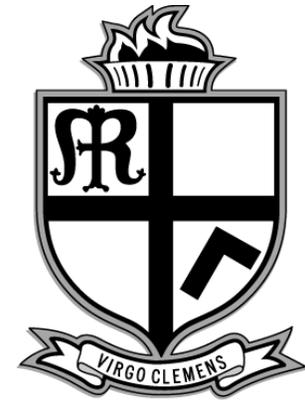


# EIGHTH GRADE

For more specifics on  
Eighth Grade curriculum,  
you can visit the  
Diocese of Charlotte website at  
[www.schools.charlottediocese.org](http://www.schools.charlottediocese.org)  
or download a PDF at:  
[http://schools.charlottediocese.org/  
images/schools/PDF\\_files/  
curriculum/8th\\_grade.pdf](http://schools.charlottediocese.org/images/schools/PDF_files/curriculum/8th_grade.pdf)

You can also get more details about class  
schedules on our school website at  
[www.ourladyofmercyschool.org](http://www.ourladyofmercyschool.org) under  
Teacher Pages link and select  
Mrs. Read's page.



caring dedicated child-focused

respectful inspiring compassionate

Christ-centered proud creative

challenging welcoming confident

humble prayerful engaging

leaders followers scholars servants

brothers & sisters teachers family

**Our Lady of Mercy  
Catholic School**

1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
(336) 722.7204

[www.ourladyofmercyschool.org](http://www.ourladyofmercyschool.org)  
Welcoming students of all races, religions, ethnic and  
national origins.

## Core Curriculum

In eighth grade emphasis is placed on independent work and reasoning abilities in all areas of learning. We foster a rigorous learning atmosphere in order to fully prepare students for the honors, Advanced Placement, and college preparatory class tracks in high school.

In literature and writing, the Diocese collaborates with OLM on a response to literature writing test which measures students' cognitive abilities in more depth than the similar seventh grade writing test. Vocabulary focuses on the analysis of higher level sentence and word structures to lay the framework for deeper studies in foreign languages, grammar, and vocabulary.

Students draw correlations between literature, social studies and religion as they question motivations of leaders, actions of governing bodies, and the Constitutional framework. The students apply all of their learning in social studies, religion, and literature when they enter the Model UN competition.

The math program culminates in the spring with the Algebra students completing the NC End of Course Test. Last year OLM achieved a 100% pass rate.

In science, student curriculum includes chemistry, water and water systems, cells, and diseases.

### 8th Grade Projects and Field Trips:

- Washington, D.C.
- Visit to Bishop McGuinness High School
- Science: Bacteria Tests, Radon Contest, Comic Life on the Elements of Science, Ocean Life project
- Social Studies: Model UN, hosted by BMHS
- Literature and Writing: *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A River Between Us*, *The 12th of July*, Dickensian Unit

## Catholic Identity

Eighth grade religion classes delve into the history of the Church. We host the May Crowning, sharing personal reflections on Mary's life and what she symbolizes to all Catholics. We also go on an off-campus retreat at the end of the school year to prepare for high school.

With the rest of the school, we start our day with prayer and the daily scripture reading/reflection. We pray the Angelus, as a school, before lunch and then ask our lunchtime blessing. At the end of the day we say our closing prayer. We go to weekly Mass and monthly adoration.

## Specials

Eighth graders have classes in their "special" subjects of Media/Technology, Spanish, Art, Music and Physical Education on a rotating basis.

PE: Units include soccer, volleyball, basketball, health and fitness, bowling, lacrosse, baseball, track and field, kickball, and tennis. PE meets twice per week.

MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY: We cultivate a learning environment where technology and media are integrated into the curriculum to enhance student learning. Students understand important issues of a technology-based society including safe and ethical behavior in the use of technologies. Teachers collaborate to provide learning experiences that incorporate access to print and digital resources and students use a variety of technologies to access, analyze, interpret, synthesize, apply and communicate information.

SPANISH: Eighth grade students meet three full periods each week for Spanish. Students are challenged to create an original skit as a culminating activity for every unit of study. They frequently have "Spanish only" times at the middle school level where students are challenged to speak only Spanish. Many students are ready to continue at the Spanish II level in high school

upon completion of our Middle School Spanish program.

ART: Students work on advanced color theory, advanced perspective with multiple vanishing points, and advanced 3-D design. We continue critiques by peers and increase our focus on art appreciation. Eighth graders also do a Jackson Pollock inspired project.

MUSIC: We continue our study of musical styles and notation, music history, instruments, and compositions of various composers. We also perform in the school-wide Christmas music program and Spring Concert.

## Service and Buddies

As leaders of the school, eighth graders serve as buddies to the kindergarteners. Throughout the year, the buddies form a relationship through the sharing of knowledge and values, and work to establish the feeling of community. They work on a Saints project with the kindergarteners and are celebrated in a special graduation luncheon with their kindergarten buddies.

Eighth graders work hard to raise money for their Washington, DC trip, holding bake sales each Wednesday during lunch. They also hold an annual Santa's Workshop, sorting donated gifts and helping all the younger grades "shop" for gifts for their families

Middle Schoolers do the planning for Helping Hands of Mercy, our student-led outreach program. This group coordinates many projects to help others in need, with the focus being "children helping children." The leadership of this team helps the whole school demonstrate that EVERY one is important to God.