

Preschool Academic Program (age 3):

St. Mary's Preschool provides a high quality, developmentally appropriate environment for 3-year olds+. Our focus is on social/emotional skills, academics, manners and using the gifts God has given each of us. Our program is structured to meet each child's individual needs. We encourage problem solving and emphasize process rather than product.



Religion:

Preschool uses the *God Made the World* program. We learn about the Saints, daily prayer, empathy for others and problem solving. We also follow the Church calendar for Holydays.

Letter/Phonics/Handwriting:

We work towards identifying upper and lowercase letters and their phonetic sounds. Beginning handwriting is largely based on finger placement, hand strengthening and practice. We use the *Learning Without Tears Handwriting Program*. Workbooks are provided for each student and are used daily.

Science:

The class learns through exploration and discussion. Exploring at the water and sand tables, chemistry in the kitchen and horticulture on the windowsill are some of the ways we will use science in our classroom. *Inspire Science Early Learners* encourages student curiosity with hands-on activities and materials to promote in-depth exploration of science topics.

Art:

Art is based around the theme of the week. We use paints, scissors, markers, glue etc. to create age appropriate projects.

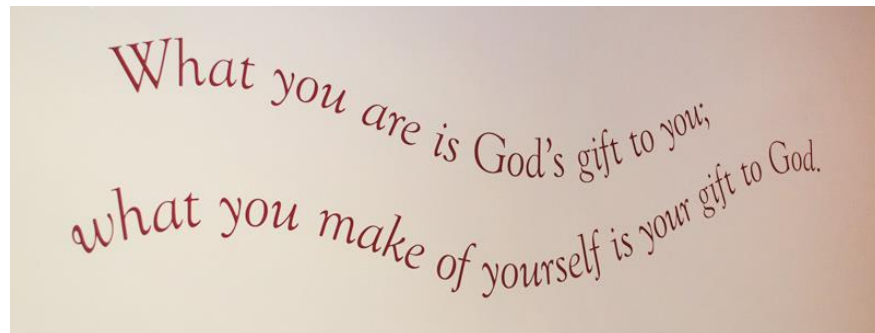
Math:

We work on identifying and tracing numbers 1-20 during the year. We introduce concepts such as "More and Less Than", as well as patterning, sequencing, sorting and games.

Electives:

We have Music and PE classes each week.

*****STUDENT must be Age 3 and toilet trained with independent bathroom abilities by August 31st.**
(State of Idaho law)



IGNITING faith, knowledge, creativity and service

Prekindergarten Program (age 4)

Our academic program provides basic skills, fostering a love of learning, while challenging students at their levels of learning with opportunities for success. We encourage the children to grow at their own pace while being taught to love and accept themselves and others.



Our academic program consists of the following elements:

- **Religion:** Religious instruction *God Made the World* Program, daily prayer, caring for others, dealing with feelings and morals while providing lived examples of a loving Christian community. Children are encouraged to love and accept themselves.
- **Reading & Language Arts:** We work on recognizing names, sounds of letters and capital and lowercase recognition. We read Nursery rhymes and classical stories. Learning continues at circle time, singing class songs, chants, finger plays, and exploring phonic activities. We also use *Handwriting Without Tears* and *Zoo Phonics* programs. We offer *Lexia Core5 Reading* and *Waterford* for pre-literacy. These programs offer personalized learning for each student.
- **Math:** Students concentrate on recognizing patterns, sorting, recognizing and counting numbers 1-20. Simple addition and subtraction problems are taught at this age as well. We also use *Building Thinking Skills*, this book encourages the students thinking and problem-solving skills.
- **Writing:** In class we work on our fine motor skills: drawing, coloring, painting, and cutting activities. We focus on proper pencil grasp and letter formation of upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet. We practice left to right and top to bottom. We practice basic letter formation, explore letter formation on lines, and ease into manuscript letter formation when fine motor skills have been mastered.
- **Social Studies:** Students will learn and explore their environment, while learning about their family and neighborhood. They will recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily and learn about famous people.
- **Science:** We focus on five senses, body/health, weather, seasons, plants/farms, life cycle of a butterfly, space and dinosaurs. We use *My Big World with Clifford* which is a fun non-fiction magazine for early-childhood. This tool helps brings our themes to life with color photos and activities. *Inspire Science Early Learners* encourages student curiosity with hands-on activities and materials to promote in-depth exploration of science topics.
- **Art:** Students explore water coloring, painting and playdoh play. A variety of art media is used and incorporated into our daily work.
- **Music/PE:** Weekly classes.

Kindergarten Program (age 5)



We teach general studies and academics, with a great focus on social skills, manners, respect, responsibility, resourcefulness, and learning to be a young person with a love and desire to learn.

Religion: The religion book/program Kindergarten uses is called *God Loves Us* by Loyola Press. We use a workbook and we do and act out many other religious activities. We learn that God loves us and all the many good things in life such as: family, friends, body, weather, animals, and feelings. Kindergarten attends Mass weekly and has one Mass they help lead with their buddies. Many themes are religion based and we cover holidays such as: All Saints Day, Advent & Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, & Easter. We spend a good part of the month of May talking about Mary. We are introduced to a few Saints. Religion is tied into our behavioral issues and everyday experiences.

Phonics/Reading/Writing: In this academic area, students move at their own pace.

(1) Beginning readers study and learn to understand each letter of the alphabet; what the letter looks like, how to write it, how to read it, the sounds it makes, and automatically recognizing it. The students learn to rhyme and differentiate between beginning and ending sounds. They learn to blend letters/sounds together to form words and memorize sight words. (2) For children who are reading as they come into Kindergarten, we work on fluency and comprehension

Students use books in the classroom as well as in the second half of the school year the students can check out books from the school library.

We continue learning D'Nealian print that was started in Prekindergarten. We focus on correctly forming and writing each letter. Students learn to differentiate between letters and words, how to write left to right, and top to bottom correctly on paper. They use their creativity to match pictures/stories with words, phrases, and sentences. They begin spelling and sounding out words. By the end of the year the class will have published a class book and will have completed the writing process. Every day the children write in a daily journal and develop their writing skills. We use computer programs such as *Lexia Reading CORE5* and *Waterford* to supplement skills.

Mathematics: Kindergarten uses the *Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley* math book. We focus mainly on number sense. Students practice recognizing, reading, writing, and counting to the number 31. Counting by 1s, 5s, and 10s to the number 100 and by 2s to the number 20. Simple addition and subtraction, beginning to count and identify money (coins) and tell time to the hour, daily time sense skills, such as calendar skills and time of day concepts are all introduced. Geometry shapes, measurements, patterns, and fractions skills are also introduced.

Science/Social Studies: We have weekly themes through the school year that are science and social studies related such as: plants, flowers, space, oceans, fish, seasons and weather, and dinosaurs. There is a 6-week long unit about health, nutrition, the human body, the 5 senses, and dental care. Social skills adapting to our world around us and working together as a community are a major part of the social studies curriculum. Holidays, Presidents, family, occupations, friends, safety, manners, and our community are some we cover. We take a few field trips as well as meet with our buddies about once a month to work together on activities. We use the *Inspire Science* curriculum.

Music/PE/Art: Kindergarten has Music two times a week and PE four times a week, and art projects at least once a month, though there are many art activities in any given week.

Basic Daily Skills/Social Skills: "Recess and Free Choice Play" are times set aside specifically for students to practice their social habits. They have imaginative play and interaction with their peers. Students work through problems and ask for adult help only when needed. They implement taking turns and sharing. Every morning the class as a whole (with the help and guidance of the teacher) does "calendar". We focus on day of the month and week, weather, calendar pattern, counting on an ascending timeline and place value. There is a morning message the students read and talk about. We say a daily prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance as well as sing a patriotic song. After lunch each day, we have "Show and Tell" where the child has her/his day to "shine". We rest and learn how to quietly listen to part of a chapter book story. There are several times throughout each day when a picture book is read and discussed.

First Grade Program:

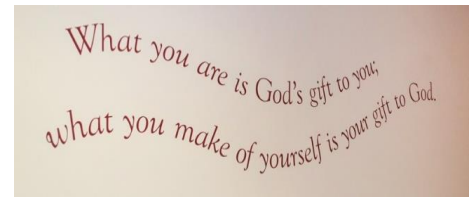
The basic academic program is enhanced with many different enrichment and faith activities throughout the year to provide an environment



that promotes excellence in learning.

The focus for first grade is to:

- Foster a love of learning.
- Learn and develop all basic skills in math and language arts.
- Develop a sense of pride in doing work to the best of our abilities.
- Learn to work effectively, independently and cooperatively.
- Encourage a sense of community.
- Nurture and value individual differences.
- Use curiosity to learn about our world and environment.
- Deepen our faith and put our faith into action.



Religion: The religion curriculum is *Finding God* by Loyola Press. Every chapter is accompanied by a hands-on activity to deepen students' understanding of the text and to put knowledge into practice. Students are introduced to prayers, as well as time to experience God speaking with each one in his/her heart. We put our faith into action by the way we treat one another and by carrying out service projects to help those in need.

Math: The focus is on understanding and using basic operations, especially addition and subtraction. We practice math facts to develop speed and accuracy. We also work on problem solving, geometry and fractions, time, measurement, place value, data and graphs, and money. The math curriculum, Scott Foresman & Addison Wesley's *First Grade Mathematics*, is enriched with IXL (self-paced math computer program). Children are challenged to master math facts at their own pace, allowing even some to begin work on multiplication facts. The class has an extensive collection of math manipulatives for the children to use as needed and to help reinforce the concepts in our curriculum and IXL.

Language Arts: (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Phonics, and Grammar): Reading and writing are integrated throughout all subject areas. Reading instruction is carried out individually, in small groups, and with the whole class. Reading books from the large classroom library are sent home weekly in book baggies. The reading material is matched to the needs and strengths of the individual child. Children also select reading books from the school library. Our spelling program is based on the *Phonics, Level A* textbook by Pearson Education. Our phonics program is enhanced with *Lexia* (self-paced reading computer program). We study short and long vowel patterns and beginning and ending blends. The students spend time each day drawing and writing in their journals, working on using standard punctuation, capitalization, conventional spelling, and showing order and closure.

Social Studies: Our focus is the fundamental needs of human beings – food, shelter, clothing, family and community, and how these needs are met depending on time and place. Topics covered in the curriculum, *My World* by Harcourt Brace, include following maps, living in a community, protecting the earth and our resources, laws that keep us safe, the founding of our country and American heroes, and cultures around the world. We celebrate family traditions and holidays throughout the year integrated with art and other subject areas.

Science: The program we use across all grades is *Inspire Science* by McGraw-Hill Education. It provides an in-depth, collaborative, and project-based learning experience based on students' curiosity and interest. It allows students to ask questions and think critically through inquiry-based, hands-on investigations. They gather evidence and support claims, and provide solutions in real-world situations. Throughout the year we focus on plants, animals and how they communicate, light and shadows, and sky patterns.

Other activities:

Art: In periodic art lessons, we learn about a featured-artist through kid-friendly documentaries and articles, analyze their techniques, and create our own work influenced by them. Art is also often integrated into other subject areas.

Music: The children have music lessons two times a week from a certified music teacher. They also participate in two whole-school musical productions.

PE: Physical Education lessons, from a certified physical education teacher, are held four times a week. The emphasis is on developing skills, playing as part of a team, good sportsmanship and fitness for life.

Friendly: A biblically-based curriculum that promotes social-emotional learning and teaches self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness, and relationship skills.

Second Grade Academic Program



While our academic program follows the approved Idaho Department of Education guidelines for second grade, we greatly enhance and supplement our program with many different enrichment and faith activities during the year to provide an environment that promotes excellence in learning.

The Focus of grade 2 is to:

- Foster a love of learning.
- Develop, learn, and grow in basic skills in math and reading.
- Develop of sense of pride in doing work well.
- Learn to work effectively in groups and individually.
- Increase our faith and the knowledge of our faith as we participate in the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.
- Develop a sense of community in our class and school as well as live our Student Learning Expectations (SLE's): **Respect, Responsibility, and Resourcefulness.**
- Use our curiosity to understand and learn about our world and environment in science and social studies.
- Our religion is integrated into all facets of the curriculum. We are called to act like Jesus and treat each other the way Jesus would.

Religion: This is a special year in your child's life. We participate in two Sacraments; Reconciliation and Eucharist; we learn about the Mass, and how we fit into a larger church. The class prays for each other and for people in our community and their needs all during the year. We sing, we are prayer leaders at Mass, and we try to serve our school, community, and the larger community. We participate in several school service projects during the year.

Math: We learn our addition and subtraction facts, work on estimating, problem solving, fractions, probability, measurement, telling time, money, and geometry. Multiplication and division are also introduced. We enrich our curriculum with the IXL Math program and other math activities, allowing students to progress

Language Arts: (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Phonics, Grammar, and English): Our curriculum fosters a love of reading as well as basic skills. We teach phonics and spelling rules as well as sentence structure, word study, grammar, and usage. We learn how to write sentences correctly but also write for content and the ability to express our thoughts in a variety of areas. We write poems during the school year. A love of books and reading is shared with books read to the class such as special stories like Ramona, Little House on the Prairie, The Chronicles of Narnia, and selected biographies. The Accelerated Reader program helps students maintain and improve reading levels.

Social Studies: The focus of second grade is community, why we have rules, community service and workers. We also learn about our country studying George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, and symbols of our country.

Science: We explore our planet in the areas of life science, earth science, and physical science. Second grade also studies matter, space, the earth, sound and motion, rocks, and our environment. Our second graders are encouraged to participate in the Moscow Community Science Fair. This year we are working on Coding with Ozobots.

Extra Activities:

- ✚ Vandal Pen-pals – as part of the language arts curriculum we write to pen-pals at the University of Idaho weekly during the school year.
- ✚ Ozobots – We do robotics with ozobots at least twice a month.
- ✚ Music/PE – our music program is well noted in our community and our children excel in choir as well as regular classroom music. Our physical education program provides a strong foundation in movement skills, fitness, and a lifetime love of activity. These skills provide a strong foundation to future sport competition as well as life-long activities. All students participate in music and physical education from certified teachers.

Third Grade Curriculum



Your child's **THIRD GRADE YEAR** will be focused on increased independence in reading, creative writing, and math. New areas of study will be introduced and include (but are not limited to) cursive handwriting, keyboarding, multiplication, division, critical thinking, and scientific exploration. Also, students will experience band, choir, physical education, computer study, and art. In order to better individualize learning, your child will have computer time on several programs as listed below with a quick summary of intended subject matter. Several fieldtrips, guest speakers, and videos are scheduled throughout the year. These are used to further explain and supplement classroom instruction.

Religion: Third graders focus on God as our creator and Father, what it means to follow Jesus, leaders of the Catholic Church, four of the seven Sacraments, and Christian morality as it applies to third graders. Integrated into our units are studies on specific Saints, and discussions on numerous Bible stories. Throughout the school year, students participate in School Masses, prayer services, and Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. We watch the Animated Bible Stories New Testament video series to enhance our understanding of those stories and relate more personally.

Language Arts: Third graders focus on reading to learn. They practice comprehension skills and enhance their writing skills to write opinions, narrative, and persuasive pieces. Students learn how to write a complete paragraph, as well as learning how to "ACE" short answer questions using the Answer, Cite, Elaborate strategy. Vocabulary skills are strengthened as students learn words based on their root, prefix, or suffix meaning. Grammar skills are reviewed and expanded on, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns, as well as common punctuation and spelling rules.

Mathematics: Computational skills are very important in the 3rd grade. Students must master the basics of all four operations (addition subtraction, multiplication, division) which helps them with more advanced operations/concepts in the future. Third Grade concepts include multiplication and division facts, measurement, fractions, geometry, probability, elapsed time, counting money/making change, and place value through hundred thousand.

Science: Students engage in many hands-on experiences as they learn the scientific method, science tools, weather/climate, rocks & minerals, the solar system, plants & animals, energy & forces, matter, and the human body. Many lessons begin with a hands-on, small-group investigation, then followed with instruction, class discussions, and review activities.

Social Studies: Third graders focus on the study of the United States. Students explore the history of the early United States, from Early Americans through the Thirteen Colonies. They explore each region, learning about the Native Americans who lived there, resources and historical places and people. Students learn map skills and locate each state and identify and locate its capital.

Featured software includes: Google for Education Suite (tech), Accelerated Reading, typing.com, Lexia Core 5 (ELA), IXL (ELA & math), and Ozoblockly (tech).

Our third graders are encouraged to participate in the Moscow Science Fair. And all our third graders participate in the following programs: **music and physical education** from certified specialty teachers throughout the week. In music, the students learn to play an instrument.

Fourth Grade Academic Program

In the **FOURTH GRADE** we continue to develop skills presented in the primary grades, as well as introducing skills that prepare students for more advanced work in fifth grade and beyond. One area that is unique to fourth grade is the study of **Idaho history**. Students learn about the geography of Idaho as well as the history of its settlement, and the diversity of the people who make up our state.



In **Religion** the main focus is on the Ten Commandments, and the Beatitudes. We also review the Sacraments with the students as well as talking about the Saints as role models for their lives. We help students develop their relationship with God via prayer and Living Faith Booklet for Kids.

Language arts include reading, English, Spelling and Writing. The students are exposed to a variety of areas within the field of reading, including comprehension, genres, literature appreciation through novels, reading strategies and word recognition. We also use Accelerated Reader, IXL, and Readworks on a regular basis in fourth grade. The mechanics of grammar are emphasized, with applications, such as reports, poetry, letters, essay and creative writing.

In **Math**, students extend skills in the basic operations, as well as work with decimals, fractions, time, graphs, and measurement. Daily math review is used to solidify skills learned and cumulative review on a regular basis. IXL is used for practice and enrichment.

In **Science** we cover animal and plant growth and adaptations, Earth's natural resources, electricity, motions, and force. Our fourth graders are encouraged to participate in the Moscow Science Fair.

All students participate in **music and physical education** from certified specialty teachers for several days throughout the week.

**"CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PREPARE EVERY STUDENT
TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THEIR FUTURE
BY DEVELOPING THEIR MIND, YES, BUT ALSO
THEIR BODY AND THEIR SOUL AND SPIRIT."**

DAVID VITTER

Fifth Grade Academic Program

In **FIFTH GRADE** students work on projects and tasks

where they draw on the skills and strategies they have learned in previous years.

Religion: Religion is woven into the fabric of daily life at school. We follow the program that covers Church teachings and scripture, Liturgy and Sacraments, community, morality and service to others. Students plan and present our weekly community Mass.



Language Arts includes reading, spelling, English and writing: Students will learn and use strategies for improved comprehension in both fiction and nonfiction materials in reading. All genres of literature will be presented. Vocabulary development is a large part of the language arts curriculum; we study spelling and work through multiple Writer's Workshops. Throughout the Writer's Workshops we will focus upon the correct use of language, sentence structure, parts of speech, fluency and proper spelling. We also work on daily writing with daily quick write prompts. Oral presentations will also be a regular part of all subjects.

Math: Mastery of operations with fractions and decimals will be a major part of the math program. We will continue to work on geometry, fluency in multiplication and division, and graphing data. We will also learn the building block of Algebra including integers and variables. Using mathematical language, and being able to explain mathematics is a focus throughout the year.

Social Studies: Students study American History from the early civilizations through the Revolutionary War, and finishing with the Civil War. There is an emphasis on early government in America, and how it has shaped our present day life. We will also talk about current events regularly.

Science and Health: We cover a large range of topics of science, including earth's systems, chemical and physical reactions, the ecosystem and matter through inquiry based science. Students will perform experiments weekly, investigating all aspects of science. Experiments include alka seltzer rockets, growing plants without soil and perfecting pancakes through science. We are also planning on attending MOSS in the spring. It is an amazing opportunity to experience hands-on, inquiry based learning.

Across the Fifth-Grade academic program we make use of real-life situations to enhance the learning experience. Enrichment activities are used in all subjects. A heavy emphasis is placed on greater personal responsibility towards schoolwork with increased independence in homework and projects and strong work, study, and organizational skills.

All students participate in **music and physical education** with certified specialty teachers throughout the week.



Our goals at St. Mary's Parish School for grades 6 through 8 are centered on the growth of our students: academic growth through deep curiosity and engagement, and growth in their understanding of the Catholic faith and how it illuminates everyday life.

St. Mary's upper grades 6-8 curricula are designed to use the students' own innate curiosity to motivate their learning. A happy and interested student is a successful student, and that success builds their confidence for self-motivated learning in the future.

Research indicates that a K-8 middle school format rather than having students grouped together in a middle school (Grades 6-8 only) was most beneficial in preparing students for high school. Having the middle grade students on site also sets an excellent example for younger students at St. Mary's.

The focus of our middle grades is to:

- **Build the students' confidence:** Both confidence in their practiced skills and confidence to tackle new skills in the future.
- **Provoke the students' curiosity:** Spark their interests in order to trigger creativity and deep analysis of the subjects studied.
- **Provide a Catholic classroom culture:** Support the students' adolescent development through a joyful environment rooted in the radical generosity of Jesus.

RELIGION

The primary goals of the religion curriculum for students in St. Mary's Parish Middle Grades are three-fold:

- 1) to enhance students' knowledge and appreciation of the Catholic Faith,
- 2) to encourage living out the call of Christ in their daily lives, and
- 3) to grow in one's love for their God and one another.

More specifically, the curriculum seeks:

- To promote students' awareness of the relevance and importance of Catholic Christian values and practices for *daily living*.
- To extend students' knowledge and appreciation of Catholic doctrine, liturgical practices, social teachings, and prayer.
- To increase students' interest in learning more about our Catholic faith, as well as to appreciate and respect other faith traditions.
- To help students share the Good News and our Catholic faith, both within our church community and outside.
- To engage in service activities and projects in charity and humility.

LANGUAGE ARTS, HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Excellence in Reading, Thinking, Writing, and Speaking are the pillars of the Humanities section of the St. Mary's Middle Grades program. Students will learn to evaluate complex reading material, to write concisely within their journals and essays, and be prepared to speak their ideas based on facts.

To meet these requirements the Language Arts, History, and Social Studies curricula are integrated with each other. The literature studied in Language Arts directly relates to the material studied in History and Social Studies.

Students may expect frequent opportunities to practice writing, including short reflections, longer essays and research papers, and answering open-ended questions that arise during class discussions. Students will be able to follow complex requirements to meet writing objectives and to fuse source material into their writing to support their main ideas and thesis statements.

Vocabulary is pulled from the middle grade's academic program in Science, Math, Religion, and Humanities. Students will know the word's meaning in context as well as the proper spelling. Vocabulary is also highlighted as the students learn how to develop more complex and nuanced writing in print.

Class time is often spent building concept maps, gathering research, reading, and expressing ideas to the larger group and in smaller collaborative groups.

2021-2022 Social Studies/Humanities: This year we will cover American history from the Civil War - present, emphasizing Catholic social teaching in what we learn about civil rights, amendments to the Constitution, and the interactions between the different cultural and ethnic groups that call the U.S. home.

2021-2022 ELA: Our literature for the year will begin with Mark Twain and progress through the late 20th century, acting as both grist for analyzing literature and supplementary material for History. While 6th and 7th grades will have intensive practice with grammar and writing fundamentals in English Language arts this year, 8th grade students will have a project-based learning assignment Fall semester and a service-learning assignment Spring semester. Both these 8th grade projects will include several written components including a proposal, study plan, routine reflections, and a final project summary. .

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Mathematics:

Because of the impressive math foundation set at St. Mary's during late elementary school, St. Mary's students are often a year ahead of their Moscow School District peers. We use the Holt California series of mathematics textbooks, with an eye to preparing students for upper level high school math:

- Mathematics: Course 1 Numbers to Algebra
- Mathematics: Course 2 Pre Algebra
- Algebra 1
- Geometry

Science:

St. Mary's uses the integrated Inspire Science curriculum through McGraw Hill. Curriculum in the middle grades includes:

Life Sciences
Physics and Chemistry
Earth and Space Sciences

As much as possible, St. Mary's relates the science we learn in the classroom to what students will see in day-to-day life, whether that be the oxidation of copper or cloud formations.

ENRICHMENT COURSES

In addition to the academic program for the middle grades, all students take music and physical education four days per week.

Electives are also offered on Friday afternoons. Fall semester, students take health and study skills, with each of the middle grades spending a quarter in each class. In spring, we offer a teacher's aide/independent study, art, outdoor skills, and a yearbook/journalism class.