



# CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter by GRACE Team Curriculum



St. Thomas More Catholic School



Notre Dame of De Pere Catholic School

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## Curriculum Updates

New scope and sequences have been created for many subject areas in GRACE! Check them out and see how they can be used in your classrooms and with prospective families!

Team Curriculum has been hard at work developing scope and sequences for key subject areas that span from Kindergarten all the way up to 8th grade. Having these types of documents available not only can assist teachers with seeing what skills are taught when and how they build upon one another, but it can also be a great resource to give to prospective new parents that are curious about what is taught in the GRACE school system. So far scope and sequences have been developed for mathematics, ELA, science, social studies, and religion. The tech team will be working with Team Curriculum to develop a scope and sequence for technology and computer skills as well.

The scope and sequences were developed using the Power Standards many teacher teams had previously selected during past in-services and team meetings. If there were gaps in the Power Standards, Team Curriculum did a complete review and filled in the curriculum by choosing additional standards to ensure a solid learning transition from one grade level to another. In future meetings and in-services, teachers interested in assisting with curriculum development will have the opportunity to review the Power Standards with a K-8 team and make any necessary and changes and adjustments.

Check out the scope and sequences using the link [here](#) and clicking the Instructional Topics button.



# Teacher Spotlight

Michelle Wagnitz has been a teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School for 20 years! Currently she teaches religion for grades 5-8 and helps students grow on their spiritual journey. Read Michelle's thoughts on the presentation by Mother Mary Catherine below!



**What was your biggest takeaway as a GRACE religion teacher from the in-service presentation from Mother Mary Catherine?**

My biggest take away from our time with Mother is that by slowing down and living with complete trust in Jesus, we can have such peace! Mother just exudes peace and holiness and HUMOR! She is a great example of living the Christian life, the joy and peace that life brings, and how we can bring that to the world.

**How did Mother Mary Catherine's reflections impact us as Catholics and followers of Jesus?**

When Mother said that her baptism name is Margaret and so Jesus calls her Peggy when he talks to her!! [It] brought to light how personal our relationship with Jesus can be. She reminds us how much we are so loved by Jesus and in his constant care. She gives the courage to place more trust in Jesus and do as he directs us.

**How can teachers take the message from the presentation and share it with their students in their classrooms?**

What we can bring to/share with our students is that great love Jesus has for us, and taking the time to love and appreciate each other. When she started by wanting to personally connect with each of us and look at us, it was a powerful reminder of how often we are on "automatic" and don't stop to love and appreciate our students and each other. We need to stop and be more intentional in our interactions.



Holy Cross  
Catholic School

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*...by slowing down  
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WE ARE:  
**GRACE:**



## Ask Team Curriculum

What subject area will be getting new curriculum materials/textbooks this year?

Last year social studies resources for K-5 were updated along with ELA for grades 6-8. This year, the focus will be on K-8 science. Not only will new resources and materials be selected, but curriculum development will also occur for this subject area.

To take on this task, a team of GRACE principals and selected teachers who are interested in participating in curriculum development will meet a total of five times between now and the end of the school year. Representatives were selected from each GRACE school and from each grade level. The team meetings will focus on particular science objectives including Power Standard review, resource/material (textbook) review and selection, learning target development, and more.

If you're not on the team, don't worry. You'll still be in the know and be able to give input. After each meeting, the grade level teacher representative will email all other grade levels teachers to recap what occurred at the meeting. At that time, you can give input, talk with your grade level colleagues, and make sure what is being developed matches what is happening in the classrooms across GRACE.

## Grab 'N Go Resources

From Groundhog's Day to Candlemas to Valentine's Day, February is jam packed with important dates and celebrations! Check out the resources below to incorporate some new lessons into your classroom!

- Want to dive deeper with your students into the feast days and saints that are celebrated during the month of February? Check out this complete [lesson kit](#) from Sadlier Press. It includes reading on each saint which would be appropriate for older students and/or the teacher and corresponding activities perfect for K-5 students. With flexibility for numerous grade levels, this lesson plan kit is a great option to incorporate into your classroom this month!
- Candlemas around the world! Candlemas is celebrated on February 2 and involves the blessing of candles. Learn about how Candlemas is celebrated in countries around the world including the United States, France, Mexico, and more! This is a great cross curricular lesson for religion and social studies! Find the information you'll need for this type of lesson [here!](#)
- Looking for a St. Valentine's Day activities for students to do if they finish their work early? This [crossword](#) is perfect for that! This crossword especially could be turned into a lesson all its own when some historical reading about Saint Valentine is included as the hints reference very specific facts about the saint. These resources are great for students in grade 4-8.
- Groundhog's Day is for students of all ages! The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club has resources for students of all ages including coloring pages for younger students, shadow science experiments for elementary, challenge vocabulary lessons for middle school students, and even number plots for high school (or your advanced middle schooler!) Check out all the resources [here!](#)