

RELIGION

Students study the basic doctrines of the Lutheran Church through a study of the six chief parts of *Luther's Small Catechism* as they prepare for their participation in the Lord's Supper, their presentation of faith, and their confirmation. During the course of the year they also study several topics, including Sexuality and Chastity, How to Study the Bible, Christian Vocation, and St. Lorenz Church History. They participate in a Bible study which investigates different Christian/world religions from a Lutheran perspective. Memory work is centered around the six chief parts of the Catechism.

HISTORY

Our history curriculum emphasizes the study of our nation's heritage, as well as the student's role in our society as Christian representatives, interrelating with other Americans and with the rest of God's world. Students will learn the importance they have in God's plan for our nation, and how they might best serve the Lord in it. They will learn and appreciate our nation's story through multiple assessments such as tests, projects, and essays, through various methodologies such as notes, role plays, and games and through different technologies such as webquests, photo stories, and video productions. In addition, students will also partake in a trip to Washington, D.C., a Geography Bee, and various community-based projects.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language

English is grammar instruction including the review of the parts of speech, sentence structure, capitalization and punctuation rules, as well as usage and mechanics. The writing

process is stressed as a tool for learning and communication. This process is reviewed and is used throughout the year. Types of writing include: Research paper, short stories, poetry, narratives, description, persuasion, and argumentative writing.

Students are led to see spelling patterns as they build on basic word roots using affixes and word endings. Spelling generalizations and skills such as syllabication, vowel relationships, and consonant relationships are reviewed. Dictionary and thesaurus skills are reviewed to strengthen spelling skills.

Literature

The components of literature afford the opportunity for students to learn about and sample the short story, non-fiction, Greek mythology, folktales, fables, legends, and drama. In addition, they read novels, two of which coordinate with their U.S. History classwork. Formal Writing is done in all areas of reading. The Accelerated Reader program is used to supplement novel reading.

MATH

8th Grade Math

An all digital curriculum emphasizing personalized student learning is used to teach the Common Core State Standards in 8th grade math. These Standards include an emphasis on the number system including rational and irrational numbers, working with expressions, solving equations, an introduction to linear functions, various geometry concepts, and analyzing and graphing bivariate data. The course is designed to introduce algebraic concepts and prepare students to enter Algebra 1 in high school.

Algebra 1

Students in Algebra 1 will use a combination of the Pearson textbook, e text and other digital content to learn how to solve equations and inequalities. A transition of the real world applications to algebraic methods and techniques are emphasized by solving systems of equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials and exploring quadratic and exponential functions and rational and radical expressions. The option is provided at the end of the class to test out of Algebra 1 in high school.

SCIENCE

Students study objects in motion, energy, machines, states of matter, classification of matter, atomic structure, properties of many elements, chemical bonds and chemical reactions, solutions, acids, bases, salts, sound, light and electricity. They learn to appreciate matter and energy as gifts from God. Students are given a variety of laboratory experiences to help them learn and develop problem solving techniques. Each student is required to participate in the Science Fair in the year it is offered.

BAND

As more challenging rhythms, notes and techniques are introduced, instruction continues to reinforce fundamentals and emphasizes music as expression and art.

Class meets four days per week and often combines with 7th Grade Band to play at chapels, worship services, Music Festival and three annual concerts.

Two band books: (Accent on Achievement and Sounds Spectacular) comprise the

course content, and along with sheet music, provide students with a challenging and diverse musical diet. Music quizzes and playing tests are given quarterly.

ELECTIVES

- Art
- Creative Writing
- Digital 3-D Printing
- Economics
- Engineering
- German
- Graphing Calculators
- Intro to Computer Coding
- Life Science
- Python Computer Coding
- Political Science
- Raspberry Pi Computer Coding
- Spanish
- Spartan Care
- Video Production
- Yearbook

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR

Middle School Choir is for those sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who enjoy singing and are interested in learning vocal skills. The main goal of the choir is to give glory to God through singing together while providing musical enjoyment and growth in vocal technique. Middle School Choir is a performing group, singing as scheduled at church services, parish music concerts, school concerts, and the Saginaw Valley Music Festival.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Developing and refining locomotor skills and object control is ongoing at this level. Use of a variety of sports and activities helps to keep this development continuing. Physical fitness, continuing to build their strength and

endurance, as well as to keep their flexibility and to increase their power, can set a ground work for keeping fit as they grow older. Using the various team, individual and dual sports as units of instruction, a number of things can be taught. The rules of the game are taught not only for those looking to play at a higher level but also for those who choose to watch and enjoy the game as a spectator. An understanding of offense and defense is learned. Strategies can also be developed. A unit of country line dancing is also taught to continue dance/movement skills. Social and personal skills are being worked on at this level also. We continue to work on cooperation and leadership, integrity, respect, fair play, initiative, responsibility, effort, self-discipline, decision making and performance standards.

SERVICE

The main goal of Junior High Service class is to develop and build on a caring, responsible attitude toward others in response to the gospel. Students will develop citizenship, provide valuable service to the community, become involved in ministries of the congregation and become increasingly aware of the needs of others.

St. Lorenz Lutheran School
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Grade 8 Curriculum

Teachers

Stephanie Baarck
Andrea Johnson
Leah Knoll
Dawn Mueller
Charridan Wascher
Mike Zeddies



Principal

Joshua D. Swartz

Assistant Principals

Leanne S. Davis
Charridan A. Wascher

Director of Early Childhood

Leanne S. Davis