

**Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic School
7th and 8th Grade Classroom
Mr. Rosenberg, Room 7
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School Phone Number: (818) 361-5096**



Welcome! My name is Austin Rosenberg, and I am excited to be your 7th and 8th teacher for the 2022-2023 school year at Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic School. We will read, write, think, and grow together during this fun and productive year. I strive to meet everyone's needs, and I hope you will return the favor by giving your best effort in my class. Each of you is a valued member of our learning family, and as such, I expect you to attend every class, prepared and ready to participate (unless you are sick or have another valid reason for absence). If you are struggling with any issues, academic or otherwise, please let me know. I am happy to give extra help, and my door is always open.

Mission Statement: Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic School strongly believes that each child is a gift from God who deserves the right to a quality education. Here at Santa Rosa de Lima, we are dedicated to providing our students with a spiritually rich and nurturing environment where our teachers, staff and parents prepare to make a difference in the world.

School Philosophy: In fulfillment of the Church's mission of Catholic education and in response to parental need, Santa Rosa de Lima exists to bring Jesus and the Gospel message into the formal educational experience of its students.

- We strive to have our students follow the call of Jesus Christ by centering our teaching around faith, life, and learning, thus providing opportunities for service and worship.
- We strive to embody the spirit of Santa Rosa de Lima, living as disciples of Christ.
- We strive to build a school community which responds to the dignity and worth of each member.

Curriculum:

Mathematics- 7th Grade students will focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing rational numbers, analyzing proportional relationships, generating equivalent expressions, drawing, constructing, and describing geometrical figures, and evaluating probability models. 8th Grade students will discover irrational numbers and approximate them by rational

numbers, work with radicals and exponents, proportional relationships, the Pythagorean theorem, volume, and bivariate data.

ELA- In ELA, we will focusing on a few different skills. The primary two skills will be writing a 5-paragraph format essay, and making proper citations. There will be some work in grammar, but the main focus will be on how to format a paper so as to be able to write a term paper in high school in any subject. My goal is to have my 7th and 8th graders capable of writing a term paper in any subject by the end of the 2nd trimester. From this point on, I will treat all of my students as if they can write a 5-paragraph essay in any subject, not limited to ELA.

Reading- This year, the class will be reading *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick. This is a novel about two misfits forging a friendship that gives them the courage necessary to overcome a number of social issues. It also deals with themes of disability. I selected *Freak the Mighty* due to its outstanding literary quality, as well as its continued relevance to young readers. Time permitting, we may also read *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt, a highly celebrated children's novel dealing with themes of immortality.

Religion- Religion is one of the most critical subjects in my class. One of the main focuses of this school year will be to develop a rich prayer life. I intend to introduce the class to having a Eucharistic spirituality over the course of the year and into the future. I will start by teaching the class to participate in exposition and benediction of the Eucharist in adoration. After this has happened, I will institute weekly adoration that will continue through the rest of their school experience at Santa Rosa de Lima. We will also participate in the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament once a month.

Another focus throughout the school year will be developing a sense of Catholic heritage. The class will learn about iconography as they discover and develop and understanding of related issues in early Christian History. This will also give the class a deeper understanding and appreciation of Christian Art.

Social Studies- This subject is also one of my personal favorites, and this year we will focus on US History, which happens to be my academic field of expertise! We will explore and deepen our understanding of topics such as early America, the Revolutionary War, creation and ratification of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, American expansion and immigration, slavery, the American Civil War and Reconstruction, industrialization, technological advancements, contributions of US presidents, civic

participation, and cultural and economic issues. We will also discover why US History continues to remain relevant to our lives today and into the future, as well as why it is interesting!

Science- In Science, we will be covering Physical Science. Physical Science is the study of the inorganic world, i.e., the study of things that are not living. This includes subjects such as Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, and Earth Science (Geology and Meteorology). We will place a special emphasis on the rudiments of Physical Science, such as atoms, energy, and Newton's Laws.

This class will also emphasize Catholic scientists over the centuries. In recent times, there has been an unfortunate stereotype of Christians having to choose between God and science, even though this is far from the truth. For this reason, in the middle of the year, I intend to have a project where the class will do a report on a great Catholic scientist.

PE- PE will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 1:05-1:35 PM. Please make sure your child comes prepared with a PE uniform on those days.

Substitute/Guest Teachers: Students must show respect to all staff members and guests, as well as to other students. This includes substitute teachers, whom you will treat with the same respect you show me.

Behavior: Since lifelong success depends in part on learning to make responsible choices, I have developed a classroom discipline plan, which guides every student to make good decisions about his or her behavior. Your child deserves the most positive educational climate possible for his or her growth, and I know that together we will make a difference in this process. The plan below outlines out rules, positive recognition for appropriate behavior, and consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Class Rules:

- 1.** Follow all directions.
- 2.** One voice at a time.
- 3.** Stay in your seat and minimize distracting behaviors.
- 4.** Clean up any mess that you make.
- 5.** Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- 6.** Use furniture only for its intended use.
- 7.** Be kind to one another.

Positive Recognition: When students are following class rules and modeling them for their peers, I promptly reward students with verbal praise, *good* phone calls home, “caught being good” slips, treats, and prizes.

Consequences: When students are not following class rules, I give students two verbal warnings before emailing or making a phone call to parents. If problematic behaviors continue, I will conduct a parent-teacher conference.

Technology: The main forms of technology that I will be using in this class are Google Classroom, videos, web links, and SchoolSpeak. I will also be sending many emails to students and parents, so it will be necessary for both students and parents to follow their email. It is also important that parents monitor Google Classroom so that they can know what their child has coming up. Your child’s username and password to Google Classroom will be provided. Grades will be published on SchoolSpeak over the weekends. Parents are responsible for tracking their child’s progress on SchoolSpeak and on Google Classroom.

Homework: Homework will be assigned on a regular basis. Each subject will have an assignment once a week. If I believe it is necessary, I may assign more than one assignment in a week for a particular subject. It is important that all students regularly turn in their homework, as it is an important part of their grade. Study guides are not graded, but they are still homework and must be completed.

Late Work: Late work will be accepted with a 10% grade reduction for the assignment until the cutoff date at the end of a trimester. After the end of a trimester, I cannot accept the assignment. The 10% grade reduction does not apply to students who missed an assignment with a valid reason for absence, such as illness or emergencies.

Academic Honesty: Do not lie to me about why you missed class or failed to turn in an assignment. It is unnecessary and insults my intelligence. If you miss a deadline, hand me the late assignment, apologize, grin sheepishly if need be, and leave it at that. Admitting you messed up takes guts, and I respect people who own up to their mistakes.

Do not cheat on assignments, quizzes, and tests. I will catch you and you will receive an automatic zero on the assignment.

Plagiarism is when a student turns in work that has been copied or stolen from another person without citation *intentionally*. Do not plagiarize from written sources or the web. Since plagiarism is *always* obvious and easily caught, it is better to hand in your own work and get a mediocre grade than

to hand in someone else's and get a zero. Any and all plagiarized assignments will receive a grade of zero, which will assuredly lower your grade. You will also be seen as lacking integrity.

Grades: Your grade will be based on an accumulation of in-class tests, quizzes, projects, classwork, homework, and participation. Grades will be weighted as such:

Tests/Projects	- 50%
Quizzes	- 20%
Classwork/Homework	- 20%
Participation	- 10%

The letter grade scale for the six core subjects (Math, Reading, ELA, Religion, History, and Science) is as follows:

A	= 93-100%
A-	= 90-92%
B+	= 87-89%
B	= 85-86%
B-	= 80-84%
C	= 75-79%
C-	= 70-74%
D	= 65-69%
F	= 64% and lower

Note: Art and PE are Credit/No Credit subjects.

Birthdays: As everyone is special in God's eyes, we will make a point of celebrating birthdays. I will keep you updated on how we are celebrating birthdays, given the current health regulations.

Classroom Library: If your child has a favorite book, consider asking him or her to donate it to the classroom library so that they may share it with their peers. Books are celebrated in my classroom, and I highly encourage contributions to the class library.

Substitute/Guest Teachers: Students must show respect to all staff members and guests, as well as to other students. This includes substitute teachers, whom you will treat with the same respect you show me.

Restroom Breaks: Please get permission from me to use the restroom.

REMEMBER: Be safe, be respectful, be responsible! If I see that students are not following our classroom rules, we will thoroughly review them.

I have high expectations because I want to create the best possible experience for everyone in my class. I believe in you and care about you. If you have any questions, or anything you would like to discuss with me, please let me know.

Parents: Please go over this letter with your child and return the next page to me with your signatures.

My Office Hours will be determined shortly, and I will notify you of them as soon as they are confirmed. Thank you for your patience.

I look forward to sharing this school year with you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Rosenberg

Please return this page with your signature and your child's signature:

I have read Mr. Rosenberg's syllabus and understand 7th and 8th Grade rules and policies.

Print Child's Name: _____

Sign Child's Name: _____

Date: _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

Sign Parent's Name: _____

Date: _____

Comments/Things I should know about your child:
