

# Rotations

## **Spanish**

Learning a second language today plays a prominent role in a successful tomorrow. At St. Gregory the Great, students are provided with the tools to learn Spanish the way one learns a native language, hearing the language and repeating what one hears. An individual does not begin by studying grammar; one first learns how to say things, how they sound and what they mean. Once the basics are learned, grammar can be incorporated. At St. Gregory the Great, the opportunity to earn Spanish begins at the pre-k3 level and progresses each year through the Grade 8. The upper unit (Grades 6, 7 and 8) program is more formal and uses a textbook and accompanying workbooks. The goal of the pre-k through grade 5 program is to make the learning of Spanish as easy and as pleasant an experience as possible and to give the students sufficient command of the language to get along in simple situations with fundamental words and phrases.

### **Grades PreK – 2**

Experience the Spanish language through units of study. Vocabulary and simple phrases are introduced and reinforced through activities and exercises for each theme. Music, story telling, and rhymes are just a few of the activities used to teach Spanish. Oral language skills are modeled and practiced with a strong emphasis on speaking in complete sentences.

### **Grades 3 – 5**

The children learn Spanish by creating original skits. It is a unique, yet widely used technique for second language learners. With guidance from the instructor, the students as groups decide upon a topic or theme and create a list of vocabulary and simple phrases to be used in the skit, and then the children write the script. While writing and practicing the skit, students are learning the vocabulary and phrases and using them in a concrete, meaningful, and hands-on activity. This technique makes learning the language fun and allows the students to have input in their learning experience. The instructor guides the children throughout the activity, ensuring the learning objectives are being met for each grade level.

## **Music**

### **Grades Pre-K – Kindergarten:**

Having Fun with Music:

Rhythm Activities, including Rhythm Band

Singing

Guided Movement

Identifying Various Instruments

Basic Music Theory

Musical Performance

## **Grade 1**

Having Fun with Music:  
Rhythm Activities, including Rhythm Band  
Singing  
Guided Movement  
Identifying Various Instruments  
Elementary Music Theory  
Musical Performance

## **Grades 2 - 5**

Learn to play a Recorder and Keyboard  
Music Theory  
Musical Performance

## **Grade 8**

Music History/Appreciation  
Music Theory  
Learn to play a Keyboard

## **Physical Education**

Frequency: 90-135 minutes of P.E. per week  
A combination of Archdiocesan and TEKS guidelines are followed in the daily curriculum.

### **Grades PreK – 1**

Introduction, manipulative, loco motor and non-loco motor skills  
Movement Education  
Rhythmical Activities  
Cardiovascular Activities  
Games

### **Grades 2 – 3**

Master locomotor and non-locomotor skills  
Sports Fundamentals  
Manipulative skills introduced  
Movement Education  
Rhythmical – group and line dancing  
Cardiovascular lead off activities to sports

### **Grades 4 – 5**

Manipulative, loco motor skills more related to sport activities  
Rhythmical dance – line dancing, group dancing  
Strong Fundamental Movement and Rules Units – volleyball, basketball, soccer and softball

### **Grades 6 – 7**

Master basic fundamental skills in strong athletic units  
Rhythmical/partner dancing (ballroom, country/western, line dancing)  
Cardiovascular conditioning, fitness testing (20 mins./week)

## **Grade 8**

### **Health & Fitness**

#### **Textbook: Being Healthy, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich**

Health and Fitness class is divided between basic anatomy and a yoga workout. The goal of this class is to help students become healthier, to educate them on basic anatomy, become more flexible and have a better understanding of how the body works.

The book work pertains to the education of the human body and how to keep their bodies physically fit. The students are introduced to basic concepts of physically fitness and basic

anatomy. The course will define in detail 5 major body systems. The students will be able to name the main functions of each body system and how each body system works. The students will be able to identify, locate and know the major function of each body system parts.

The Fitness workout consists of yoga, and fitness conditioning. Students learn the correct breathing techniques and postures for a controlled yoga workout. During this process, the student learn to challenge themselves physically and mental discovering their weakness and strengths. As the students journey through the semester, yoga will help them to develop and accept their physical weaknesses and learn to challenge and enhance their physical strengths.

The students also have many opportunities to meditate. Meditation helps students to relax and focus within, leaving them refreshed and ready to take on daily challenges. The main goal is to help students learn to control their bodies, and temperament. If students learn to control their breathing they learn to control their temper. Controlling temperament will help them make better choice when confronted with difficult situations.

## **Library**

The newly renovated library is located in the original St. Gregory the Great Church. This unique environment houses an 18,000 volume collection of literature ranging from Pre-Kinder through Grade 8. The library is open from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. every school day. Parents and students may check books in and out before and after school. The Library has five stand-alone computers for student use. These may be used for book selection, report writing, and to access the internet.

### **Grades PreK-3 - 5**

Students are scheduled to visit the library each week accompanied by their teachers. The library time is used to:

- Learn library use skills
- Listen to stories by a variety of authors
- Enjoy songs and videos to reinforce classroom instruction
- Select books for check out
- Look at magazines
- Use the computers to locate a book or take an Accelerated Reader Test
- Enjoy the displays of student projects in the library

### **Grades 6 - 8**

Students visit the library on Fridays accompanied by their Language Arts teacher. Students may come to the library anytime during the school day with permission from their teacher. Library research is a rotation subject.

## **Technology**

### **Grade PreK3**

This year, the Pre-K3 children will be introduced to the computer. They will play various computer games to help them become accustomed to the mouse and learn how to use it correctly. They will also be taught the major parts of the computer. In addition, the children will learn how to click on specific icons, such as Microsoft Word and Paint. They will also have the opportunity to create drawings and documents using these two programs.

### **Grade PreK4**

The technology curriculum for Pre-K4 students will build on the skills that they learned last year. This year, the children will learn the basic parts of the computer. They will play various

computer games to help them become accustomed to the mouse and learn how to use it correctly. They will also learn how to click on specific icons. In computer class, we will use Microsoft Word, Paint and Excel. In addition to learning these programs, the children will also know how to save their documents and place them into a file. The internet will also be introduced this year. The children will be able to navigate from one website to another, using approved websites that are listed in the *favorites* file.

### **Kindergarten**

- Keyboarding (letter location, space bar, enter key, shift key)
- Basic computer terminology
- Creating, naming, saving, and accessing files
- Logging on and off the network
- Printing documents using the printer icon
- Opening programs using desktop icons
- Microsoft Word
  - Entering text in a new document
  - Changing font size and/or color in an existing document
  - Using *shift* and *backspace* keys
- PowerPoint
  - Opening an existing document to complete an activity
- Excel
  - Entering data on an existing spreadsheet
- Paint
  - Creating pictures using paint tools
- Internet Explorer
  - Clicking on *favorites* to view a web site
  - Navigating using *back*, *forward* and *home* buttons

### **Grade 1**

- Basic computer terminology
- Learning the Control Panel
- Logging on and off the network
- Creating, naming, saving and accessing files
- Using CD-ROM tray and accessing programs or files on CD
- Printing using the *print* icon or selecting *print* in *file* drop-down menu
- Changing font size and type in Word
- Inserting clipart in Word
- Creating new documents in Word
- Opening an existing file in Excel
- Paint

### **Grade 2**

- Keyboarding (home keys, shift key, enter key, space bar)
- Logging on and off the network
- Creating, naming, saving, and accessing files
- Burning a saved file onto a CD-R
- Using *undo* feature in MS Office applications to recover previous work
- Scanning pictures into the computer
- Using a microphone on the computer

- Reviewing Control Panel features
  - Using proper technology terminology
  - Printing documents
  - PowerPoint (introduction)

### **Grade 3**

- Keyboarding (spacing, correct posture, CAP lock, Tab, Delete, Backspace)
- Start menu (all programs)
- Creating a shortcut on the desktop
- Using an internet search engine
- Using Cut/Paste and Copy/Paste to move text, clip art
- PowerPoint (adding a slide, changing font style, color and size, creating backgrounds, inserting clip art and sounds)
- Word (see keyboarding)
- Publisher (introduction: creating greeting cards)

### **Grade 4**

- Keyboarding
- PowerPoint (slide design, slide layout, using Microsoft Online, slide transitions, animation schemes)
- Using a digital camcorder (introduction)
- Movie Maker (introduction)
- Networking (introduction- mapping a network drive)
- Word (using spell check, thesaurus)
- Tying in URLs into the address bar
- Saving a website to Favorites
- Using Internet Browser toolbar icons.
- Saving a project onto a CD-R
- Saving documents into a networked folder.

### **Grade 5**

- Using a digital camera
- Saving a movie into the computer
- Keyboarding (typing 15 wpm)
- Using the right-click on the mouse as shortcut to options
- Internet Research (using a search engine-specifying topics)
- Minimizing/Maximizing (working with multiple programs)
- Excel (introduction-graphs, spreadsheets)
- Word (editing, inserting images, using editing shortcuts, word art, preview feature, line spacing, margins)
- Movie Maker
- Saving a completed project to a CD-R
- Mapping a network drive (creating student folder, saving documents in this folder)
- Keyboarding (typing at least 20 wpm)

## Grade 6

- Keyboarding (typing at least 25 wpm)
- Accessing files in the student's personal directory and files saved in the network directory
- Microsoft Word
  - Use *Draw* tools
  - Insert *Bullets* and *Numbering*
  - Insert *Header and Footers*
  - Modify document by utilizing items in the *Format* menu
  - Format documents by inserting *Borders and Shading*
- Excel
  - Create a spreadsheet that includes: text, numeric values and various formulas
  - Adjust margins
  - Merge and center cells
  - Utilize the *Draw* menu
- PowerPoint
  - Use the *Draw* menu
  - Insert a *hyperlink*
  - Set up slide show to continuously loop
- Publisher
  - Create brochures, letterhead and business cards
- MovieMaker
  - Download digital videos from a camcorder
  - Create a movie (including text and transitions)
- Internet Research
- Blogging
- Technology terminology