

### **Course Description**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Literature and Religion courses are designed as a thematic approach in faith development and understanding literature.

Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will continue to hone their reading and speaking skills, while addressing significant questions, such as making sense of who they are, where they're going and how they fit into the world. Students will work individually as well as collaboratively on written, visual, and oral projects. All major projects will include a written and/or oral report. The purpose of practicing a variety of tasks is to cultivate skills that will allow each student to become successful members of society.

### **Text Books**

- ◇ *Language of Literature* –McDougal Littell
- ◇ *We Live Our Faith*-Sadlier

### **Classroom Climate**

Please refer to the student handbook for all school rules and consequences.

To ensure that all students are successful in this class, students should:

- behave respectfully towards others;
- be responsible and accountable for his or her actions;
- work cooperatively with others and be dependable;
- do his or her best at all times!

### **Required Materials**

Please refer to the supply list on the eighth grade web site. Students are expected to always come to class prepared.

### **Homework**

Assignments will be listed on the Assignment Board in the classroom as well as online. Students are required to keep track of their own assignments and due dates.

### **Late Work**

All work must be handed in at the end of the day that it is due. All unexcused late work will lose half credit. Students will have a day per each excused day of absence to get full credit for work.

### **Extra credit**

Effort and initiative are greatly appreciated! Extra credit requests will be addressed on a case by case basis.

### **Academic Integrity**

Acts that violate academic integrity, such as cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. A student who cheats does not learn. Students are responsible for doing their own work. All work is expected to be completely original. Cheating will result in an automatic 'F' on the assignment in question. Consequences include a referral to the Principal or a teacher/parent conference.

### **Absences and Tardiness**

School is the job of a student. In order to do a job well, you must be present and ready to work when class begins. If absent, it is the student's responsibility to consult the Assignment Board, the website, or a classmate regarding missing work.

### **Tests and Quizzes**

Tests and quizzes occur with some frequency. If a student misses a scheduled test or quiz, it is his or her responsibility to schedule a makeup time. Students may take a makeup test or quiz before or after school. Any plan to makeup a test or quiz must be scheduled with Mr. Fitzgerald.

### **Grades**

Grades are based on cumulative points.  
Grades approximately consist of  
Homework-1/3 of grade  
Classwork-1/3 of grade  
Tests and Quizzes-1/3 of grade

**Other Notes**

Parents and students should feel free to contact me via email with any concerns or suggestions throughout the school year. I am also happy to make appointments to meet with you. (My door I always open !) Please have your student return the bottom portion of this page completed by August 29<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Thank you,

Brian Fitzgerald  
Nativity School  
Email- [bfitzgerald@nativityschool.com](mailto:bfitzgerald@nativityschool.com)

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**My parent and I have read and understand the syllabus and guidelines.**

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**Print Student name**

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**Student signature**

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**Print Parent/Guardian name**

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**Parent/Guardian signature**

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**Date**