

Jr. High Literature Curriculum

The middle school series, *Reading with Purpose*, is a unique and powerful program designed to engage students in reading a variety of texts. The program is an integrated, inquiry-oriented approach, based on research in motivation, general and literacy education and cognitive science. Our main focus is identifying words and building vocabulary, reading fluently, reading for a reason, becoming an engaged reader, understanding what you read, thinking critically about your reading, understanding text structure and reading for research. We cover such genres as autobiography, biography, folktales, information media, poetry, short stories, novels, historical fiction, drama and persuasive writing.

We also use "Vocabulary Workshop" which uses a systematic vocabulary development for middle school and throughout high school. It has been proven a highly successful tool in helping students expand their vocabularies, improve their vocabulary skills, and prepare for the vocabulary sections on standardized tests. Our main focus is learning vocabulary for comprehension, grammar in context, strategies for identifying new words, as well as using and building classical roots. In 8th grade, we also focus on both reading comprehension and vocabulary building for the Catholic High School Entrance Exam.