



**St. John
Lutheran
School**

CURRICULUM SUMMARY

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL
1011 WEST UNIVERSITY DRIVE
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Kindergarten Curriculum

Religion

Wanting to please God because of the love and trust they have for Him, the students eagerly pray their own prayers, memorized and spontaneous. They learn how God makes them his children through Baptism. Students learn about sin and why Jesus died for everyone. They feel a sense of belonging with others in church as they worship together. Through this experience they are encouraged to give gifts to Jesus. Students gain an appreciation of the liturgical seasons. Students learn some short Bible passages and songs by heart.

Math

Students explore everyday uses of math as they begin to explore money, temperature, time and calendars. Manipulatives are used to increase awareness of sets, sizes, and shapes. They are also used to sort and classify. Counting and understanding of numbers increases students write and recite numbers and group them into sets. Making and recognizing patterns is an integral part of kindergarten math. The concept of measurement is introduced using non-standard units.

Language Arts

A phonetic approach to language helps students in their developmental stages of reading readiness. As students participate in active listening and speaking, they involve themselves both emotionally and intellectually in the learning process. Expression of ideas is in the form of role-playing, retelling, or illustrating. They listen to a wide variety of children's literature, including selections from classic and contemporary works. Students develop a love for reading books.

Handwriting

Students will recognize and reproduce capital and lower case manuscript letters and numerals correctly. Proper posture, pencil grip, and paper positioning will be taught to ensure good writing habits. Spacing between letters will be introduced. Self-evaluation of written work begins at this age.

Social Studies

As students observe what is around them everyday, they learn more about God's world. They begin to understand more about sequencing events and time which will aid them in future learning. Working together and independently helps them foster an appreciation for becoming a part of the class and school communities. Students also enjoy learning about the world around them by studying topics like transportation, community helpers as well as different family traditions and customs from around the world.

Science

Students begin to look at caring for God's creation. They learn how plants and seeds grow. They observe weather and its effects that bring about seasonal changes. Their inquisitive minds are eager to learn more in explorative ways as they compare items through scientific experiments. They learn to classify animals such as mammals, birds, fish and reptiles and are intrigued about their habitats. Students learn more about themselves by exploring their five senses.

Art

Efforts at artistic expression are defined as students become more knowledgeable of art as an expression of themselves. Shades of colors and mixing colors bring new dimension to their work. Students begin to critique and appreciate their work as well as the work of others.

Music

Rhythm continues to be fun for this age. They can echo rhythm, clap, or beat to different tempos. Some attention is given to melody and the range of notes as they go up or down. They enjoy accompanying with instruments and moving while singing. Awareness of sections of music in a musical piece gets them more involved in their musical performances.

Physical Education

The student will be able to understand that being physically active is healthy, demonstrate an active level of participation during physical activities and execute several flexibility exercises on their own. Cooperation and being responsible for themselves is fostered by group play. Age appropriate skills such as balancing, bouncing, passing, and kicking large balls are practiced.

Sources:

Voyages
Integrating the Faith K
Mathematics
Handwriting
Ready-to-Use P.E. Activities for Grades K-2
Reading
The World I See – Social Studies
Science

Concordia Publishing 2003
Concordia Publishing 1997
McGraw-Hill 2001
Scott Foresman 1998
Landy
Houghton Mifflin 2005
Houghton Mifflin 1997
Harcourt 2000

First Grade Curriculum

Religion

Students will be able to understand that Jesus, their Savior, died to take away their sins. They learn how important the Bible is to them and that it contains the knowledge of what Jesus has done for them and how they should live, teach them how to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others. They know that everything comes from God. They will learn two Bible stories each week. The students will also learn about Martin Luther and his teachings and the liturgical seasons of the church year.

Math

Students will review patterns and numbers. They will also be able to correctly use addition and subtraction through 18, time, place value, geometry and fractions, measurement, money and the calendar. Manipulatives will be used to teach and reinforce concepts.

Language Arts

Incorporating reading, listening, writing, speaking and thinking skills provides a broad foundational base upon which students can build each year. Word attack skills strengthened by phonetic decoding enable the students to be successful. They continue to develop their oral language and communication skills and move to becoming independent readers and writers. Distinguishing features of stories, poems, and informational texts are introduced. They regularly read both orally and silently in texts of appropriate difficulty with fluency and understanding. The use of the writing process enables students to work independently and cooperatively in achieving success. The student's ability to read is reinforced through the Accelerated Reader program. Students make weekly trips to the school library for reading activities, library skills and reference book skills. Students also go to the computer lab once a week to work not only on computer skills, but also reinforcing again the language arts.

Handwriting

First graders will continue to use proper formation in writing D'Nealian letters and numerals, paying attention to correct placement of letters on the line. Awareness of the effects of posture on writing skills is developed as they continue to evaluate their own work.

Social Studies

God places special responsibilities on families and members of each family. The students will focus first on the importance of their identity and their personal feelings and those of others. They will discuss diversity of families. They will be taught that God gives everyone a special place and job in the world.

Science

Students learn about: living & non-living things, how living things grow & change, how living things work together in God's creation plan, all about the Earth, weather and season, matter in it's 3 states, energy and simple machines. Students interact with new knowledge through reading and writing as well as hands on activities.

Art

Students will learn to recognize different types of art. They will explore line, shape, texture, and color as they create art while drawing, painting, and sculpting. They will discover that art can convey feelings and moods.

Music

Students will continue to be provided with a variety of experiences so that they are able to acquire an appreciation and an early understanding of music. Areas of study will include melody, rhythm, harmony, expressive qualities, form, introduction to notation and instrumentation, listening and singing activities. Students also have the opportunity to sing in a choir and perform in church services.

Physical Education

The student will accept exercise as a relaxation technique for use in their daily life. Learning to follow rules of a game and to cooperate occurs as they interact with others as they play simple games. Activities such as jumping rope, bouncing a ball, and hopping on one foot promote their physical development. As they learn to respect individual differences, a positive self-concept begins to develop.

Sources:

Voyages

Mathematics

Families and Friends

Reading

Spelling Power

Science

Handwriting

Music

Drawing with Children

Ready-to-Use P.E. Activities for Grades K-2

Concordia Publishing House 2001

McGraw-Hill 2002

Silver Burdett 1997

Houghton Mifflin 2005

Curriculum Associates 1999

Harcourt 2000

Scott Foresman 1998

Silver Burdett 1991

Brooke

Landy

Second Grade Curriculum

Religion

The second grade religion program is a chronological survey of God's love from the creation of the world through the early days of the Christian church. Students will learn how God cared for His people, of His promise of a Savior, and of His promises to care for them. They will also discover ways God's love causes them to live their lives in love, as they grow in faith in Jesus, God's Son and their Lord.

Math

An emphasis on grasping mathematical concepts permeates through the teaching of the following areas of math: Numbers, addition and subtraction facts through 18, linear and liquid measurement, place value to hundreds, money, time, addition and subtraction computation with renaming, beginning geometry, fractions, place value, estimating, computation of three-digit numbers, and reading and making bar graphs and pictographs.

Language Arts

The second grade language arts curriculum reviews and builds on previously learned strategies connecting reading, writing, speaking, listening and illustrating skills. These interwoven skills form the basis for all subject areas and are considered central to academic success. In reading, the program stresses skills and meaningful activities associated with word recognition in isolation and in context, oral and silent reading fluency, and comprehension. Guided reading, semantic maps, Venn diagrams, flowcharts, word families, and word sorts are examples of activities utilized to promote phonetic awareness and increase comprehension. Reading for specific purposes is also taught, such as for gaining information, following directions, or for aesthetic reasons. Narrative and expository writing skills are promoted using the writing awareness techniques of pre-writing, drafting, editing, rewriting, and publishing. The young authors are encouraged to share their writings orally. Illustrating is used as an additional means to assess comprehension.

Handwriting

Manuscript writing is reviewed and used in written work throughout the year. Introduction of cursive letters and words begins at this level. Students are taught consistent slant, correct size, shape, and spacing to enable them to progress in their writing skills. Self-evaluation encourages a high level of neatness in all written work.

Social Studies

The second grade social studies program covers neighborhoods and communities, stressing history, geography, economics, citizenship, and the humanities with lessons about other countries integrated into the units. Beginning map skills are taught and include observing keys and guides on maps that they see, use and make.

Science

The second grade science curriculum covers areas in the life, earth, and physical sciences. In life science, study is done on how plants and animals live and grow, habitats for plants and animals and protection of plants and animals. In earth science, the earth's surface, its natural resources and its changes are studied as are space, astronomy and weather. A study of matter, energy in motion and sound are a part of the physical science unit. An appreciation of the need for caring for God's world is integrated into the study.

Art

Art lessons are taught weekly and art activities are also integrated into other subject areas. Students explore line, shape, color, space, form and texture as they use various media. Drawing, painting, designing, sculpting, cutting, constructing, and printmaking are examples of skills developed in second grade.

Music

Children will learn about the various ways to praise God through music. They will become familiar with various concepts and skills in the areas of rhythm, melody, harmony, tone color, form and expressive qualities. They will have experiences in both voice and various types of instruments.

Physical Education

The student will begin to use learned skills in lead-up games for team sports. Students are able to work together as they do relay races. As muscles develop they are able to do climbing and lifting activities. Jumping rope, kicking the soccer ball, and dribbling the basketball are fun activities for this age. The idea of good sportsmanship begins to develop.

Sources:

Voyages

Mathematics

Reading

English

Neighborhoods and Communities

Science

Spelling Power

Handwriting

Music

Ready to Use P.E. Activities for Grades K-2

Concordia Publishing House 2002

McGraw-Hill 2001

Houghton Mifflin 2005

Houghton Mifflin 1998

Macmillan 1990

Harcourt 2000

Curriculum Associates 2000

Scott Foresman 1998

Silver Burdett 1991

Landy

Third Grade Curriculum

Religion

The children will learn of God's plan for their lives through Bible stories. The children will be able to read from the Bible and understand the concept of chapter and verse. The children will know that God loves them and forgives their sins through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Math

The students will review greater number subtraction and addition. The student will learn customary and metric measurement, elapsed time, and money. The students will also learn multiplication tables through 12, division facts, long division, multiplication and division of greater numbers, and be introduced to fractions.

Language Arts

Through the use of literature selections, students will understand how to recognize words using various clues. The students' comprehension ability will increase through the study of story elements, inference and context clues. A foundation of grammar skills will be built as students are exposed to specific information regarding subjects such as parts of speech, capitalization and punctuation, and subject-verb agreement. Students will write descriptively using the entire writing process. The students will be able to correctly spell the 300 most frequently used words in the English language and will apply their spelling skills to the writing process.

Handwriting

The students will be able to form lower case and upper case manuscript and cursive letters in the D'Nealian format.

Social Studies

Students will learn history, geography, and citizenship through a comprehensive study of homes, communities, country, and our world.

Science

Through scientific inquiry, the students will explore, investigate, experiment, and make inferences with the world around them and be able to communicate their scientific knowledge. The students will recognize God as the active force in their world.

Health classes address the physical, mental, emotional, and social dimensions of good health. Students are motivated and assisted to maintain and improve their health, prevent disease, and reduce health related risk behaviors.

Art

Students will study a work of art and learn to identify some of the elements of art used in the painting. They will use a variety of media such as paint, construction paper, clay and others to create works of art and crafts.

Music

Through active participation, students will discover the association between the manuscript and what is actually heard. Choir chimes and voices will be the principle tools to form this association. They will learn notation and be able to determine the rhythm of the written music.

Physical Education

The student will be able to recognize that cardiovascular (aerobic) activity is a necessary component for a healthy life. Exercises for aerobic and kinesthetic training are fun for third graders as they develop muscle strength. More accuracy in throwing and catching a variety of balls helps them to become more confident. They learn the importance of playing for fun, not just to win.

Sources:

Voyages

Mathematics

Reading

English

Spelling Power

D'Nealian Handwriting

Communities Around Us

Science

Health 'n Me

Ready-to-Use P.E. Activities for Grades 3-4

Concordia Publishing 2001

McGraw-Hill 2001

Houghton Mifflin 2005

Houghton Mifflin 1990

Curriculum Associates 1999

Scott Foresman 1987

Silver Burdett Ginn 1997

Scott Foresman 2000

Sopris West 1996

Fourth Grade Curriculum

Religion

Selected sequential Bible stories spanning creation through the early years of the Christian Church are covered. Students learn about key concepts of faith such as law, Gospel, confession, repentance, forgiveness, and grace. The Apostle's Creed and explanation from Luther's Small Catechism supplement the use of the Bible.

The memory work curriculum consists of Bible verses, hymns, and selections from Luther's Small Catechism. All the verses are from, or based on, God's good advice to us as given in His Word, the Bible. God's purpose is to draw us close to Him in a loving Godly relationship. It is our hope that every child of God will be motivated to seek God's wisdom and truth and love to make it His own through study and memorization.

Math

Students work on problem solving, thinking aloud, and critical thinking. Fourth graders work on basic multiplication and division facts and multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers. Students compare decimals and fractions and learn how to add and subtract. They also expand their geometric understanding of shapes such as spheres, prisms, and cones. A variety of tools are used to enhance student understanding of measurement and develop an understanding of volume.

Language Arts

Students learn about the various parts of speech and sentences. They have weekly spelling tests and skill building activities. Creative and journal writing opportunities supplement instruction in the formal writing process. Students are able to incorporate the use of computers in their writing. A selection of stories, poems and novels build comprehension, listening, and critical reading skills. Students compare and contrast ideas and information. Strong research skills are built through weekly library visits. The Accelerated Reader program and sustained silent reading time offer opportunities to strengthen reading skills. Oral presentations extend student knowledge as well as develop a key life skill.

Handwriting

Students review D'Nealian manuscript and cursive writing with an emphasis on legibility and consistency over conformity. They begin to develop their adult-style writing.

Social Studies

Social studies is an interactive approach to a study of the United States at the fourth grade level. Heavy emphasis is placed on geography with a focus on the various regions of the U.S. and its relationship to the world. Each student prepares a detailed report on one state. Current events are discussed weekly with Scholastic News or newspaper articles as the sources.

Michigan History

Michigan History consists of the geography of Michigan and its influence on the state's social and economic development. Students learn to appreciate the contributions of many different groups of people as well as the artistic achievements of Michigan citizens. They will know the history of the state and its role in the historical development of our country. They will develop reading, research, thinking, and group interaction skills by doing activities and projects. A visit to the state capital culminates the study.

Science

The two major units at this level are life science and Earth science. Life science involves classifying living things, animal and plant growth and adaptation, the human body system, the ecosystem, and soil as a natural resource. Earth science includes learning about earthquakes, rocks, minerals, fossils, weather conditions, oceans, planets and other objects in space.

Health

The four major areas students will study include: Concept of being well; Structure and function of blood; Skeletal and respiratory systems; the digestive system; and the cell.

Art

Children explore a variety of art forms, media, and techniques of art based on the successful work of various illustrators of children's books.

Music

The music program teaches students how to read music, and provides listening experiences. Individual and group performances allow the student to put musical knowledge into practice. All students learn to play the recorder.

Physical Education

Fourth graders will play games using running skills. They will improve their ball handling skills including kicking, catching, throwing, batting, and bouncing. They will have experiences in marching, skipping, hopping, and gliding.

Sources:

<i>Voyages</i>	Concordia Publishing House 2001
<i>One Hundred Bible Stories</i>	Concordia Publishing House 1998
<i>St. John Lutheran School Memory Curriculum</i>	
<i>Mathematics</i>	McGraw-Hill 2001
<i>Reading</i>	Houghton Mifflin 2005
<i>English</i>	Houghton Mifflin 1998
<i>D'Nealian Handwriting 4th Ed.</i>	Scott Foresman 1999
<i>Explore Our Land</i>	Houghton Mifflin 1997
<i>America the Beautiful Mich. Hist.</i>	Hintz, 1998
<i>Science</i>	Harcourt 2000
<i>Art Projects Plus</i>	Blount, Venning-Webb 1999
<i>The Music Connection</i>	Silver Burdett 1995

Fifth Grade Curriculum

Religion

The focus of fifth grade religion is the concept that justification by grace is key to the understanding of the Christian faith. Students will learn about the development of the roots of the Lutheran Church and its struggle to bring the purity of God's inerrant Word to the forefront. The emphasis of each lesson is how God's promises were fulfilled in Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Math

Students will expand their understanding of the four operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. They will also become acquainted with ratios and percents. They will use higher level thinking as they try to solve the "Problem of the Week". They will learn that problem solving can be applied to all aspects of life.

Language Arts

The aim of the literature course that the students use is for them to be exposed to good grammar and spelling and recognize how important those skills are when they do their own writing. Students will also learn how to evaluate various pieces of literature. Some selections also cross over into other disciplines like art, social studies, and science.

In the study of English, the students will the correct use of the chief parts of sentences: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, and prepositions. Capitalization and punctuation will also be practiced. Students will be given a variety of writing assignments.

Students will learn to spell the most common words correctly, not only for the weekly tests, but also in all of their writing.

Handwriting

Students will work for legibility as they practice their cursive writing. The objective is to write well in all their writing.

Social Studies

Students will study the history of our country, from ancient times until the present. They will understand that the United States is a complex and expansive country with many unique qualities and part of a global community. Students will learn how to be a good citizen.

Science

Students will become aware of how the elements of science interact in various aspects of their lives. Units to be studied are processes of living things, systems, the changing Earth, the solar system, matter, energy, and motion. In health, students study systems of the human body, especially the respiratory system and the harmful effects of smoking.

Art

Art lessons are taught once a week in fifth grade. Students explore line, shape, color, space, form and texture as they use various media. Drawing, painting, designing, sculpting, cutting, constructing, and printmaking are examples of skills being further developed in fifth grade.

Music

Fifth grade music includes working with rhythm, melody, harmony, tone color, expressive qualities in tempo and dynamics, and form in listening to music and singing.

Physical Education

Students in fifth grade will develop team sport skills for soccer, flag football basketball, volleyball, and softball. They will work on track and field skills such as running dashes, doing the long jump, and trying the high jump. Individual sports such as badminton, tennis and horseshoes will be introduced. Stunts, tumbling and rhythm activities make up part of the units taught. Physical fitness testing is done.

Sources:

Voyages

Mathematics

English

Houghton Mifflin Reading

D'Nealian Handwriting

Science

Build Our Nation

Health 'N Me

Concordia Publishing House 2001

McGraw-Hill 2001

Houghton Mifflin 1998

Houghton Mifflin 2005

Scott Foresman 1993

Harcourt 2000

Houghton Mifflin 1997

Bridge Communications 1997

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Religion

The birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ are the highlights of an in-depth study of the Book of Matthew. The life of Martin Luther, the Reformation, and the early Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are studied. Potential writing projects may include demonstrating that *Jesus Christ is the Messiah*, and *Luther and the Reformation*. Students also memorize selected Bible verses and hymns as well as portions of Luther's Small Catechism including: The Ten Commandments and meanings, The Apostle's Creed and meanings, and the Lord's Prayer.

Math

The sixth grade math curriculum is designed for students to master whole number concepts, operations, and problem solving. The course also includes operations with decimals, fractions, and percents. Geometry and measurement are covered as well as an introduction to algebra. Students are taught through practice, objects, and use of hands-on manipulatives. Methodologies as well as proper terminology are a main goal in this course. Active participation and cooperative learning provide the students with an inviting, non-threatening atmosphere conducive to setting a firm foundation for further mathematics training.

Language Arts

The Language Arts curriculum is divided into two separate classes, Literature and English.

In Literature class, students move beyond simply understanding the plot of a story. Literary concepts such as audience, cause and effect, character, climax, and conflict are covered for a deeper understanding of the reading selections. Students will explore a variety of genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. A number of excellent works by famous authors will be read from our text. In addition, the students will read novels whose content bridges over to other content areas such as social studies

Students will write their own poetry, create dioramas of scenes from their novels, and keep a composition notebook in which to record their observations and thoughts from what they read.

Extra reading, which works primarily through Accelerated Reader, will be twenty percent of the Literature grade. Book summaries may also be written if the selected book is not in the Accelerated Program.

In English, students will focus on writing skills by learning the parts of speech and rules that apply to good writing. Proof-reading skills will be emphasized, and students will be expected to apply these skills to their daily assignments. Proper use of grammar, as well as correct spelling is expected in all of their subjects. Students will have a variety of writing experiences such as letter writing, narratives, research paper, and speeches. Oral presentations will be given in the spring. Students will participate in the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest.

Students will develop cognitive and linguistic strategies for spellings. They will apply what they have learned to vocabulary development as well as reading comprehension skills. Students will be given a weekly test over the words in their lessons.

Students will attend the Media Center once a week where they will learn the basics of research, what to do with the information, as well as have time to find a book for their extra reading.

Social Studies

Canada and Latin America are the focus as students study the history, geography, government, and culture of these areas. Current Events is studied in a Christian perspective through *The God's World News*. Students are taught note taking and outlining. Potential projects may include the following topics: The Indian Empires of the Americas, Famous Hispanics, Latin American Countries, and Canada. A field trip to Fort Malden in Amherstburg, Ontario is regularly scheduled in the spring.

Science

The sixth grade science curriculum is a practical study of life science, earth science, physical science, human biology, and science skills. Each unit has specific skills, and a family project sheet to do at home to reinforce the concept they are studying. Each unit is enhanced with labs. Students will be expected to work in cooperative teams and complete their labs together.

Health

Students study the Circulatory System and the details of the heart, blood vessels and blood. Students will participate in the dissection of a calf heart. Diseases of the heart, risk factors, and prevention of heart disease are also studied. Materials from the American Heart Association are used along with the Health N' Me student health logs issued by Oakland County. Students will also focus on bully-proofing and ways to be more like Jesus in thought, words, and deeds. The Health N' Me curriculum covers daily health and safety practices that promote a healthy body and positive self-concept.

Music

Academic enrichment opportunities include concert band, concert choir, and various music education courses.

Art

The art of sketching is taught and practiced throughout the year. Students work with a variety of media including colored pencils, watercolors, pastels, acrylic paint, and ink. Students study such aspects of art as: the five elements of shape, overlapping, composition, one-point perspective, and portrait. Projects include: a carousel horse, a tall ship, leaf critters, paper-cutting designs, painted rock animals, and a Jesus plaque.

Physical Education

The sixth grade will further develop the skills practiced in fifth grade with different activities. Students will develop team sport skills for soccer, flag football basketball, volleyball, and softball. They will work on track and field skills such as running dashes, doing the long jump, and trying the high jump. Individual sports such as badminton, tennis and horseshoes will be introduced. Stunts, tumbling and rhythm activities make up part of the units taught. Physical fitness testing is done.

Sources:

<i>Faith Alive: The Bible for Lutheran Students</i>	Concordia Publishing, 1995
<i>Voyages</i>	Concordia Publishing, 2002
<i>All God's People Sing</i>	Concordia Publishing, 1992
<i>Western Hemisphere</i>	Silver Burdett Ginn, 1998
<i>God's World News</i>	God's Word Publications, Asheville, NC
<i>Heart and Stroke Facts</i>	American Heart Association, 1992-1999
<i>Health 'N Me</i>	Sopris West, 1997-1998
<i>Drawing With Children</i>	Mona Brooks, 1986
<i>The Language of Literature</i>	McDougall Littell, 1997
<i>Mathematics</i>	McGraw-Hill 2001
<i>Science</i>	Scott Foresman, 2000
<i>English, Level 6</i>	Houghton Mifflin, 1998
<i>SpellingConnections</i>	Zaner-Bloser, 2004
<i>DynaMath Magazine</i>	Scholastic – Monthly
<i>Bully Proofing Your School</i>	Sopris West, 2000
<i>Luther's Small Catechism</i>	Concordia Publishing House
<i>Kids Discover Magazine</i>	Heart & Blood editions

Seventh Grade Curriculum

Religion

Students are actively involved in the study of people and events recorded in the Old Testament. Incorporated within this curriculum are supplemental worksheets from the *CPH One Hundred Bible Stories Workbook*, which lead students into an in-depth study of Scripture. Through this curriculum the students identify and realize God's overall plan for the world and its people. They also understand how God's relationship to man was severed, and how through Jesus Christ it was restored. Quarterly church worship reports and Faith Alive reports are done to show how Jesus is actively working in people around them. Contemporary Christian music is used to give students an opportunity to hear and study music with a Christ-centered message. Memory work is also a part of the religion curriculum. Students study and memorize Bible passages as well as portions of Luther's *Small Catechism*.

Pre-Algebra

Graphing equations, working with variables, using polynomials, working with positive and negative numbers, and solving equations prepares students for the eighth grade algebra I classes. Students are grouped by ability. Class sizes, work load, and speed are all taken into consideration.

Language Arts

The students will have the opportunity to read a variety of literature selections from a variety of genre including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. They read several novels as a class during the year. They will learn to appreciate literature and the writing style of some favorite authors. The study of grammar includes sentence structure, capitalization and punctuation, phrases and clauses, conjugation of verbs and understanding voice and forms of verbs. Students learn to write independently as well as evaluating the writing of other students. Students engage in library and media activities, study skills and public speaking. Each student creates an extensive research paper involving gathering information, organizing and writing, as well as preparing a bibliography. Students learn the basics of spelling and then are expected to spell all the words on their list correctly on all homework assignments.

Social Studies

Students study the many cultural and physical features of the Eastern Hemisphere, the nations and its people. Included in the study is an extensive history of Europe from creation until the 1800's. The goal of the course is to develop knowledgeable and thoughtful citizens for the future. Students create an extensive project on one of the countries studied. The paper, poster, and display that highlight their chosen country are presented to parents at the conclusion.

Science

At the seventh grade level, the focus is on Earth Science. The students will be studying rocks and minerals, earthquakes and other geological forces, weather and astronomy. The students perform experiments in class in order to apply what has been covered in the text and see the scientific method in action. The students will learn to appreciate that the earth is a marvelous gift from God and that all the processes, cycles and events that occur have an order and a purpose. Students are reminded that the views and opinions expressed in the textbook which pertain to the origin of the Earth and other topics which conflict with Scripture should be viewed as theories, not proven facts.

Health

The health curriculum is based on the book, *Preparing for Adolescence*, by Dr. James Dobson. The students, through activities, classroom discussions, and home-parent-student activities receive a Christ-centered understanding of what they are experiencing as they enter and grow throughout the teenage years. Areas covered include self-esteem, conformity, physical changes, sexual intercourse, love and emotions. Other topics covered deal with substance abuse and its consequences.

Art

Students participate in various artistic projects, creating something that they can appreciate. They explore their artistic abilities and use their talent as they use various media.

Music

Academic enrichment opportunities include concert band, concert choir, and various music education courses.

Physical Education

Students in seventh grade will be able to spend less time on skill development activities and more time participating in athletic contests, actually playing the various sports. Performance in stunts, tumbling and physical fitness will be noticeably improved.

Sources:

<i>One Hundred Bible Stories</i>	Concordia Publishing 1992
<i>Voyages: Old Testament History</i>	Concordia Publishing 2001
<i>Faith Alive Bible</i>	Concordia Publishing 1995
<i>Passport to Algebra</i>	McDougal-Littell 2001
<i>The Language of Literature</i>	McDougal Littell 1997
<i>English</i>	Houghton Mifflin 1997
<i>Spelling Connections</i>	Zolner-Bloser 2004
<i>Across the Centuries</i>	Houghton Mifflin 1999
<i>Holt Science & Technology Earth Science</i>	Holt, Rinehart, and Winston 2001

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Religion

All 8th grade students are involved in a comprehensive study of the four gospels using the Voyages series from Concordia.

Select verses have been chosen for memory work to focus the students on those passages from the Bible that cause them to think about their place in God's world and their behavior towards one another. Additional work from *Luther's Small Catechism* enhances the work done in confirmation classes.

Algebra

The eighth grade students in algebra are grouped according to ability. The number of students in the class, the amount of homework and the speed at which the classes' progress are adjusted based on the ability of each group. Graphing linear equalities and inequalities, working with polynomials, understanding real versus irrational numbers, introduction of functions, and quadratic equation serve to prepare all students for their future math classes. For some it means advanced placement in high school as freshmen.

Language Arts

In literature class, the students will have the opportunity to read a variety of selections from several genre, including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. They will also read several supplemental novels as a class. Students will learn the basic elements of fiction. By reading good literature, the students will learn to appreciate quality writing and model their own writing accordingly.

Students will practice their research and data gathering skills and do a research paper on a topic of their choice. Students will also study grammar so that they become more knowledgeable about the complexities of the English language and then put that knowledge to use in their writing.

A spelling book for vocabulary development as well as periodic checks of homework papers serves to enhance the students' awareness of the importance of proper spelling.

Social Studies

God's controlling and directing of events which lead up to the formation of the United States is a major emphasis this year as students start with the Reformation and progress through the settlement and beginning of our country. Learning about the impact that the faiths of the founding fathers had on our political process is a constant theme. Special emphasis is given to the conflicts that united our country and tried to tear it apart. Students have the opportunity to see government in action and to understand more clearly how the constitution works for all people. All of this culminates with a trip to Gettysburg and Washington D. C. in the spring.

Science

The study of physical and biological science enables the student to appreciate further God's creation on their behalf. Students study the world of physics, including the scientific method, motion, forces and chemistry. Labs and experimentation are used to study these areas at a deeper level. The human anatomy component includes a study of biology at the cellular level and all body systems. This study concludes with a dissection of a fetal pig, which closely resembles the anatomy of a human being.

Art

Students are encouraged to use their creativity within certain guidelines to complete an array of projects that explore the different forms of art, including scale drawings, paper manipulation, use of color and sketching. Poster and card design is also used to complete faith-based service projects for use outside the school.

Music

Academic enrichment opportunities include concert band, concert choir, and various music education courses.

Physical Education

Students in eighth grade will be able to spend less time on skill development activities and more time participating in athletic contests, actually playing the various sports. Performance in stunts, tumbling and physical fitness will be noticeably improved.

Sources:

Voyages

Luther's Catechism

Faith Alive Bible

Algebra

The Language of Literature

English

America, The People and the Dream

Physical Science

Cells and Heredity

Human Biology and Health

Concordia Publishing 2002

Concordia Publishing 1991

Concordia Publishing 1995

McDougal-Littell 2001

McDougal-Littell 1997

Houghton Mifflin 1998

Scott Foresman

Merrel 1989

Prentice Hall 2000

Prentice Hall 2000

