

# St. Therese Classical Academy and Learning Center

## Junior High Curriculum

**Junior High School** Grades: 7-8

**Mathematics Pre-Requisites:** Students in grades 7-8 will take the ACE and PACE placement exams.

**Course Name:** Pre-Algebra

**Main Text:** Life of Fred – Pre-Algebra Physics, Pre-Algebra Economics and Pre-Algebra Biology

**Supplement:** On Core Mathematics – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

**Description:** Join Fred Gauss as he uses pre-algebraic concepts, conversions factors and polynomials within science and business. This genius course shows the students not only how to solve a problem but exactly where it is used. A transitional course that enables students to go from the concrete concepts of arithmetic to the abstract concepts of Algebra. Geometry and other concepts will be covered.

**Course Name:** Mathematics – Algebra I

**Main Text:** Life of Fred – Beginning Algebra

**Description:** The main goal of this course is to provide students with a thorough and extensive study of linear and quadratic functions and graphing on the  $xy$ -coordinate system. Students will have all the knowledge necessary to continue to Algebra II and Algebra II w/ Trigonometry. They will also be able to apply this knowledge to other areas of math, such as word problems, ratios and proportions.

**High School Credit: 1**

**Course Name:** History/Geography (Grade 7 and 8)

**Main Texts:** American History (Grades 7 and 8) Pioneers and Patriots – Father Laux

Middle Ages – Dorothy Mills (Grades 6-8)

Discovering the World of Geography (Grades 7-8)

**Description:** Students will begin a historical journey beginning with the modern era. The central consideration of the course is to emphasize how modern ideas, institutions, and culture have developed from the high centuries of Christian culture. Students will study original documents and texts from the early church Fathers and learn how Catholics shaped America.

Middle Ages will focus on the Era of Christendom, from the Roman Persecution to the Crusades students will learn about the growth of the church and the battles faced.

In geography students will discover the world and its population, political landscapes, climate and examine developed and underdeveloped countries.

**Course Name:** Literature

**Main Texts:** Variety of Classic Literature, Short Stories, Saints and Poems

**Description:** Students are introduced to a variety of texts that will coincide with the modern era

studied in history and the virtues studied in religion. Students will be expected to read daily, write essays, memorize new vocabulary and complete comprehension quizzes.

**Course Name:** English, Grammar and Composition

**Main Texts:** Voyages in English 7 (for Grades 7 and 8)  
Vocabulary 7 – Seton Homeschool  
Write Shop I

**Description:** Students in grades 7 and 8 will review English grammar and spelling rules learned in previous grades and build on that. The course will begin on Part Two of Voyages in English, which focuses on grammar and diagramming of sentences.

The Write Shop Course has been designed to expose students to various kinds of writing such as creative, expository and narrative. Students learn to correct and refine their own work.

The Vocabulary will develop the student's capacity to pronounce, spell, use, understand, and remember definitions of words that will support composition course.

**Course Name:** Bible History (Grades 6, 7 & 8)

**Main Text:** Bible History – Benzinger & Tan and the T3 Timeline – Ascension Press

**Description:** This course takes students on a biblical journey from the Old Testament to the Birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ, uncovering the story that shaped and changed history. The T3 Timeline is an entertaining, informative way to demonstrate the 17 books in the Bible that paint the “big picture” of salvation history.

**Course Name:** Catechism

**Main Text:** St. Joseph's Baltimore Catechism III and CHOSEN – Ascension Press

**Description:** The Baltimore Catechism teaches our purpose is for us to know, love and serve God in this life and be with Him forever in the next. We cannot love someone we don't know and when we love someone fully our only desire is to serve. That is key teaching of our religious journey in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Knowing Jesus will lead us to a deeper relationship with Him and His church. Students will realize on their own that service to our Church and our neighbor is part of the Law of Charity, which Jesus came to establish. The journey also takes us to the next step. While we serve, we also receive. The Holy Spirit is the giver of the divine gifts that we need in order for us to live in His image, discover our vocation, and become who God designed us to be.

**Course Name:** Science (Grades 6, 7 & 8)

**Main Text:** Life Science – Michael J. Spear

**Description:** “The genuine scientist is a seeker of truth”, is our belief and the belief of Michael J. Spears, the author of the text. Students will study the wonder of God's creation from the tiniest organism to the full complexity of the human being. They will learn that no matter the size each living thing must be seen as one whole with many functioning parts. Each of these parts was specially designed to serve a purpose in order for that organism to live and thrive. Over the course of two years students will learn about cells, protists, fungi, plants and animals. For health, they will learn about nutrition, disease, systems of the body, ecology, and others.

**Course Name:** Traditional Logic I and II– Grades 7-12

**Main Texts:** *Traditional Logic: Introduction to Formal Logic*, Martin Cothran – *Socrates Meet Jesus*, Peter Kreeft and Aristotle’s, *Organon (Categories, On Interpretation and Prior Analytics)*

**Description:** Students will study the basics of Aristotle’s Logic which revolves around one notion: the deduction (*sullogismos*). His theory of syllogism, in its simplicity is: deductive reasoning consisting of a major premise a minor premise and a conclusion, will be studied and applied to a series of arguments proposed in the textbook. These arguments will be tested for truth, validity and soundness. Three of the six books of Aristotle’s, *Organon: Categories, On Interpretation and Prior Analytics*, will be the basis for study and discussion. Finally, an enjoyable read by Peter Kreeft, *Socrates Meets Jesus*, will show how even the Socrates himself, using his own methods, would arrive at the conclusion that if the stories in the Bible about Jesus are true, then Jesus is truly the Son of God and this should totally transform the way we live.

## Latin

**Course Name:** Lingua Latina

**Main Text:** *Lingua Latina – Familia Romana* - Orberg

this will be the main text used throughout the years. This 36 chapter text will pave the way for mastery level which will be attained after 4 years where students will translate the Gospel of Mark or John.

**Course Name:** New Testament Greek

**Main Text:** *Learn to Read New Testament Greek* – David Alan Black

Taught by a Professor of Classical Languages this enrichment course will provide all students the basis of Greek language as it is written in the New Testament.

## Music

Music is an important component to a full liberal arts curriculum. All students will be required to join our mandatory choir. Here they will be exposed to all kinds of music including Gregorian Chant, Latin Hymns, and popular music. Throughout the year they will receive lessons in music theory, music history and music appreciation. Advanced music students will have the opportunity to sing in our afterschool choir learning to sing in four parts for Masses and other extensive works.

## Art

Taught by a well know Catholic artist all students will take art on Friday’s each year. Here they will learn different media’s of art, technique and art history. Miss Spear will take them on a journey through the ages and learn to look at the world around them in an entirely different way. Extra art lessons will also be made available after school.

## Physical Education

All students will participate in physical activities that will assist the body in remaining healthy and strong. They will participate in group activities and sports and will have the opportunity to join our Martial Arts classes after school.