

# Unit D at St. Athanasius



At St. Athanasius, we educate and nurture the whole child. Our foundation — Love, Learn, Lead — fosters success by combining academic integrity with emotional, physical and spiritual guidance. From junior kindergarten through eighth grade, our students are part of an enriching, faith-filled experience. Through our vibrant curriculum and school life — including the arts, athletics, religion, service, an engaging STEM lab and two foreign languages — we graduate life-long learners prepared for the adventures and rigors of high school. We are honored to be a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

## Educating & Nurturing the Whole Child

St. A's embraces individual learning styles and helps students become self-directed, faith-filled leaders. We challenge students to master core subjects while they develop skills in critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. Our approach also includes compassion — an important part of our holistic program. Our blend of academics, service and co-curricular activities prepares students to meet the school-related and the moral challenges in life.

All grades offer teachers and specialists in the areas of art, music, P.E., technology, STEM education, French and Spanish.

## Grades 5 through 8 (Units C & D) comprise our middle school and junior high.

Focus in these grades is on competency and creative thinking. Building on the foundation of grades K-4, teachers help students in grades 5-8 transition to more advanced, content-rich materials. Expanding minds, applying knowledge, and challenging students to look at contemporary issues with regard to morals and values are hallmarks of our middle school and junior high program.

Students write across science labs, stories, poetry and research projects; writers are articulate, confident and able to express themselves in a variety of genres, developing arguments and supporting their own "voice". Math curriculum provides further differentiation, and our young scientists continue to study physical sciences through experimentation, lab work and text.

A student in middle school or junior high may be...

- creating a roller coaster model to understand physics;
- debating U.S. government through current events and politics;
- finding creative solutions for local problems (i.e. clean water);
- designing a mask to understand African and Egyptian culture;
- writing a script to perform with classmates at the end of eighth grade.

Students hone executive functioning skills: time management and self-study. Having younger "buddies", small teacher-student ratios and our Unit System build lasting, positive relationships. As this is also a time of enhanced social consciousness, we address personal health, bullying and cyber awareness. Teachers, resource specialists and parents continue collaboration on the greater academic challenges that come with transition to high school.

## Unit D

- Geotowns in 5th, 6th and 7th Grade
- 8th grade completes projects such as Element parade, Selling homemade toothpaste to younger grades, chemical experiments, building a Rube Goldberg machine, and making their own model safety cars.
- 7th and 8th Math Classes participate in The Stock Market Game by EconIllinois for 13 weeks
- 7th and 8th grade Math students participate in EconIllinois Economics Poster Contest

