

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



Welcome! My name is Austin Rosenberg, and I am excited to be your 7th and 8th Grade teacher for ELA, Reading, Social Studies, and Art for the 2023-2024 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, parents, and parish 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:**

**ELA-** In ELA, we will be working on a variety of skills. My primary objective this year is for all students to be able to state a claim, provide evidence to support that claim, and then substantiate that claim with reasoning (Claim-Evidence-Reasoning) as part of a writing exercise. This is a deeply important and standards-based ELA skill that all students need to succeed in high school.

We will also continue developing the skills necessary to write five-paragraph essays, as essays are the backbone of higher-level academic work. I am also a strong believer in the practice of journaling, and students in my class will respond to one (or more) writing prompts in their journal each day. In addition to this, I will place more emphasis this year on explicit instruction addressing grammar, language usage, and speaking and listening skills, all of which correspond to Common Core State Standards.

**Reading-** The foundation of our Reading instruction is the i-Ready Reading curriculum. 7th Graders will work with the 7th Grade i-Ready Reading curriculum, and 8th Graders will work with the 8th Grade i-Ready Reading curriculum.

Literature helps develop not only the mind, but every aspect of the whole child. Therefore, the i-Ready Reading curriculum will be enriched with novels and corresponding activities that are appropriate for your child. On top of this, I expect all students to come to class every day with a silent reading book of their own (taking a dictionary from the class bookshelf does **not** count). The public libraries (both city and county) carry many excellent books that your son or daughter will enjoy reading, and they come at no cost to you.

**Social Studies-** This subject is also one of my personal favorites. The class will be learning about World History this year. We will begin with the decline of the Roman Empire. Following this, the class will continue to explore Islam, Africa, China, Japan, the Medieval Era and the Renaissance. There will be numerous opportunities for the Social Studies standards to be taught in conjunction with the principals of our Catholic faith, as well as Common Core ELA standards.

**Art-** No education is complete without Art. The Church has long been a patron of the arts. Not only does Art teach us to appreciate the beauty in nature and re-create it in a variety of forms, it develops the brain and strengthens other talents. We will do regular tutorials in drawing, folding arts like origami, and hopefully painting, clay, and other media.

**PE-** PE will be on Mondays and Tuesdays from 1:40-2:40 PM. Please make sure your child comes prepared with a PE uniform on those days

**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 our 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 stamps on a stamp chart attached to their desks. 50 stamps earns a student a prize. I also reward students with verbal praise, *good* phone calls home, “caught being good” slips, and treats.

**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 ClassDojo, 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 and SchoolSpeak. It is also **critical** that parents monitor ClassDojo so that they can know what their child has coming up. **All homework assignments are posted on ClassDojo, and this platform is our classroom's online hub.** Grades will be published on SchoolSpeak. Parents are responsible for tracking their child's progress on **SchoolSpeak and on ClassDojo.**

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned on a regular basis. Generally, 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 for full credit. After the end of a trimester, I cannot accept the assignment. If I see students not turning in their work, I will set stricter deadlines for accepting assignments (such as by the end of the month, instead of the end of the trimester). Deadlines matter, and they are in place to keep your child on track! I am very understanding about illnesses and emergencies, so if you cannot get an assignment in on time due to an illness or an emergency, please let me know and I will gladly give you an extension.

**Academic Honesty:** Dishonesty, academic or otherwise, is not welcome in my classroom. All forms of student dishonesty hurt everyone's ability to learn in a safe space, which is why students are here at Santa Rosa de Lima in the first place. Because of this, academic dishonesty will carry consequences.

Cheating is **never okay**. Plagiarism is also a form of cheating. This 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.

**Grades:** Your grade will be based on an accumulation of in-class tests, projects, quizzes, classwork, and homework. I can also award you extra credit points for exceptional participation.

Grades will be weighted as such:

**Tests/Projects - 30%**  
**Quizzes - 30%**  
**Classwork/Homework - 40%**

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

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

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. Please plan ahead and email me if you would like to bring in something special to the classroom for the birthday celebration.

**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. I only let one boy and one girl go to the restroom at a time.

**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 tutoring 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:

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