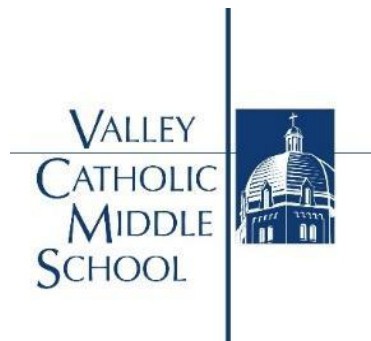


8th Grade Cross-Curricular Projects Overview



At Valley Catholic Middle School, we understand the importance for students to develop a variety of skills to be applied across multiple subjects. We have developed the following cross-curricular projects to give students the opportunity to practice these skills in multiple ways. The projects were chosen for three specific reasons:

1. Each of these projects allow students to demonstrate their growth as a student, and provide growth in all areas of our Profile of a Graduate. The Valley Catholic Middle School Profile of a Graduate is what we believe each 8th grade student leaves our program with. Each project demonstrates the aspects of the profile: Open to Growth, Intellectually Curious, Faith Formation, Compassionate Leaders, Involved Global Citizens, Wellness of Body and Mind.
2. The cross curricular projects give students a chance to practice and develop the core skills of being a student at Valley Catholic Middle School. Each project is designed specifically around these core skills: Writing, Research, Presentation, and Product design.
 - a. **Writing:** The projects challenge students to express ideas and make arguments in their writing.
 - b. **Research:** Students find useful information from and learn to assess a variety of sources.
 - c. **Presentation:** Projects are designed to have students present their work in various different presentation methods.
 - d. **Product:** Students create art, diagrams, presentations, and more to demonstrate what they learned and gained.
3. Finally, each project is designed to support the students' autonomy. The 6th and 7th grade years are designed to scaffold students into topic selection, this means they have a little less say in what they research, write about, and create. These projects are made to have students take more control of the process of designing a project. These projects allow them to demonstrate choosing a topic, developing a research-based project, and designing a product.

Service Learning Project - Quarter 1 and 2

The service learning project is a cross curricular project carried out over two quarters to help students identify issues within their community and come up with creative solutions to them. The project will be carried out in two phases: phase one will be identifying and researching issues in their community, phase two will be designing a service project to help address the problem. As a culmination to the project students will present their ideas to various community leaders. This can include city councils, business leaders, or charitable organizations. In light of this being a brand new project we do not yet have example projects.

Overview of Project by Subject and Skills

Skills	Subject	Objectives
Research	Religion	Students will research Ethics, Compassion, Catholic Social Teaching and Charitable organizations.
	Social Studies	Students will research regional differences in the United States and the role of government and economics in community issues. As well as the historical issues that people have faced in the USA.
	Science	Students will research the role climate change and access to resources play in community issues.
	Spanish	Students will research how language can be a barrier to accessing services.
	Math	Students will research the use of data and statistics.
Writing	Religion	Quarter 1: Students will write a 5 Paragraph Informative/Explanatory Essay identifying a specific issue in their community as well as what has been done or is currently being done to address the issue. Quarter 2: Students will write a multi page argumentative essay for ways to address the issue and what role different groups play in addressing the issue.
	English	Students will revise their essays in their English classes.
	Science	Students will work on technical writing.
	Math	Students will work on technical writing.
Product	Social Studies	Quarter 1: Students will create an infographic providing information about a given region in the United States and the issues specific to that region.
	Religion	Quarter 1: Students will revise and add information about charitable organizations in the region to their infographic. Quarter 2: Students will create a documentary/podcast that will allow them to reflect on all the work they have done with the project.
Presentation	Religion	Quarter 1: Students will present their findings about their issue and interview someone who works on addressing the issue. Quarter 2: Students will present their understanding of the issue and their proposed ways of addressing the issue to community leaders.

Migration Project - Quarter 3

The migration project will have students focus on the historical context of migration in the United States, the reasons for migration, the issues that it creates, and how we can address those issues. Students will work in multiple subjects to research the history of migration in the country and why people migrate. They will also connect it to their personal experiences by looking deeply at their own families connection to migration. Students will create a personal narrative which includes connections to historical migration. They will create artwork that demonstrates what they learned about migration and the issues that surround it. Finally they will give a formal presentation to show their artwork and how it connects to what they learned. In light of this being a brand new project we do not yet have example projects.

Overview of Project by Subject and Skills

Skills	Subject	Objectives
Research	Social Studies	Students will research the historical migration of people to and across the United States. Students will interview people they know about their migration stories.
	Spanish	Students will research moving to place that are predominantly Spanish Speaking
	Religion	Students will research the history of Catholic Migration to the United States and the various attitudes in the country to that migration.
	Science	Students will research how climate change impacts people and creates conditions for migration.
	Math	Students will interpret data and statistics.
Writing	English	Students will write a personal narrative telling a family story or historical fiction that connects to migration.
	Social Studies	Students will revise their narrative specifically making sure the details match with historical narratives.
Product	8th Grade Wheel Elective	Students create a piece of art that represents their feelings and understanding of the topic of migration to and across the United States.
Presentation	Spanish	Students will present their artwork in a formal presentation of how what they created connects to what they learned.
	Art Show	Students will present their artwork to the larger community during a school art show.

Capstone - 4th Quarter

The Valley Catholic Middle School (VCMS) Capstone is an intensive, year-end, cross-curricular project. In Capstone, students explore their interests and narrow their focus to one topic about which they are passionate. They design a project, conduct background research, and interview a professional in the field. During the final weeks of school, students create projects and share their learning through a website and oral presentation. Through Capstone, students refine academic skills learned over three years at VCMS—research, writing, project design, and presentation. Students learn time management and planning, self-advocacy, and communication—skills that will benefit them in high school, college, and their professional lives. Students direct their own learning and advance their personal and academic growth.

Overview of Project by Subject and Skills

Skills	Subject	Objectives
Research	Religion Science Social Studies PE/Health Math Spanish	Students will come up with a topic that interests them and allow them to demonstrate the skills they have gained over the course of Middle School.
	English	Students will research their chosen topic.
Writing	English	Students will write a multi page essay that covers their chosen topic.
	Religion Science Social Studies	Students will make revisions to their essay to prepare it for publishing on their Capstone websites.
Product	Religion Science Social Studies	Students will create something that demonstrates what they learned about their product. This can take the form of anything from a model, awareness campaign, film/video, art, music and other creative products.
Presentation	Religion Science Social Studies	Students will present their research and creation in a 15-20 minute formal presentation to the larger school community.

Examples of Past Capstone Projects

