



# CHAMINADE

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## COLLEGE PREPARATORY

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CURRICULUM GUIDE  
2014-2015**

**19800 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311  
Phone (818) 363-8127 Fax (818) 363-1219  
[www.chaminade.org](http://www.chaminade.org)**

## COURSES OFFERED

Chaminade College Preparatory is a Catholic school and promotes Christian values through its academic program. All students are required to take the religious education classes and attend the liturgical celebrations and retreats.

The course of studies prepares students for academic success in high school and college. It is a reflection of California State and Common Core Standards, University Requirements, and individualized programs of study. The curriculum is designed to develop academic skills and to foster inquiry, creativity, and a love of learning:

### ***SIXTH GRADE***

#### **REQUIRED**

- ♦ Religious Studies
- ♦ Ancient Civilizations
- ♦ Earth Science
- ♦ Language Writing Skills
- ♦ Literature
- ♦ Mathematics
  - ♦ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math
  - ♦ Honors Mathematics
- ♦ Physical Education

### ***SEVENTH GRADE***

#### **REQUIRED**

- ♦ Religious Studies
- ♦ English
- ♦ Foreign Language
  - ♦ French
  - ♦ Mandarin Chinese
  - ♦ Spanish
- ♦ Life Science
- ♦ Mathematics
  - ♦ Pre-Algebra
  - ♦ Honors Pre-Algebra
  - ♦ Honors Algebra
- ♦ Physical Education
- ♦ World History

### ***EIGHTH GRADE***

#### **REQUIRED**

- ♦ Religious Studies
- ♦ English
- ♦ Foreign Language
  - ♦ French
  - ♦ Mandarin Chinese
  - ♦ Spanish
- ♦ Mathematics
  - ♦ Algebra
  - ♦ Honors Algebra
  - ♦ Honors Geometry
- ♦ Physical Education
- ♦ Physical Science
- ♦ U. S. History to 1877

### **EXPLORATORIES**

*(Based on student interest & teacher availability)*

- ♦ Art
- ♦ Band
- ♦ Drama
- ♦ Music
- ♦ Speech
- ♦ Media Literacy

### **EXPLORATORIES**

*(Based on student interest & teacher availability)*

- ♦ Art
- ♦ Band
- ♦ Music
- ♦ Speech Communications
- ♦ Drama

### **EXPLORATORIES**

*(Based on student interest & teacher availability)*

- ♦ Advanced Speech
- ♦ Art
- ♦ Band
- ♦ Chaminade Live:
  - ♦ Make Your Own Music
- ♦ Drama Production
- ♦ Film Class
- ♦ Leadership 101
- ♦ Mock Trial
- ♦ Photography
- ♦ Yearbook
- ♦ Digital Newspaper

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

### **Philosophy**

The English Department at Chaminade Middle School embraces a belief in the fundamental power of language to define, shape, and enrich lives. In today's climate of instant information, critical language competencies and thinking skills empower students to discern the credible, the reasonable, and the valuable. The successful English curriculum, therefore, must build upon traditional foundations of grammar and composition to provide students with the tools to discover "truth" in an information-saturated society and the skills to communicate clearly as effective citizens. In addition, the curriculum must maintain a broad, inclusive canon that recognizes the realities of an ethnically diverse population without abandoning classic literary selections. Through an intensive reading, writing, speaking, and listening program, the department provides students with a solid body of knowledge and critical thinking skills. The program offers students the opportunity to confront important human issues, and to develop a strong sense of personal, social, and aesthetic values.

### **Literature – Sixth Grade, Yearlong**

Sixth grade literature is an introductory course in the various styles and genres of literature. Students read short stories, poetry, nonfiction, drama, and novels. Concepts such as plot development, characterization, and theme are introduced. Comprehension strategies of finding main ideas and supporting details as well as discerning fact from opinion are reinforced. Students use these skills to develop other comprehension skills such as drawing conclusions and making inferences. Students explore the concept of analysis through writing a variety of responses to literature.

### **Language Skills – Sixth Grade, Yearlong**

Sixth grade language skills are a basic course in the structure and usage of the English language with an emphasis on writing and grammar. Developing students' abilities to write and speak clearly and effectively is the central objective of the course. Exposure to the writing process, along with the development of grammar skills, is the main focus. The course also includes units on punctuation, usage and study skills.

### **English – Seventh Grade, Yearlong**

Seventh grade English uses thematically based units to teach reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, grammar, speaking, and listening. Students read two novels, one fiction and the other non-fiction; in addition, students read a variety of other texts, both fiction and non-fiction, in order to help them understand the historical and literary context of the novels read in class. Vocabulary is taught within the context of the reading assignments. Students learn to weave textual evidence and logical reasoning in their writing, as they experiment with a variety of ways to organize evidence and reasoning in persuasive, expository, and narrative paragraphs and essays

### **English – Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

Eighth grade English focuses on the continuing development of skills of expression and of listening and understanding. Reading material includes a variety of short fiction, poetry, nonfiction essays, novels, and a Shakespearean play. Concepts such as symbolism, plot development, character motivation, and theme are stressed. Students

write analytical papers in which they use direct quotations from the texts to support their theses; they develop their writing fluency in a variety of assignments that may include descriptions, narratives, letters, journal entries, and expository paragraphs. Students are expected to master a basic level of analysis, as well as to develop their critical thinking skills. The course is thematically designed to prepare students for high school level English courses.

## **EXPLORATORIES**

### **Philosophy**

The cornerstone of the Marianist-Catholic education philosophy is “to educate the whole person.” The fine arts are essential for the completion of this Marianist-Catholic philosophy.

The Fine Arts Department of Chaminade College Preparatory Middle School is committed to the belief that students should have the opportunity to explore their potential in several areas. It is the intention of the department to provide a wide selection of experiences within the parameters of the prescribed curriculum. The department further believes that elective courses should provide the opportunity for the exploration and expression of talents in such a way as to create in the student a positive self-image.

The Fine Arts Department places high value on effort, participation, and teamwork. The department recognizes and appreciates the innate talent with which certain students are gifted; however we do not consider talent a prerequisite to success.

### **Music – Sixth & Seventh Grade, One Quarter**

The purpose of the music program is to help students acquire basic musical skills; to gain a keener awareness of their own and other cultures; to develop an appreciation of music of many kinds; to increase a sense of school community; and to develop self-esteem through performance. The following are some of the course offerings, which are chosen according to the abilities and interests of the class:

#### **Discovering Music – Sixth Grade, One Quarter**

In this course students will learn that music is an important part of the lives of all peoples and cultures. The students will discover that music speaks to every person in unique ways, emotionally and intellectually. Through this course, students will develop a basic understanding and knowledge of music which they will carry with them throughout their lives. Topics that will be covered in this course include: Music is Everywhere, What is Rhythm?, Let’s Read and Compose Music, Let’s Play Instruments, Meet the Families of the Orchestra, The Orchestra, The Science of Sound, Meet the Composers, and Music Around the World.

#### **Music – Seventh Grade, One Quarter**

This course continues to explore the basic elements of music in more depth. Students play the recorder and pass through a series of recorder “karate” belts as incentive to learn more advanced note reading and music. Students also play a variety of Orff instruments such as xylophones, metalophones, glockenspiels and timpani as they improvise and explore different rhythm patterns and ensemble playing.

### **Chaminade Live: Make Your Own Music – Eighth Grade, Semester**

This course provides the opportunity to be a part of band or perform as a solo artist. Students will write music and/or play an instrument and sing. This course will foster the creative musical artist, culminating in a final performance at the end of the semester. Talented artists in the music industry will mentor students to get them started on their musical journeys.

## **BAND**

### **Instrumental Music Program**

The instrumental music program is open to all grade levels and is progressive and cumulative. Each ensemble meets two or more times a week during the entire year to build skill, discipline, teamwork and organization. There are also opportunities to be involved with the high school band. Students can be in as many as five ensembles or as few as one. Lessons are a great way to enhance a student's learning.

### **Band – Sixth Grade, Yearlong**

Band is a skill building, full year course that a student may choose. No experience is necessary. Students learn to play together as an ensemble. Those with prior experience have the opportunity to lead sections and or the entire band. Students learn musicianship utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Enjoyment results from the accomplishment created by consistent playing, commitment, discipline, responsibility, practice and teamwork. Students perform at least two concerts. Taking lessons greatly enhances the music playing experience. Concert Band is open to every student in addition to Beginning Band/Intermediate Band I.

### **Band – Seventh Grade, Yearlong**

Band is a skill building, full year course that a student may choose to take. Seventh grade students with absolutely no or little musical experience may take this class. Students learn to play together as an ensemble. Students learn musicianship utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Enjoyment results from the accomplishment created by consistent playing, commitment, discipline, responsibility, practice and teamwork. Students perform at least two concerts. Taking lessons greatly enhances the music playing experience. Intermediate students learn musicianship utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Concert Band is open to every student in addition to Band.

### **Band – Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

#### **Pre-Requisite: Prior experience or enrolled in private lessons**

Students will have the opportunity to learn a computer music program "Finale" where they can either create or arrange their own music. They will also have the opportunity to play in small ensembles if they choose. Students will learn how to perform with good tone production, articulation, sight-reading, and musicianship which depends heavily upon discipline, responsibility, and enjoyment. Students perform at school events and will be involved with the high school band. For further information, please call 818-831-9437.

### **Concert Band**

Students learn musicianship utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Concert Band performs at regional festivals, Disneyland, and participates in music clinics. In addition to regular rehearsals, there are coaching sessions for sections and individual players. Students will also be involved with the high school band. Experience is needed; however, if a student is taking the band elective they may take Concert Band in addition to the Band Class. This course meets daily at 7:00 a.m. and receives a grade.

### **Jazz Band – After School**

Jazz band is in addition to advanced band or beginning band. Students work with a different style of music. Students perform at different events and concerts. 6<sup>th</sup> grade band elective experience is needed. Course meets Wednesdays and Fridays. **This is a non-credit course.**

### **Orchestra – After School**

Students learn musicianship playing orchestral instruments utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Enjoyment results from the accomplishment created by consistent playing, commitment, discipline, responsibility, practice and teamwork. Students perform at school events and concerts. Experience is required. Course meets Tuesdays and Thursdays. **This is a non-credit course.**

### **Percussion Ensemble – After School**

Students learn musicianship playing percussion instruments utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Enjoyment results from the accomplishment created by consistent playing, commitment, discipline, responsibility, practice and teamwork. Students perform at school events and concerts. Experience is required. Course meets Thursdays. **This is a non-credit course.**

### **Prerequisites**

Instructor approval, school spirit, computer experience helpful

## **DRAMA**

### **Drama – Sixth & Seventh Grade, One Quarter**

The drama curriculum is designed to provide the student with an introduction to drama including theater history, acting techniques, play production, and performance. It is the premise of this course that theater skills are life skills. Training in theater can enhance a student's life whether or not that individual has the "talent" or the drive to pursue theater as a career. This course aims to further develop and strengthen basic life skills in the following areas:

- Concentration and cooperation and their application.
- Imagination and observation and their application.
- Physical and verbal expressiveness and their application.

Students will learn the advanced forms of improvisation, which is the basis for all acting.

### **Drama Production Class – Eighth Grade Drama, Yearlong**

This course is designed as an intensive immersion into all areas of theater arts with particular focus on the production process from inception to performance. Students will first learn the history of theater and the art of building a character. Students will then transition into the advanced elements of acting and hands-on theater. The ultimate goal and culmination of this yearlong course will be a production which will be completely designed, produced and/or performed by the students in the class for the Chaminade community and the general public. The production will be performed in the spring semester. If accepted, ALL students will be expected to perform scenes in class as well as in public.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **Art - Sixth Grade quarter long course**

This course will introduce students to the elements of art as well as establishing problem solving skills and creative independence. Students will work in a variety of mediums and create projects that will prepare them for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade art.

### **Art - Seventh Grade quarter long course**

This course will review the basic elements of art and establish concepts of 2-D design. Art history, creative independence as well as practical applications will be the focus of the course. Students will work with a variety of 2-D media to create projects that will prepare them for 3-D design.

### **Art – Eighth Grade, Semester**

This course will review basic 2D design concepts before moving on to 3D design. Art history, aesthetics, cross cultural as well as practical applications will be the focus of the course. Students will work with found objects and a variety of materials to create theme based projects that enhance their relationship with the world around them. Concept to design an implementation to critique will be the underlying curriculum of this semester long art class.

### **Photography – Eighth Grade, Semester**

This course serves as an introduction to basic digital photography and its many uses. Topics covered include composition, lighting, color shutter speed, and aperture. An overview of the history of photography and photographic techniques will also be introduced. In addition, students will receive instruction in using Photoshop.

### **Yearbook – Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

**Pre-Requisite: 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher**

**Yearbook: Course Length – Yearlong**

**Pre-Requisite: 3.5 Cumulative GPA or higher**

This yearlong course is devoted to the production of the school yearbook, Wings. Under the direction of the teacher, the staff is responsible for selecting the yearbook theme, designing the page layout, taking photographs, writing photo captions, and collaboratively building the various sections of the yearbook.

## **MOCK TRIAL/SPEECH AND DEBATE**

### **Speech Communication – Sixth and Seventh Grade, One Quarter**

Students are given the opportunity to develop their public speaking skills and overcome any apprehension they may have about speaking in front of an audience. Activities focus on research, composition, organization, and delivery of informative and persuasive speeches for various purposes and occasions. Students are also introduced to argumentation and participate in a final team debate.

### **Advanced Speech – Eighth Grade, Semester**

#### **Pre-Requisite: Speech Communication – Seventh Grade**

Students will continue to develop their public speaking skills through the study of a variety of speech styles including: Impromptu, Original Oratory, Humorous, and Dramatic Interpretation. Students will also be exposed to public forum and Lincoln Douglas debate formats.

### **Screenwriting/Film Class – Eighth Grade, Semester**

This is a semester long Filmmaking class for eighth grade students based on the American Film Institute's Screen Education curriculum. The focus of the class will be learning how to utilize technology, specifically video, to tell stories digitally. Students will learn to appreciate classic film as well as how to plan, write, film, and edit their own movies.

### **Leadership 101: Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

**Pre-Requisite: Minimum 3.0 GPA, no NI's or U's in citizenship; participated in a Chaminade extracurricular activity during their time at the Middle School.**

**Students must be available for Open House (November) plus one of the following: test-taking strategy classes, the entrance exam, or Saturday interviews. Community service hours will be awarded.**

“The key to success in any endeavor is the ability to lead others successfully.” – Walt Emerson

In this class we will explore what makes a great leader and develop the leader within us. We will focus on learning key concepts of leadership and put them into action by planning and implementing the Middle School Open House. This group of students will work with Admissions in representing the Middle School in our community.

### **Mock Trial and Debate – Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

**Pre-Requisite: 3.2 cumulative GPA or higher – Spring Tryouts required for this course, Teacher Recommendation, and Instructor Approval**

Students will have the opportunity to take the roles of attorneys, witnesses, bailiff, and court clerk as members of Chaminade Mock Trial Team. Students will learn how to prepare a real court case and will compete during the month of November against middle schools from Los Angeles County in the Constitutional Rights Foundation's Mock Trial competition. This program allows students to gain a better understanding of both the content and processes of our legal system; increase basic skills, analytical ability, and self-confidence; develop public speaking skills and learn to work as a team. There will be required after school meetings once a week or as needed while Chaminade remains in

the competition. The second semester is a speech/debate course. Students will participate in several forensic tournaments as part of the Middle School Public Debate League.

### **Digital Newspaper/Newsletter: Eighth Grade, Semester**

This course will introduce students to all the basic and fundamental aspects of a digitally produced and published school newspaper.

Students will learn the basics of journalistic writing as they produce compelling and timely news pieces that are appropriate for their peers and that promote the mission of the school. Students will also learn how to produce pieces that utilize the dynamic elements of a digital newspaper such as embedding interactive features (polls, questionnaires, quizzes, etc.) as well as incorporating video, audio files and digital photography. Additionally, students will learn how to digitally design an appealing and easy to navigate newspaper that appropriately reflects the identity of their school.

Newspapers will be digitally published once every quarter with the possibility of interim, special editions to coincide with special events and/or holidays.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

### **Philosophy**

The Foreign Language Department of Chaminade College Preparatory Middle School is committed to preparing students for continuing their foreign language experience successfully in high school. Additionally, through the study of foreign languages and culture, students increase their global awareness and develop an appreciation for the cultures and contributions of others.

### **Seventh Grade 1A – Yearlong (Spanish, French or Mandarin Chinese)**

The purpose of this course is to achieve mastery of grammatical concepts and vocabulary through current techniques in language acquisition. Students will achieve proficiency in conversation, writing, and reading based on the scope of level 1a Mandarin Chinese, French, or Spanish.

### **Eighth Grade 1B – Yearlong (Spanish, French or Mandarin Chinese)**

The purpose of this course is to continue to build upon the course work of level 1a. The curriculum includes additional vocabulary and more advanced grammatical concepts in preparation for a successful transition into the high school foreign language experience.

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

### **Philosophy**

The Mathematics Department at Chaminade Middle School is committed to the belief that students should learn to appreciate and enjoy both the importance and the beauty of mathematics. Through instruction and practice, students should understand the relationship and patterns of arithmetical operations. Skills in computation, problem solving, and abstract thinking, coupled with an exposure to real life situations are of the

utmost importance in order to develop a positive productive attitude about mathematics. When all these criteria are met, Chaminade students will be well prepared to further their study of mathematics in high school and beyond.

### **Mathematics – Sixth Grade, Yearlong**

Sixth grade mathematics is an extension of the basic operations of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers. The curriculum also includes ratios, proportions, percents, and solving one-step algebraic equations. Basic geometric figures and measurements are explored and reviewed. Critical thinking skills and problem solving skills are developed through real-life applications to reinforce mathematical concepts.

### **Honors Mathematics – Sixth Grade, Yearlong**

Honors sixth grade mathematics reinforces the basic operations of decimals, fractions, integers, and rational numbers. It also covers ratios, proportions, percents, statistics, and solving two-step and multi-step algebraic equations and inequalities. Geometry concepts in the course introduce the measurement and formula processes of geometry. Other geometric concepts include identifying and classifying triangles and quadrilaterals, and graphing linear equations. Consumer mathematics and statistics are touched on briefly.

### **Pre-Algebra – Seventh Grade, Yearlong**

Pre-Algebra introduces the principles of algebra using integers and rational numbers in solving one-step and two-step equations. Areas covered include equations of proportions and percentages, inequalities, graphs and functions, radicals, and polynomials. Foundations in geometry are reviewed and three-dimensional geometric figures and measurements are explored. Verbal problems using real life scenarios are used in each of these areas.

### **Honors Pre-Algebra – Seventh Grade, Yearlong**

Honors Pre-Algebra introduces algebraic concepts. Specific areas include but are not limited to solving number equations and inequalities, graphs, radicals, polynomials, and geometry. Continued development of problem-solving skills plays a pivotal role in this curriculum. The idea of “doing and undoing” is developed and students are taught to see the relationships between the math they are learning and real-world scenarios. Current Chaminade students are admitted to honors pre-algebra by earning the grade of “B” or higher in sixth grade honors math.

### **Algebra – Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

Algebra exposes 8th grade students to a variety of algebraic topics such as exponents, functions, solutions of linear equations, systems of linear equations, graphing, factoring polynomials, rational expressions, and an introduction to quadratics. Verbal problems and relevant applications are used in each of these areas to enhance mastery of these algebraic concepts.

### **Honors/Double Honors Algebra – Seventh or Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

Honors Algebra develops the students’ conceptual knowledge, skills, and strategies essential to understanding sophisticated mathematics. This class builds the background of knowledge crucial for ensuring that students are able to understand and solve increasingly complex problems. Some of the topics covered are properties of real

numbers, solutions of linear equations, graphing, factoring, polynomial computation, rational and irrational expressions, and quadratics.

Current Chaminade students are admitted to honors algebra by earning the grade of “B” or higher in honors pre-algebra. Incoming students are admitted to honors algebra based on their entrance exam and an additional placement test.

### **Geometry - Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

Honors Geometry begins with a rigorous curriculum of proofs based on various theorems and postulates. Second semester focuses on using the theorems and postulates to solve problems based on two and three dimensional geometric figures. Throughout this course, algebraic skills are reviewed and strengthened.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

### **Philosophy**

The Physical Education curriculum has a scope and sequence based on goals and objectives that are appropriate for all students. It includes a balance of skills, concepts, games, rhythms, and dance experiences designed to enhance the cognitive, motor, and physical fitness development of every student.

### **Class Activities**

Each of the activity units varies in length from two weeks to four weeks. The units allow the instructors adequate instructional time to structure the learning environment for success.

The chart below shows the activity units currently being offered. During the year, boys and girls participate in similar units, however, not at the same time. This allows for more efficient use of equipment and available facilities. Physical Education Instructors may not cover all of the activities listed in a single year.

### **Class Activities**

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades

Badminton
Basketball
Circus Arts
Dance
Football
Soccer
Team Building Games
Team Handball
Track and Field
Volleyball
Whiffleball

Chaminade Middle School participates in the Golden Eagle Fitness Challenge. All students are pretested in a battery of fitness tests at the beginning of the year, and then are retested throughout the year. The pretest results are used as a starting point for each student. Post-test results are used to determine individual achievement and improvement. Awards are presented at the end of the year for students that meet the various test standards. The fitness tests are listed below.

## **Fitness Tests**

Push-ups
Curl-ups (Sit-ups)
Shuttle Run
Sit & Reach (Hamstring Flexibility)
Mile Run

## **RELIGION DEPARTMENT**

### **Philosophy**

Chaminade College Preparatory Middle School believes that parents have the primary responsibility for the religious education of their children. The Religion Department provides religious education in the Catholic Christian tradition, which nurtures, supports, and compliments the parental training which students receive. Students are taught the importance of self-discipline, respect for themselves and others, integrity, and service to others. Students are also encouraged to develop their individual talents and to recognize their own self worth. The Religion Department, while embracing the mission “to teach as Jesus did”, respects and celebrates the religious diversity of its student body.

### **Religion – Sixth Grade, Yearlong**

In the sixth grade, students study Old Testament scriptures with an emphasis on the biblical roots of their faith. God is presented as the Creator, who cares deeply for His people and interacts in their lives. Special focus is placed on the importance of prayer, the celebration of liturgy, and an understanding of the events in the liturgical calendar. Students also explore Catholic values concerning family life and morality. Through these studies and by applying Biblical lessons to their daily lives, students learn to appreciate their God-given talents as well as the gifts and talents of those around them.

### **Religion – Seventh Grade, Yearlong**

In the seventh grade, students focus on the life, values, and person of Jesus as well as liturgy and the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Students are challenged to live a life-style that involves trust, the ability to handle temptation and the knowledge to make moral decisions. Students are guided towards an understanding of the importance of faith, and establishing a personal relationship with God through a study of the life of Christ, prayer, and an awareness of Social Justice issues in our world today. In addition, seventh grade morality deals with an Introduction to Sexual Education with a focus on virtues of chastity, purity, and modesty.

### **Religion – Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

In the eighth grade, students identify individual beliefs and value systems, and students are encouraged to make decisions based on what is responsible and what is moral. Through the study of the history of the Catholic Church, students are given a religious foundation, which teaches that the life of Jesus is an example of total commitment to God. Using the example of Christ, students come to an understanding of their individual self-worth and the need for them to make faith-filled commitments to themselves, their community, and their God.

### **Sacramental Preparation in the Catholic Faith**

For Students Desirous of Preparing for Sacraments of Baptism and/or Holy Eucharist. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults/Children (RCIA/RCIC) is a process by which young people are initiated into the Catholic faith. It is open to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, both baptized and non-baptized, who have not yet received the sacraments of Baptism, Penance, and Eucharist.

Chaminade, in partnership with St. John Eudes Parish, offers this preparation process for students and families who are interested. Students meet on campus during x-block for special instruction, and on Sunday mornings during the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. John Eudes Parish, located in Chatsworth.

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

### **Philosophy**

The Science Department is devoted to the concept of enhancing student growth in the understanding of scientific concepts and the development of both cognitive and effective scientific thinking skills. In-depth reasoning is encouraged through hands-on science laboratory assignments as well as the integration of mathematics, English grammar concepts, and computer technology.

Students are taught to value their role as part of a complex environment including the solar system, the earth, the science of all life, and the physical universe. Student enthusiasm is generated and utilized through hands-on investigation and activities. Effective thinking skills are enhanced by acknowledging that scientific knowledge complements the Universal Truth of God's existence. The overall philosophy of the department is to develop in students a sense of wonder and responsibility as guardians of God's creation as they study the universe using a controlled and systematic approach.

### **Earth Science – Sixth Grade, Yearlong**

Earth science is designed to provide students with an understanding of the Earth as it relates to life, physical, and environmental science. The program focuses attention on the general characteristics of the earth and also the constantly changing dynamics of our planet. Through meaningful, scientifically conducted laboratory activities, students gain an appreciation of what is happening within, on, and above our planet. There is an emphasis throughout the curriculum on the importance of science to everyday life.

### **Life Science – Seventh Grade, Yearlong**

The seventh grade science curriculum is devoted to the study of the major branches of life science: cell physiology, microbiology, botany, zoology, human anatomy, physiology, and genetics. Throughout the year the students investigate the features, functions, and relationships among representative organisms in the six kingdoms. The program is further enhanced by involving the students in hands-on laboratory investigations or activities that follow scientific methods and are specifically designed for the material being studied. Laboratory safety is consistently stressed.

### **Physical Science – Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

Physical science is a course which explores elementary concepts and principles of chemistry and physics. Emphasis is placed on the process and activities of the physical sciences as they are experienced in everyday lives. Areas of study and activities include scientific measurement, properties of matter, basic atomic theory, periodic table relationships, chemical reactions, force, motion, energy, and principles of chemistry and physics. Students enhance their skill set by using the scientific method, critical thinking, process and problem solving, math and graphing, basic computer technology, and laboratory techniques necessary to become successful in subsequent science courses.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

### **Philosophy**

The goal of the Social Studies Department is to develop literate citizens with both an active global awareness and respect for the cultures that have enriched and affected our society. The department, accepting the mandates of the State Framework and National Standards, seeks to educate future citizens who will take responsibility for their world. The program weaves together essential knowledge and skills that will enable students to understand the complexities of our world. Additionally, the department seeks to motivate students to become actively involved in our pluralistic society and develop a recognition of and respect for human rights.

### **Ancient World History – Sixth Grade, Yearlong**

Students explore the periods of the time from prehistory through the rise of Rome. The course links our modern society to the events, inventions, and ideals of past civilizations. Specific civilizations that are examined in depth include Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. In conjunction with this, students explore ancient and modern world geography. Course work seeks to develop each student's critical thinking skills, geographic literacy, and research skills.

### **World History – Seventh Grade, Yearlong**

Seventh grade world history is an overview of the social, political, economic, and geographic factors that have influenced the history of western civilization from the fall of Rome to the Age of Exploration. The course focuses on many major topics of European history including the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the rise of the Modern State. The course also examines the civilizations that developed in Africa and Asia during the same period. Course work stresses the development and improvement of critical thinking skills, historical research techniques, geographic literacy, and interpretation of edited primary source material.

### **United States History to 1877 – Eighth Grade, Yearlong**

United States history examines the main features of the American experience from colonial times to the beginnings of the twentieth century. Major topics studied include Colonial America, the Revolutionary War, the Early National Period, Jacksonian Democracy, the Westward Movement, Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrialization, and Immigration. Course work emphasizes the development and refinement of critical thinking skills, geographic literacy, recognizing cause and effect relationships, the historical writing process, historical research techniques, and the interpretation of edited primary source material.