



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

**Curriculum Framework
for Catholic Schools and Parish Faith Formation Programs**

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Mission	5
Three Parts of a Whole	5
Curriculum Framework Chart	6
Curriculum Framework Chart Explained	6
Abbreviations Used throughout the Framework	7
Terminology Used throughout the Framework	10
Encountering Jesus Christ	11
The Meaning of Encounter	11
Contexts of Encountering Jesus	12
Signposts for Encountering Jesus	13
Opportunities to Encounter Jesus Christ at Each Grade Level	14
ENCOUNTER organized by grade bands	15
Growing as a Disciple of Jesus Christ	22
In All Content Areas in Catholic Schools	22
Catechesis in Parish Faith Formation Programs	23
Witnessing to God’s Unfailing Love	24
The Meaning of Witness	24
Contexts of Witnessing	24
Signposts for Witnessing to God’s Unfailing Love	25
WITNESS organized by grade bands	27
The Use of Curriculum Standards in Theology Courses	32
Theology Courses Program Goal	32

Educator Use of K-8th Grade Curriculum Standards	33
Educator Use of 9-12th Grade Curriculum Standards	33
Anchor Standards	34
Theology Standards by Grade Level	37
Early Childhood Theology	38
Kindergarten Theology	42
First Grade Theology	47
Second Grade Theology	52
Third Grade Theology	58
Fourth Grade Theology	65
Fifth Grade Theology	71
Sixth Grade Theology	77
Seventh Grade Theology	84
Eighth Grade Theology	92
Cross-Content Literacy in grades 6-8	100
Ninth Grade Theology	102
Course I: The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture	102
Course II: Who is Jesus Christ?	105
Tenth Grade Theology	107
Course III: The Mission of Jesus Christ	107
Course IV: Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church	109
Eleventh Grade Theology	111
Course V: Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ	111
Course VI: Life in Jesus Christ	115
Twelfth Grade Theology	118
Course VII: History of the Catholic Church	118
Course VIII: Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society	121
Cross-Content Literacy in grades 9-12	124

Student Prayer Completion Record	126
Acknowledgements	129
Acknowledgements for Curriculum Standards for Cross-Content Literacy	132

Introduction to the Diocese of Grand Rapids Curriculum Framework for Catholic Schools and Parish Faith Formation Programs

Mission

The call to a New Evangelization is at the heart of all ministerial initiatives within the Diocese of Grand Rapids, including Catholic schools and parish faith formation programs. This curriculum framework aims to assist schools and parishes in bringing about a renewed zeal and commitment to know and love Jesus and the Church.

Three Parts of a Whole

The Curriculum Framework is structured to be comprehensive in scope. There are three parts to the diocesan framework: **Encounter, Grow, and Witness**. This paradigm is proposed for leading the faithful into a life of discipleship.

The framework emphasizes God's invitation to a loving relationship with Him through an **encounter** with His Son Jesus Christ and the student's free response to His invitation as appropriate for each grade level. Knowing Jesus in a personal way opens the mind and heart of the child to want to **grow** in knowledge about God and the Catholic Church and adhere to the authority of Christ's teachings as entrusted to us through the Catholic Church. This dynamic relationship with Jesus and His Church empowers the student to be an effective **witness** by living as a joyful missionary disciple of Jesus Christ.

The goal of evangelization and catechesis is not simply a transmission of information, but of a person - Jesus Christ (CT 6). So, it is important to consider ways for the students to **encounter** Jesus each time they gather, to **grow** in their understanding of the Catholic faith, and to be a **witness** of Christ in the world.

The three parts of the paradigm are not intended to be steps in a sequence, but as an integrated framework throughout a student's experience, rooted in the pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the six tasks of Catechesis. The following chart shows the relationship of its parts.

Curriculum Framework Chart

Framework	Pillar of the Church	Task of Catechesis	Anchor	CCC Reference
ENCOUNTER		Education for Community Life	ENC Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	CCC 1-49
GROW	Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Knowledge of the Faith	SCR Sacred Scripture	CCC 50-141
			HIS Faith and Church History	CCC 142-184
			CRE The Creed	CCC 185 - 1065
	Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery	Liturgical Education	LIT God and the Sacred Liturgy	CCC 1066-1209
			SAC Seven Sacraments of the Church	CCC 1210-1690
	Pillar III: Life in Christ	Moral Formation	DIG Dignity of the Human Person	CCC 1691-1876
			COM The Human Community	CCC 1877-1948
			TOB Theology of the Body	CCC 2201 - 2254, 2331 - 2400
			MOR Morality	CCC 1949-2557
	Pillar IV: Christian Prayer	Learning to Pray	PRA Prayer	CCC 2558-2865
WITNESS		Missionary Discipleship and Service	WIT Service / Social Justice / Servant Leadership	CCC 2419-2463

Curriculum Framework Chart Explained

As noted in the chart, the three parts of the paradigm are then organized into twelve anchor standards. The first anchor describes the work of our first part: **Encounter**. The final anchor describes the work of our final part: **Witness**. The second through eleventh anchors comprise the **Grow** aspect of the paradigm, as students grow in their understanding of the Catechism in grades PreK- 8th. Additionally, students in Catholic schools grow in their understanding of Catholic theology in their other academic content areas as well as through alignment with the USCCB framework in theology courses in grades 9-12. Grades 9-12th have employed the use of the Encounter, Theology of the Body, and Witness anchors to complement their course alignment to the USCCB framework.

In Catholic schools, opportunities to **encounter** Jesus Christ and expectations for conducting one's self as a Christian **witness** are extended to all aspects of a student's experience, throughout the entire school year and throughout a student's school day. Catholic school students **grow** in their understanding of Catholic Church teaching in all subject areas in their course of study, with specific curriculum standards reserved for their theology course work.

Parish faith formation programs seek to form the whole person. Active participation in worship, prayer and service experiences promote an opportunity to **encounter** Jesus Christ and **witness** a missionary spirit in society. Weekly religious education lessons offer the opportunity to **grow** in knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.

Abbreviations Used throughout the Framework

BFF	Bridging Faith and Future, the diocesan strategic plan for Catholic Schools
CCC	Catechism of the Catholic Church
CIC	Code of Canon Law
CSDC	Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church
CT	On Catechesis in Our Time (Catechesis Tradendae)
DCE	God Is Love (Deus Caritas Est)
EG	The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)
EN	On Evangelization in the Modern World (Evangelii Nuntiandi)
GDC	General Directory for Catechesis
MV	Bull of Indiction (Misericordiae Vultus)
NDC	National Directory for Catechesis
NSBECS	National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools
PCL	Parish Catechetical Leader
RCIA	Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
SCG	Book on the truth of the Catholic faith against the errors of the unbelievers (Summa Contra Gentiles)
USCCA	United States Catholic Catechism for Adults
USCCB	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
VS	Splendor of Truth (Veritatis Splendor)

Books of the Old Testament

Gen	Genesis	Tob	Tobit	Ezek	Ezekiel
Exod	Exodus	Jdt	Judith	Dan	Daniel
Lev	Leviticus	Esther	Esther	Hosea	Hosea
Num	Numbers	1 Macc	1 Maccabees	Joel	Joel
Deut	Deuteronomy	2 Macc	2 Maccabees	Amos	Amos
Josh	Joshua	Job	Job	Obad	Obadiah
Judg	Judges	Ps	Psalms	Jon	Jonah
Ruth	Ruth	Prov	Proverbs	Mic	Micah
1 Sam	1 Samuel	Eccles	Ecclesiastes	Nah	Nahum
2 Sam	2 Samuel	Song	Song of Songs	Hab	Habakkuk
1 Kings	1 Kings	Wis	Wisdom	Zeph	Zephaniah
2 Kings	2 Kings	Sir	Sirach	Hag	Haggai
1 Chron	1 Chronicles	Isa	Isaiah	Zech	Zechariah
2 Chron	2 Chronicles	Jer	Jeremiah	Mal	Malachi
Ezra	Ezra	Lam	Lamentations		
Neh	Nehemiah	Bar	Baruch		

Books of the New Testament

Matt	Matthew	Col	Colossians	1 John	1 John
Mark	Mark	1 Thess	1 Thessalonians	2 John	2 John
Luke	Luke	2 Thess	2 Thessalonians	3 John	3 John
John	John	1 Tim	1 Timothy	Jude	Jude
Acts	Acts of the Apostles	2 Tim	2 Timothy	Rev	Revelation
Rom	Romans	Titus	Titus		
1 Cor	1 Corinthians	Philem	Philemon		
2 Cor	2 Corinthians	Heb	Hebrews		
Gal	Galatians	James	James		
Eph	Ephesians	1 Pet	1 Peter		
Phil	Philippians	2 Pet	2 Peter		

Terminology Used throughout the Framework

The following terms are used to describe the structural components of the Curriculum Framework:

Framework: The structure used to describe the organization of Catechesis within a paradigm of Encounter/Grow/Witness.

Pillar of the Church: The four main divisions of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. These are: The Profession of Faith, The Celebration of the Christian Mystery, Life in Christ, and Christian Prayer.

Task of Catechesis: Faith must be known, celebrated, lived and expressed in prayer. So, catechesis comprises six fundamental tasks, each of which is related to an aspect of faith in Christ. All efforts in evangelization and catechesis should incorporate these tasks (NDC 20).

Catechesis promotes knowledge of the faith

Catechesis promotes knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the sacraments.

Catechesis promotes moral formation

Catechesis teaches the Christian how to pray with Christ

Catechesis prepares the Christian to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church

Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society

Anchor: The twelve sections of curriculum standards in the Curriculum Framework. These are Encounter (ENC), Sacred Scripture (SCR), Church History (HIS), Creed (CRE), Sacred Liturgy (LIT), Sacraments (SAC), Dignity of the Human Person (DIG), Theology of the Body (TOB), Human Community (COM), Morality (MOR), Christian Prayer (PRA), and Witness (WIT).

Curriculum Standard (outcomes): Each anchor includes a set of curriculum standards which describe outcomes of what the student is expected to experience, learn, and comprehend as a result of the teaching, activity, discussion, prayer, and reflection on the lessons. These are expressed as outcomes within the parish faith formation lessons. In schools, these are broken down into more specific outcomes or learning targets associated with grading rubrics or assessments.

Curriculum Framework in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Encountering Jesus Christ

The call to a New Evangelization is at the heart of the ministerial initiatives within the Diocese of Grand Rapids. It is the intention that this framework for cultivating opportunities to **encounter Jesus Christ** will assist schools and parish faith formation in renewing their zeal and commitment for encouraging all to know, love, and serve Jesus and the Church. The Diocese of Grand Rapids Catholic Schools Strategic Plan, *Bridging Faith and Future*, calls for a strategic focus on the Catholic Culture and Mission of each school. In particular, Bishop Walkowiak notes that the Catholic schools are “the single most effective means the Church has created for evangelization” (BFF). The Office of Catholic Schools is committed to the formation of students “in every dimension of life - nurturing a relationship with Christ as the foundation for both an inspiring program of academic study and a lifelong journey to heaven” (BFF).

This document intends to lay out the basic principles and signposts for the strategic and Holy Spirit inspired cultivation of opportunities to “a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter [us]” (EG 3).

The Meaning of Encounter

Encountering Jesus Christ is the decisive event in the life of the human person: “Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” (DCE 1). Evangelizing and catechizing students in the Catholic schools and parish faith formation programs is an essential task, and at the core of the mission of the Church. The great work of evangelization, which belongs perennially to the life of the Catholic Church, aims to form young persons to become joyful missionary disciples, confirmed and trained in the Catholic faith, and powerful witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, able to offer a renewed encounter with Jesus by which we discover the “fullest truth of our being.” (EG 8) For this reason, the work of evangelization and catechesis always begins and is constantly renewed by encountering Jesus Christ in the whole life and mission of the Catholic Church.

1. The responsibility for preparing a person to encounter anew, or for the first time, the love of God belongs to the entire school and parish community. Indeed, evangelization is the essential mission of the whole Church and of each of her members (EN 14).

2. The goal of evangelization and catechesis is not simply a transmission of information, but of a person – Jesus Christ (CT 6). We are called to participate in the mission of the Church and ensure the missionary aspect of bringing other people to Christ and making disciples who deeply, personally, and communally know Jesus Christ.
3. A deeper life with Jesus Christ, through His Church, is always proposed to the school community, parish and each of its members. This proposal or invitation is to come to know in one’s own life that the life of faith in Jesus Christ is one in which reality, in all its depth, is most deeply encountered, embraced, and integrated into one’s life. The truth of which we are convinced is that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and most deeply reveals the meaning of our own lives to us.

Contexts of Encountering Jesus

Encountering Jesus anew, or for the first time, is a daily event in the life of the disciple of Christ. This event, moreover, emerges in a variety of contexts and for a variety of persons involved in catechesis.

Faculty and Staff

- The staff of the school has a genuine vocation for teaching; each person and the whole community of the staff have a call from God to engage young persons in their own total formation and development as a disciple of Christ. This vocational element is cultivated in the silence of prayer, encounter with Jesus, and in the life of the staff together.
- School leaders take responsibility for the recruitment, professional growth, and faith formation of faculty and staff, with careful attention to hiring and retaining faculty and staff who share in the joys of their personal encounters with Jesus Christ.
- School leaders provide various opportunities for faculty and staff to regularly discover anew Jesus Christ and His call on their lives.
- Teachers are responsible for providing moments of genuine encounter of Jesus Christ for all students. These moments may begin as the indicated grade-level lists below, but also grow from the cultures, interests, and curiosities of each class.

Parish Catechetical Leaders and Catechists

- The vocation of the parish catechist is to hear and respond yes to Jesus’ call to live as a disciple, grow in holiness and to formally teach others to do the same. Catechists nurture their vocation through personal prayer, participation in the church’s liturgical and sacramental life, especially Sunday Eucharist, the source of nourishment for catechists, and the life of the parish community.
- Parish catechetical leaders are tasked with recruitment, formation, ongoing development, and evaluation of catechists. They accompany catechists in the journey toward transformation of lives through true encounter with Jesus.

- The catechist continually seeks opportunities to share with joy, moments of encounter of Jesus Christ. These moments may begin as the indicated grade-level lists below, but also grow from the cultures, interests, and experiences of each class.

Students

- In Baptism, the person is brought into the family of God. In this way, as well, each young person already has a relationship with Jesus Christ. The entire parish, school, and all of its parts, then, conduces to deepening this presence of Jesus in the life of the young person. The parish and school is a place where the gentle love of Jesus Christ echoes unceasingly.

Family / Parish

- The family and parish communities are indispensable places for encountering Jesus Christ, for both students and staff. Parish faith formation programs and schools invite parents to faith formation opportunities, strengthening them in their roles as primary educators of the faith. Collaboration among schools and parishes in these endeavors allows for a multitude of family opportunities for faith formation.

Signposts for Encountering Jesus

Encountering Jesus Christ is the decisive event in the life of the person and gives to life its whole meaning. The following practices invite the members of the school and parish faith formation communities to Encounter Jesus Christ:

1. The School Mission and Vision are clearly, intentionally, and strategically aimed at integration of the life of the school into the life of the Church. Discipleship is the norm for the school community. The leaders of the school routinely and strategically integrate this mission as the normative reference point for all school activity, and the school's mission is routinely reviewed and renewed by constituents of the school community.
2. The lens of Scripture and the Catholic intellectual tradition is deployed routinely in all subject areas. Careful attention is paid in the curriculum and teaching to the religious, spiritual, moral, and ethical dimensions of the content area and of the learners.
3. The whole school climate is an experience of Christian living through the following elements:
 - a. Routine opportunities for spiritual renewal
 - b. Regular and timely retreats for students and for staff.
 - c. Schools as places of community, friendship, and belonging. These are integral structures for the spiritual reconciliation and healing of Jesus Christ. Friendship is hallmark of the Christian life, even of Jesus' own life on earth. Members of the school community are invited to become aware of and participate in spiritual reconciliation and healing.
 - d. Student and staff mentoring, as all benefit from the ability to be mentored and potentially mentor another. Personal mentoring is a key feature of being a disciple.

4. Schools have regular celebration of the sacraments and immersion in the whole liturgical rhythm of the Catholic Church.
5. Parish life is integrated into the school community, and adult faith formation is offered by the parish and school in order to support the parents, faculty, and parish community members.
6. Parents are the primary educators in the faith. Parishes and Schools collaborate with the life and faith of the whole family, as the Domestic Church of the home, in regular and strategic ways.

Opportunities to Encounter Jesus Christ at Each Grade Level

Providing opportunities for students to encounter Jesus in our schools and parish faith formation programs is a shared responsibility among school and parish catechetical leadership, classroom teachers, and catechists in collaboration with the student's families and parish community. Though the principle of subsidiarity allows for each parish, school and classroom to organically seek moments of encounter, the following sections relate the standards for schools and parish faith formation to provide moments of encounter for students at each grade level.

ENCOUNTER organized by grade bands

Through classroom and school-wide experiences led by role models of the faith, students in the following grades encounter the Lord Jesus Christ through --

	ENCOUNTER in Early Childhood
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship
EC.ENC.1	Recognition of his/her own goodness.
EC.ENC.2	Recognition that they are special to God.
EC.ENC.3	Encountering God in the silent moments of prayer.
EC.ENC.4	Recognition of the love others have for us.
EC.ENC.5	Participation in faith experiences, such as extended prayer services in classroom and/or in Church.

	ENCOUNTER in grades K to 2
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship
K-2.THEO.ENC.1	Experiences centered in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Ps 32:8; John 6:35; John 14:26; Heb 4:12).
K-2.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, learning new recited prayers appropriate to age and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.
K-2.THEO.ENC.3	Experiences of spontaneous prayer.
K-2.THEO.ENC.4	Recognition that God knows us and loves us each personally.
K-2.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us (Jn 15:9; Jn 15:16; 1Jn 4:19), and through prayer and growing in virtue we can be very close to Jesus (Ph 4:4-9).
K-2.THEO.ENC.6	Participation in liturgical season activities, including Stations of the Cross and May crowning.
K-2.THEO.ENC.7	Experiences of the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy.
K-2.THEO.ENC.8	Realization that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus (Mt 28:19-20).

ENCOUNTER in grades 3 to 5	
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship
3-5.THEO.ENC.1	Experiences centered in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Ps 32:8; John 6:35; John 14:26; Heb 4:12).
3-5.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, continuing to learn new recited prayers appropriate to age, and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.
3-5.THEO.ENC.3	Personal examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, as inspiration to live a virtuous life.
3-5.THEO.ENC.4	Experiences of the Bible used for personal prayer, as God speaks to us through the Bible.
3-5.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that God knows and loves us each personally and God has a plan for each of our lives (Ps 139; Isa 43:1-4; Jer 1:5).
3-5.THEO.ENC.6	Participation in Marian devotions: The Rosary; Our Lady of Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, Częstochowa, Consecration, Miraculous Medal, Scapulars. etc.
3-5.THEO.ENC.7	Reading about the lives of saints and learning to call upon them for their intercession.
3-5.THEO.ENC.8	Opportunity to contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (Mk 8:34-35).
3-5.THEO.ENC.9	Approaching Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy.
3-5.THEO.ENC.10	Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives, and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others (Mt 28:19-20).

	ENCOUNTER in grades 6 to 8
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship
6-8.THEO.ENC.1	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (John 6:35; John 14:26).
6-8.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, continuing to learn new recited prayers appropriate to age and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.
6-8.THEO.ENC.3	Lectio Divina of Sacred Scripture, including Scripture connected to course topics, the daily readings, and in preparation of the upcoming Sunday liturgy.
6-8.THEO.ENC.4	Experiences of different forms and expressions of prayer (Forms of Prayer CCC 2623-2643, Expressions of Prayer CCC 2700-2719; NSBECS 3.1).
6-8.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that God knows and loves us each personally and reflection upon the plans that God has for each of our lives (Ps 139; Isa 43:1-4; Jer 1:5).
6-8.THEO.ENC.6	Recognition that personal salvation is accomplished by Jesus's death and resurrection and the gift of salvation is offered to us but requires a response from us to accept it (Rom 5:16-19; Rom 6:23; 1 Pet 2:24).
6-8.THEO.ENC.7	Active participation in the Mass (NSBECS 3.1).
6-8.THEO.ENC.8	Participation in service learning experiences and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and parish (NSBECS 3.3).
6-8.THEO.ENC.9	Experiences of the unique cultural heritage and popular piety of the school/parish and of the universal Catholic Church.
6-8.THEO.ENC.10	Expression of the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and personal reflection of the degree to which we've opened our hearts to Jesus in our lives.
6-8.THEO.ENC.11	Reflection on living as a disciple of Jesus Christ in today's world and the call we have to evangelize (Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:13-26).
6-8.THEO.ENC.12	Reflection on life experiences and faith through retreats and other spiritual experiences (NSBECS 3.2).

6-8.THEO.ENC.13	Experiences of friendship and the school community as a way of encountering Jesus Christ and living as a member of His Body.
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	ENCOUNTER in grades 9-12
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship
HS.THEO.ENC.1	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (John 6:35; John 14:26).
HS.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades and continued growth in understanding of recited prayers (NSBECS 3.1).
HS.THEO.ENC.3	Lectio Divina of Sacred Scripture, including Scripture connected to course topics, the daily readings, and in reflection of the liturgical year (NSBECS 3.1).
HS.THEO.ENC.4	Experiences of different forms and expressions of prayer (Forms of Prayer CCC 2623-2643, Expressions of Prayer CCC 2700-2719; NSBECS 3.1).
HS.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that God knows and loves us each personally and reflection upon the plans that God has for each of our lives (Ps 139; Isa 43:1-4; Jer 1:5).
HS.THEO.ENC.6	Recognition that personal salvation is accomplished by Jesus's death and resurrection and the gift of salvation is offered to us but requires a response from us to accept it (Rom 5:16-19; Rom 6:23; 1 Pet 2:24).
HS.THEO.ENC.7	Active participation in the Mass (NSBECS 3.1).
HS.THEO.ENC.8	Participation in service learning experiences and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and parish (NSBECS 3.3).
HS.THEO.ENC.9	Experiences of the unique cultural heritage and popular piety of the school/parish and of the universal Catholic Church.
HS.THEO.ENC.10	Expression of the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ and expression of gratitude for graces received, trusting in God's providence in daily life.
HS.THEO.ENC.11	Reflection on living as a disciple of Jesus Christ in today's world and the call we have to evangelize (Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:13-26).
HS.THEO.ENC.12	Reflection on life experiences and faith through retreats and other spiritual experiences (NSBECS 3.2).

HS.THEO.ENC.13	Experiences of friendship and the school community as a way of encountering Jesus Christ and living as a member of His Body.
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Growing as a Disciple of Jesus Christ

The call to a New Evangelization is at the heart of the ministerial initiatives within the Diocese of Grand Rapids. **Growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ** articulates a renewed zeal and commitment to know and love Jesus and the Church through all Catholic school course offerings as well as in parish faith formation programs. The Diocese of Grand Rapids Catholic Schools Strategic Plan, *Bridging Faith and Future*, prioritizes, with the first Strategic Focus, “forming our students in the faith of the Church, in order to evangelize our students who, in turn, evangelize the world” (BFF).

In All Content Areas in Catholic Schools

To follow Jesus is to be in a constant process of growth, like the seed that fell on rich soil. Students grow in their relationships with Christ as they learn to serve Him. Growth in the Body of Christ aims especially “to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God’s eternal design reaching fulfillment in that Person” (CT 5). The intellectual formation of the curriculum seeks the integration of insights in this discipline with the faith itself, since “the light of reason and the light of faith both come from God” (SCG I.7). Indeed, knowledge of the truth, and Truth Himself, “enlightens man’s intelligence and shapes his freedom, leading him to know and love the Lord” (VS). Starting from the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, we can come to know the goodness, beauty, and harmony of creation. Starting, as well, from the study of the various aspects of creation embodied in this curriculum, we can come to know the goodness, beauty, and harmony of God Himself. This curriculum seeks to “include integration of the religious, spiritual, moral, and ethical dimensions of learning in all subjects” (NSBECS 7.2).

In Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, students grow in their Catholic faith throughout their study in all grades and all content areas. For this reason, the curriculum standards for each grade and each content area is infused with the expectations of integrated Catholic faith. Students are provided opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ, grow in their relationship with Him, and become Christian witnesses of our faith seamlessly in their hours, days, and years within our Catholic school communities. The concept of growing as a disciple of Christ is especially true within these diocesan curriculum standards. Whereas an entire school community is responsible for the design and opportunity for encounters with Christ and expectations for Christian witness, each course of study has specific expectations for growth in the students’ understanding of the Catholic faith. Students are called to grow as a disciple of Christ in each and every course within our Catholic schools.

Catechesis in Parish Faith Formation Programs

Conversion to Christ involves making a genuine commitment to Him and a personal decision to follow Him as His disciple (NDC 17). Catechesis, on the other hand, is the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life (CT 18). Catechesis assumes that the person knows Christ. Catechesis is a moment in the process of evangelization, it is the teaching and maturation stage (CT 18). Catechesis is concerned with ongoing conversion and *growth*.

Faith formation *informs, forms, and transforms* the student into a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is a holistic approach that affects both the head and the heart.

Witnessing to God’s Unfailing Love

The call to a New Evangelization is at the heart of the ministerial initiatives within the Diocese of Grand Rapids. This framework for **missionary and apostolic witness to the unfailing love of God the Father, the salvation of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit** assists school and parish faith formation in bringing about a renewed zeal and commitment to know and love Jesus and the Church. The Diocese of Grand Rapids Catholic Schools Strategic Plan, *Bridging Faith and Future*, emphasizes the necessity of a relationship with Jesus Christ in view of the personal discovery “that [a person’s] potential is much greater with Jesus than without Him.” (BFF) The Catholic schools are “centers of Catholic culture that meet the world’s needs” (BFF).

This section lays out the basic principles and signposts for the strategic and Holy Spirit inspired dynamic of missionary and apostolic witness to the Gospel of Jesus. Every disciple of Jesus strives to be “ready to put his or her whole life on the line, even to accept martyrdom, in bearing witness to Jesus Christ, yet the goal is not to make enemies but to see God’s word accepted and its capacity for liberation and renewal revealed” (EG 24). This flows from a sense of “a responsibility to be a living sign of the Father’s love in the world” (MV 4).

The Meaning of Witness

Having received the mercy of God, in the saving mystery of Jesus Christ and its extension in the whole life of the Church and her sacraments, the disciple of Jesus is led to share what has been freely given. Throughout the Scriptures, those who come into contact with God are routinely sent on mission by Him to witness to the world the saving love of God. One needs only to think of Abraham, David, or one of the prophets or apostles, to see the dynamism of encountering God and growing as His disciple. Moreover, the work of witnessing to the Gospel, of inviting others to come to recognize the abiding love of God the Father, always involves a personal commitment to the good of the other person. This love and compassion springs from the risk one took in inviting Jesus to a renewed, personal encounter. Jesus, however, “does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms” (EG 3).

Contexts of Witnessing

Witnessing to the Joy of the Gospel, the joy of being a beloved child of God the Father, is a dynamic and reciprocal engagement with our neighbor. For this reason, three key contexts emerge in which the Gospel witness must be situated.

Faculty and Staff

- The faculty and staff of the school are, above all, witnesses to the Gospel in our schools and within the appropriate purview of each person's responsibilities. This takes a variety of forms: for example, hospitality for those who newly come into our buildings, welcoming them as welcoming Jesus, is an indispensable witness.
- The school leader has primary responsibility in relation to the Gospel: as the faith leader of the school community, the school leader therefore needs to witness to the power of the Gospel for the staff of the school. In this way, the school leader provides the authentic witness to the mission of the Catholic school and effectively engages the staff in that mission.

Parish Catechetical Leader and Catechist

- A generosity of spirit, respect for diversity, habit of hospitality and inclusion all witness the love of God and God's holy people by the catechetical leader and catechists.
- The depth and breadth of this curriculum calls for catechists to be disciples and authentic witnesses to the Christian life.
- Witnesses share their own life experiences, the difference Jesus makes in their lives, and exhibit courage and conviction to live the life of faith outside the classroom.

Students

- Students are called to witness the Gospel values they are learning. This involves a certain risk on their part and, as such, involves doing so within the context of the support and guidance of the school and parish communities.
- Students are held responsible for their role as witnesses, as outlined in this document. This accountability is not solely the responsibilities of the theology teacher or catechist, but a shared responsibility of all the student's teachers and catechetical team.

Family & Parish

- The family and parish are the primary locus of Gospel witness in the life of the student. The witness of these communities, and the close integration of young persons into the communities, is indispensable in their development. School faculty and staff can draw from the fountain of eternal life in our parish communities. The school is a support system and educational structure that supports this deep and enduring work.

Signposts for Witnessing to God's Unfailing Love

The work of witnessing the Gospel, and all its saving and joyful power, is the necessary outgrowth of the Encounter with Jesus Christ and Growth as a Disciple of Christ. Witnessing takes place in the three contexts mentioned above. The following are indicators of this work within our schools:

1. School leaders, with support from the Office of Catholic Schools, are committed to hiring faculty and staff who are ready to pursue and enhance the evangelizing, growing, and witnessing mission of our Catholic schools.
2. School leaders, with support from the Office of Catholic Schools, are committed to the ongoing formational needs of their faculty and staff in relation to the mission. As Bishop Walkowiak notes, the “world has an increasing need for individuals steeped in the Catholic faith who walk with Jesus Christ every day. This need is, in part, the result of our culture’s secularization, access to instant global communications and growing individualism in our society” (BFF). This requires strategic, persistent, dynamic, and ongoing formation of faculty and staff.
3. Students are held accountable to age-appropriate indicators of Christian witness and virtuous behavior as detailed in this document.
4. Schools are held accountable to the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS) through self-assessment and/or accreditation through the Michigan Nonpublic Schools Accrediting Association (MNSAA).
5. Characteristics that are consistent with the portrait of a catechist who is a witness and disciple of Jesus Christ: living faith and life of prayer; moral integrity; active sacramental life; well formed in the faith; ongoing in their own formation.

WITNESS organized by grade bands

By encountering Jesus Christ and growing in their understanding of Catholic tradition within all content areas of study, students are called to demonstrate Christ's love to the world. Christian witnesses are able to --

	WITNESS in Early Childhood
WIT	Service / Social Justice / Servant Leadership
EC.THEO.WIT.1	Display virtuous behavior.
EC.THEO.WIT.2	Show God's love through acts of kindness and respect.
EC.THEO.WIT.3	Allow others to go first.
EC.THEO.WIT.4	Wait for turn.

	WITNESS in grades K to 2
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship
K-2.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of creation, one who cares for God's creation, both living and nonliving (Gen 2:15; CCC 618, 1533, 1275).
K-2.THEO.WIT.2	Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations.
K-2.THEO.WIT.3	Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects.
K-2.THEO.WIT.4	Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.
K-2.THEO.WIT.5	Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship.

WITNESS in grades 3 to 5	
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship
3-5.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation, one who responds generously to the call of God (CCC 1, 358, 1700, 825, 898, 873, 931).
3-5.THEO.WIT.2	Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people.
3-5.THEO.WIT.3	Engage in service learning that applies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (CCC 2447; CCC Glossary: Works of Mercy).
3-5.THEO.WIT.4	Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.
3-5.THEO.WIT.5	Demonstrate ways to apply the Beatitudes to everyday life.

WITNESS in grades 6 to 8	
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship
6-8.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of the Church, one who works to spread the Catholic faith throughout their community and the world.
6-8.THEO.WIT.2	Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift.
6-8.THEO.WIT.3	Design and organize student-directed service projects.
6-8.THEO.WIT.4	Engage in service learning that is purposefully integrated within the social justice teachings of the Church (NSBECS 3.3).
6-8.THEO.WIT.5	Match individual talents and interests with the needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of the Gospel values that animate the school's mission (NSBECS 3.3).
6-8.THEO.WIT.6	Exhibit the virtue of obedience through respect for rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.
6-8.THEO.WIT.7	Assist in the planning of various retreats and prayerful experiences throughout the year (NSBECS 3.2).
6-8.THEO.WIT.8	Take a leadership role in the prayer life of the school / parish (NSBECS 3.1).

WITNESS in grades 9 to 12	
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship
HS.THEO.WIT.1	Live as a disciple of Jesus Christ in the world today and actively seek to evangelize in his or her vocation.
HS.THEO.WIT.2	Match individual talents and interests with the needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of Gospel values (NSBECS 3.3).
HS.THEO.WIT.3	Exhibit virtues consistently, generously, and in effort to live out the Gospel command to love God above all things and one's neighbor as oneself.
HS.THEO.WIT.4	Pursues justice in society persistently and works to order relationships according to the love of Christ.
HS.THEO.WIT.5	Participates in work as a call from God and a cooperation with His creative activity, seeking to do His will with excellence.
HS.THEO.WIT.6	Lead others in prayer and contribute to the prayer life of the school (NSBECS 3.1).
HS.THEO.WIT.7	Recognize the importance of membership in the parish community and discern ways to grow in service to the mission of the parish.
HS.THEO.WIT.8	Discern choices as a response to the call of God, seeking to live in harmony with His will and according to His plan.
HS.THEO.WIT.9	Pursues the life of mature discipleship and a deeper spiritual life, including friendships that contribute to this good.

The Use of Curriculum Standards in Theology Courses

In relation to the Diocese of Grand Rapids Curriculum Framework

Theology Courses Program Goal

In Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, students experience opportunities to develop a deeper knowledge of the Catholic faith and its relevance throughout their lives, develop a greater love of God, of dignity of all people, and of the value of all creation, serve others in response to Christ's call for justice and be people of conscience motivated by the Holy Spirit, and be provided sacramental experiences through liturgy, prayer, and faith-sharing opportunities.

Catechists teach in the name of Christ, and are the teachers of the truth of the faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church presents the message of Christ and consistently offers the teachings of the Church in relationship to the person of Christ. Teachers in the Diocese of Grand Rapids are Catechists. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is the main source of reference used in our theology courses, as referenced in all materials and texts used in our classrooms. The Catechism of the Catholic Church presents the fundamental truths of our faith: the content of the faith and the moral life.

Students encounter Christ in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist, as it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students grow in their knowledge of the Church's history from apostolic times to the present.

In grades kindergarten through eight, students develop understanding of Church teachings in the Catechism. Students are called to evangelize and develop their role as missionary disciples. They study Sacred Scripture and the history of the Church. Through continued study, they develop understanding of the Creed and the Sacred Liturgy. Students experience the call to community within the Catholic Church. Students experience and learn various forms of Catholic prayer as they develop their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The curriculum standards in these grades are a spiral representation of the four pillars of the Catechism and the six tasks of Catechesis. Students establish grade-appropriate understanding of Church teaching in each of these grades, laying a foundation for lifelong relationship with God.

In the theology courses in grades 9-12, students continue to develop a deeper knowledge of Catholic teaching and a deeper appreciation of faith. Students continue to study Sacred Scriptures, encountering the living Word of God, Jesus Christ, with particular attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally. Students learn how Jesus Christ is

the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who He is, students learn who He calls us to be. Students also learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us. Students reflect upon what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails. Students also come to know that the Church, with both divine and human elements, is the living Body of Christ today. Students also reflect on Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, and how that is relevant in today's world, through the Church's social teaching and mission.

Educator Use of K-8th Grade Curriculum Standards

Anchor standards for use in grades kindergarten through eighth grade were created to reflect twelve areas of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Each Anchor standard represents a section of the Catechism. While delivering instruction in religion courses, teachers reference the Catechism alongside a variety of materials and texts found on the *Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series*, produced and updated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop (USCCB). These twelve anchor standards provide a framework for teachers as they organize their curriculum at the specific grade level. Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and key concepts and vocabulary, students demonstrate grade-level understanding of the theology and tradition of the Catholic Church. In partnership with the Diocese of Grand Rapids, each parish makes local decisions regarding best practices and best materials for use through conversations with the pastor, principal, and director of faith formation. The development of courses and vertical alignment continuously occur within each school.

Educator Use of 9-12th Grade Curriculum Standards

Catechists and theology teachers in the Diocese of Grand Rapids are guided by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework* by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and the DOGR Curriculum standards. Each school is required to use materials and texts found on the *Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series* produced and updated by the USCCB, while designing course content and student learning objectives. In partnership with the Diocese of Grand Rapids, each parish makes local decisions regarding best practices and best materials for use through conversations with the pastor, principal, and director of faith formation. The development of courses and vertical alignment continuously occur within each school.

Anchor Standards

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and key concepts and vocabulary, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

ENCOUNTER	
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship (CCC 1-49) <i>Explain our purpose on earth and that it is through evangelization we encounter Jesus Christ, come to believe, and enter into a life of missionary discipleship.</i>
GROW	
<i>To follow Jesus is to be in a constant process of growth, like the seed that fell on rich soil. Students grow in their relationships with Christ as they learn to serve Him.</i>	
GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	
SCR	Sacred Scripture (CCC 50-141) <i>Describe the revelation of God's plan through Sacred Scripture as the Word of God, with understanding of the unity of God's plan and Revelation through two Testaments.</i>
HIS	Faith and Church History (CCC 142-184) <i>Describe humanity's response to God through faith and throughout Church history, as guided by the Holy Spirit and sustained by the Church.</i>
CRE	The Creed (CCC 185 - 1065) <i>Comprehend the Creed of the Catholic Church as the profession of faith through which we enter in communion with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.</i>
GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery	
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy

	(CCC 1066-1209) <i>Understand the Sacred Liturgy as the source of life in the Church as it produces the fruits in the life of the faithful in its celebration, including the diverse liturgical traditions and unity of faith traditions within the celebration.</i>
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church (CCC 1210-1690) <i>Prepare for and engage in the life of the Sacraments of the Church, as the Sacraments touch all stages of the Christian life and form an organic whole in which each particular sacrament has its own vital place.</i>
GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ	
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person (CCC 1691-1876) <i>Connect the dignity of the human person to the freedoms and responsibilities of life on earth, through an understanding of the Beatitudes, moral conscience, virtue, and sin.</i>
COM	The Human Community (CCC 1877-1948) <i>Respond to one's call to the human community, including the communal character of the human vocation, the necessity of contribution and participation in society, and the preservation of the common good, social justice, and human solidarity.</i>
TOB	Theology of the Body (CCC 1601-1620, 2331-2400) <i>Apply the profound Biblical teaching of Saint John Paul II as he reflects on the meaning of human embodiment, as male and female, in light of a total vision of man and his vocation. "The entire Christian life bears the mark of the spousal love of Christ and the Church." (CCC 1617)</i>
MOR	Morality (CCC 1949-2557) <i>Understand moral formation must not only include the content of Christ's moral teachings, but also their implications for Christian living in both private and public life.</i>
GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer	
PRA	Prayer (CCC 2558-2865)

	<i>Pray and understand how to pray in various forms, in recognition of prayer as God's gift and to appreciate the universal call to prayer, as Jesus teaches us how to pray and Jesus hears our prayer, and as a study of ways to pray, the traditions of prayer, living a life of prayer, and praying the Lord's Prayer.</i>
	WITNESS
WIT	<p style="text-align: center;">Service / Social Justice / Servant Leadership (CCC 2419-2463)</p> <p><i>Understand what God wants of us and how he lays the foundation for missionary discipleship. The love that children and youth have for Jesus must flow to others in the way they live the Gospel. We are called to be Christian witnesses to the world.</i></p>

Theology Standards by Grade Level
Diocese of Grand Rapids

Early Childhood Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and virtue, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

	ENCOUNTER	Report Card Wording
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
EC.ENC.1	Recognize his/her own goodness.	Recognize his/her own goodness.
EC.ENC.2	Recognize they are special to God.	Recognize they are special to God.
EC.ENC.3	Encounter God in the silent moments of prayer.	Encounter God in the silent moments of prayer.
EC.ENC.4	Recognize the love others have for us.	Recognize the love others have for us.
EC.ENC.5	Participate in faith experiences, such as extended prayer services in classroom and/or in Church.	Participate in faith experiences.
	THEOLOGY: GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Report Card Wording
SCR	Sacred Scripture	
EC.THEO.SCR.1	Listen to Bible stories and understand that this is a way that God speaks to us.	Listen to Bible stories.
EC.THEO.SCR.2	Give examples of God's creation.	Give examples of God's creation.

HIS	Faith and Church History	
EC.THEO.HIS.1	Identify the priest and his role in the parish.	Identify the priest and his role in the parish.
EC.THEO.HIS.2	Identify the Holy Land as a place where the events in the Bible happened.	Identify the Holy Land.
CRE	The Creed	
EC.THEO.CRE.1	Recognize God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one.	Recognize Father, Son, Holy Spirit are one.
	THEOLOGY: GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery	Report Card Wording
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy	
EC.THEO.LIT.1	Participate in activities and celebrations of the liturgical seasons.	Participate in celebrations of liturgical seasons.
EC.THEO.LIT.2	Make the sign of the cross; appropriately genuflect and kneel in Church.	Make sign of the cross; genuflect in Church.
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church	
EC.THEO.SAC.1	Recognize that baptism is one of the seven sacraments and describe baptism as the sacrament that welcomes us into God's family.	Describe Baptism as Sacrament.
EC.THEO.SAC.2	Recognize that Jesus loves us and forgives us, and practice ways to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others.	Practice forgiveness.
	THEOLOGY: GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ	Report Card Wording
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person	

EC.THEO.DIG.1	Exhibit the desire to care for and share with others.	Care for and share with others.
EC.THEO.DIG.2	Respond appropriately to the feelings and needs of others.	Respond to feelings/needs of others.
COM	The Human Community	
EC.THEO.COM.1	Identify that he/she belongs to a human family and God's family.	Identify that he/she belongs to God's family.
EC.THEO.COM.2	Recognize the Holy Family.	Recognize the Holy Family.
TOB	Theology of the Body	
EC.THEO.TOB.1	Recognize that human beings are special to God.	Recognize human beings are special to God.
EC.THEO.TOB.2	Express that creation is a gift from our loving God.	Express creation is a gift from God.
MOR	Morality	
EC.THEO.MOR.1	Recognize Jesus as a role model for loving God and other people.	Recognize Jesus as role model for loving.
	THEOLOGY: GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer	Report Card Wording
PRA	Prayer	
EC.THEO.PRA.1	Know that prayer is talking and listening to God.	Know prayer is talking/listening to God.
EC.THEO.PRA.2	Understand that God listens to us when we pray through the spoken word or song.	Understand that God listens to us when we pray.
EC.THEO.PRA.3	Recite simple prayers (i.e. Sign of the Cross, Grace before meals).	Recite simple prayers.
	WITNESS	Report Card Wording

WIT	Service / Social Justice / Servant Leadership	
EC.THEO.WIT.1	Display virtuous behavior.	Display virtuous behavior.
EC.THEO.WIT.2	Show God's love through acts of kindness and respect.	Show God's love through acts of kindness/respect.
EC.THEO.WIT.3	Allow others to go first.	Allow others to go first.
EC.THEO.WIT.4	Wait for turn.	Wait for turn.

Kindergarten Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Through classroom and school-wide experiences led by role models of the faith, students in grades kindergarten through second grade encounter the Lord, Jesus Christ through --

	ENCOUNTER	Report Card Wording
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
K-2.THEO.ENC.1	Experiences centered in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Ps 32:8; John 6:35; John 14:26; Heb 4:12).	Experiences centered in prayer.
K-2.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, learning new recited prayers appropriate to age and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.	Participation in recited prayers.
K-2.THEO.ENC.3	Experiences of spontaneous prayer.	Experiences of spontaneous prayer.
K-2.THEO.ENC.4	Recognition that God knows us and loves us each personally.	God knows & loves us.
K-2.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us (Jn 15:9; Jn 15:16; 1Jn 4:19), and through prayer and growing in virtue we can be very close to Jesus (Ph 4:4-9).	Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us.
K-2.THEO.ENC.6	Participation in liturgical season activities, including Stations of the Cross and May crowning.	Participation in liturgical season activities.
K-2.THEO.ENC.7	Experiences of the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy.	Experiences of the Liturgy.
K-2.THEO.ENC.8	Realization that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus (Mt 28:19-20).	God wants us to tell people about Jesus.

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and virtue, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

	GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Report Card Wording
SCR	Sacred Scripture	
K.THEO.SCR.1	Recognize the Bible as God's Word, and listen to narratives from the Bible with reverence.	Listen to the Bible with reverence.
K.THEO.SCR.2	Recount the story of the Nativity, as the Incarnation means that Jesus is fully God and fully man (Mt 1:18-25; Lk 2:1-2).	Recount the story of the Nativity.
K.THEO.SCR.3	Describe how Jesus was obedient to His father in heaven, and to Mary and Joseph on earth.	Describe how Jesus was obedient.
K.THEO.SCR.4	Recount the story of Easter, as Jesus is our Lord and Savior (Mt 28:1-8; Mk 16:1-12; Lk 24a:1-12; Jn 20:1-31).	Recount the story of Easter.
HIS	Faith and Church History	
K.THEO.HIS.1	Identify a saint as a holy person who lives out our Catholic virtues.	Identify a saint as a holy person.
K.THEO.HIS.2	Recognize the good things that saints do in their lives, through story and study of the saints.	Recognize the good things that saints do.
K.THEO.HIS.3	Recognize that the local priests and bishop have special roles in the Church.	Recognize priests & bishop have special roles.
K.THEO.HIS.4	Recognize the Holy Land as a sacred place in our Church history.	Recognize Holy Land as sacred.
CRE	The Creed	
K.THEO.CRE.1	Know that there is one God.	Know that there is one God.
K.THEO.CRE.2	Identify Jesus as the Son of God (Mt 3:17; CCC 240; CCC 2780).	Identify Jesus as the Son of God.

K.THEO.CRE.3	Recognize heaven as living with God forever.	Recognize Heaven as living with God forever.
K.THEO.CRE.4	Identify the three persons of the Holy Trinity in the Sign of the Cross.	Identify the three persons of the Holy Trinity.
GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery		
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy	
K.THEO.LIT.1	Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in a special way.	Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass.
K.THEO.LIT.2	Identify the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.	Identify liturgical seasons.
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church	
K.THEO.SAC.1	Identify and discuss the celebrations of Sacraments they see in their lives (i.e. Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, and Matrimonies).	Identify celebrations of Sacraments.
K.THEO.SAC.2	Recognize that Jesus loves us and forgives us, and practice ways to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others.	Jesus forgives us; practice forgiveness.
GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ		
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person	
K.THEO.DIG.1	Explore the life of Jesus, as He shows us how to live.	Explore life of Jesus.
COM	The Human Community	
K.THEO.COM.1	Describe the community of God as our families and all those in our school and parish life.	Describe community of God.
TOB	Theology of the Body	

K.THEO.TOB.1	Express that creation is a gift from our loving God.	Express that creation is a gift.
K.THEO.TOB.2	Discuss that human beings are uniquely made by God, and it is our role to care for creation.	Discuss role to care for creation.
K.THEO.TOB.3	Recognize that the human person has a special relationship with God in comparison to animals.	Recognize special relationship with God.
MOR	Morality	
K.THEO.MOR.1	Discuss the difference between right and wrong, and how God gives us rules to follow because He loves us.	Discuss right and wrong.
GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer		
PRA	Prayer	
K.THEO.PRA.1	Talk to and listen to God through prayer.	Talk to & listen to God through prayer.
K.THEO.PRA.2	Identify traditional times for prayer (morning, before bed, meal time, etc.).	Identify traditional times for prayer.
K.THEO.PRA.3	Genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.	Genuflect.
K.THEO.PRA.4	Recite prayers as specified by grade level expectations.	Recite prayers.

By encountering Jesus Christ and growing in their understanding of Catholic tradition within all content areas of study, students are called to demonstrate Christ's love to the world. Christian witnesses in grades Kindergarten, first, and second are able to --

	WITNESS	Report Card Wording
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
K-2.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of creation, one who cares for God's creation, both living and nonliving (Gen 2:15; CCC 618, 1533, 1275).	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of creation.

K-2.THEO.WIT.2	Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations.	Demonstrate reverence.
K-2.THEO.WIT.3	Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects.	Serve others through community projects.
K-2.THEO.WIT.4	Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.	Demonstrate obedience.
K-2.THEO.WIT.5	Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship.	Receive God's gifts gratefully & share generously.

First Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Through classroom and school-wide experiences led by role models of the faith, students in grades kindergarten through second grade encounter the Lord, Jesus Christ through --

	ENCOUNTER	Report Card Wording
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
K-2.THEO.ENC.1	Experiences centered in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Ps 32:8; John 6:35; John 14:26; Heb 4:12).	Experiences centered in prayer.
K-2.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, learning new recited prayers appropriate to age and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.	Participation in recited prayers.
K-2.THEO.ENC.3	Experiences of spontaneous prayer.	Experiences of spontaneous prayer.
K-2.THEO.ENC.4	Recognition that God knows us and loves us each personally.	God knows & loves us.
K-2.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us (Jn 15:9; Jn 15:16; 1Jn 4:19), and through prayer and growing in virtue we can be very close to Jesus (Ph 4:4-9).	Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us.
K-2.THEO.ENC.6	Participation in liturgical season activities, including Stations of the Cross and May crowning.	Participation in liturgical season activities.
K-2.THEO.ENC.7	Experiences of the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy.	Experiences of the Liturgy.
K-2.THEO.ENC.8	Realization that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus (Mt 28:19-20).	God wants us to tell people about Jesus.

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and virtue, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

	GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Report Card Wording
SCR	Sacred Scripture	
1.THEO.SCR.1	Identify the readings at Mass as Sacred Scripture.	Identify the readings at Mass as Sacred Scripture.
1.THEO.SCR.2	Describe how Bible stories help us to see God at work in our lives.	Describe Bible: God at work in our lives.
1.THEO.SCR.3	Explore Bible narratives about: Creation (Gen 1:1-2.8); Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38); Birth of Jesus (Mt 1:18-25; Lk 2:1-20); Death of Jesus (Mt 27:45-56; Mk 15: 33-41; Jn 19:23-30); Resurrection of Jesus (Mt 28:1-20; Mk 16:1-20; Lk 24:1-53; Jn 20:1-312; Acts 1:1-12; Acts 2:1-13).	Explore Bible narratives.
1.THEO.SCR.4	Proclaim Bible narratives about Jesus and the little children (Mt 19:13-15; Mk 10:13-16), the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:29-37) and the Good Shepherd (Jn 10:1-21).	Proclaim Bible narratives.
HIS	Faith and Church History	
1.THEO.HIS.1	Describe Mary as chosen by God and a model for all Christians (CCC 721-726).	Describe Mary as chosen.
1.THEO.HIS.2	Retell simple stories of the saints' lives, and identify saints who are personally connected to our families and the school community.	Retell simple stories of the saints' lives.
1.THEO.HIS.3	Recognize the Holy Land as the place where Jesus lived, worked, died and rose from the dead.	Recognize the Holy Land as where Jesus lived.
CRE	The Creed	
1.THEO.CRE.1	Recognize God wants us to be happy with Him forever in heaven (CCC	Recognize God wants us to be

	1487; Isa 59:2; Rom 6:23).	with Him forever.
1.THEO.CRE.2	Describe the Holy Spirit as sent by the Father and Son to teach and guide us, and together the three persons in one God is the Holy Trinity (CCC 261, Jn 15: 26-27; CCC 243).	Describe Holy Spirit as sent by the Father & Son.
GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery		
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy	
1.THEO.LIT.1	Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in a special way through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1088).	Recognize Jesus is present at Mass.
1.THEO.LIT.2	Identify important parts of the sanctuary (e.g., altar, tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, baptismal font, crucifix, lectern (ambo), holy oils, etc. (CCC 1179-1186).	Identify important parts of the sanctuary.
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church	
1.THEO.SAC.1	Identify that Jesus gives us the sacraments as a way to celebrate and remember God's love for us (CCC 1114 12-1118).	Identify that Jesus gives us the Sacraments.
1.THEO.SAC.2	Recognize that God takes away sin in Baptism, and identify the signs and symbols of Baptism.	Recognize Baptism.
1.THEO.SAC.3	Recognize that Jesus is present in the Eucharist (CCC 1088).	Recognize Jesus is present in the Eucharist.
GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ		
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person	
1.THEO.DIG.1	Recognize how our behavior affects our relationship with God and with others.	Recognize behavior: relationship w/ God & others.
COM	The Human Community	

1.THEO.COM.1	Describe the community of God as our families, past, present, and future, as well as those in the Church, in school and the outside community.	Describe the community of God.
1.THEO.COM.2	Give examples of appropriate behavior in community (i.e., being welcoming, etc.).	Give examples of behavior in community.
TOB	Theology of the Body	
1.THEO.TOB.1	Recognize that true freedom comes by choosing the good.	Recognize true freedom comes by choosing good.
1.THEO.TOB.2	Recognize that God calls us to make a gift of ourselves in love.	Recognize we make a gift of ourselves in love.
1.THEO.TOB.3	Recognize that each person is unique and unrepeatable.	Recognize each person is unique & unrepeatable.
MOR	Morality	
1.THEO.MOR.1	Understand that God gives us laws to follow, the Ten Commandments, as well as gives us the freedom to make right choices.	Understand that God gives us laws & freedom.
1.THEO.MOR.2	Describe the importance of respect for parents, teachers and other legitimate authorities.	Describe the importance of respect.
GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer		
PRA	Prayer	
1.THEO.PRA.1	Define prayer as talking to and listening to God (CCC 2705-2708).	Define prayer as talking to and listening to God.
1.THEO.PRA.2	Demonstrate spontaneous prayer.	Demonstrate spontaneous prayer.
1.THEO.PRA.3	Genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, as both a gesture and	Genuflect.

	a form of prayer.	
1.THEO.PRA.4	Recite prayers as specified by grade level expectations.	Recite prayers.

By encountering Jesus Christ and growing in their understanding of Catholic tradition within all content areas of study, students are called to demonstrate Christ's love to the world. Christian witnesses in grades Kindergarten, first, and second are able to --

	WITNESS	Report Card Wording
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
K-2.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of creation, one who cares for God's creation, both living and nonliving (Gen 2:15; CCC 618, 1533, 1275).	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of creation.
K-2.THEO.WIT.2	Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations.	Demonstrate reverence.
K-2.THEO.WIT.3	Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects.	Serve others through community projects.
K-2.THEO.WIT.4	Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.	Demonstrate obedience.
K-2.THEO.WIT.5	Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship.	Receive God's gifts gratefully & share generously.

Second Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Through classroom and school-wide experiences led by role models of the faith, students in grades kindergarten through second grade encounter the Lord, Jesus Christ through --

	ENCOUNTER	Report Card Wording
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
K-2.THEO.ENC.1	Experiences centered in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Ps 32:8; John 6:35; John 14:26; Heb 4:12).	Experiences centered in prayer.
K-2.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, learning new recited prayers appropriate to age and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.	Participation in recited prayers.
K-2.THEO.ENC.3	Experiences of spontaneous prayer.	Experiences of spontaneous prayer.
K-2.THEO.ENC.4	Recognition that God knows us and loves us each personally.	God knows & loves us.
K-2.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us (Jn 15:9; Jn 15:16; 1Jn 4:19), and through prayer and growing in virtue we can be very close to Jesus (Ph 4:4-9).	Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us.
K-2.THEO.ENC.6	Participation in liturgical season activities, including Stations of the Cross and May crowning.	Participation in liturgical season activities.
K-2.THEO.ENC.7	Experiences of the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy.	Experiences of the Liturgy.
K-2.THEO.ENC.8	Realization that God wants each one of us to tell people about Jesus (Mt 28:19-20).	God wants us to tell people about Jesus.

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and virtue, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

	GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Report Card Wording
SCR	Sacred Scripture	
2.THEO.SCR.1	Explore the Bible narrative of the fall of man (Gen 3:1-24) and Bible stories that focus on reconciliation through God's mercy and forgiveness: Jesus forgives those who kill him (Luke 23:33-34); Story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32); Parable of Unforgiving Servant (Matt 18:21-35).	Explore Bible narratives.
2.THEO.SCR.2	Proclaim the Bible narratives that relate to the Eucharist (Exod 16:13-15; Mt 26:26-30; Lk 22: 14-20; Jn 6:32-35; Jn 6:48-51; Jn 6:52-59).	Proclaim Bible narratives: Eucharist.
HIS	Faith and Church History	
2.THEO.HIS.1	Explore and retell simple stories of the lives of the saints, with particular focus on saints who have a strong devotion to the Eucharist and Reconciliation.	Retell stories of saints: Eucharist & Reconcil.
2.THEO.HIS.2	Retell story of personal patron saint and the patron saint or special event connected to the name of the parish and school, and recognize the Communion of Saints as the communion of love.	Retell story of personal patron saint.
CRE	The Creed	
2.THEO.CRE.1	Identify the role Mary plays in the faith life of the Church (CCC 963-965).	Identify the role Mary plays.
2.THEO.CRE.2	Define stewardship as the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor (CCC 618).	Define stewardship.
	GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery	
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy	
2.THEO.LIT.1	Understand that Catholic Christians are required to go to Sunday Mass to worship God and receive Jesus in the Word and Eucharist (CCC 1166-1167).	Understand we go to Sunday Mass.

2.THEO.LIT.2	Describe the two parts of the Liturgy of the Mass: the Liturgy of the Word (CCC 1349,1154) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1356-1372), and distinguish differences between the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and other liturgical celebrations.	Describe the two parts of the Liturgy.
2.THEO.LIT.3	Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in the Scriptures, in the person of the priest, in the community gathered to worship and in the Eucharist (CCC 1088).	Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass.
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church	
2.THEO.SAC.1	Define sacrament as an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace (CCC 1131), and identify the seven sacraments (CCC 1113, 1210-1211).	Define Sacrament; identify the seven Sacraments.
2.THEO.SAC.2	Demonstrate the procedure for celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation, including examination of conscience, the dialogue with the priest, reciting an Act of Contrition and performing the penance given by the priest.	Demonstrate the procedure for Reconciliation.
2.THEO.SAC.3	Explain that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ at the consecration at Mass (CCC 1376, 1413); and the Eucharist was given to us at the Last Supper by Jesus (CCC 1337-1340).	Explain bread/wine become Body & Blood of Christ.
	GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ	
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person	
2.THEO.DIG.1	Describe how Jesus modeled forgiveness (Lk 7: 36-50; CCC 2842-2845).	Describe how Jesus modeled forgiveness.
2.THEO.DIG.2	Use virtues to describe what it takes to be a friend and have a friend (Jn 15: 13; 1 Jn 3:18; CCC 1829).	Use virtues to describe friendship.
COM	The Human Community	
2.THEO.COM.1	Describe the Church as a praying and worshiping community of	Describe the Church as community.

	believers (CCC 751-752, 2179).	
2.THEO.COM.2	Compare loving choices to selfish choices in community.	Compare loving choices to selfish choices.
TOB	Theology of the Body	
2.THEO.TOB.1	Recognize that all creatures are a sign of God's gift in love.	Recognize all creatures are signs of God's gift.
2.THEO.TOB.2	Show how we learn more about ourselves through our relationships with others.	Show we learn about self through relationships.
2.THEO.TOB.3	Discuss how Jesus is the model of what it means for a person to be a gift, as He nourishes communion through the gift of Himself in the Eucharist.	Discuss how Jesus is model of gift.
2.THEO.TOB.4	Discuss how the character of a person is embodied in the way that he interacts with others.	Discuss character.
2.THEO.TOB.5	Analyze how the body reveals that each person is made for relationship with God, others, and the world.	Analyze how each person is made for relationship.
MOR	Morality	
2.THEO.MOR.1	Recognize that sin separates us from God and one another (CCC 1487; Isa 59:2; Rom 6:23).	Recognize that sin separates us.
2.THEO.MOR.2	Define grace as a special gift of free, undeserved help God gives us to become his children (CCC 1996-2005).	Define grace.
2.THEO.MOR.3	Develop the practice of examination of conscience using the two Great Commandments: love of God and love of others (Mt 22:36-40).	Develop practice of examination of conscience.
2.THEO.MOR.4	Understand that the devil tries to turn us away from God (CCC 381-395; Mt 4:1-11) and that sin is choosing to disobey God's law in thought,	Understand devil tries to turn us

	word, deed or omission.	away from God.
2.THEO.MOR.5	Discuss that we can accept God's mercy and try again when we sin (Lk 15:1-7; 15:11-32).	Discuss we accept God's mercy & try again.
GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer		
PRA	Prayer	
2.THEO.PRA.1	Listen to God in meditation on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources (CCC 2705-2708).	Listen to God in meditation.
2.THEO.PRA.2	Distinguish between memorized prayers and spontaneous prayer.	Distinguish between memorized/spontaneous prayer.
2.THEO.PRA.3	Explore the different types of prayer: blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise (CCC 2626-2643).	Explore the different types of prayer.
2.THEO.PRA.4	Recite prayers as specified by grade level expectations.	Recite prayers.

By encountering Jesus Christ and growing in their understanding of Catholic tradition within all content areas of study, students are called to demonstrate Christ's love to the world. Christian witnesses in grades Kindergarten, first, and second are able to --

	WITNESS	Report Card Wording
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
K-2.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of creation, one who cares for God's creation, both living and nonliving (Gen 2:15; CCC 618, 1533, 1275).	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of creation.
K-2.THEO.WIT.2	Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations.	Demonstrate reverence.
K-2.THEO.WIT.3	Serve others through participation in school and parish community projects.	Serve others through community projects.

K-2.THEO.WIT.4	Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.	Demonstrate obedience.
K-2.THEO.WIT.5	Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship.	Receive God's gifts gratefully & share generously.

Third Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Through classroom and school-wide experiences led by role models of the faith, students in grades third through fifth grade encounter the Lord Jesus Christ through --

	ENCOUNTER in grades 3 to 5	Report Card Wording
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
3-5.THEO.ENC.1	Experiences centered in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Ps 32:8; John 6:35; John 14:26; Heb 4:12).	Experiences centered in prayer.
3-5.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, continuing to learn new recited prayers appropriate to age, and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.	Participation in recited prayers.
3-5.THEO.ENC.3	Personal examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, as inspiration to live a virtuous life.	Personal examination of conscience.
3-5.THEO.ENC.4	Experiences of the Bible used for personal prayer, as God speaks to us through the Bible.	Experiences of the Bible used for personal prayer.
3-5.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that God knows and loves us each personally and God has a plan for each of our lives (Ps 139; Isa 43:1-4; Jer 1:5).	Recognition that God loves us & has a plan.
3-5.THEO.ENC.6	Participation in Marian devotions: The Rosary; Our Lady of Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, Częstochowa, Consecration, Miraculous Medal, Scapulars. etc.	Participation in Marian devotions.
3-5.THEO.ENC.7	Reading about the lives of saints and learning to call upon them for their intercession.	Reading about lives of saints.
3-5.THEO.ENC.8	Opportunity to contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a	Contemplate Jesus' gift of salvation.

	response on the part of the believer (Mk 8:34-35).	
3-5.THEO.ENC.9	Approaching Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy.	Approaching Mass with expectation.
3-5.THEO.ENC.10	Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives, and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others (Mt 28:19-20).	Sharing how we have experienced Jesus.

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and virtue, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

	GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Report Card Wording
SCR	Sacred Scripture	
3.THEO.SCR.1	Identify that the Bible is organized into books, chapters and verses, and recognize the books of the Old and New Testaments from a list.	Identify that the Bible is organized.
3.THEO.SCR.2	Explore Bible narratives focused on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; the miracles and the Parables.	Explore Bible narratives: Jesus.
3.THEO.SCR.3	Explain how the Scripture narratives are relevant in daily life.	Explain how Scripture is relevant in daily life.
HIS	Faith and Church History	
3.THEO.HIS.1	Narrate the story of creation in Genesis, as it unfolds the foundation of our Church History.	Narrate the story of creation in Genesis.
3.THEO.HIS.2	Retell the call of the Apostles (Mk 1:16-20; Mk 3:13-19).	Retell the call of the Apostles.
3.THEO.HIS.3	Identify Peter as the appointed leader of the New Church and as the first pope (Mt 16:13-20; CCC 880-881).	Identify Peter as the first pope.
3.THEO.HIS.4	Identify how evangelization in Acts of the Apostles caused the Church	Discuss evangelization.

	to grow and discuss how evangelization could benefit today's world.	
3.THEO.HIS.5	Explain how the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is the beginning of the "new age" of the Church when Christ lives and acts in and with His Church (Acts 2:1-11; CCC 1076).	Explain descent of Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
3.THEO.HIS.6	Explain the roles of the pope, bishops, priests, deacons, the consecrated, and laity.	Explain the roles of the leaders of the Church.
CRE	The Creed	
3.THEO.CRE.1	Explain the elements of faith in the Apostles' Creed (CCC 190, 191 and 194.).	Explain the elements of faith in the Creed.
3.THEO.CRE.2	Identify and discuss the four marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic (CCC 811).	Identify & discuss the four marks of the Church.
3.THEO.CRE.3	Describe the Church as the Body of Christ (CCC 779, 789).	Describe the Church as the Body of Christ.
3.THEO.CRE.4	Explain the nature of the Trinity as three persons in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (CCC 261).	Explain the nature of the Trinity.
3.THEO.CRE.5	Explore the perfect example of the Christian life that we see in the life of Mary.	Explore the perfect example we see in Mary.
	GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery	
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy	
3.THEO.LIT.1	Describe the vestments, sacred objects, and various colors used in the celebration of the Liturgy.	Describe the elements used in Liturgy.
3.THEO.LIT.2	Illustrate the Liturgical Calendar by identifying the seasons of the year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter and Ordinary time and the Holy Days of Obligation.	Illustrate the Liturgical Calendar.

3.THEO.LIT.3	Explain why we pray for the dead (CCC 1030-1032).	Explain why we pray for the dead.
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church	
3.THEO.SAC.1	Describe how we encounter God in a special way in each Sacrament (CCC 1129).	Describe how we encounter God in each Sacrament.
3.THEO.SAC.2	Categorize the seven sacraments as sacraments of initiation, healing, or vocation/service (CCC 1113-1211).	Categorize the seven Sacraments.
3.THEO.SAC.3	Recognize the importance of regular participation in the sacrament of Reconciliation (CCC 1440-1442, 1447,1458).	Recognize importance of regular Reconciliation.
GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ		
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person	
3.THEO.DIG.1	Identify the source of one's human dignity and value as being created in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1-2; CCC 1702).	Identify source of one's human dignity & value.
3.THEO.DIG.2	Using the life of the saints, describe how we demonstrate respect for all of humanity.	Describe how we respect humanity.
COM	The Human Community	
3.THEO.COM.1	Define the common good (CCC 1905-1912).	Define the common good.
3.THEO.COM.2	Identify the characteristics and value of honesty, self-discipline and respect for life, rights, and property.	Identify honesty, self-discipline & respect.
3.THEO.COM.3	Explain that God is the source of all authority (CCC 1899).	Explain that God is the source of all authority.
TOB	Theology of the Body	

3.THEO.TOB.1	Give examples of man's unique relationship with God as set apart from the rest of creation; naming the animals, cultivating the earth, and choosing between good and evil.	Give examples of man's relationship with God.
3.THEO.TOB.2	Recognize that God gives us the choice to see the world and others as gifts.	Recognize choice to see world & others as gifts.
3.THEO.TOB.3	Show how our bodies reveal the person.	Show how our bodies reveal the person.
3.THEO.TOB.4	Recognize how baptism restores the special relationship God has with His sons and daughters, as this relationship was first realized in original solitude.	Recognize Baptism restores special relationship.
3.THEO.TOB.5	Illustrate how work is a gift and how through our work we make a gift of ourselves.	Illustrate how work is a gift.
3.THEO.TOB.6	Relate being connected to Jesus the True Vine to manifesting the Fruits of the Spirit.	Relate True Vine: Fruits of the Spirit.
3.THEO.TOB.7	Recognize that entering into heaven means a profound unity and harmony of the soul and the body.	Recognize entering into Heaven means unity.
MOR	Morality	
3.THEO.MOR.1	Recall and recite the Ten Commandments (CCC 2051 ff).	Recall and recite the Ten Commandments.
3.THEO.MOR.2	Identify what the Ten Commandments tell us to do and not to do and understand that we are responsible for keeping God's commandments (CCC 2052-2557).	Identify what the Ten Commandments tell us to do.
3.THEO.MOR.3	Understand that because of original sin, all people have an inclination to sin (CCC Glossary: Concupiscence).	Understand Original Sin: inclination to sin.

3.THEO.MOR.4	Connect how the Two Great Commandments of Jesus are reflected in the Ten Commandments.	Connect Great Commandments to Ten Commandments.
GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer		
PRA	Prayer	
3.THEO.PRA.1	Participate in meditative prayer, through Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources (CCC 2705-2708).	Participate in meditative prayer.
3.THEO.PRA.2	Identify the different types of prayer: blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise (CCC 2626-2643).	Identify the different types of prayer.
3.THEO.PRA.3	Compose original prayer.	Compose original prayer.
3.THEO.PRA.4	Recite prayers as specified by grade level expectations.	Recite prayers.
3.THEO.PRA.5	Create a plan of personal daily prayer.	Create a plan of personal daily prayer.

By encountering Jesus Christ and growing in their understanding of Catholic tradition within all content areas of study, including the study of theology, students are called to demonstrate Christ's love to the world. Christian witnesses in grades third, fourth, and fifth are able to --

	WITNESS	Report Card Wording
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
3-5.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation, one who responds generously to the call of God (CCC 1, 358, 1700, 825, 898, 873, 931).	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation.
3-5.THEO.WIT.2	Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people.	Demonstrate reverence.
3-5.THEO.WIT.3	Engage in service learning that applies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (CCC 2447; CCC Glossary: Works of Mercy).	Engage in service learning.

3-5.THEO.WIT.4	Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.	Demonstrate obedience to rules.
3-5.THEO.WIT.5	Demonstrate ways to apply the Beatitudes to everyday life.	Demonstrate ways to apply Beatitudes.

Fourth Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Through classroom and school-wide experiences led by role models of the faith, students in grades third through fifth grade encounter the Lord Jesus Christ through --

	ENCOUNTER in grades 3 to 5	Report Card Wording
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
3-5.THEO.ENC.1	Experiences centered in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Ps 32:8; John 6:35; John 14:26; Heb 4:12).	Experiences centered in prayer.
3-5.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, continuing to learn new recited prayers appropriate to age, and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.	Participation in recited prayers.
3-5.THEO.ENC.3	Personal examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, as inspiration to live a virtuous life.	Personal examination of conscience.
3-5.THEO.ENC.4	Experiences of the Bible used for personal prayer, as God speaks to us through the Bible.	Experiences of the Bible used for personal prayer.
3-5.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that God knows and loves us each personally and God has a plan for each of our lives (Ps 139; Isa 43:1-4; Jer 1:5).	Recognition that God loves us & has a plan.
3-5.THEO.ENC.6	Participation in Marian devotions: The Rosary; Our Lady of Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, Częstochowa, Consecration, Miraculous Medal, Scapulars. etc.	Participation in Marian devotions.
3-5.THEO.ENC.7	Reading about the lives of saints and learning to call upon them for their intercession.	Reading about lives of saints.
3-5.THEO.ENC.8	Opportunity to contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a	Contemplate Jesus' gift of salvation.

	response on the part of the believer (Mk 8:34-35).	
3-5.THEO.ENC.9	Approaching Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy.	Approaching Mass with expectation.
3-5.THEO.ENC.10	Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives, and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others (Mt 28:19-20).	Sharing how we have experienced Jesus.

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and virtue, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

	GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Report Card Wording
SCR	Sacred Scripture	
4.THEO.SCR.1	Find Scripture passages and reference them by citing book, chapter and verse.	Find Scripture passages.
4.THEO.SCR.2	Describe the concept of <i>covenant</i> using the Bible narratives about Adam (Gen 1:26-2:3; 2:15-17), Noah (Gen 9:8-17), Abraham (Gen 17:1-14), Moses (Exod 19:3-6), David (2 Sam 7:15-19) and Jesus (Mt 26:28).	Describe the concept of covenant.
4.THEO.SCR.3	Name the four evangelists and identify them as writers of the Gospels.	Name the four evangelists.
HIS	Faith and Church History	
4.THEO.HIS.1	Narrate the story of Moses in Exodus, as it unfolds the history of our covenant relationship with God.	Narrate the story of Moses in Exodus.
4.THEO.HIS.2	Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in the birth and growth of the Church (CCC 688).	Discuss role of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
4.THEO.HIS.3	Outline the growth of the early Church beginning with the Acts of the Apostles (the roles of Sts Peter & Paul and the apostles (Acts 2-5, 8-	Outline growth of the early Church.

	10, 13,15).	
4.THEO.HIS.4	Explain the relationship of the parish to the diocese (CCC 2179).	Explain relationship of parish to diocese.
4.THEO.HIS.5	Identify saints who lived the Beatitudes and assisted in the growth of religious life in the Church (i.e., St. Anthony the Hermit, St. Benedict & St. Scholastica; St. Francis of Assisi & St. Clare, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Dominic, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Calcutta).	Identify saints who lived the Beatitudes.
CRE	The Creed	
4.THEO.CRE.1	Identify and discuss major doctrines and dogmas related to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Immaculate Conception, Annunciation and Assumption) (CCC 966).	Identify major doctrines/dogmas related to Mary.
	GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery	
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy	
4.THEO.LIT.1	Discuss the ways in which Christ can be personally encountered in the Liturgy (CCC 1084-1090).	Discuss ways Christ is encountered in Liturgy.
4.THEO.LIT.2	Demonstrate appropriate customs, gestures, postures in various liturgical situations (genuflection, bowing, kneeling, processions) and understand why we use them.	Demonstrate appropriate customs/gestures/postures.
4.THEO.LIT.3	Identify the Holy Days of Obligation and explain the purpose for each celebration.	Identify Holy Days of Obligation.
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church	
4.THEO.SAC.1	Explain the difference between the seven sacraments and sacramentals, as sacramentals are sacred signs that bear a resemblance to the sacraments and all creation is sacramental	Explain difference: Sacraments & Sacramentals.

	because God is revealed through it and our very being should draw others closer to Christ. (CCC 1667-1670).	
4.THEO.SAC.2	Discuss the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist as an important part of conversion and growth in discipleship (CCC 1422-1423, 1427, 1429).	Discuss Reconcil & Eucharist: conversion & growth.
	GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ	
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person	
4.THEO.DIG.1	Define the theological virtues and cardinal virtues and examine their application in real life situations (CCC 1805-1829, 1833).	Define the theological virtues & cardinal virtues.
4.THEO.DIG.2	Discuss guidelines for choosing movies, TV programs, music, books, magazines, video games, etc, that are supportive of human dignity (Exod 20:17; Mt 5:8; CCC 2525).	Discuss guidelines for media: human dignity.
COM	The Human Community	
4.THEO.COM.1	Explain how Jesus' command to "love one another" applies to their own lives and school situations (Jn 13:34).	Explain how "love one another" applies.
4.THEO.COM.2	Describe ways the behavior of each person affects the whole membership, as the Church is the Body of Christ (CCC 791).	Describe ways behavior affects the whole Church.
4.THEO.COM.3	Discuss the effects of prejudice, discrimination, and racism on a community.	Discuss prejudice, discrimination & racism.
4.THEO.COM.4	Examine the importance of rules and order in family life, school situations, the Church, and the wider community.	Examine importance of rules & order.
TOB	Theology of the Body	
4.THEO.TOB.1	Define original unity as the unique relation between male and female.	Define original unity.

4.THEO.TOB.2	Interpret the significance of Genesis 2:18 “It is not good for man to be alone, I will make a helper fit for him.”	Interpret significance of Gen 2:18.
4.THEO.TOB.3	Compare Adam’s joy at the creation of Eve to his response to the creation of the animals.	Compare Adam’s joy at creation of Eve & animals.
4.THEO.TOB.4	Recognize that suffering is the result of the Fall and that suffering can make it difficult for us to see the gifts of God.	Recognize suffering.
4.THEO.TOB.5	State that at the Resurrection we will experience the most perfect communion with God and with others.	State what happens at Resurrection.
MOR	Morality	
4.THEO.MOR.1	Identify the broken relationships caused by Original Sin: the human person and God; human beings and nature; between human persons; within one’s self.	Identify broken relationships: Original Sin.
4.THEO.MOR.2	Define and explain the intellect and free will (CCC 1703-1706).	Define & explain intellect & free will.
4.THEO.MOR.3	Describe how the Beatitudes are guidelines for a moral life (Mt 5-7; CCC 1965-1972, 1723-1724).	Describe how Beatitudes are guidelines.
4.THEO.MOR.4	Compare mortal and venial sin (CCC 1854-1864) and discuss the necessity of virtue in our lives.	Compare mortal & venial sin.
4.THEO.MOR.5	Explore how Jesus taught us to live, and identify the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.	Explore how Jesus taught us to live.
	GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer	
PRA	Prayer	
4.THEO.PRA.1	Participate in various forms of music as prayer (e.g., Praise and Worship, Gregorian Chant, Taize prayer).	Participate in music as prayer.

4.THEO.PRA.2	Compare and contrast the different types of prayer (blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise (CCC 2626-2643).	Compare & contrast the different types of prayer.
4.THEO.PRA.3	Recite prayers as specified by grade level expectations.	Recite prayers.
4.THEO.PRA.4	Maintain a plan of personal daily prayer.	Maintain a plan of personal daily prayer.

By encountering Jesus Christ and growing in their understanding of Catholic tradition within all content areas of study, including the study of theology, students are called to demonstrate Christ's love to the world. Christian witnesses in grades third, fourth, and fifth are able to --

	WITNESS	Report Card Wording
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
3-5.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation, one who responds generously to the call of God (CCC 1, 358, 1700, 825, 898, 873, 931).	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation.
3-5.THEO.WIT.2	Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people.	Demonstrate reverence.
3-5.THEO.WIT.3	Engage in service learning that applies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (CCC 2447; CCC Glossary: Works of Mercy).	Engage in service learning.
3-5.THEO.WIT.4	Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.	Demonstrate obedience to rules.
3-5.THEO.WIT.5	Demonstrate ways to apply the Beatitudes to everyday life.	Demonstrate ways to apply Beatitudes.

Fifth Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Through classroom and school-wide experiences led by role models of the faith, students in grades third through fifth grade encounter the Lord Jesus Christ through --

	ENCOUNTER in grades 3 to 5	Report Card Wording
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
3-5.THEO.ENC.1	Experiences centered in prayer, including guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Ps 32:8; John 6:35; John 14:26; Heb 4:12).	Experiences centered in prayer.
3-5.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, continuing to learn new recited prayers appropriate to age, and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.	Participation in recited prayers.
3-5.THEO.ENC.3	Personal examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, as inspiration to live a virtuous life.	Personal examination of conscience.
3-5.THEO.ENC.4	Experiences of the Bible used for personal prayer, as God speaks to us through the Bible.	Experiences of the Bible used for personal prayer.
3-5.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that God knows and loves us each personally and God has a plan for each of our lives (Ps 139; Isa 43:1-4; Jer 1:5).	Recognition that God loves us & has a plan.
3-5.THEO.ENC.6	Participation in Marian devotions: The Rosary; Our Lady of Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, Czestochowa, Consecration, Miraculous Medal, Scapulars. etc.	Participation in Marian devotions.
3-5.THEO.ENC.7	Reading about the lives of saints and learning to call upon them for their intercession.	Reading about lives of saints.
3-5.THEO.ENC.8	Opportunity to contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a	Contemplate Jesus' gift of salvation.

	response on the part of the believer (Mk 8:34-35).	
3-5.THEO.ENC.9	Approaching Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy.	Approaching Mass with expectation.
3-5.THEO.ENC.10	Sharing how we have experienced Jesus in each of our lives, and recognizing that God wants us to share the good news with others (Mt 28:19-20).	Sharing how we have experienced Jesus.

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and virtue, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

	GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Report Card Wording
SCR	Sacred Scripture	
5.THEO.SCR.1	Recognize that the Pentateuch and Torah both refer to the first five books of the Old Testament.	Recognize Pentateuch & Torah refer to Old Test.
5.THEO.SCR.2	Categorize the books of the Bible as 46 books in the Old Testament (Law, History, Wisdom, Prophets) and 27 books in the New Testament.	Categorize books of the Bible.
5.THEO.SCR.3	Describe God as the author of Sacred Scripture because He inspired its human authors (CCC 136).	Describe God as author of Sacred Scripture.
5.THEO.SCR.4	Discuss the source of each Sacrament in Scripture: Baptism (Jn 3:5), Confirmation (Acts 8:14-17), Eucharist (Jn 6:51-58), Reconciliation (Jn 20:21-23), Matrimony (Mt 19:4-6), Holy Orders (Acts 6:3-6, 13:2-3; Tim 3:1), Anointing of the Sick (James 5:14-15).	Discuss source of each Sacrament in Scripture.
HIS	Faith and Church History	
5.THEO.HIS.1	Describe the Church as a sacrament and outward sign of Christ in the world (CCC 738-739).	Describe Church as Sacrament.

5.THEO.HIS.2	Trace the development of the sacraments through Church history.	Trace development of Sacraments.
5.THEO.HIS.3	Identify and discuss saints particularly associated with the sacraments.	Discuss saints: Sacraments.
CRE	The Creed	
5.THEO.CRE.1	Discuss ways the Holy Trinity is manifested in the sacraments (CCC 688), as the Trinity is the relationship of love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.	Discuss Holy Trinity: Sacraments.
5.THEO.CRE.2	Discuss the implications of faith in one God.	Discuss implications of faith in one God.
5.THEO.CRE.3	Discuss the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier of the world.	Discuss Holy Spirit as Sanctifier.
5.THEO.CRE.4	Compare the concepts of heaven, hell, and purgatory (CCC 1020-1037).	Compare concepts of Heaven, Hell & Purgatory.
5.THEO.CRE.5	Discuss Christ's Resurrection and the resurrection of our bodies at the end of time (1 Cor 15:35-57).	Discuss Christ's Resurrection.
GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery		
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy	
5.THEO.LIT.1	Define and discuss how the Church is the institution established by Christ through which the sacraments are celebrated and grace is given.	Discuss how Church is institution.
5.THEO.LIT.2	Describe how the flow of the liturgical year helps us grow in faith.	Describe how liturgical year helps us grow.
5.THEO.LIT.3	Express how the Eucharist is the source and summit of Catholic life.	Express how Eucharist is source & summit.
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church	

5.THEO.SAC.1	Define sacrament as an outward sign instituted by Jesus entrusted to the Church by which divine life is dispensed to us (CCC 1131).	Define Sacrament.
5.THEO.SAC.2	Demonstrate why the Eucharist is the center of the Church's life (CCC 1343).	Demonstrate why Eucharist is center of life.
5.THEO.SAC.3	Explain the meaning of and difference between "sign" and "symbol" (CCC 1145-1148).	Explain meaning of "sign" & "symbol".
5.THEO.SAC.4	Describe the signs and symbols of each Sacrament, and discuss how sacraments, through signs and symbols, are personal encounters with Christ.	Describe signs & symbols of each Sacrament.
5.THEO.SAC.5	Create a model to describe the relationships among the Sacraments (CCC 1210).	Create model to describe Sacraments.
5.THEO.SAC.6	Demonstrate how the Sacraments empower us to serve others.	Demonstrate how Sacraments empower us to serve.
GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ		
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person	
5.THEO.DIG.1	Compare God's forgiveness of us with our call to forgive others (Mt 6:9-15).	Compare God's forgiveness & we forgive others.
5.THEO.DIG.2	Discuss and display appropriate attitudes toward the unborn, sick, handicapped, aged, and dying, as each person is created in the image and likeness of God and each person is unique and unrepeatable (CCC 2268-2283, 2407).	Discuss attitudes: image & likeness of God.
COM	The Human Community	
5.THEO.COM.1	Explain vocations as a call to the single, married, consecrated or ordained life (CCC 871-873), and how, through prayer, God helps us to understand our call to vocations in the community.	Explain vocations as a call.

5.THEO.COM.2	Describe how each vocation builds up the community (CCC 871-873).	Describe how vocations build community.
TOB	Theology of the Body	
5.THEO.TOB.1	Differentiate how man, as the pinnacle of creation, is both similar and dissimilar from God.	Differentiate human is similar/dissimilar: God.
5.THEO.TOB.2	Demonstrate that man comes to know himself through a gift-of-self.	Demonstrate gift-of-self.
5.THEO.TOB.3	Recognize that Jesus becoming man reveals the love of the Father.	Recognize Jesus becoming man reveals love.
5.THEO.TOB.4	Describe that at the Resurrection we will see as God sees and our bodies will perfectly reveal His love.	Describe the Resurrection.
5.THEO.TOB.5	Identify the two ways of being human, male and female.	Identify the two ways of being human: male/female.
MOR	Morality	
5.THEO.MOR.1	Describe the ways the saints model the spiritual and corporal Works of Mercy (CCC 2447; CCC Glossary: 2447).	Describe ways saints model Works of Mercy.
5.THEO.MOR.2	Outline ways in which saints live up to the ideals of the Beatitudes.	Outline ways saints live Beatitudes.
5.THEO.MOR.3	Explain that original sin is transmitted, how personal sin is a choice, and how the sacraments meet us in our sinfulness (CCC 402 - 409).	Explain Original Sin & personal sin.
5.THEO.MOR.4	Discuss how the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to lead a holy life (CCC 1830 - 1832).	Discuss Fruits & Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
	GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer	
PRA	Prayer	

5.THEO.PRA.1	Demonstrate the use of different types and styles of prayer (e.g. journaling, drawing, song, praying with icons).	Demonstrate use of different types of prayer.
5.THEO.PRA.2	Lead the Rosary.	Lead the Rosary.
5.THEO.PRA.3	Practice lectio divina with the Sacred Scriptures.	Practice Lectio Divina.
5.THEO.PRA.4	Recite prayers as specified by grade level expectations.	Recite prayers.
5.THEO.PRA.5	Maintain a plan for personal daily prayer.	Maintain a plan for personal daily prayer.

By encountering Jesus Christ and growing in their understanding of Catholic tradition within all content areas of study, including the study of theology, students are called to demonstrate Christ's love to the world. Christian witnesses in grades third, fourth, and fifth are able to --

	WITNESS	Report Card Wording
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
3-5.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation, one who responds generously to the call of God (CCC 1, 358, 1700, 825, 898, 873, 931).	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation.
3-5.THEO.WIT.2	Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people.	Demonstrate reverence.
3-5.THEO.WIT.3	Engage in service learning that applies the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (CCC 2447; CCC Glossary: Works of Mercy).	Engage in service learning.
3-5.THEO.WIT.4	Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.	Demonstrate obedience to rules.
3-5.THEO.WIT.5	Demonstrate ways to apply the Beatitudes to everyday life.	Demonstrate ways to apply Beatitudes.

Sixth Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Through classroom and school-wide experiences led by role models of the faith, students in grades sixth through eighth grade encounter the Lord, Jesus Christ through --

	ENCOUNTER in grades 6 to 8	Report Card Wording
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
6-8.THEO.ENC.1	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (John 6:35; John 14:26).	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
6-8.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, continuing to learn new recited prayers appropriate to age and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.	Participate in recited prayers.
6-8.THEO.ENC.3	Lectio Divina of Sacred Scripture, including Scripture connected to course topics, the daily readings, and in preparation of the upcoming Sunday liturgy.	Lectio Divina of Sacred Scripture.
6-8.THEO.ENC.4	Experiences of different forms and expressions of prayer (Forms of Prayer CCC 2623-2643, Expressions of Prayer CCC 2700-2719; NSBECS 3.1).	Experiences of different forms of prayer.
6-8.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that God knows and loves us each personally and reflection upon the plans that God has for each of our lives (Ps 139; Isa 43:1-4; Jer 1:5).	Recognize God knows us & has plans.
6-8.THEO.ENC.6	Recognition that personal salvation is accomplished by Jesus's death and resurrection and the gift of salvation is offered to us but requires a response from us to accept it (Rom 5:16-19; Rom 6:23; 1 Pet 2:24).	Recognize salvation offered & requires response.
6-8.THEO.ENC.7	Active participation in the Mass (NSBECS 3.1).	Active participation in Mass.
6-8.THEO.ENC.8	Participation in service learning experiences and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and	Participation in service learning

	parish (NSBECS 3.3).	experiences.
6-8.THEO.ENC.9	Experiences of the unique cultural heritage and popular piety of the school/parish and of the universal Catholic Church.	Experiences of traditions: culture & heritage.
6-8.THEO.ENC.10	Expression of the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and personal reflection of the degree to which we've opened our hearts to Jesus in our lives.	Personal reflection of opening hearts to Jesus.
6-8.THEO.ENC.11	Reflection on living as a disciple of Jesus Christ in today's world and the call we have to evangelize (Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:13-26).	Reflection on living as disciple of Jesus Christ.
6-8.THEO.ENC.12	Reflection on life experiences and faith through retreats and other spiritual experiences (NSBECS 3.2).	Reflection on life experiences.
6-8.THEO.ENC.13	Experiences of friendship and the school community as a way of encountering Jesus Christ and living as a member of His Body.	Experiences of friendship & school community.

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and virtue, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

	GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Report Card Wording
SCR	Sacred Scripture	
6.THEO.SCR.1	Identify and discuss Sacred Scripture as the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit (CCC 81).	Discuss Sacred Scripture as the speech of God.
6.THEO.SCR.2	Explain how our need of a Savior was prophesied by the Old Testament authors and fulfilled by the Messiah (CCC 413-421; Rom 5:16-19; Rom 6:23).	Explain Savior prophesied & fulfilled.
6.THEO.SCR.3	Describe salvation history as God's unfolding work of salvation in all of history.	Describe salvation history.

6.THEO.SCR.4	Compare Israel's faithfulness or unfaithfulness to the Old Covenant with today's culture.	Compare faithfulness: Israel & today's culture.
6.THEO.SCR.5	Discuss the principles of interpreting Scripture according to the teaching of the Catholic Church (CCC 101-141).	Discuss principles of interpreting Scripture.
6.THEO.SCR.6	Describe the leadership roles of the Old Testament prophets including their attitude toward the poor, the disadvantaged, immigrants and the needs of the community.	Describe leadership roles of Old Test prophets.
6.THEO.SCR.7	Identify Old Testament ideas of tithing and Jubilee debt forgiveness (Lev 25:8-22).	Identify Old Testament ideas of tithing.
HIS	Faith and Church History	
6.THEO.HIS.1	Explore the Jewish roots of our Christian faith: covenant (Exodus 34:10-28), sacrifice (CCC 2099-2100) , twelve tribes (Exod 1:1-14, 28, 29, 40), Passover (Exod 12), Suffering Servant (Isa 52:13-53:12, Lamb of God (John 1:29).	Explore Jewish roots of Christian faith.
6.THEO.HIS.2	Narrate and exegete Genesis and Exodus.	Narrate & exegete Genesis & Exodus.
CRE	The Creed	
6.THEO.CRE.1	Identify God the Father as the Creator, Jesus as the Messiah and fulfillment of the Old Covenant, and the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier, the breath of life and fire of love.	Identify Trinity.
6.THEO.CRE.2	Identify conversion as turning away from sin and turning toward God (CCC 545, 1036 Mk 5:14-15, Acts 3:19-20).	Identify conversion.
6.THEO.CRE.3	Define the Deposit of Faith as Scripture and Tradition - the source of all Revelation (CCC 81, 84).	Define Deposit of Faith.
6.THEO.CRE.4	Define tradition as the living transmission of the Church's doctrine, life and	Discuss Catholic tradition & culture

	worship (CCC 78), and discuss how Catholic tradition and culture are related.	are related.
GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery		
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy	
6.THEO.LIT.1	Discuss the signs, symbols and events of the Easter Triduum.	Discuss Easter Triduum.
6.THEO.LIT.2	Describe the role of liturgical music at Mass.	Describe the role of liturgical music at Mass.
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church	
6.THEO.SAC.1	Understand the importance of regular participation in the Sacraments, and reflect upon how Christ is encountered in each Sacrament (CCC 1084-1090, 1440-1442, 1447,1458).	Reflect on Christ encountered in each Sacrament.
6.THEO.SAC.2	Find and discuss examples of Old Testament events that prefigure the Sacraments (CCC 1217-1222, 1333-1334, 1544).	Discuss examples of Old Test: Sacraments.
6.THEO.SAC.3	Explain how the covenant between God and each person is nourished by the Sacraments and is present in the sacraments of the Church (CCC 1212, 1217, 1334, 1539-1540, 1611-1612).	Explain covenant between God and each person.
GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ		
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person	
6.THEO.DIG.1	Discuss reasons why some groups or persons, past and present, have been persecuted.	Discuss reasons why some have been persecuted.
6.THEO.DIG.2	Discuss and apply guidelines for using social media that are in accord with human dignity (CCC 2464-2470, 2475-2499).	Discuss guideline for social media: human dignity.
COM	The Human Community	

6.THEO.COM.1	Recognize the diversity of cultures, traditions, talents and gifts, all within the Body of Christ.	Recognize diversity within Body of Christ.
6.THEO.COM.2	Recognize the family as a source of spiritual values, religious practices, customs and traditions that help shape one spiritually, physically, psychologically and socially.	Recognize the family as source of values.
6.THEO.COM.3	Explain how the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching are carried out in our world.	Explain themes of Catholic Social Teaching.
6.THEO.COM.4	Demonstrate the skill of listening - to hear others respectfully and to be open to the voice of God.	Demonstrate skill of listening.
TOB	Theology of the Body	
6.THEO.TOB.1	Define original experience as the most basic human experiences; all humanity has these in common: original solitude, original unity, original nakedness.	Define original experience.
6.THEO.TOB.2	Discuss why it is a good thing that God created man as male and female.	Discuss why it is good God created male & female.
6.THEO.TOB.3	Propose how a communion of persons involves the loving gift of self: when two persons form a deep unity by giving themselves to one another in love.	Propose communion involves gift of self.
6.THEO.TOB.4	Explain how man, in the image of the Trinity, learns about himself through a gift of himself (TOB 8:4, 9:1-3, 10:1, 15:1).	Explain how man learns through gift of himself.
6.THEO.TOB.5	Give examples of how the body reveals man (TOB 2:4, 6:3, 7:1, 8:1, 9:4, 12:5, 14:4, 19:4).	Give examples of how the body reveals man.
6.THEO.TOB.6	Describe how the human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and why it is necessary to glorify God in your body (TOB 57:2).	Describe how body is temple of the Holy Spirit.

MOR	Morality	
6.THEO.MOR.1	Articulate that the desire to live a moral life is animated by one's friendship with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.	Articulate desire to live moral life.
6.THEO.MOR.2	Describe the three parts of the moral act: the object, the intention, and the circumstance (CCC 1750).	Describe three parts of the moral act.
6.THEO.MOR.3	Define and discuss natural law (CCC 1954 - 1960).	Define & discuss natural law.
6.THEO.MOR.4	Recognize and apply the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.	Recognize Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
6.THEO.MOR.5	Analyze each of the Ten Commandments as the moral guideline for God's people, the terms of the covenant at Mt. Sinai (CCC 2056-2063.), and relate them to our personal relationship with God and each other in today's society.	Analyze each of the Ten Commandments.
GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer		
PRA		
6.THEO.PRA.1	Discuss the role of persistence in prayer to overcome difficulties (CCC 2742).	Discuss role of persistence in prayer.
6.THEO.PRA.2	Discuss the effectiveness of prayer in working toward peace and justice.	Discuss effectiveness of prayer.
6.THEO.PRA.3	Identify the Psalms as a collection of hymns or poetry collected over several centuries and used as the public prayer of the Church (CCC 2685-2586, 2597).	Identify Psalms.
6.THEO.PRA.4	Recite prayers as specified by grade level expectations.	Recite prayers.
6.THEO.PRA.5	Review and revise plan for personal daily prayer.	Review & revise plan for personal daily prayer.

By encountering Jesus Christ and growing in their understanding of Catholic tradition within all content areas of study, including the study of theology, students are called to demonstrate Christ's love to the world. Christian witnesses in grades sixth, seventh, and eighth are able to --

	WITNESS	Report Card Wording
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
6-8.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of the Church, one who works to spread the Catholic faith throughout their community and the world (CCC 2226).	Be disciple of Christ as steward of the Church.
6-8.THEO.WIT.2	Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift.	Exhibit virtue of reverence.
6-8.THEO.WIT.3	Design and organize student-directed service projects.	Design & organize service projects.
6-8.THEO.WIT.4	Engage in service learning that is purposefully integrated within the social justice teachings of the Church (NSBECS 3.3).	Engage in service learning.
6-8.THEO.WIT.5	Match individual talents and interests with the needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of the Gospel values that animate the school's mission (NSBECS 3.3).	Match talents with needs of the community.
6-8.THEO.WIT.6	Exhibit the virtue of obedience through respect for rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.	Exhibit virtue of obedience.
6-8.THEO.WIT.7	Assist in the planning of various retreats and prayerful experiences throughout the year (NSBECS 3.2).	Assist in planning of retreats.
6-8.THEO.WIT.8	Take a leadership role in the prayer life of the school / parish (NSBECS 3.1).	Take leadership role in prayer life of school.

Seventh Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Through classroom and school-wide experiences led by role models of the faith, students in grades sixth through eighth grade encounter the Lord, Jesus Christ through --

	ENCOUNTER in grades 6 to 8	Report Card Wording
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
6-8.THEO.ENC.1	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (John 6:35; John 14:26).	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
6-8.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, continuing to learn new recited prayers appropriate to age and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.	Participate in recited prayers.
6-8.THEO.ENC.3	Lectio Divina of Sacred Scripture, including Scripture connected to course topics, the daily readings, and in preparation of the upcoming Sunday liturgy.	Lectio Divina of Sacred Scripture.
6-8.THEO.ENC.4	Experiences of different forms and expressions of prayer (Forms of Prayer CCC 2623-2643, Expressions of Prayer CCC 2700-2719; NSBECS 3.1).	Experiences of different forms of prayer.
6-8.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that God knows and loves us each personally and reflection upon the plans that God has for each of our lives (Ps 139; Isa 43:1-4; Jer 1:5).	Recognize God knows us & has plans.
6-8.THEO.ENC.6	Recognition that personal salvation is accomplished by Jesus's death and resurrection and the gift of salvation is offered to us but requires a response from us to accept it (Rom 5:16-19; Rom 6:23; 1 Pet 2:24).	Recognize salvation offered & requires response.
6-8.THEO.ENC.7	Active participation in the Mass (NSBECS 3.1).	Active participation in Mass.
6-8.THEO.ENC.8	Participation in service learning experiences and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and	Participation in service learning

	parish (NSBECS 3.3).	experiences.
6-8.THEO.ENC.9	Experiences of the unique cultural heritage and popular piety of the school/parish and of the universal Catholic Church.	Experiences of traditions: culture & heritage.
6-8.THEO.ENC.10	Expression of the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and personal reflection of the degree to which we've opened our hearts to Jesus in our lives.	Personal reflection of opening hearts to Jesus.
6-8.THEO.ENC.11	Reflection on living as a disciple of Jesus Christ in today's world and the call we have to evangelize (Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:13-26).	Reflection on living as disciple of Jesus Christ.
6-8.THEO.ENC.12	Reflection on life experiences and faith through retreats and other spiritual experiences (NSBECS 3.2).	Reflection on life experiences.
6-8.THEO.ENC.13	Experiences of friendship and the school community as a way of encountering Jesus Christ and living as a member of His Body.	Experiences of friendship & school community.

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and virtue, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

	GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Report Card Wording
SCR	Sacred Scripture	
7.THEO.SCR.1	Uncover the Truth of the Paschal Mystery as told through the four Gospels.	Uncover Truth of Paschal Mystery.
7.THEO.SCR.2	Identify the symbols of the evangelists and discuss their meaning (human face, lion, ox and eagle).	Identify symbols of evangelists.
7.THEO.SCR.3	Apply Jesus' teaching from the Sermon on the Mount and Paul's Epistles to contemporary problems.	Apply Jesus' teaching to contemporary problems.
7.THEO.SCR.4	Identify themes in the Epistles (community, law, grace, salvation, Body of	Identify themes in Epistles.

	Christ, love, second coming ,etc.).	
7.THEO.SCR.5	Identify and discuss how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy.	Discuss how Jesus fulfilled Old Test prophecy.
7.THEO.SCR.6	Select and analyze Gospel passages in which Jesus demonstrated a life of service to others.	Analyze Gospel passages: Jesus service to others.
HIS	Faith and Church History	
7.THEO.HIS.1	Narrate and exegete the stories of the kings and prophets, as it foretells our Covenant relationship with Jesus in the New Testament.	Narrate & exegete stories of kings & prophets.
7.THEO.HIS.2	Retell how the Apostles were selected and commissioned.	Retell Apostles: selected & commissioned.
7.THEO.HIS.3	Trace the establishment of the Church from the preaching of Jesus, through the Paschal mystery, Pentecost and apostolic succession.	Trace establishment of the Church.
7.THEO.HIS.4	Explain Pentecost as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) and the role and power of the Holy Spirit within the early Church.	Explain Pentecost as fulfillment.
CRE	The Creed	
7.THEO.CRE.1	List and explain the titles of Jesus (CCC 452-455).	Explain the titles of Jesus.
7.THEO.CRE.2	Identify the mission of Jesus as Savior of all.	Identify mission of Jesus as Savior of all.
7.THEO.CRE.3	Define the Incarnation as the Son of God assuming a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it (CCC 461-464).	Define Incarnation.
7.THEO.CRE.4	Define an angel as a spiritual, personal, and immortal creature, with intelligence and free will who glorifies God without ceasing and who	Define angel.

	serves God as a messenger of his saving plan.	
7.THEO.CRE.5	Discuss Mary's role in the history of the Church (CCC 721-723)	Discuss Mary's role.
7.THEO.CRE.6	Explain the Communion of Saints as the pilgrims on earth, the dead whom are being purified and the blessed in Heaven (CCC 962).	Explain Communion of Saints.
7.THEO.CRE.7	Identify saints who modeled social justice principles.	Identify saints: modeled social justice.
7.THEO.CRE.8	Understand the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church and explain its role and authority (CCC 85-88).	Explain Magisterium.
GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery		
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy	
7.THEO.LIT.1	Recognize how Jesus is the core of the Gospel message proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word.	Recognize how Jesus is core of Gospel.
7.THEO.LIT.2	Explain the parts of the Mass and how they fit into the order of the liturgy (CCC 1346-1355).	Explain the parts of Mass.
7.THEO.LIT.3	Discuss various cultural expressions that may take place within the celebration of the Mass (music, art, local customs, etc.) (CCC 1204-1206).	Discuss cultural expressions: celebration of Mass.
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church	
7.THEO.SAC.1	Explain how Jesus instituted the Sacraments to give grace (CCC 1131).	Explain Jesus instituted Sacraments.
7.THEO.SAC.2	Identify Gospel and other New Testament passages that reflect the institution of the Sacraments.	Identify Gospel passages: Sacraments.
7.THEO.SAC.3	Describe Confirmation and discuss the application to one's daily life (CCC 1285).	Describe Confirmation.

7.THEO.SAC.4	Distinguish among the sanctifying gifts, the charisms, and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit (CCC 798-801, 951, 1830-1832).	Distinguish: sanctifying gifts, charisms, Fruits.
GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ		
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person	
7.THEO.DIG.1	Defend the concept of human dignity based on the life and teachings of Jesus (Mt 9:9-13; Jn 4:1-30).	Defend human dignity.
7.THEO.DIG.2	Identify some basic rights of all human persons (CCC 1956), and identify examples of how every human right has a corresponding responsibility.	Identify basic rights of all human persons.
7.THEO.DIG.3	Compare and contrast Christian and secular norms for "success".	Compare & contrast "success".
COM	The Human Community	
7.THEO.COM.1	Identify one's own talents, gifts and charisms, and describe and practice ways to share these with the community.	Identify one's own talents, gifts and & charisms.
7.THEO.COM.2	Examine characteristics of vocations to the single, married, consecrated or ordained life, in reflection of how each vocation contributes to the community.	Examine characteristics of vocations.
7.THEO.COM.3	Identify the call to build up community through the life of a missionary.	Identify the call: missionary.
TOB	Theology of the Body	
7.THEO.TOB.1	Explain that even after the Fall, creation remains a good gift and is not totally corrupted; it is able to be redeemed.	Explain: creation remains a good gift.
7.THEO.TOB.2	Provide examples of rightly ordered desire given by God (TOB 48:4).	Provide examples of rightly ordered desire.
7.THEO.TOB.3	Describe how actions of self-mastery free one to make a full gift of self,	Evaluate actions for self-mastery.

	and with guidance, begin to self-evaluate actions of self-mastery (TOB 15:1-4, 32:6).	
7.THEO.TOB.4	Explain how the body has a language: the body itself communicates that the human being is a gift just by the fact that it exists.	Explain how the body has a language.
7.THEO.TOB.5	Compare the filial meaning of the body with the spousal meaning of the body.	Compare the filial & spousal meaning of body.
7.THEO.TOB.6	Recognize that a result of original sin is that man experiences concupiscence and needs to bring emotions and desires into harmony with what is truly good (TOB 26:5, 31:3, 31:6, 32:3, 33:1-2, 51:5-6, 54).	Recognize result of Original Sin: concupiscence.
7.THEO.TOB.7	Explain how Christ does not accuse but instead appeals to the human heart to be pure (TOB 45:5, 46:5-6, 49:7).	Explain how Christ appeals to human heart.
7.THEO.TOB.8	Describe what “life according to the Spirit” is and how following the law of God leads to true freedom and happiness (TOB 15:1, 45:1, 51:5-6, 53:4-5, 54:2-4).	Describe what “life according to the Spirit” is.
7.THEO.TOB.9	Evaluate how love, as a power, is a participation in the love of God himself; love is total, faithful, fruitful, and generous (TOB 127:1).	Evaluate how love is God himself.
MOR	Morality	
7.THEO.MOR.1	Compare sins of omission and sins of commission (CCC 1853).	Compare sins of omission & commission.
7.THEO.MOR.2	Discuss the consequences of sin to individuals and to the whole body of Christ (CCC 1472-1473)	Discuss consequences of sin.
7.THEO.MOR.3	List and explain the cardinal or moral virtues, the theological virtues and the seven capital sins (CCC 1866, 1833-1841).	Explain virtues & sins.
7.THEO.MOR.4	Analyze how Gospel events and parables of Jesus show us how to live a moral life, and relate this to our personal relationship with God and each	Analyze how Jesus shows us how

	other.	to live.
7.THEO.MOR.5	Identify principles of social justice (CCC 2419-3435).	Identify principles of social justice.
GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer		
PRA		
7.THEO.PRA.1	Identify familiar prayers of New Testament figures i.e. Magnificat of Mary, Canticles of Zachariah, Simeon and Anna in the Gospel of Luke, etc.).	Identify prayers of New Test figures.
7.THEO.PRA.2	Use Lectio Divina to examine Scripture passages that demonstrate the importance of prayer (Ps 102:17; Ps 145:18; Mt 5:44; Mt 7:7-8; Mt 26:42; Rom 8:26; Eph 6:18).	Use Lectio Divina.
7.THEO.PRA.3	Analyze the seven petitions of the Our Father (CCC 2803-2806).	Analyze seven petitions of Our Father.
7.THEO.PRA.4	Recite prayers as specified by grade level expectations.	Recite prayers.
7.THEO.PRA.5	Review and revise plan for personal daily prayer.	Review & revise plan for personal daily prayer.

By encountering Jesus Christ and growing in their understanding of Catholic tradition within all content areas of study, including the study of theology, students are called to demonstrate Christ's love to the world. Christian witnesses in grades sixth, seventh, and eighth are able to --

	WITNESS	Report Card Wording
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
6-8.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of the Church, one who works to spread the Catholic faith throughout their community and the world (CCC 2226).	Be disciple of Christ as steward of the Church.

6-8.THEO.WIT.2	Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift.	Exhibit virtue of reverence.
6-8.THEO.WIT.3	Design and organize student-directed service projects.	Design & organize service projects.
6-8.THEO.WIT.4	Engage in service learning that is purposefully integrated within the social justice teachings of the Church (NSBECS 3.3).	Engage in service learning.
6-8.THEO.WIT.5	Match individual talents and interests with the needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of the Gospel values that animate the school's mission (NSBECS 3.3).	Match talents with needs of the community.
6-8.THEO.WIT.6	Exhibit the virtue of obedience through respect for rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.	Exhibit virtue of obedience.
6-8.THEO.WIT.7	Assist in the planning of various retreats and prayerful experiences throughout the year (NSBECS 3.2).	Assist in planning of retreats.
6-8.THEO.WIT.8	Take a leadership role in the prayer life of the school / parish (NSBECS 3.1).	Take leadership role in prayer life of school.

Eighth Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Through classroom and school-wide experiences led by role models of the faith, students in grades sixth through eighth grade encounter the Lord, Jesus Christ through --

	ENCOUNTER in grades 6 to 8	Report Card Wording
ENC	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
6-8.THEO.ENC.1	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (John 6:35; John 14:26).	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
6-8.THEO.ENC.2	Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, continuing to learn new recited prayers appropriate to age and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.	Participate in recited prayers.
6-8.THEO.ENC.3	Lectio Divina of Sacred Scripture, including Scripture connected to course topics, the daily readings, and in preparation of the upcoming Sunday liturgy.	Lectio Divina of Sacred Scripture.
6-8.THEO.ENC.4	Experiences of different forms and expressions of prayer (Forms of Prayer CCC 2623-2643, Expressions of Prayer CCC 2700-2719; NSBECS 3.1).	Experiences of different forms of prayer.
6-8.THEO.ENC.5	Recognition that God knows and loves us each personally and reflection upon the plans that God has for each of our lives (Ps 139; Isa 43:1-4; Jer 1:5).	Recognize God knows us & has plans.
6-8.THEO.ENC.6	Recognition that personal salvation is accomplished by Jesus's death and resurrection and the gift of salvation is offered to us but requires a response from us to accept it (Rom 5:16-19; Rom 6:23; 1 Pet 2:24).	Recognize salvation offered & requires response.
6-8.THEO.ENC.7	Active participation in the Mass (NSBECS 3.1).	Active participation in Mass.
6-8.THEO.ENC.8	Participation in service learning experiences and reflection of how such service encompasses Gospel values and the mission of the school and	Participation in service learning

	parish (NSBECS 3.3).	experiences.
6-8.THEO.ENC.9	Experiences of the unique cultural heritage and popular piety of the school/parish and of the universal Catholic Church.	Experiences of traditions: culture & heritage.
6-8.THEO.ENC.10	Expression of the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and personal reflection of the degree to which we've opened our hearts to Jesus in our lives.	Personal reflection of opening hearts to Jesus.
6-8.THEO.ENC.11	Reflection on living as a disciple of Jesus Christ in today's world and the call we have to evangelize (Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:13-26).	Reflection on living as disciple of Jesus Christ.
6-8.THEO.ENC.12	Reflection on life experiences and faith through retreats and other spiritual experiences (NSBECS 3.2).	Reflection on life experiences.
6-8.THEO.ENC.13	Experiences of friendship and the school community as a way of encountering Jesus Christ and living as a member of His Body.	Experiences of friendship & school community.

Through the study of Scripture, saints, prayers, and virtue, students who demonstrate a grade-level understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are able to--

	GROW Pillar I: The Profession of Faith	Report Card Reading
SCR	Sacred Scripture	
8.THEO.SCR.1	Identify and discuss the New Testament passages where Jesus established the Church (Mt 16:18-19; Jn 20:23; Lk 22:19, Mt 28: 19-20).	Discuss: Jesus established the Church.
8.THEO.SCR.2	Trace the growth of the Church beginning with Pentecost, continuing through Paul's journeys as recounted in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles.	Trace the growth of the Church.
8.THEO.SCR.3	Explain the basis of the Church's moral teaching, as exemplified in the creation story of man, the commandments, and the Beatitudes.	Explain basis of Church's moral teaching.

8.THEO.SCR.4	Identify the stages of salvation history and explain their significance in God's plan for humanity.	Identify stages of salvation history.
HIS	Faith and Church History	
8.THEO.HIS.1	Analyze the laws of our Church, as rooted in Judaism, within the books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.	Analyze laws of our Church.
8.THEO.HIS.2	Tell about the conversion of Saul/Paul (Acts 9:1-9).	Tell about conversion of Saul/Paul.
8.THEO.HIS.3	Retell the events of the Council of Jerusalem and identify the most important issues decided there (Acts 15).	Retell Council of Jerusalem.
8.THEO.HIS.4	Discuss the trials endured by the early disciples and apostles.	Discuss trials endured by early Apostles.
8.THEO.HIS.5	Discuss the apostolic succession (CCC 874, 880-883).	Discuss apostolic succession.
8.THEO.HIS.6	Identify the growth of Islam and how it impacted Christians at the time of the Crusades.	Identify growth of Islam.
8.THEO.HIS.7	Discuss the Reformation and the rise of Protestant churches.	Discuss Reformation.
CRE	The Creed	
8.THEO.CRE.1	Understand that the Church recognizes other Christians as our brothers and sisters in the Lord (CCC 838).	Understand Church recognizes other Christians.
8.THEO.CRE.2	Compare and contrast the Catholic beliefs of the Eucharist with the beliefs of non-Catholic Christians (CCC 1398-1400).	Compare Catholic & non-Catholic belief: Eucharist.
8.THEO.CRE.3	Discuss major heresies and the truths that are affirmed (i.e. Docetism, Arianism, Nestorianism, Monophysitism, Gnosticism, Jansenism, iconoclasm, etc.) (CCC 465-468).	Discuss major heresies.
8.THEO.CRE.4	Compare, with reasoning and explanation, the Nicene Creed and the	Compare Nicene & Apostles Creed.

	Apostles Creed (CCC 184 ff).	
8.THEO.CRE.5	Describe the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and their responsibilities (CCC 880-896).	Describe hierarchy of Catholic Church.
8.THEO.CRE.6	Identify ecumenical councils as special meetings of the pope and bishops (CCC 884).	Identify ecumenical councils.
GROW Pillar II: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery		
LIT	God and the Sacred Liturgy	
8.THEO.LIT.1	Define Lectionary and explain the purpose of the Lectionary.	Define Lectionary.
8.THEO.LIT.2	Create a model to describe the liturgical year and cycle of readings.	Create model to describe liturgical year.
8.THEO.LIT.3	Connect the importance of each Holy Day of Obligation to the overall cycle of the liturgical year.	Connect Holy Days to cycle of liturgical year.
SAC	Seven Sacraments of the Church	
8.THEO.SAC.1	Describe how Confirmation is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace (CCC 1131), and how it related to the other Sacraments.	Describe Confirmation.
8. THEO.SAC.2	Describe situations in which we find application of and need for the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit.	Apply Fruits & Gifts of Holy Spirit.
GROW Pillar III: Life in Christ		
DIG	Dignity of the Human Person	
8.THEO.DIG.1	Explain and defend that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death (CCC 1702).	Defend that all human life is sacred.
8.THEO.DIG.2	Identify and explain the basic rights of persons (CCC 1956).	Identify & explain basic rights of

		persons.
8.THEO.DIG.3	Describe and give examples from early Church history of the Christian ideal for respecting the dignity of others (Eph 4:25-6:9; James 2-3, 1 John 2:1-17).	Describe early Church: respecting dignity.
8.THEO.DIG.4	Identify local, national and/or global situations in which the dignity of the human person is not respected, and as Catholics how we should respond.	Identify situations & Catholic response.
COM	The Human Community	
8.THEO.COM.1	Explain how Baptism connects him/her to a universal community of believers beginning with their own parish community (CCC 1267-1269) and includes a call to transform the world through the Gospel (CCC 871, 1265-1270).	Explain Baptism.
8.THEO.COM.2	Describe how members of the Body of Christ share responsibility for each other and all of humanity (CCC 1877-1882).	Describe how Body of Christ share responsibility.
8.THEO.COM.3	Identify and describe lay ministerial roles and their service to the Church.	Describe lay ministerial roles.
TOB	Theology of the Body	
8.THEO.TOB.1	Defend that creation should be received as a gift and not manipulated, dominated and controlled.	Defend that creation should be received as a gift.
8.THEO.TOB.2	Provide examples of how a person is pure in heart: when he perceives and respects others as a gift and seeks to make a gift of himself to others (TOB 50, 54, 57:3).	Provide examples of how a person is pure in heart.
8.THEO.TOB.3	Explain that living out the spousal meaning of the body can be through marriage or virginity for the sake of the Kingdom (TOB 76:6, 78:4).	Explain spousal meaning of the body.
8.THEO.TOB.4	Describe the concept of vocation and how vocation is the way one lives out spousal love (TOB 78, 86).	Describe vocation.

8.THEO.TOB.5	Explain how God invites and does not force when he calls someone to the vocation of married life, consecrated life or the priesthood, leaving the person free to respond (TOB 73:3-4, 76:4, 79:8).	Explain how God invites vocation.
8.THEO.TOB.6	Describe the nature of consecrated life as giving oneself totally to Christ and being a sign of our future life in heaven (TOB 80:6).	Describe consecrated life.
8.THEO.TOB.7	Explain that when God calls two people to the vocation of marriage, he is inviting them into a special sacrament of his life (Ephesians 5; TOB 87-93).	Explain God's invitation to marriage.
8.THEO.TOB.8	Explain what will happen at the Resurrection of the body (TOB 64-72).	Explain Resurrection of the Body.
MOR	Morality	
8.THEO.MOR.1	Define and provide examples of social sin (CCC 1869).	Define social sin.
8.THEO.MOR.2	Identify universal moral truths that are rooted in the natural moral law (CCC 1954-1960), and evaluate a situation where God's law is in conflict with human law.	Identify universal moral truths.
8.THEO.MOR.3	Explain that the universal call to holiness is lived out in the context of our vocation and state of life (CCC 2013-2016).	Explain universal call to holiness.
8.THEO.MOR.4	Assess contemporary issues and lifestyles that conflict with living as a disciple of Jesus Christ (Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:13-26).	Assess issues that conflict with discipleship.
8.THEO.MOR.5	Articulate, with support from Church teachings and personal conversion of heart, the role of conscience and circumstance in moral decision-making, what it means to have an informed conscience, and the importance of developing a moral framework from a Christian perspective.	Articulate informed conscience & moral framework.
8.THEO.MOR.6	Relate the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to works of social justice (CCC 2447).	Relate Works of Mercy to works of social justice.
8.THEO.MOR.7	Explain how the family as the basic cell of society has rights and duties	Explain how family has rights &

	(CCC 2214-2233).	duties.
	GROW Pillar IV: Christian Prayer	
PRA	Prayer	
8.THEO.PRA.1	Pray for openness and generous response to God's call in our lives.	Pray for generous response to God's call.
8.THEO.PRA.2	Discuss the effectiveness of prayer in deepening one's relationship with Jesus.	Discuss effectiveness of prayer.
8.THEO.PRA.3	Lead group, class, and school-wide prayer as a model of a prayerful faith life.	Lead prayer.
8.THEO.PRA.4	Recite prayers as specified by grade level expectations.	Recite prayers.
8.THEO.PRA.5	Review and revise plan for personal daily prayer.	Review & revise plan for personal daily prayer.

By encountering Jesus Christ and growing in their understanding of Catholic tradition within all content areas of study, including the study of theology, students are called to demonstrate Christ's love to the world. Christian witnesses in grades sixth, seventh, and eighth are able to --

	WITNESS	Report Card Wording
WIT	Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship	
6-8.THEO.WIT.1	Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of the Church, one who works to spread the Catholic faith throughout their community and the world (CCC 2226).	Be disciple of Christ as steward of the Church.
6-8.THEO.WIT.2	Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift.	Exhibit virtue of reverence.

6-8.THEO.WIT.3	Design and organize student-directed service projects.	Design & organize service projects.
6-8.THEO.WIT.4	Engage in service learning that is purposefully integrated within the social justice teachings of the Church (NSBECS 3.3).	Engage in service learning.
6-8.THEO.WIT.5	Match individual talents and interests with the needs of the community and reflect on service experiences in the light of the Gospel values that animate the school's mission (NSBECS 3.3).	Match talents with needs of the community.
6-8.THEO.WIT.6	Exhibit the virtue of obedience through respect for rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.	Exhibit virtue of obedience.
6-8.THEO.WIT.7	Assist in the planning of various retreats and prayerful experiences throughout the year (NSBECS 3.2).	Assist in planning of retreats.
6-8.THEO.WIT.8	Take a leadership role in the prayer life of the school / parish (NSBECS 3.1).	Take leadership role in prayer life of school.

Cross-Content Literacy in grades 6-8
Curriculum Standards in Diocese of Grand Rapids

Students who demonstrate understanding of eighth grade literacy are able to ---

	Full Standard	Report Card Wording
6-8.CL.1	Solve authentic problems through open-ended inquiry and ideation to build problem-solving techniques and learning in various contexts.	Solve authentic problems through open-ended inquiry/ideation.
6-8.CL.2	Summarize content-specific traditional texts and digital media in simpler but still accurate terms.	Summarize in simpler/accurate terms.
6-8.CL.3	Determine whether an author's perspective is in accord or discord with Catholic teaching.	Determine whether perspective of author is in accord/discord with Catholic teaching.
6-8.CL.4	Identify omitted information in a piece of published work and infer reasons for such omissions.	Identify omitted information in published work and infer reasons for omissions.
6-8.CL.5	Identify an author's claim, evidence, reasoning, and anticipated counterclaim in a published work.	Identify claim, evidence, reasoning, anticipated counterclaim.
6-8.CL.6	Explain a published work's purpose, tone, and structure in relation to the author's perspective and the intended audience.	Explain purpose/tone/structure.
6-8.CL.7	Determine the meanings of key terms and content-specific vocabulary as used in texts and media.	Determine meanings of key terms and content-specific vocabulary.
6-8.CL.8	Use content-specific vocabulary in the creation of texts or media.	Use content-specific vocabulary.

6-8.CL.9	Compare various domain-specific texts or media (i.e. historical primary sources, scientific research, videos, websites, etc.) in their structural features and design.	Compare various texts/media.
6-8.CL.10	Compare the claims, evidence, and reasoning of various arguments.	Compare claims/evidence/reasoning of various arguments.
6-8.CL.11	Present a clear understanding of a complex topic through the use of multiple relevant and useful sources of information.	Present a clear understanding of a complex topic.
6-8.CL.12	Accurately cite sources of information for use as evidence and reasoning to support an argument.	Accurately cite sources of information.
6-8.CL.13	Construct an argument using a claim, evidence, reasoning, and counterclaim to demonstrate understanding of a content-specific topic of inquiry.	Construct argument using claim, evidence, reasoning, counterclaim
6-8.CL.14	Use collaboration to connect with peers and experts to explore various topics.	Connect with peers/experts to explore topics.
6-8.CL.15	Inform and influence audiences, through verbal communication and the creation of media and writing, in order to proclaim the Word of God, share the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to promote the greater good of the community.	Inform/influence audiences to proclaim Word of God/promote greater good.
6-8.CL.16	Self-reflect, using metacognitive strategies, on the specific and individual processes and techniques used to complete academic tasks in order to assess progress toward academic goals.	Assess progress toward academic goals.

Ninth Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Course I: The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture

Students who demonstrate understanding of theology course I are able to --

How Do We Know About God?	
HS.THEO.I.1	Describe how the thirst and desire for God works within all people.
HS.THEO.I.2	Describe how natural revelation reveals the truth of God.
HS.THEO.I.3	Define Divine Revelation and describe how this revelation is transmitted through Scripture and Apostolic Tradition.
About Sacred Scripture	
HS.THEO.I.4	Explain the concepts of Divine inspiration and Biblical inerrancy.
HS.THEO.I.5	Describe the role of oral tradition in the creation of the Bible.
HS.THEO.I.6	Describe the stages in the development of the Bible and determination of the canon of Scripture.
HS.THEO.I.7	Examine and discuss the relationship between Sacred Scripture and prayer.
Understanding Scripture	
HS.THEO.I.8	Recognize the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church, responsible for authentic interpretation of the Bible.
HS.THEO.I.9	Read and interpret Sacred Scripture within the tradition and teaching of the Church, taking into account the criteria used by the Church in its interpretation.*
HS.THEO.I.10	Study specific passages of Scripture to examine the literal, allegorical, moral, and anagogical senses of

	Scripture.*
HS.THEO.I.11	Recognize and discuss how there can be no conflict between religious truth and scientific and historical truth.
HS.THEO.I.12	Explain how interpretation of Scripture can be approached through analysis of literary forms and other modern critical methods.
Overview of the Bible	
HS.THEO.I.13	Identify the components and structure of the Old Testament, including why it is named the "Old" Testament and how it differs from the Protestant canon.
HS.THEO.I.14	Identify the components and structure of the New Testament, and articulate the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.
The Gospels	
HS.THEO.I.15	Explain the importance of the Gospels in Scripture.
HS.THEO.I.16	Explain the three stages in the formation of the Gospels.
HS.THEO.I.17	Classify and compare the elements of the Synoptic Gospels.
HS.THEO.I.18	Examine the Gospel of John in its uniqueness from and coherence to the Synoptic Gospels.
Challenges	
HS.THEO.I.19	Identify and examine potential challenges we face in understanding the Bible in the Catholic faith.
Theology of the Body	
HS.THEO.I.20	Recognize in Genesis how God created man "in the beginning": the states of original justice (original solitude, original unity, and original nakedness) and the contrast with original sin.
HS.THEO.I.21	Analyze the creation account of Genesis and how the human person is created as gift.
HS.THEO.I.22	Describe how the human person is meant to relate with God, others, and creation as gift.

HS.THEO.I.23	Describe the significance of the covenant relationships between God and man, and man and woman.
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Course II: Who is Jesus Christ?

Students who demonstrate understanding of theology course II are able to --

God and Revelation	
HS.THEO.II.1	Describe how God reveals Himself through Scripture and Tradition.
HS.THEO.II.2	Define faith.
HS.THEO.II.3	Explain how faith in Jesus leads to discipleship.
HS.THEO.II.4	Examine the relationship between faith and religion.
HS.THEO.II.5	Explain how the fullness of Revelation is reflected in the life and teaching of the Catholic Church.
HS.THEO.II.6	Justify the reasons for faith in God and participation in the Catholic Church, within the context of modern society and conflicting culture, and also in light of the existence of suffering.
Jesus Christ's Revelation About God	
HS.THEO.II.7	Describe the significance of the mystery of the Incarnation.
HS.THEO.II.8	Describe how the dogma of the Holy Trinity explains to us the fullness of the nature of God.
HS.THEO.II.9	Identify the distinctive characteristics of each of the Three Persons of the Trinity.
HS.THEO.II.10	Describe the development of Trinitarian theology in relation to the major Christological controversies.
HS.THEO.II.11	Identify the unique role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in salvation history.
The Mystery of the Incarnation	
HS.THEO.II.12	Articulate God's Revelation of Jesus Christ as fully God and fully man.
Jesus Christ Teaches Us About Ourselves	
HS.THEO.II.13	Explain how Jesus embodies what has been revealed in and through creation.*

HS.THEO.II.14	Describe how Jesus redeems us and gives us his grace so that we can choose good and resist sin.
HS.THEO.II.15	Use Scripture to describe how Jesus' teachings lead us to grow in holiness and goodness.
HS.THEO.II.16	Use Scripture to explain how Jesus teaches us to pray and teaches us through prayer.
HS.THEO.II.17	Explain how the Communion of Saints connects the Christian faithful, both the living and the dead.
HS.THEO.II.18	Use Scripture to describe Jesus' messages of death, judgement, heaven, and hell.
	Challenges
HS.THEO.II.19	Identify and examine potential challenges we face in accepting the truth of our faith.
	Theology of the Body
HS.THEO.II.20	Describe the implications of the Incarnation for man's relationship with God and man's understanding of himself.
HS.THEO.II.21	Compare how the loving communion of man and woman is like that of the Trinity, a communion of persons who are love and who in giving and receiving are fruitful.
HS.THEO.II.22	Describe how the Incarnation is Jesus' total gift of self (cf. Phil 2: 5-11).
HS.THEO.II.23	Describe how discipleship entails the gift of self.

Tenth Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Course III: The Mission of Jesus Christ

Students who demonstrate understanding of theology course III are able to --

The Goodness of Creation and Our Fall from Grace	
HS.THEO.III.1	Recognize the use of figurative and symbolic language in Genesis 1-11 to convey God's Truth in the creation of the world rather than to convey science.
HS.THEO.III.2	Explain the significance of the creation of human beings, created in the image and likeness of God, having both body and soul and including both men and women.
HS.THEO.III.3	Describe original sin and its consequences.
The Promise of a Messiah & Christ Our Light: Redemption Unfolds	
HS.THEO.III.4	Retrace God's promise of a Messiah from the Book of Genesis through the covenants of the Old Testament .
HS.THEO.III.5	Use the words of the Gospels as evidence to describe how Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.
HS.THEO.III.6	Explain the reasons for the Incarnation.
HS.THEO.III.7	Explain how Jesus' saving mission is revealed through the events of His life and ministry.
Redemption Through the Paschal Mystery	
HS.THEO.III.8	Explain how the Passion and Death of Jesus exemplify redemptive love.
HS.THEO.III.9	Describe the significance of the Resurrection and the Ascension of Jesus, including their implications for the life of the Church.
Moral Implications for the Life of a Believer	
HS.THEO.III.10	Identify the implications that Christ's Salvation has for Christian life, death, and judgment.

HS.THEO.III.11	Recognize the universal call to holiness of life and describe how one may grow in holiness.
Prayer in the Life of a Believer	
HS.THEO.III.12	Recognize the need to grow in intimacy and communion with Jesus Christ through vocal, meditative, and contemplative prayer.
HS.THEO.III.13	Recognize and use Scripture as a source and guide for prayer.
HS.THEO.III.14	Experience and develop prayer as blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise.
Challenges	
HS.THEO.III.15	Identify and examine potential challenges we face in understanding Christ's suffering and our role as followers of Christ.
Theology of the Body	
HS.THEO.III.16	Propose and defend that creation should be received as a gift, not dominated or manipulated.
HS.THEO.III.17	Explain how Jesus redeems all of creation through the Paschal Mystery.
HS.THEO.III.18	Evaluate actions for self-mastery and describe how actions of self-mastery free one to make a full gift of self (TOB 15:1-4, 32:6; Romans 6: 20-23; 2 Timothy 2:1-5).

Course IV: Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church

Students who demonstrate understanding of theology course IV are able to --

Christ Established His One Church to Continue His Presence and His Work	
HS.THEO.IV.1	Use Scripture to trace the origins of the Church in both the Old and New Testaments.
HS.THEO.IV.2	Identify and describe the role of the Holy Spirit in the development and presence of the Catholic Church.
HS.THEO.IV.3	Describe the role of the Apostles in the early Church.
Images of the Church	
HS.THEO.IV.4	Identify and explain various images of the Church rooted in the Old Testament and New Testament and developed in Tradition.
The Marks of the Church	
HS.THEO.IV.5	Define each of the marks of the Church and describe how each is a necessary component of understanding and living the Church in its fullness.
The Church in the World	
HS.THEO.IV.6	Describe how the Church's functions of evangelization, teaching, sanctifying, and governing act as instruments of communion with God and of unity of the human race.
HS.THEO.IV.7	Create and use a model to describe the hierarchical nature of the Church as well as the various roles and vocations of life within the Church.
HS.THEO.IV.8	Describe the role of the Magisterium and how the Church is both indefectible and infallible.
Implications of Life of a Believer	
HS.THEO.IV.9	Describe why belonging to the Church, regular reception of the sacraments, prayer, and living as disciples are all essential aspects of life in the Catholic Church.
Challenges	

HS.THEO.IV.10	Identify and examine potential challenges we face in our daily lives as members of the Catholic Church and evangelicals for the Church's teachings.
Theology of the Body	
HS.THEO.IV.11	Propose how a <i>communio of persons</i> involves the loving gift of self (i.e. the Trinity, but also the unity of the Church, the family and the unity of man and woman).
HS.THEO.IV.12	Describe God's choice to covenant with His people and how the Church is the fulfillment of His gift of self.
HS.THEO.IV.13	Describe how the Church is the sacrament of God's love in the world.
HS.THEO.IV.14	Describe how the Liturgy makes visible, and efficacious, the grace & power of Christ's Paschal Mystery (cf. CCC 1085)

Eleventh Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Course V: Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ

Students who demonstrate understanding of theology course V are able to --

The Sacramental Nature of the Church	
HS.THEO.V.1	Define and explore the mystery of sacraments and grace, and compare to the definition and role as used by Eastern Churches.
HS.THEO.V.2	Explain and give examples of how both Jesus Christ and the Church are sacraments of God and salvation.
HS.THEO.V.3	Articulate the outward expressions of Christ's Sacramental presence in our lives through signs, symbols, and rituals.
HS.THEO.V.4	Develop a deeper prayer experience through liturgical prayer and various forms of personal prayer in the Catholic tradition.
Sacraments of Initiation	
HS.THEO.V.5	Explain the Scriptural basis and historical development of the Sacrament of Baptism.
HS.THEO.V.6	Describe the Rite of Baptism, including its essential elements, requirements for reception, and minister of the Sacrament.
HS.THEO.V.7	Describe the effects of Baptism and discuss the implications of reception of Baptism.
HS.THEO.V.8	Define and describe the Sacrament of Confirmation, and explain its scriptural basis and historical tradition in the Roman Catholic Church.
HS.THEO.V.9	Identify the parts of the Rite of Confirmation, including its essential elements, requirements for reception, and minister of the Sacrament.
HS.THEO.V.10	Describe the effects of Confirmation and discuss the implications of reception of Confirmation in our lives.
HS.THEO.V.12	Explain the Scriptural basis and historical development of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

HS.THEO.V.13	Identify the parts of the Mass, including its essential elements and the connection of the actions and words of the Mass to the theology of the Eucharist.
HS.THEO.V.14	Define transubstantiation and recognize the implications of the Real Presence in our Eucharistic worship.
HS.THEO.V.15	Describe the effects of Holy Eucharist and the requirements for fruitful reception of this Sacrament.
HS.THEO.V.16	Examine the meaning of active participation in the Mass and determine the implications of receiving the Holy Eucharist.
Sacraments of Healing	
HS.THEO.V.17	Explain the Scriptural basis and historical development of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.
HS.THEO.V.18	Explain the characteristics of the three forms of the Sacrament of Penance.
HS.THEO.V.19	Describe the essential elements, requirements for reception, and minister of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
HS.THEO.V.20	Explain how the effects and implications of Reconciliation heal and strengthen our relationships with God and the world through grace.
HS.THEO.V.21	Explain the Scriptural basis and historical development of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.
HS.THEO.V.22	Describe the essential elements, requirements for reception, and minister of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
HS.THEO.V.23	Explain the effects of Anointing of the Sick and discuss the implications of reception of the Sacrament.
Sacraments at the Service of Communion	
HS.THEO.V.24	Explain the Scriptural basis and historical development of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
HS.THEO.V.25	Describe the Rite of Ordination, including its essential elements, requirements for reception, and minister of the Sacrament.
HS.THEO.V.26	Explain the effects of Holy Orders and discuss the implications of the reception of the Sacrament, including the distinct tasks of each ordained ministry.

HS.THEO.V.27	Explain the Scriptural basis and historical development of the Sacrament of Matrimony.
HS.THEO.V.28	Describe the celebration of Matrimony, including its essential elements, and minister of the Sacrament, and the requirements of reception.
HS.THEO.V.29	Discuss the effects of Marriage and examine the responsibilities of lifelong fidelity, procreation, and the care for the Domestic Church.
HS.THEO.V.30	Distinguish between divorce and a declaration of nullity and recognize the implications of each in light of the sanctity of marriage and the dignity of each person.
HS.THEO.V.31	Examine the elements necessary for a strong vocation to Holy Orders or Marriage and the need for ongoing enrichment with an emphasis on prayer and relationship with Christ.
Challenges to Worship and Sacraments	
HS.THEO.V.32	Identify and examine potential challenges we face by living lives that are true to worship and the Sacraments.
Theology of the Body	
HS.THEO.V.33	Explain that man, in the image of the Trinity, can only find himself through a sincere gift of himself (TOB 8:4, 9:1-3, 10:1, 15:1).
HS.THEO.V.34	Explain how the Sacraments of Healing anticipate the newness of the eschatological man and respond to Jesus' call for the renewal of heart in the Sermon on the Mount (cf. TOB Part 2, 24-63).
HS.THEO.V.35	Explain how participating in God's very love is total, faithful, fruitful, and generous (TOB 127:1; 1 Corinthians 12-13; Jn 10:10; Luke 14).
HS.THEO.V.36	Describe how marriage sacramentally participates in the love of Jesus Christ for His Church (cf TOB 87-102; Ephesians 5: 21-33).
HS.THEO.V.37	Explain how consecrated life in the Church radically imitates the life of Christ and works for the kingdom of God on earth (TOB 75:1, 75:4, 76:3, 79:2, 79:9, 81:4; CCC 915-916, 929, 932, 1579, 1618).

Course VI: Life in Jesus Christ

Students who demonstrate understanding of theology course VI are able to --

What is Life in Christ?	
HS.THEO.VI.1	Explain God's plan for humanity, including the elements that allow us to share eternal love and happiness in Heaven as well as the implications of God creating us in his image and likeness.
HS.THEO.VI.2	Identify the call to love and joy through the Beatitudes.
HS.THEO.VI.3	Explain the implications of the call to be a follower of Christ.
HS.THEO.VI.4	Defend the reality of the existence of absolute truth in the world, especially in relation to relativism.
God Has Taught Us How to Live a New Life in Christ	
HS.THEO.VI.5	Differentiate between the various expressions of moral law, including eternal law (Divine Providence), natural law, revealed law, and civil and ecclesiastical law.
HS.THEO.VI.6	Identify positive applications of each of the Ten Commandments.
HS.THEO.VI.7	Identify and explain violations of each of the Ten Commandments in actions and intentions.
HS.THEO.VI.8	Explain how the two Great Commandments of Jesus relate to the Decalogue.
HS.THEO.VI.9	Articulate the significance of the Sermon on the Mount, including how the Beatitudes and other Christian teachings require us to live in today's world.
HS.THEO.VI.10	Identify and describe the teaching authority and responsibility of the Church, including the role of the Magisterium and concepts outlined in Church law.
Living New Life in Christ Jesus and the Gospel Message Are the Basis for Catholic Moral Teaching	
HS.THEO.VI.11	Describe the meaning of our vocation to discipleship and explain the various elements of discipleship in our lives as Christians.
HS.THEO.VI.12	Define and identify the types of grace.

HS.THEO.VI.13	Define and identify the types of virtue.
HS.THEO.VI.14	Describe the specific roles of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the fruits of the Holy Spirit, the Sacraments, and prayer in sustaining the moral life.
HS.THEO.VI.15	Identify the types of conscience, explain the proper formation of conscience, and recognize the moral responsibility of following an informed conscience as it is freely provided to us by God.
HS.THEO.VI.16	Explain how each of the sacraments offer us the grace and strength to live moral lives.
The Reality of Sin	
HS.THEO.VI.17	Explain humanity's original innocence and the effects of Original Sin.
HS.THEO.VI.18	Examine the reality of sin through an understanding of its classifications: sins of omission and commission as well as mortal, venial, and capital sins.
HS.THEO.VI.19	Recognize and discuss scriptural images of sin.
Challenges	
HS.THEO.VI.20	Identify and examine potential challenges we face by living lives that are true to God's plans and by being Christ's disciples.
Theology of the Body	
HS.THEO.VI.21	Describe the idea of a vocation and how it is the way one makes a total gift-of-self (TOB 78, 86; CCC 915-916, 929, 932, 1579, 1603, 1605, 1618-1620).
HS.THEO.VI.22	Describe what 'life according to the Spirit' is and how following the law of God leads to true freedom and happiness (TOB 15:1, 45:1, 51:5-6, 53:4-5, 54:2-4; CCC 30, 736, 1731, 1824, 1828-1832, 2514-2516, 2548).
HS.THEO.VI.23	Recognize concupiscence as a result of original sin and acknowledge the need to bring emotions and desires into harmony with what is truly good (TOB 26:5, 31:3, 31:6, 32:3, 33:1-2, 51:5-6, 54; CCC 397, 400, 405, 1707, 1865, 1949, 2514-2520, 2534-2535, 2549).

HS.THEO.VI.24	Explain how the moral and spiritual life is a response to God's gift of Himself to us in love.
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Twelfth Grade Theology
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Course VII: History of the Catholic Church

Students who demonstrate understanding of theology course VII are able to --

Christ Established His Church	
HS.THEO.VII.1	Describe how the Church was planned by the Father, instituted by Christ, and revealed by the Holy Spirit.
HS.THEO.VII.2	Describe how the life of the apostles exemplifies the Church's mission of evangelization.
HS.THEO.VII.3	Identify how the Acts of the Apostles demonstrates the apostolic and hierarchical nature of the Church.
History of Church in Post-Apostolic Times	
HS.THEO.VII.4	Identify and explain the participation of Roman Christians in the persecution of Jesus.
HS.THEO.VII.5	Connect Eucharistic center of early liturgy to later and modern liturgies.
HS.THEO.VII.6	Evaluate the transition of Christianity into the public square and its attendant adaptations.
HS.THEO.VII.7	Identify and explain factors for inculturating Scripture, especially the enlightenment of the Greek and Roman cultures by the Gospel.
HS.THEO.VII.8	Explore the Eastern Patriarchates in relation to the See of Rome.
HS.THEO.VII.9	Explain the necessity for conciliar response to heresy.
HS.THEO.VII.10	Identify, explain, and model authentic doctrinal development as the unfolding of the deposit of faith.
HS.THEO.VII.11	Describe the collapse of the secular world in the 400s and the Church's role as protector of society.
HS.THEO.VII.12	Identify positive contributions monastic orders made to society.
HS.THEO.VII.13	Describe the conflicts between the Church and state of the Middle Ages.

HS.THEO.VII.14	Trace the rise of the mendicant orders and explain their positive contributions to education and universities.
HS.THEO.VII.15	Describe the events of the Middle Ages that were precursors of the Reformation.
HS.THEO.VII.16	Identify and examine the historical situations that led to the Crusades.
HS.THEO.VII.17	Identify major events within the Crusades and describe how the Crusades affected European culture.
HS.THEO.VII.18	Describe the Church's contributions to the revival of the arts and Western culture during the Renaissance.
HS.THEO.VII.19	Identify events and movements that were precursors to the Reformation.
HS.THEO.VII.20	Develop a timeline of the important events and people of the Protestant Reformation.
HS.THEO.VII.21	Identify distinctive Protestant beliefs and practices and articulate how these differ from Catholicism.
HS.THEO.VII.22	Explain the various actions of the Council of Trent as responses to the Protestant Reformation.
HS.THEO.VII.23	Explain how culture and saints of the Counter-Reformation exemplified the newfound confidence of the Church.
HS.THEO.VII.24	Describe the role of missionaries in the exploration of new territories and the evangelization within new cultures.
HS.THEO.VII.25	Explain how Enlightenment ideas conflicted with Catholicism and led to the French Revolution.
HS.THEO.VII.26	Identify the events and saints that promoted religious revival in post-revolutionary France.
HS.THEO.VII.27	Identify the actions of Pope Pius IX which strengthened the spiritual authority of the Pope of the Church.
HS.THEO.VII.28	Analyze the conditions and social injustices of the Industrial Revolution.
HS.THEO.VII.29	Associate the work of Pope Leo XIII with the development of Catholic Social Justice.
HS.THEO.VII.30	Examine and discuss the teachings and writings of the Church that are instrumental in promoting social justice.
HS.THEO.VII.31	Examine the pastoral actions of Pius X on communion, liturgical music, and his stance against modernism.

HS.THEO.VII.32	Describe the Church's responses to the major events of the twentieth century.
HS.THEO.VII.33	Identify the reasons why Pope St. John XXIII called the Vatican Council and the major outcomes of the Council.
HS.THEO.VII.34	Place the major events of the Pontificate of Pope Paul VI in the context of Church and world history.
HS.THEO.VII.35	Describe the historical background and impact of the events and themes of the Pontificate of Pope St. John Paul II.
HS.THEO.VII.36	Discuss the impact of the Pontificates of Benedict XVI and Francis in the Church and the world.
HS.THEO.VII.37	Identify the major personalities in the history of the United States.
HS.THEO.VII.38	Trace the major themes in the history of the Catholic Church in the United States, correlating them with the broader themes of American history.
HS.THEO.VII.39	Explain the contributions of the American saints and blessed.
Challenges	
HS.THEO.VII.40	Respond to the claim that unfortunate historical events invalidate and "disprove" the sanctity of the Church.
HS.THEO.VII.41	Conclude human discord as the cause for other churches to break away from the Church and proclaim the Church's commitment to Christian unity.
Theology of the Body	
HS.THEO.VII.42	Trace the development of Christian anthropology and its unique contribution to how we understand what it is to be human.
HS.THEO.VII.43	Describe how the life of the Church is a manifestation of Jesus' gift of Himself to His people.

Course VIII: Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society

Students who demonstrate understanding of theology course VIII are able to --

God's Plan for His People	
HS.Theo.VIII.1	Correlate through concrete examples how happiness is dependent on a relationship with God.
HS.Theo.VIII.2	Examine how the whole human race is united through the social nature of mankind.
HS.Theo.VIII.3	Explain how Vatican II identifies the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ, the Family of God, a community of sanctified believers, a teacher, and a listener.
Social Teaching of the Church	
HS.Theo.VIII.4	Defend the argument that the Church always has stood for charity and justice through the social teachings in Scripture, the Church's history of social concern, and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
HS.Theo.VIII.5	Distinguish between the four types of justice, apply the specific forms of justice to social issues, and integrate the four to promote the common good.
HS.Theo.VIII.6	Engage modern Catholic Social Teaching to provide help in solving social issues.
HS.Theo.VIII.7	Extrapolate social teaching from moral law.
HS.Theo.VIII.8	Recognize how God, in ordering creation, confers authority to society in order to return all things to himself.
HS.Theo.VIII.9	Defend the truth that the perfection of the person is found in communities that model the communion of the Trinity.
HS.Theo.VIII.10	Explore how the USCCB engages social issues.
Major Themes of Catholic Social Teaching	
HS.Theo.VIII.11	Defend the dignity of human life.
HS.Theo.VIII.12	Explain and model how the family is the foundation of society, and how all people should participate in society to work for the common good.

HS.Theo.VIII.13	Foster and protect human rights, as a responsibility of the people of society.
HS.Theo.VIII.14	Defend that the goods of the earth belong to all people and must be shared appropriately and for the sake of the common good.
HS.Theo.VIII.15	Uphold work and the dignity to work as part of God's creation plan, and defend the right to work in just conditions.
HS.Theo.VIII.16	Recognize the use of solidarity in the promotion of the common good.
Sin and Its Social Dimensions	
HS.Theo.VIII.17	Explain the difference between social sin and personal sin.
HS.Theo.VIII.18	Identify the foundations of social sin.
HS.Theo.VIII.19	Recognize the social dimension of each of the first three Commandments, including the strengthening of relationship with God and defending the freedom of worship.
HS.Theo.VIII.20	Recognize the social dimension of Commandments four through twelve, including study of each Commandment through positive examples and failures.
HS.Theo.VIII.21	Recognize the social dimension of the Beatitudes, including how we are invited to live the Beatitudes and the consequences of neglecting the Beatitudes.
Challenges	
HS.Theo.VIII.22	Analyze how societal pressures and opposition to the faith contradict the model set for us by Christ.
Theology of the Body	
HS.THEO.VIII.23	Explain how sin mars, manipulates, and unravels creation (cf., Flood of Noah, David & Solomon, Job, Ecclesiastes), and how Jesus' redemption is meant for all of creation.
HS.THEO.VIII.24	Give a response, informed by Theology of the Body, to situations in which respect for human dignity and for the human person is challenged in the world today.

Cross-Content Literacy in grades 9-12
Curriculum Standards in the Diocese of Grand Rapids

Students who demonstrate understanding of twelfth grade literacy are able to ---

	Cross-Content Literacy
HS.CL.1	Solve authentic problems through open-ended inquiry and ideation in various contexts.
HS.CL.2	Paraphrase complex content-specific texts and media in simpler but still accurate terms.
HS.CL.3	Determine to what extent an author's work is in accord or discord with Catholic teaching.
HS.CL.4	Identify important issues that remain unresolved in a traditional text or digital media.
HS.CL.5	Identify the perspective, potential bias, and credibility of primary and secondary sources based on their maker, date, place of origin, intended audience, and intended purpose.
HS.CL.6	Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as used in content-rich texts.
HS.CL.7	Use content-specific vocabulary in the creation of texts and media.
HS.CL.8	Identify and evaluate the claim, evidence, reasoning and counterclaims in a piece of published work, and verify or challenge the position by using other sources of information.
HS.CL.9	Analyze and compare the elements and structures of domain-specific published work (i.e. historical primary sources, scientific research, videos, websites, etc.).
HS.CL.10	Synthesize information from a range of sources to demonstrate a clear understanding of a complex topic.
HS.CL.11	Precisely and appropriately cite sources of information for use as evidence and reasoning to enhance an argument.

HS.CL.12	Construct an argument using precise claims, counterclaims, reasoning, and evidence to demonstrate understanding of a complex topic of inquiry.
HS.CL.13	Use collaboration to connect with peers and experts to explore various points of view on particular topics in various contexts.
HS.CL.14	Inform and influence audiences, through verbal communication and the creation of media and writing, for a variety of specific purposes, including to proclaim, defend, and share the teachings of our Catholic faith and to promote the greater good of society.
HS.CL.15	Use metacognitive strategies to examine the specific and individual processes and techniques used in completing various academic tasks in order to assess one's progress toward academic goals.

Student Prayer Completion Record

Diocese of Grand Rapids Office of Catholic Schools

Student Name:

Rubric													
PR	Proficient: Student demonstrates complete memorization.												
DV	Developing: Student is making progress toward proficiency.	Grade Level Memorized											
Recommended	Prayer	PS	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Date / Teacher Signature	
PS	Sign of the Cross												
PS	Guardian Angel Prayer												
KG	Glory Be (Rosary)												
KG	Grace before Meals												
KG*	Grace after Meals												
1st	Our Father												
1st	Hail Mary												
2nd	Act of Contrition												
2nd	Mass Responses												
3rd	Apostles Creed												
3rd	Angelus												
4th	Memorare												

4th*	Act of Faith												
4th*	Act of Hope												
4th*	Act of Love												
5th	Eternal Rest Prayer												
5th	Rosary												
5th*	Peace Prayer of St. Francis												
5th*	Anima Christi												
6th	Hail, Holy Queen												
6th*	Fatima Prayer												
6th*	Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel												
6th*	O Sacrum Convivium												
7th	Prayer to the Holy Spirit												
7th*	Morning Offering												
7th*	Divine Praises												
7th*	Prayer for Vocations												
7th*	Tantum Ergo												
8th	Nicene Creed												
8th*	Divine Mercy Chaplet												

*Recommended as an additional prayer

Acknowledgements

The following sources were used as reference in the creation of the Diocese of Grand Rapids Curriculum Framework. Beyond the use of Roman Catholic Church sources, it is to be acknowledged that parts of this whole were lifted, with permission, from other diocesan and theology curriculum leadership sources, as mentioned here.

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