

<p align="center">Sixth Grade</p> <p align="center">Language Arts</p>	<p align="center">Seventh Grade</p> <p align="center">Language Arts</p>	<p align="center">Eighth Grade</p> <p align="center">Language Arts</p>
<p>Language Arts aims to enhance the reading and writing capabilities of students. Improving the reading comprehension using different formats of writing such as novels, poetry, and informational texts. Applying the parts of plot and writer’s techniques such as foreshadowing and imagery will be studied in relation to these texts. Students will also study the meanings of prefixes, suffixes, and roots of words to build their vocabulary and have a better understanding of unknown words. Students will be using the Six Trait Writing program as a framework for improving their writing skills. This program simplifies how to improve writing by describing the components of good writing. These descriptions allow students to self assess their writing and learn the techniques to improve. Some of these writing pieces will be narrative but others will include; persuasive, informational, descriptive, and compare and contrast.</p>	<p>This class is designed to teach students to engage actively in the processes of reading and writing and to develop an appreciation of both. Students will read a variety of short stories, poetry, and novels with a focus on American Literature. Students will learn how to use higher order thinking to look beyond the surface of the text by doing close reading, character analysis, and developing and defending their opinions both in class discussions and in their writing. Fluency, organization, voice, vocabulary, and grammar and other conventions of print will be developed in the writing of formal essays and other forms of written expression.</p>	<p>Language Arts in 8th grade focuses on promoting life-long understanding and appreciation of literature and reinforces skills introduced in both 6th & 7th grade. Language Arts aims to enhance the reading and writing capabilities of students. Improving the reading comprehension using different formats of writing such as novels, poetry, and informational texts. Applying the parts of plot and writer’s techniques such as foreshadowing and imagery will be studied in relation to these texts. Students will also study the meanings of prefixes, suffixes, and roots of words to build their vocabulary and have a better understanding of unknown words. Students will be using the Six Trait Writing program as a framework for improving their writing skills. This program simplifies how to improve writing by describing the components of good writing. These descriptions allow students to self assess their writing and learn the techniques to improve. Some of these writing pieces will be narrative but others will include; persuasive, informational, descriptive, and compare and contrast.</p>
<p align="center">Social Studies</p>	<p align="center">Social Studies</p>	<p align="center">Social Studies</p>
<p>Surveys the development of the United States chronologically from Reconstruction, opening the West, the Industrial Age, Urbanization, the Progressive Era, WWI, WWII, the Cold War, The Civil Rights era, Vietnam, to the present through the study of geography, history, and modern world issues. Students will discover the nature of historical inquiry and assume the role of historian. Students will work towards becoming active members of a rapidly changing and increasingly connected world by learning the rights and responsibilities of local and global citizenship. Students will develop their critical thinking, researching skills and writing through a variety of assignments. Note taking, research, presentation, and writing skills will be highlighted. We will also study current events through Junior Scholastic, an</p>	<p>Through the study of ancient and medieval civilizations students will understand the economy of ancient and medieval cultures and how goods and services were produced and distributed. Students will study geography through the concepts of location, place, movement, region, and human-environment interaction. They will develop historical thinking skills including chronological thinking and recognizing change over time. Cultures studied include Ancient Egypt and Kush, the Israelites, Ancient Greeks, Greek Civilization, Ancient India, Early China, Rome, the rise of Christianity and Islamic Civilization. We will also study current events through Junior Scholastic, an age appropriate current events publication.</p> <p align="center">Social Studies continued→</p>	<p>Through the study of ancient and medieval civilizations students will understand the economy of ancient and medieval cultures and how goods and services were produced and distributed. Students will study geography through the concepts of location, place, movement, region, and human-environment interaction. They will develop historical thinking skills including chronological thinking and recognizing change over time. Cultures studied include Roman Civilization, rise of Christianity, Islamic Civilization, African Civilization, the Americas, Imperial China, Civilizations of Korea, Japan, and southeast Asia, Medieval Europe, Renaissance and Reformation, Age of Exploration, the Scientific Revolution and English Tenement, Political and Industrial Revolutions, Imperialism and WWI, WWII, the Cold War, and building today’s world. We will</p>

age appropriate current events publication.		also study current events through Junior Scholastic, an age appropriate current events publication.
Earth & Space Science	Life Science	Physical Science
<p>Students will study Earth Science with a focus on 5 units of study.</p> <p>Unit 1 explores the Earth through mapping, structure, minerals, rocks, weathering and soil and erosion and deposition.</p> <p>Unit 2 studies geologic changes including plate tectonics, earth dynamics, earthquakes and volcanoes and geological time.</p> <p>Unit 3 focuses on weather and climate by looking at the Earth's atmosphere, weather and climate.</p> <p>Unit 4 looks at water through oceans and freshwater and studies the properties of water and natural resources.</p> <p>Unit 5 explores the universe by looking at the sun, earth, and moon system, the solar system, and the stars and galaxies.</p> <p>Students will work independently and collaboratively to find creative solutions to authentic and complex problems. They will use resources, including technology, to conduct research, demonstrate critical thinking, and to communicate their findings.</p>	<p>Students will study Life Science with a focus on 5 units of study.</p> <p>Unit 1 studies the structure and function of life through classification, cell structure and function, organisms, genetics and the environment as it changes over time.</p> <p>Unit 2 looks at bacteria, viruses, protists, fungi, plant diversity and plant processes and reproduction.</p> <p>Unit 3 focuses on animals through diversity, structure and function and animal behavior and reproduction.</p> <p>Unit 4 involves the body systems including structure and movement, digestion and excretion, respiration and circulation, immunity and disease, control and coordination, and reproduction and development.</p> <p>Unit 5 explores interactions of life through matter and energy, populations and communities, biomes and ecosystems, and natural resources.</p> <p>Students will work independently and collaboratively to find creative solutions to authentic and complex problems. They will use resources, including technology, to conduct research, demonstrate critical thinking, and to communicate their findings.</p>	<p>Students will study Physical Science with a focus on 5 units of study.</p> <p>Unit 1 is Motion and Force. Students will learn the laws of motion, work and power and using simple machines, and forces and fluids.</p> <p>Unit 2 studies Energy and Matter including thermal energy, foundations of Chemistry, and states of matter.</p> <p>Unit 3 focuses on Properties of Matter through the study of atoms, the Periodic Table and the elements of chemical bonds.</p> <p>Unit 4 explores chemical reactions and equations, acid and bases, and carbon chemistry.</p> <p>Unit 5 is the study of waves, electricity, and magnetism.</p> <p>Students will work independently and collaboratively to find creative solutions to authentic and complex problems. They will use resources, including technology, to conduct research, demonstrate critical thinking, and to communicate their findings.</p>

Saxon 7/6	Pre-Algebra	Algebra	Geometry
<p>Saxon 7/6 continues the study of math from 5th grade and includes:</p> <p>Decimal/Percentage & Fraction Equivalents.</p> <p>Dividing and multiplying fractions and decimals.</p> <p>Determining a number based on a percent.</p> <p>Circumference/Area of a circle.</p> <p>Adding/subtracting Integers.</p> <p>Ratio/Portion</p>	<p>Pre-algebra includes:</p> <p>Variables, expressions & integers.</p> <p>Solving equations.</p> <p>Multi-step equations & inequities.</p> <p>Factors, fractions & exponents.</p> <p>Rational numbers & equations.</p> <p>Ratio, proportion & probability.</p> <p>Percents.</p>	<p>Algebra includes:</p> <p>Expressions, equations & functions.</p> <p>Solving linear equations.</p> <p>Graphing linear equations & functions.</p> <p>Writing Linear equations.</p> <p>Solving and graphing linear inequalities.</p> <p>Systems of equations and inequities.</p> <p>Exponents & exponential functions.</p>	<p>Geometry includes:</p> <p>Essentials of geometry Reasoning & proof.</p> <p>Parallel and perpendicular lines.</p> <p>Congruent triangles.</p> <p>Relationship within triangles.</p> <p>Similarity.</p> <p>Right Triangles and Trigonometry.</p> <p>Quadrilaterals.</p> <p>Properties of</p>

Order of operations/exponents. Probability. Compound/Simple Interest. Variable equations. Supplemental/Complementary Angles. Math labs include real life mathematics, consumer skills, geometry in art, and number sense.	Linear Functions. Real numbers & right triangles. Measurement, area & volume. Data analysis & probability. Angle relationships & transformations	Polynomials & factoring. Quadratic equations & functions. Data analysis. Probability.	transformation. Properties of circles. Measurement of figures and solids. Probability.
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Religion

In 6th, 7th and 8th grades, students will engage in faith-sharing discussions in order to help them to understand how their spirituality can relate to their everyday experiences. Students are challenged to expand their knowledge of what their faith means to them as young adults in their local community and on a global scale. This will be practiced through student-led discussions, reading, faith-sharing, and through Mount Merici's long-standing tradition of Service Work that allows students to put their faith in action.

Classroom Management

The upper grade teachers have one class rule: "I will be responsible and respectful at all times." We expect our students to pass in homework well done and on time. One of our goals is to have students become more organized and responsible about schoolwork and behavior in an effort to prepare them for high school. If we have behavior or homework issues, a warning slip will be sent home to be signed by the student's parents/guardian. Consequences for written warnings will be discussed with each grade at the beginning of the school year.

Our Honor Code will be discussed with students at the beginning of the school year and then will be sent home for parents and students to discuss together.

Wiser~Stronger~Kinder

In keeping with our Ursuline philosophy of educating the minds and hearts of our students, our motto "Wiser~Stronger~Kinder" will be infused throughout the Upper Grade Wing. Included in our curriculum is weekly service work at the Sacred Heart Soup Kitchen, the Muskie Center, the Waterville Area Food Bank, serving here at school, and through Cassidy's Kids - the 8th grade Senior Service Project program. Fitness focuses on personal improvement and Life Sports that encourage lifelong activities such as kayaking, hiking, cross-country skiing, tennis, and other outdoor activities. This philosophy of educating the whole child provides opportunities for students to practice good citizenship through cooperation and service to others.

Statements of Philosophy

Mr. Garbe – I believe that each student is different and learns differently but that all students can succeed! In teaching math and science, it is my job to provide appropriate opportunities for each child to learn. I do this by fostering a friendly, positive, caring, interesting, and challenging environment. I have two expectations for my students: 1) Students are respectful of others and themselves. 2) Students do their best. Students being respectful includes taking responsibility for their actions. Students doing their best includes taking notes, thinking, discussing their ideas in class, asking questions, thinking, creating, and submitting good homework assignments, paying attention in class, thinking, reviewing notes at home, thinking, and being attentive in class. Yes, I mentioned thinking a few times. Many people say that what they learn in class they may not use in their real life and as that may be true that you may not need to know the quadratic equation or the different layers of the atmosphere; but how physical education teaches you how to keep your body healthy, math and science teach you how to think. I am looking forward to being part of that and am looking forward to this being a great school year!

Mrs. Fitzpatrick – In my role as a teacher here at Mount Merici Academy I am able to get to know all of our students. As Librarian, I am able to encourage them to become lifelong readers, as well as to help them learn how to use the library for research. I strive to create a comfortable, respectful atmosphere where students feel free to explore and learn how to use a library.

As the French teacher I thoroughly enjoy teaching a world language. In today's world the importance of knowing at least one language other than your own is extremely valuable. In French class we learn the language and the culture surrounding the language. I feel in doing so, students come to understand that although there are many cultural differences in our world, there are also many similarities. I enjoy broadening students' minds to the concept that while we are here living our lives every day, there are children of their own age in many other countries around the world who are also living their lives. This awareness helps all of us understand that we are all here together, and that we should be respectful and understanding of each other.

As the Religion teacher in the middle school, it is a true joy to engage students in conversations concerning themselves and their faith. In a respectful and open atmosphere we discuss our connection to God in the world. We discuss our actions in terms of how they affect others. We look at ourselves and our place in the world and how we can make a difference in our lives as well as the lives of others. We discuss Serviam, to serve, and see first hand how our service work here at Mount Merici helps others. In all of my interactions with students, I most enjoy getting to know each of them. I share stories about my own life in the hopes that they will see me as a teacher, but also as a person with a life that is full, at times complicated, and that I am forever grateful for being here at this school with them.

Mrs. Jarosz – I firmly believe that students are most motivated to learn when they are pursuing subjects that are of interest to them, they contribute to the lessons themselves, and they feel valued and appreciated. I strive to create an environment where students freely, respectfully, and responsibly offer their opinions and listen to those of others. I expect students to put forward their best efforts and anticipate the same from me. Students will work collaboratively to examine concepts and apply them to novel situations. We will use, among others, the processes of analyzing, questioning, deducting, predicting, and validating to deepen our understanding of the concepts we discuss.

Ms. Nichols – “Your comfort zone is not a place of growth.” I believe in helping students develop the mind, body, and spirit through cultivating positive relationships with a welcoming environment, as well as using the Growth Mind Set method of teaching and learning. Our Mount Merici community is a place of warmth, respect, and love. This isn’t a stroke of good luck, rather a dedication of teachers, students, administration, and parents alike. Only through working together, (“Insieme”, as the Ursuline Sisters say in Italian), can we maintain this place of distinction.

Our classroom is an extension of this community where we all uphold the Ursuline principles. Each child is a gift with strengths and challenges deserving of love, respect, acceptance and dedication to ensure academic growth, and the courage to learn from natural consequences when needed. The Growth Mind Set is a method of teaching that encourages students to fearlessly challenge themselves. Students learn to embrace their mistakes as a step in the learning process and an opportunity to gain knowledge. We build an understanding that with hard work and determination we can reach not only our academic standards but life goals we set for ourselves. Grit Awards are given to those showing determination, persistence, and a “stick with it” attitude. It encourages finding different approaches to creatively solve problems, innovative thinking, and developing the skills to work collaboratively. I consider myself blessed to have the opportunity to work in such an exciting school with an amazing community of people. I happily look forward to learning from all of my students as much as being a part of their education.

Mrs. Russo – When I was a child growing up in New Hampshire I never thought twice about attending a Catholic school that was very much like Mount Merici Academy. There was a unique spirit and atmosphere in the school that made it feel like a second home. During my years in elementary and middle school, I was able to develop intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally. The values and convictions that were developed during my childhood by my family and teachers gave me a strong foundation for decision making throughout my life. The same feeling of belonging exists for me today as a teacher in an Ursuline Catholic school. I am proud to be a part of Mount Merici Academy’s faculty. This sense of pride is due to our philosophy, which promotes growth of the whole child, body, mind and spirit. I am able to relate to my students on matters that go beyond factual information found in books, such as discussions about truth and justice, and feelings such as respect, love, and compassion. By establishing a non-threatening atmosphere where students feel respected as individuals, I strive to nurture the gifts of every child. Individual excellence in academics, athletics, drama, or any area can be reached only if a child believes in him/herself. Promoting a strong sense of self-worth and the pursuit of personal excellence in each of my students are my highest priorities as a teacher. The foundation of my teaching philosophy is best summarized in the quote, “There are only two lasting things we can give our children – one is roots, the other is wings.” I experience a great deal of fulfillment in knowing that our graduates have been given a solid background and strong values. I know they can be happy and that they will make contributions wherever they go because their minds and hearts possess the foundation to grow immeasurably.

Mrs. West – “Learning is a risky business” One of the things that I took from a psychology course was, when attempting to learn something new, there is usually a period of discouragement before you acquire new knowledge. That is not something a young adult would volunteer for, especially in a room full of peers. So it is essential for the teacher to create a safe environment where the student can take risks. I try to build on the knowledge the students already have by relating new concepts to those that are familiar. I also try to vary the format of my lessons by including demonstrations through different means and practicing skills through fun activities. The other component necessary is loving what you do! Students know when a teacher loves what they do and how the teacher feels about the subject they are teaching. Most importantly, does the teacher enjoy interacting with children, yes! After many years of successful teaching, these are the components I have found to be essential to successful teaching.

Mount Merici Academy, a Catholic school, is dedicated to nurturing the whole child – mind, body, and spirit – providing love and guidance so that

each student can achieve their personal best. In partnership with families, our mission is to instill Christ-centered values of respect, responsibility and self-discipline, teaching students in the Ursuline Serviam tradition of service to our community and the world.

*Where a proud tradition
embraces a promising future since 1911*