

## Middle School Theology

Note: In the fall of 2016, the Archdiocese of Boston released detailed Faith Formation Standards for use in all Archdiocesan schools. BSS is currently using these standards to evaluate the content and objectives of our current Theology curriculum, to ensure alignment with these standards at all grade levels.

	<u>Skills &amp; Learning Objectives</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>BSS Difference</u>
<b>Grade 6</b>	<p>THEME A: THE COVENANT AS A TESTAMENT BETWEEN GOD AND ISRAEL IN THE JEWISH SCRIPTURES AND BETWEEN GOD AND THE WHOLE HUMAN COMMUNITY IN THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES ESTABLISHED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understand the Bible as a revelation of God’s saving love.</li> <li>● Understand how God’s saving love was manifested toward the people of God in the Jewish Scriptures/Old Testament.</li> <li>● Understand how God used special people (Kings, prophets, etc.) to form the Israelites into a community.</li> <li>● Understand that God chose leaders to help bring about the promised covenant.</li> <li>● Understand that the Church is a community of those who have been called to acknowledge that Lordship of Jesus and to</li> </ul>	<p>Continuous focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prayer</li> <li>● The Liturgical Year</li> </ul> <p>Textbook:</p> <p><i>We Believe</i>. Vol. 6. New York: Sadlier, 2011. Print. <i>We Are God's People</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapter 1 - God’s Revelation = Scripture and Tradition</li> <li>● Chapter 2 - Creation</li> <li>● Chapter 3 - People Turn from God</li> <li>● Chapter 4 - God Promises to Help People</li> <li>● Chapter 5: The Patriarchs - God Chooses a People</li> <li>● Chapter 8 - An Enslaved People</li> </ul>	<p>40 Words Every Catholic Should Know</p> <p>STREAM research and project on Social Justice principle 1</p> <p>Complete portion of Social Justice portfolio</p> <p>Potential participation in Pilgrimage for Life</p> <p>Matthew 25 Service Program</p>

	<p>be a sign of communion with God to others (Lumen Gentium).</p> <p>THEME B: WE ARE CALLED BY GOD TO CHOOSE LIFE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize the unborn as human beings.</li> <li>• Understand that we are to respect all life.</li> <li>• Understand that respect for life includes caring for the earth and our environment.</li> </ul> <p>THEME C: WE ARE CALLED TO CARE FOR THE GIFT OF SEXUALITY GIVEN TO US BY OUR LOVING GOD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the ways the gift of human sexuality relates to the whole person: physical, emotional, spiritual, social and intellectual.</li> <li>• Understand the friendships help to meet our need for love, care, and acceptance.</li> <li>• Understand different types of peer pressure and ways to resist and handle peer pressure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 9 - A Free People</li> </ul> <p>The Liturgical Year Graphic Project</p> <p>Social Justice Principle 1</p> <p>Diocesan program: "God's Plan for Life and Love" Book and video clips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identity</li> </ul>	
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Grade 7			
<b>Grade 7</b>	<p><b>THEME A: THE PERSON, MESSAGE, AND MISSION OF JESUS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understand the historical Jesus through an informed reading of the Gospels</li> <li>● Understand the message of Jesus.</li> <li>● Examine the mission of Jesus the Christ</li> <li>● Understand the meaning of the mystery of Christ for contemporary Christian life.</li> </ul> <p><b>THEME: B. WE ARE CALLED BY GOD TO RESPECT THE HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understand that the human person fashioned in God's image has inherent rights that are to be protected and promoted.</li> <li>● Understand that peace flows from justice.</li> <li>● Understand that we are called to be peacebuilders.</li> </ul>	<p>Continuous focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prayer</li> <li>● The Liturgical Year</li> </ul> <p>Textbook:</p> <p><i>We Live Our Faith, as Disciples of Jesus. New York: William H. Sadlier, 2007. Print.</i></p> <p>Scripture and the Gospels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alternative Assessment: Gospel Step Book Chapters 1, 2, 5</li> </ul> <p>Jesus the Messiah - the Promised Fulfillment of Salvation History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapter 7</li> </ul> <p>Jesus - the Incarnation - both God and Man Mary, Mother of God</p>	<p>Summer focus: Scripture - explore one Gospel of choice</p> <p>70 Words Every Catholic Should Know (inclusive of Grade 6 words)</p> <p>"The Nativity Story" Movie and essay</p> <p>"Altaration" by Ascension Press</p> <p>Movie and essay: God is Not Dead</p> <p>STREAM research and project on Social Justice principle 1, 4, and 7.</p>

	<p>THEME C: WE ARE CALLED TO SHARE OUR SEXUALITY IN THE WAY GOD INTENDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a deep appreciation of uniqueness as reflections of God and that they are of inestimable worth.</li> <li>• Differentiate between “sex” and “sexuality”.</li> <li>• Develop an awareness that emotions are strong feelings that have an impact on our behavior.</li> <li>• Realize and appreciate that despite original sin, all human life in its physical, psychological and spiritual aspects i fundamentally good.</li> <li>• Understand that at every stage of fetal development we are talking of a unique human person.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 8</li> </ul> <p>Jesus the Teacher and Healer The Parables The Beatitudes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapters 9 and 10</li> </ul> <p>Jesus, the Savior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapters 11 and 12</li> <li>• Chapter 16</li> </ul> <p>The Eucharist/The Mass</p> <p>Diocesan program: “God’s Plan for Life and Love” Book and video clips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living a Life of Love and Virtue</li> <li>• God’s Call and My Response</li> </ul>	<p>Complete portion of Social Justice portfolio.</p> <p>Matthew 25 Service Program</p> <p>Opportunity to take part in the diocesan Pilgrimage for Life.</p>
<p><b>Grade 8</b></p>	<p>THEME A: THE HISTORY AND MISSION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the origins and purpose of the</li> </ul>	<p>Continuous focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer</li> <li>• The Liturgical Year</li> </ul>	<p>Summer focus: Scripture - Acts of the Apostles</p>

<p>Church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the history of the Church from the Post-Apostolic Era</li> <li>• Examine the mission of the Church.</li> <li>• Understand the meaning of the mystery of the Church in the modern world.</li> </ul> <p>THEME B: ALL LIFE IS GOOD, BUT HUMAN LIFE IS PRECIOUS!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand that at every stage of fetal development we are talking of a unique human person.</li> <li>• Understand living by the principle of a “consistent life ethic”.</li> </ul> <p>THEME C: WE ARE CALLED BY GOD TO RESPECT OUR SEXUALITY AND TO EXPRESS OUR SEXUALITY IN WAYS THAT ARE LIFE-GIVING, LOVE-GIVING AND APPROPRIATE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand an openness to receiving love and giving love in accord with their level of maturity.</li> </ul>	<p>Movie and essay: “The Fourth Wise Man”</p> <p>Textbook: <i>We Live Our Faith. as Members of the Church.</i> New York, NY: Sadlier, 2007. Print.</p> <p>The Early Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 7</li> <li>• Apostles Research</li> </ul> <p>Channing Bete -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The History of the Catholic Church</li> <li>• Timeline project</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the Church?</li> <li>• What does it mean to be Catholic?</li> <li>• Chapter 21 - Images of the Church, Marks of the Church</li> <li>• Church Map project</li> <li>• Chapter 22 - Sacrament, prayer and liturgy</li> </ul>	<p>100 Words Every Catholic Should Know (inclusive of Grade 6 and 7 words)</p> <p>STREAM research and project on Social Justice principle 1-7</p> <p>Complete portion of Social Justice portfolio.</p> <p>Active learning activities that simulate justice/ injustice.</p> <p>Matthew 25 Service Program</p> <p>Opportunity to take part in the diocesan Pilgrimage for Life.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● understand the Church's teaching regarding sexuality and sexual activity.</li> <li>● Understand that mature Christian sexuality, in whatever state of life, demands a life-enriching commitment to other persons and to community.</li> <li>● Affirm chastity and respect for sexuality as essential to a consistent life ethic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapter 23 - Pope, Bishops, Vocations, Parish work</li> <li>● Social Justice Unit and portfolio</li> <li>● Chapter 19 - Caring for the Whole Human Family</li> <li>● Right to Life video clips</li> </ul> <p>Diocesan program:  "God's Plan for Life and Love"  Book and video clips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● God's Call and My Response</li> <li>● Freedom/Happiness</li> <li>● Chapter 1 - The Goodness of God</li> <li>● Chapter 2 - Making Moral Choices</li> <li>● Chapter 3 - Introduction to the Ten Commandments, The Great Commandment, The Beatitudes</li> <li>● Chapters 4-6 - The Ten Commandments in</li> </ul>	
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