



CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Classic Catholic Education Since 1864

CURRICULUM GUIDES

A Work in Progress

GRADE FOUR

Rev. 2008

Overview

The curriculum guides for Cathedral School are modeled after a report distributed by the State Board of Education entitled, Learning Results. The Learning Results were developed from a task force comprised of citizens, educators and business representatives who came together to identify what Maine students should know and be able to do by the time they leave school. Input was gained through various public process methods, such as public hearings, surveys, student meeting, etc.

The Learning Results are essential for all Maine Students because the demands of contemporary life and work require us to know and be able to do a great deal. These demands ask us to be:

- *Clear and Effective Communicators*
- *Self-Directed and Life-Long Learners*
- *Creative and Practical Problem Solvers*
- *Responsible and Involved Citizens*
- *Collaborative and Quality Workers*
- *Integrative and Informed Thinkers*

These six specific areas of knowledge and skills are called the **Guiding Principles**.

Learning Results have been developed in each of these subject areas:

- *Career Preparation*
- *English Language Arts*
- *Foreign Languages*
- *Health & Physical Education*
- *Mathematics*
- *Science*
- *Social Studies*
- *Visual & Performing Arts*

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At Cathedral School, we have the unique opportunity and responsibility to teach *Religion* as a primary subject and to offer our students living experiences of their faith.

As you explore our new presentation for curriculum guides for each grade, please keep in mind that this is a *work in progress* and we are still fine-tuning the details. Enjoy, and please feel free to ask our Principal or your child's teacher any questions related to our curriculum or the Learning Results report.

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1. RELIGION

Text: Blest Are We
Silver Burdett and Ginn

- Develops a deeper relationship with God and with the community of believers, especially within the Parish community.
- Participates actively in the celebration of the Eucharist in union with Christ.
- Accepts sickness, suffering and death as mysteries demanding a Christian faith and response.
- Grows in their devotional life, including those devotions associated with major feasts of Our Lord, his Blessed Mother and the Saints.
- Develops a deeper appreciation of Christian ritual and symbolism.
- Understands the basic implications of each of the Ten Commandments.
- Increases awareness of the need to forgive and to receive forgiveness.
- Realizes how personal choices affect our relationships with God and others.
- Encourages daily examination of conscience.
- Understands the Beatitudes in the context of the lives of Jesus, Mary and the Saints.
- Takes personal responsibility for working for peace.
- Cultivates the attitude of cooperation, compassion, concern, and respect for the rights of all people.
- Has a special respect and care for the weak, the suffering, the disabled and the elderly.

2. READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Text: Scott Foresman Reading
Scott Foresman Company
English, Harcourt Brace
Spelling, Laidlaw

- Expresses, orally and in writing, personal discoveries and connections with cultures portrayed in quality literature.
- Articulates and justifies a personal point of view regarding an issue raised from reading, viewing or listening.
- Differentiates between main ideas and theme after study of story elements (plot, setting, characters, conflict, and resolution).
- Produces a well-developed piece of writing on demand, in response to an assigned prompt, that is organized, uses language effectively, has voice and demonstrates control of mechanics in a variety of structures.
- Demonstrates increasingly complex use of language conventions in writing and speaking for defined purposes.

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- Uses prewriting and drafting strategies, including conferencing with others in order to develop ideas, revise, and edit, before presenting a final written piece for a specific audience.
- Selects, reads, listens, and views with comprehension from a variety of print and non-print sources for a variety of purposes.
- Analyzes a variety of materials to distinguish fact from opinion and describes how each is used to influence others.
- Applies strategies for reading comprehension when reading self-selected as well as assigned texts..

3. MATHEMATICS

Text: Scott Foresman Mathematics
Scott Foresman Company

- Identifies place value through hundred thousand.
- Estimates by rounding numbers to greatest place value and completes problems using the four operations.
- Researches, reads, compares, orders, classifies and models whole numbers up to one million and simple fractions through the tenths in real-life situations using number lines, manipulatives, and technology.
- Constructs meanings for and interprets the multiple use of fractions, and decimals.
- Estimates and solves multi-step, real-life problems including the four operations involving whole numbers and money, addition and subtraction of simple fractions with like denominators.
- Demonstrates, illustrates and explains the problem-solving process, integrates appropriate technology and defends the reasonableness of results.
- Models, explains and develops proficiency with the facts and algorithms of the four operations using mental math, a variety of materials, strategies and technologies.
- Makes generalizations, draws conclusions and formulates and solves problems, using various types of graphs, charts and tables.
- Reads and interprets displays of data.
- Explores the concept of chance and estimates probability.
- Describes, models and classifies shapes and figures using applicable properties.
- Experiments with shapes and figures and makes generalizations regarding congruency, symmetry and similarity.
- Selects the most appropriate tool or unit (US customary), estimates, solves, and justifies solutions to real-life problems involving measurement with time, money,

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length, area, perimeter, and temperature.

- Recognizes, describes, extends and creates patterns using numbers, geometry and a variety of graphs in the context of a problem.
- Uses variables and open sentences to express relationships.
- Develops and evaluates simple formulas in problem-solving contexts.
- Finds replacements for variables that make simple number sentences true.

4. SCIENCE

Text: McGraw-Hill Science
MacMillan McGraw-Hill

- Understands the uses and steps of Scientific Method by doing experiments.
- Compares and contrasts the life cycles, behavior and structure of different living organisms.
- Describes a food web and the relationships within a given ecosystem.
- Compares and contrasts physical and living components of different biomes.
- Explains that certain substances (water) go through a cyclic process of change in the environment.
- Determines that all living things are made up of one or more cells.
- Describes the functions of some of the major human organ systems.
- Describes physical properties of objects and how these sometimes change when the object combines with another.
- Analyzes and describes chemical and physical changes in matter.
- Identifies some things about the Earth (such as climate) that occur in cycles that vary in length and frequency.
- Illustrates the relative positions of the sun, moon and planets.
- Traces the sources of Earth's heat and light energy to the sun.
- Describes Earth's rotation on its axis and its revolution around the sun.
- Identifies and describes different forms of energy (light, sound, heat).
- Provides examples of many forms in which energy can exist and of the different ways that these forms may be produced.
- Demonstrates the ability to make and use tables and graphs by organizing and recording the results of an experiment.

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5. SOCIAL STUDIES

Text: McGraw-Hill Social Studies
MacMillan McGraw-Hill
MAINE STUDIES

While studying the US Geography, students will:

- Identify states and their capitals in US regions.
- Learn the history of US regions and their effect on the US.
- Understand the concept of alike and different when comparing states and regions.
- Read a transportation map.
- Understand the concept of scale.
- Use grids, graphs, tables, and charts.
- Understand longitude and latitude and be able to identify the four hemispheres on a map and a globe.

While studying the state of Maine, students will:

- Learn Maine facts and symbols.
- Learn the 16 counties through song and on a geographical map.
- Study famous Maine people.
- Read selections from Maine Authors and study their biographies.
- Study agriculture and livelihood.
- Study flora and fauna indigenous to Maine.
- Visit area museums to learn about Maine's history.