At a Glance:

Eighth Grade at St. Peter’s School

Eighth Grade Special Events, Traditions and Celebrations

**Interscholastic Sports**
In Sixth Grade students begin to participate in interscholastic soccer and basketball games. Riding the school bus with teammates and representing St. Peter’s School at away matches gives our oldest students the opportunity to share their talents and sportsmanship with opponents. During Basketball season, our team enjoys the opportunity to have home matches at Old Pine Community Center.

**Upper School Chorus**
All Fifth through Eighth Grade students sing in the St. Peter’s School Chorus. Regular rehearsals are used in preparation for special performances at Grandparents and Special Friends Day, Celebration of Light, Arts Festival, Harvest Festival and Graduation.

**Fall Leadership Retreat**
Each fall the Seventh and Eighth Grades, along with faculty, go on a three day Leadership Retreat. This trip fosters camaraderie and leadership as the students work together to overcome challenges and solve problems. Paired with environmental science learning, the leadership retreat is a favorite privilege for our oldest students.

**Drexel Sleep Center**
Students study the link between Neurology and Sleep as part of their investigations of human anatomy and physiology. Marc Johnson (Class of 1984) tours the students around the clinic and they take part in an actual, live sleep study.

**Eighth Grade Author Trip**
Each year the Eighth Grade students visit a relevant site related to an author they study in depth. Recent visits have included Victorian homes, a Shakespeare exhibit, Mark Twain’s house in Connecticut, a special Dickens exhibit at the Free Library.
**Faculty-Eighth Grade Basketball Game**
The Eighth Grade faces the faculty in an annual game held in the spring.

**Eighth Grade Play**
The Eighth Grade performs a play based on their yearlong study of one of four literary greats – Austen, Twain, Dickens and Shakespeare.

**Faculty-Eighth Grade Luncheons**
Twice a year the Eighth Grade and the Faculty of St. Peter’s School gather for a formal, catered luncheon. These luncheons are opportunities for the School to thank our Eighth Grade students for their leadership and stewardship in our community.

**The Philadelphia Book**
The Philadelphia Book, created by each student, is a large album-like research project filled with information and reflections he or she has gathered from visiting many historic sites in and around Philadelphia.

**English Folio**
The English Author Folio is the culmination of the Upper School writing program. The Folio contains critical essays and a research paper, as well as myriad of writing assignments devoted to the specific author of study and his/her life and times. With each piece of the Folio, the students review and refine the previously learned language usage rules. They develop an ease of expression and a personal style through the frequent writing assignments, which are edited and corrected.

**Graduation**
Graduation is a formal occasion held in St. Peter’s Church and celebrated with music, pomp and circumstance. Graduation celebrates the Eighth Grade students’ achievements as they move to secondary schools. It also marks the First through Seventh Grades as they move on to their next year. All students recite the St. Peter’s School Motto, “Get Wisdom, Get Understanding.” Citizenship awards are given as well as the Silver Bowl to the winning Garnet or Grey team.

**Eighth Grade Curriculum Details**

**Art**
- Mixed Media
  - Build a structure for a clock, place a battery operated clock mechanism somewhere in the structure
- Wood Sculpture
  - 3-D lamps
  - Using electric tools for woodworking
- Collage
- Drawing/Sketching
- Clay
- 2D Pen and Ink
• 2D Bruch and Ink
• Painting
  o Water color
  o Acrylic
• Wire Sculpture
  o 3-D aluminum wire sculpture
  o Aluminum wire heads
• Artist Series
  o Still life
  o Matisse
  o Horace Pippin
  o Georgia O'Keefe

**French**

• Grammar
  o Review of –er verbs
  o Review irregular verbs, avoir, faire, etre, aller
  o Review of possessive adjectives
  o Near-future tense review
  o –ir verb conjugations
  o –re verb conjugations
  o Irregular verbs
    ▪ Venir
    ▪ Sortir
    ▪ Prendre
    ▪ Mettre
    ▪ Voir
  o Idiomatic expressions
  o Demonstrative and interrogative adjectives
  o Partitive article
  o Imperative
  o Passe compose of all regular verbs using avoir
  o Passe compose of all regular verbs using etre
  o Passe compose of basic irregular verbs
  o Adverb formation
  o Review of all articles
  o Future tense of regular verbs
  o Negative expressions
  o Advanced reading comprehension
  o Near past tense
• Vocabulary
  o Adjectives
  o Family
  o Nationalities
  o Professions
  o Additional verb infinitives
• Expressions with avoir, etre, faire
• Past tense vocabulary
• Weekend activities
• Getting around Paris
• Identity

• Culture
  • Family and everyday life in France
  • Food and meals in France
  • Francophone current events
  • Geography and regions of France
  • Paris
  • Tour de France
  • Holidays in France
  • Government of France

History
• From Europe to the Founding and Establishment of America serves as the content focus to develop the following skills and concepts:
  ○ Study of examples of religious persecution across Europe as a means of understanding the colonization of America.
  ○ Examine basic economic concepts that led to the exploration and colonization of the Americas.
  ○ Exploration of the concept of “utopia” as a reason for the founding of Philadelphia.
  ○ Study the influences of the philosophers of the Enlightenment period on our Founding Fathers as a means to understanding European influences on early America.
  ○ Students study the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution as a means of learning about conventions, representation and compromise within government structures.
  ○ Study of indentured servitude and the institution of slavery as a means to examining the challenges facing our new nation.

• Skill development focuses on the following:
  ○ Use of weekly walking tours to explore the city of Philadelphia as representative of the early history of America
  ○ Emphasis on collaborative learning
  ○ Debating skills
  ○ Persuasive writing
  ○ Formal writing
  ○ Web 2.0 literacy
  ○ Works Cited Lists
    ■ MLA Format
    ■ Use of electronic resources to create citations and Works Cited Lists.

• Test Preparations/Study Skills
  ○ Developing test preparation skills and habits
  ○ Developing test taking skills and habits
  ○ Learning a variety of note taking forms
  ○ Learning outlining skills
- Learning how to respond to different types of test questions
  - True/false
  - Short answer
  - Essay/paragraph

**Language Arts**
- Reading
  - Application of established skills to all types of reading
- Writing
  - Review and refinement of previously learned language usage rules
  - Development of ease of expression and a personal style through frequent writing assignments plus corrections of errors in these assignments
  - Writing critical essays
  - Writing a research paper
  - All writing assignments are part of the *English Author Folio*
- Vocabulary
  - Vocabulary study through literature
  - Wordmasters Analogies

Texts:
- *Language Exercises G*
- *Exercises in English Grammar II*

**Literature**
- Eighth Grade English students study one of four authors: William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, or Mark Twain.
- Eighth Grade students read books by authors from other years even though they are in a certain author year.
- The study of Literature in 8th Grade focuses on one theme: *Values Through Literature*
- Literary skills further developed include:
  - Plot
  - Setting
  - Climax
  - Resolution
  - Character
  - Different genres
    - Fiction
    - Nonfiction drama
    - Poetry
    - Short stories
    - Literary and poetical devices
      - Metaphor
      - Simile
      - Personification
      - Alliteration
- Study of the following selections (varies by “author year” and subject to change):
  - *Midsummer Night's Dream*
- The Tempest
- Pride and Prejudice
- Sense and Sensibility
- Great Expectations
- A Christmas Carol
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- The Prince and the Pauper
- Poems that Live Forever, poetry anthology

**Math**

- **Quantitative Concepts**
  - Square root
  - Algebraic patterns leading to addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

- **Counting and Numeration**
  - Scientific notation for large and small numbers
  - Understanding sets of natural numbers, whole numbers, integers, real numbers, rational numbers, irrational numbers, pi and the square root of 2

- **Measurement**
  - Standard and metric measurement
  - Measuring distance, volume and area
  - Temperature in Fahrenheit and Celsius

- **Estimation**
  - Estimating all problems before solving

- **Telling time**
  - Time used as an independent variable

- **Operations**
  - Order of operations, parentheses and brackets
  - All operations with exponents and polynomials
  - Factorials in equations

- **Place value**
  - Scientific notation for large and small numbers

- **Word problems**
  - Applying Polya’s methods to more difficult multi-step problems

- **Decimals**
  - Mastery of decimal notation
  - Mastery of decimal-factions-percent relationship

- **Sets**
  - Studying intersection of sets and union of sets

- **Fractions**
  - Complex fractions
  - Fractions in polynomials

- **Geometry**
  - Using formulas to calculate area and volume
  - Understanding triangle inequality formula
* Some advanced 8th graders have an introduction to geometry including definitions, theorems, and if-then statements in addition to points, lines, angles, triangles, polygons, reflections, transformation and congruence

- Algebraic concepts
  - Solving multi-step equations and inequalities
  - Quadratic equation
  - Factoring perfect squares
  - Formulas
- Graphing
  - Graphing linear and nonlinear equations and inequalities on the coordinate plane
  - Slope, intercept and point – slope form
  - Slides, flips, rotations
- Rounding
  - Rounding, up, down, and truncating in different situations
- Factors and Multiples
  - Prime factorization
- Equalities and Inequalities
  - Properties of equality
  - Solving and graphing linear inequalities
  - Solving absolute value inequalities
  - Solving and graphing systems of linear inequalities
- Ratio and Proportion
  - Solving rates of equations
  - Units of acceleration
  - Velocity of distance
- Functions
  - Graphing linear and non linear functions
  - Dependent and independent variables
- Calculators
  - Using calculators for most work
  - Introduction to graphing calculators
- Scientific Notation
  - Scientific notation for large and small numbers
- Statistics
  - Mean, median, mode and range
  - Collecting/displaying data
  - Interpreting data

**Music**

- Singing
  - All Upper School students sing in the St. Peter’s School Chorus
- Playing Instruments
  - Advanced hand bells and Orff instruments.
- Music Literacy
  - A continuation of Orff and Kodaly is used for choral music reading
Movement
- Interpreting music through creative movement, drama, and folk dance

Listening
- A variety of music from folk to classical to world music is used in the classroom.

Improvising and composing
- Students create music in group projects through singing and playing classroom instruments
- Students write canons and blues songs

Form
- Identifying forms such as Fugue and 12-bar Blues.

Style
- Study of Baroque Music and Jazz.

Performances:
- Declamations
- Harvest Festival
- Grandparent’s Day
- Celebration of Light
- Graduation
- Opportunity to perform in recitals
- English country, modern American and International Folk Dancing at May Day

Science
- Skills built and/or reinforced over the course of 8th Grade Science include:
  - Content reading
  - Note taking
  - Test preparation
  - Research and writing
  - Observation
  - Data acquisition (analog and digital)
  - Graphing and data interpretation
  - Safe lab practices
  - Scientific method
  - Critical thinking
  - Oral expression
  - Defining and distinguishing concepts
  - Discussion of current events
  - Structural understanding
  - Observation
  - Microscope and slide preparation
  - Dissection technique
  - Off campus study

- Topics studied in 8th Grade Science include:
- Nervous System
- Endocrine System
- Optics
- Electromagnetic Spectrum
- Auditory System
- Integumentary System
- Genetics
- Heredity
- Motion
- Force
- Pressure
- Physics
- Plate Tectonics

**Sports**
- Fitness
  - Exercises and Stretching
  - Running/Distance Running
  - Track and Field
    - 220m, 440m, mile run, broad jumps, hurdles
- Manipulative Skills
  - Baseball/Softball/Kickball
    - Throwing, catching, hitting, base running
    - Interscholastic games
  - Soccer/Basketball
    - Dribbling, passing, shooting
    - Interscholastic games
  - Floor Hockey
  - Swimming
  - Lacrosse
- Team Sports/Interscholastic Competition
  - Soccer
  - Basketball
  - Softball

**Technology**
- **Office Tools**
  - Move individual documents back and forth between MS Word and Apps for Education in order to take advantage of tools on both platforms during the creation of a single project
  - Create spreadsheets containing dynamically changing data such as financial or weather information. Develop scripts and macros to manipulate and graph dynamically changing data
  - Create forms to collect data for science projects
- **Design**
  - Design and model 3-D spaces using Google Sketchup. Create accurate to-scale virtual models of real spaces and objects. Redesign real spaces and create virtual walking tours and presentation halls
• Video production and editing

• Programming
  o Create fully interactive games and applications using Macromedia Flash.
    Focus on the use of Actionscript to control program flow
  o Introduce Python and Racket

*It is important to note that our Curriculum Committee, with the help of our faculty, is constantly assessing the content of the curriculum. Adjustments are made to keep the curriculum relevant and to address changing needs.*