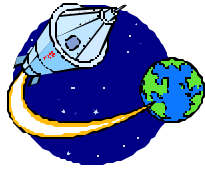


Eighth Grade Science
Our Lady of the Assumption School
Mrs. Jones



The eighth grade year in science focuses on **Physical Science**. Topics included in this curriculum are motion, energy and forces. The students will also study the nature of matter, elements, the periodic table and chemical reactions. In addition we will spend some time on exploring space. It is a very busy year with a lot to discover. There are a number of projects and labs the students enjoy which include designing, building and testing for the best paper airplane. In the spring the students will work with chemical reactions and see what new compounds they can make.

The curriculum at Our Lady of the Assumption has always been aligned with the Diocesan Curriculum Standards as well as with input from the local high schools that OLA students attend. The goal is to meet standards and have the students well prepared for high school Science.

The book for this year is: Focus on California Physical Science from Prentice - Hall. There are many additional resources throughout each chapter that can be accessed online for review, reinforcement and enrichment. All Diocesan Standards are met with these texts. In addition, the text can be downloaded onto a MP3 player at : www.californiascience.com

The students continue to work on the mechanics of proper scientific investigation and writing a lab report. Each student has a handout with guidelines for writing a lab report. Eighth grade continues to do the “newspaper assignment”. This assignment was reviewed and they again have a hand out on this assignment. One is also posted in the classroom.

The eighth grade Science field trip is to the Challenger Space Center where we see a planetarium show and then participate in a simulated space mission. The trip is scheduled this year for January 1145, 2010. Many disciplines are incorporated in this activity, and it gives the students a chance to see how different areas of science come together in real life. This is a fun day out for the class. More information on this trip is on the Science web site.