

Our Goal...

The focus in the middle school language arts program is to prepare our students for high school. We maintain high standards with high expectations for all students.

It is our goal that by the time our students graduate from St. Agatha that they will make a smooth transition into high school, having mastered the basic skills of reading, writing, public speaking and listening. We recognize these skills to be invaluable, regardless of the careers our students later choose.



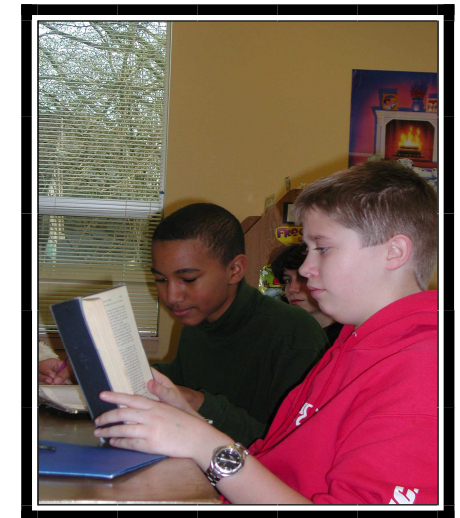
Learning. Faith. Service.

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St. Agatha School



Middle School Language Arts

Key Areas of Study

Reading

- Sustained silent reading
- Read and critique various types of fiction/non-fiction
- Read and memorize selected poetry
- Read and critique selected novels such as *The Outsiders*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *Hatchet*
- Identify and analyze various types of figurative language
- Appreciate other cultures through literature
- Reading buddies with younger students
- Make text to self, text to world, and text to text connections.

Writing

- Practice correct grammar and punctuation daily
- Compose, edit and revise various types of paragraphs
- Compose a variety of letters, reports and stories
- Improve spelling and vocabulary through weekly tests
- Use correct punctuation, spelling and grammar in all forms of writing
- Publish finished work on word processor
- Write in descriptive, expository, narrative, and persuasive formats

Listening

- Following directions
- Presentations by other students
- Recorded tapes of various types of literature
- Listening comprehension exercises



Speaking

- Share written work with the class
- Oral reading of stories, poetry and plays
- Present various types of speeches such as elocution, impromptu and oral interpretation
- Participate in a speech tournament

Projects

- Creative book reports including skits, posters, scrapbooks and puppets
- Autobiographies with pictures
- Poetry booklets and class collaborations
- Published stories with art work
- Research papers

Research

- Choosing and narrowing a topic
- Paraphrasing
- Summarizing
- Preparing note cards
- Outlining
- Documenting sources
- Analyzing Primary and Secondary sources.

Service Learning

- Students grades K-8 participate in monthly service learning projects that focus on three areas: community service, environmental service or service to the individual. These age-appropriate activities include visiting the elderly, picking up litter, serving at local food banks and grounds maintenance in the neighborhood.