

## 8th Grade Religion - Syllabus

Mrs. Alycia Valentiny

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Dear Student and Parents/Guardians:

I am so excited to be teaching Religion this year for 7th and 8th grade at St. Anthony's! I look forward to getting to know you all. My hope for this class is that it's *more than* just a class, more than just another subject in school. My hope is that you will get to know Jesus and grow in a relationship with Him. Below is some more pertinent information for class this year.

**Course Material:** This year, we will focus on the Church; we will discover how it is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. We will start with a quick review of the Old and New Testament. Then, in September, we will do a final preparation for Confirmation. During Lent, we will also walk through the Scriptural foundations for the Mass. In the Spring, we will be going over St. John Paul II's "Theology of the Body".

**Grades:** Your grade will consist of bellwork, classwork, class participation (this is very important), assessments (like quizzes and tests), and one project per trimester.

### Expectations for Religion Class:

1. Open your heart to God. He wants to give you His grace and love, even during school hours!
2. Ask questions if you doubt something or if you're not sure about a teaching. I hope to have meaningful discussions in our class this year. We will always remain respectful and uphold each others dignity as we talk about matters of our faith and spirituality.
3. "Go deep and connect wide" (explained in class). To sum it up, I don't want "textbook answers" when you are assigned reflection questions or during class discussions. I expect you to dive deep in your faith and to connect your faith to your daily life. Assignments that seem "generic" in response will not receive full credit and student may be asked to re-do the assignment.
4. I expect my students to inspire me, to call me on to "go deeper" in my own faith.
5. As your teacher this year, I hope to...
  - a. Introduce you to Jesus, so that you may have an encounter with Him.
  - b. Be honest and real with you.
  - c. Share my heart.
  - d. Share my love for Jesus and His Church.
  - e. Share my love for Scripture. I want God's word to come alive for you!
  - f. Teach you how to pray

### Class Routine:

Every day, you will come in to class and quietly set your things at your desk. You need to then pick up a religion workbook and your composition notebook from the purple bookshelf. All bellwork will be recorded in the Composition notebook, and I will periodically check your notebook to grade it. Your bellwork assignment will be on the board and you need to sit down and begin working right away. Please work quietly and do not chat with your neighbor during this time. Class will also begin with prayer. After bellwork, we will begin class lecture and discussions. Class will also always end with prayer.

### Classroom Rules

1. Respect adults, students, selves, and property.
2. Follow all rules and directions the first time.

3. Come to class promptly and prepared to learn.
4. Use appropriate language and behavior.
5. Work cooperatively with fellow students and teachers.
6. Make sure each student's work is his/her own best.
7. Follow dress code.
8. No gum or candy allowed (including mints).
9. Cell phones must be turned off and given to homeroom teacher first thing in the morning.

**Discipline:** I will utilize the Middle School clipboard recording system for infractions, which include behavior conduct and unfinished work assignments. If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing, I will immediately contact administration, parents, and student will fail that particular assignment.

**Posting Assignments:** I will use my particular page on the school website to post any homework and projects. Religion is on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and there may not always be new homework every day.

**Absence:** Students are responsible for approaching me if they are going to be absent or if they were absent, to get instructions for their make up work. In 7th and 8th grade, I expect students to be responsible and communicate with me themselves about their missed assignments. I appreciate your understanding in this matter!

*I have read this syllabus with my family and understand all that it entails.*

Signed:

Student:

Parent/Guardian: