**VJMJ**

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**7th and 8th Grade Religion 2017- 2018 Mrs. McGraw**

 **mmcgraw@saintrita-school.org**

 **Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Expectations:**

1. **You were made in the image of God - be ladies and gentlemen.**
2. **We are called to be at our best at all times. This will be our goal. When we fall short, we will deal with each other charitably and justly.**
3. **You are blessed with body, mind and soul - be timely, be prepared, be attentive, be ready to work.**
4. **This means comes to class on time.**
5. **This means have your pencils, pens, materials, etc.**
6. **This means completing all assignments in a timely manner;**
7. **This means completing homework nightly (which will include reading) in order to be positive and productive participant in class - as we will have many class discussions.**
8. **You are blessed with imagination and a sense of humor – find joy in what we do.**
9. **Religion class, above all others, should be joyful. As our Holy Father said, there are no sad saints!**
10. **You are human – ask questions and test for understanding. Together we will explore the mysteries of our Faith.**
11. **You have been given much, much will be expected of you – participate, assist, lead, succeed.**
12. **We will grow in Faith as a community.**
13. **We will strive to live out our Faith every day through our actions and words.**
14. **We will deepen our Faith through study and prayer during this Confirmation journey.**

**Important points about religion class:**

* 1. **What happens in religion class stays in religion class. There is an expected level of confidentiality among the students and teacher.**
	2. **You will be graded on your knowledge / level of understanding of the material (prayers, terms, church history, doctrine, etc.).**
	3. **Your religion grade is not a reflection of, nor a judgment upon, your Faith, spiritual life, prayer life, or your relationship with God. These are things a teacher cannot and should not judge nor grade.**
	4. **We will always be reverent in our outward actions in order to create a prayerful and reverent atmosphere for all.**
	5. **My job as your teacher is to instruct you in the Faith, and to role model “faith in action” in all I do and say. As they say, you and I will do our best– and let God do the rest!**

**Grading Structure:**

**100% Tests, Quizzes, Papers, and Projects**

**(What will be different is the *weighting* of assignments)**

**Weekly Structure:**

1. **Mondays: Religion class with Father Bork**
2. **Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Religion class with Mrs. McGraw**
3. **Tuesday: Confession during Study Hall**
4. **Wednesday: Mass at 8:30 am and Confession and Adoration during lunch recess (no class)**

**Daily Structure:**

1. **Intentions and Prayer**
2. **Saint of the Day – building a library of saints!**
3. **Lesson**
	1. **Text book and supplemental materials**
	2. **Identify, define, and understand the “words to know” from each chapter (or other material)**
	3. **Catholic vocabulary, scripture, concepts/doctrine, prayers, “making it real”**
	4. **Taking good notes is key!! I like to reinforce good note taking by giving open notebook tests/quizzes**

**Homework:**

1. **It is imperative that you complete the reading and other home work assignments in order to have a productive discussion in class**
2. **Reading comprehension is key! If they aren’t reading and asking questions, they are missing out – and so is the class as a whole**
3. **The challenge for you is “time management” week to week, as we do not have class everyday – hence, *studying needs to be a daily focus – reviewing old material and preparing for new material***
4. **Parents: I will provide homework assignments with specific due dates, for the upcoming week – this should help students structure the week. While there is no specific grade for homework THAT DOES NOT GET HANDED IN (independent reading, note taking, studying), it will be very clear whether they are doing it or not – it will show on the tests, “announced” and “unannounced” quizzes, papers, and project grades. \*\*If a homework assignment needs to handed in, it counts for a grade just like a paper or project or test. \*\***
5. **Parents: Check agendas for teacher signature – this indicates the student did NOT complete their homework fully and/or timely**

**Summary: Teaching religion is simply a dream come true. As with other subjects, in religion we need to learn core terms, concepts, historical information, and we need to memorize prayers, definitions, etc. There are no easy A’s just because it is religion class. It is very important to understand that it is an academic course that requires work just like any other subject. However, obviously, there is so much more to learning the Faith, than just working for a good grade. I feel it is imperative that I do all I can, along with your parents, to instill in each of you:**

 **a love of God, a love of the Faith,**

**a love of the Church, and a desire to seek God’s will.**

**Each and every one of you is made in His image and is destined to play an important role in His Church. You are wonderful children, and I am both honored and humbled to be teaching you. Our Faith: Learn it. Live it. Love it. Defend it.**

**Faith is different from proof;**

**the latter is human, the former is a Gift from God.**

**Blaise Pascal**