

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



The focus for seventh grade is **Life Science**. Included in this curriculum are cell biology, genetics, evolution and earth history, as well as structure and function in living things. Life science is a fascinating subject with a lot of recent advances. While we are dealing with scientific fact, we will always keep the doctrine of the Catholic Church as our guide in areas of controversy.

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 text book for seventh grade is Focus on California Life 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 on to a MP3 player through the website: www.californiascience.com

In the spring of seventh grade the students do a number of dissections. Most students look forward to this part of the curriculum. Dissections are done during the unit on *Structure and Function in Living Systems*. (Students may elect to not participate in the actual dissection, but they must watch and are responsible for the material).

We continue to work on the mechanics of proper scientific investigations and writing a lab report. Students have a handout with guidelines for writing a lab report. New to junior high students is the “newspaper assignment” which is discussed in class with a handout for each student as well.

The Science field trip for seventh grade is our trip to the Marin Headlands in the spring. This is a great and anticipated trip in a beautiful location. If you are interested in learning more about the Headlands Institute, their website is: www.yni.org.