

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Religion

Religion class is held four days a week and is replaced by our weekly chapel service on Wednesdays. The Pastors will be the instructors three days per week and the classroom teacher will teach the remaining day. In eighth grade the Pastors will be working through the six chief parts of *Luther's Small Catechism*. On the other days the eighth grade will cover the topics of World Religion.

Memory work is another component of our religious instruction. Committing God's word to memory is an integral part of the religious training of our students at Bethany. Students will cover the following memory topics:

- The six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism
- Bible passages
- Hymns
- Portions of the liturgy

English

The objective of the eighth grade Language Arts curriculum is to improve student's writing, oral communication, vocabulary, and grammar knowledge. Using the Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar textbook, students will be trained and equipped with the necessary skills to be successful in their future academic endeavors, along with life in general.

Students will:

- Learn prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, editing, publishing, and presenting of their work
- Focus on narrative, expository, persuasive, descriptive, creative writing, and letter writing
- Continue to expand on the research process that was introduced in sixth grade and added to in seventh grade; use a title page, an outline, in-text citations that adhere to the MLA format, a bibliography

- Review the use of basic grammar and mechanics used in the English language and apply them to written and oral activities
- Review and build upon their grammar knowledge in: nouns, pronouns, verb types - their phrases and tenses, adjectives and adverbs, prepositions and their phrases, conjunctions and interjections, basic sentence parts, phrases and clauses – appositives and verbals, effective sentences, subject and verb agreement, antecedents, comparison of adjectives and adverbs, rules of punctuation and capitalization
- Writing skills taught in Language Arts will be integrated in other subject areas
- Spelling comprehension and mastery continues to be developed through spelling and proofreading activities. Spelling is also emphasized as a separate grade on all 8th grade formal writing assignments.

Literature

Using the Prentice Hall *Literature* textbook along with various novel studies, students will develop reading proficiency and comprehension skills.

Students will:

- Learn and use the following reading skills: make predictions, recognize the author's purpose, compare and contrast, make inferences, main idea, fact and opinion, context clues, paraphrasing, draw conclusions, cause and effect, and summarizing.
- Study the following genres: fiction, nonfiction, short stories, poetry, drama, American stories, and informational texts.
- Explore the following themes: *Coming of Age, Meeting Challenges, Quest for Freedom, From Sea to Shining Sea, Extraordinary Occurrences, and The Lighter Side.*
- Review literary elements
- Study the five parts of a story exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution
- Learn how to compare/contrast a novel from an alternative media source
- Analyze works of literature and be encouraged to make personal connections
- Employ literature circles to provide small group work and discussion

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra students study the foundations needed for success in higher-level mathematics. Students review number systems and basic arithmetic skills focusing on integers and real numbers, number theory, order of operations and the application of these skills to algebraic equations, geometry, and the graphing of linear equations.

We use *Passport to Algebra and Geometry* by McDougal-Littell

Topics of study will include:

- Properties of integers and real numbers
- Variables, expressions, and integers
- How to solve, simplify, and manipulate expressions, equations, and functions
- Solving of multi-step algebraic equations and inequalities
- Use of ratios, percents, statistics and probability to solve problems
- Using factors, fractions, and exponents
- Using percents, proportions, and ratios to solve problems
- Analyzing data using probability and statistics
- Using and applying geometry concepts, measurement, and spatial thinking
- Writing and graphing equations or inequalities for linear functions using the slope-intercept form
- Factoring of polynomials
- Creating and analyzing a variety of graphs

Algebra One (Advanced Math)

Algebra One students study the foundations of the higher levels of mathematics. Students will review number systems and basic arithmetic skills focusing on integers and real numbers, the order of operation, and then move to working on equation solving and graphing for linear, quadratic and simple exponential functions. This course of study will lay the foundation for the higher levels of math like geometry, algebra 2, trigonometry, and pre-calculus.

We use the *Algebra 1* textbook by McDougal Littell

Topics of study will include:

- How to simplify, solve, and manipulate, expressions, equations and functions
- Properties of integers and real numbers
- Write an equation or inequality for a linear function given limited information and graph them
- Write an equation or inequality for linear function in point-slope form, slope-intercept form, and standard form
- Solving, writing, and graphing of linear, exponential, and quadratic equations and inequalities
- Solve systems of equations and inequalities with two variables using a variety of techniques
- Perform operations with polynomials
- Factor polynomial expressions and solve polynomial equations and inequalities using a variety of methods

- Perform operations and solve complex rational expressions and equations
- Use ratios, percents, statistics and probability to solve problems
- Simplify and solve radical expressions and equations
- Use properties of exponents to simplify expressions and solve equations

Science

Eighth grade science covers physical science for the majority of the year and then moves into ecological science toward the end of the year. The students spend time doing discovery with the tools of science. They have a number of labs to help them learn and practice finding the physical and chemical characteristics of matter.

The books we use are: *Introductory Physical Science by IPS and Chemical Building blocks* and *Environmental Science* by Prentice Hall

Topics of study will include:

Physical Science

- Lab and safety procedures for science and working with chemicals
- The scientific method and the writing and formatting of lab reports
- Using the tools of science to measure a variety of characteristics and properties of matter
- The difference between chemical and physical properties and the characteristics of each
- Exploring characteristic properties of matter like density, boiling point, freezing point, and solubility to help identify substances
- Learn to measure mass, volume, temperature and density
- Learn ways to describe and measure matter in a variety of forms (solid, liquid, and gas)
- The four states of matter and how substances change state
- Using the gas laws to make predictions of how a gas will behave in a variety of situations
- The development of the periodic table and the atomic model and how both have changed from their origins
- The structure and organization of the periodic table (metal, non-metal, groups, families, etc.)
- Atomic structure and how it influences chemical reactions and bonds.
- Balancing chemical equations and introducing different types of chemical reactions
- The use of elements, compounds, and alloys for application in real life
- The structures and characteristics of glass, ceramics, polymers, and composites
- Radioactive decomposition and the mathematical prediction of half life

Environmental Science

- The study of populations, communities and ecosystems and how they are interdependent
- How energy and matter flow through an ecosystem
- The nitrogen cycle, oxygen cycle, carbon cycle, and water cycle and why they are important to an ecosystem
- Aquatic biomes and ecosystems
- Environmental issues and their impact of ecosystems and biomes
- The eighth grade will have an opportunity to choose and develop their project for the curriculum fair.

History

Eighth grader students are introduced to a survey of the history of the United States from its founding to the beginning of the 20th century.

Students will study and evaluate the history of their country through:

- Primary source readings
- Simulations of events & concepts in American history
- Use of map reading skills
- Document based short answer and essay writing
- Emphasis on the Christian perspective of American history
- Current events highlighted as appropriate

Fine Arts

Art:

- Art class 2 periods per week
- Demonstrate personal skills in creating original art through detailed drawings, painting, sculpture, hand built ceramics, and printmaking
- Create artwork based on portrait as a theme
- Create artwork based on an artistic style from particular time period, culture and be able to demonstrate global awareness through the artwork
- Reinforce proper care of art mediums, equipment and personal art supplies
- Create artwork based on 2 or 3 point perspective.
- Continue skills on pottery wheel. Students will demonstrate centering and creating a cylinder independently and alter that form to create a functional

- Improve on artistic composition , and creating art with a message or art that serves the community at large.

Music:

Music & Culture I (7th/8th Grade Required General Music Once per Week):

Music and Culture I is a study of western music, particularly that of Europe and Imperial Russia from the years 1600-1914, and how it interacts with the culture (i.e. visual arts, political/social history, science and technology, architecture, etc.). Music of the late-Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Impressionistic eras will be explored.

Chorale (Optional)

The Bethany Lutheran School (BLS) Chorale is a choral ensemble for 6-8th grade students, which gives students the opportunity to further develop their musical and vocal abilities through an exciting range of repertoire from both sacred and secular genres. Students rehearse twice per week and will regularly participate in performances at Bethany and in the community.

Concert Band (Optional):

Students in Concert Band (6th-8th Grade) dive deep into an appreciation for their instrument through more challenging repertoire and performance opportunities. Ensemble rehearsals are twice per week during the school day. Additionally, band students receive weekly technique classes where they receive more individualized attention to their developmental needs.

Spanish

Students participate in Language Stars Spanish Program twice a week.

Second Step

In the Second Step program we cover social skills students will need to be able to interact in a positive way with their peers and well as adults.

Students will:

- Practice developing empathy and communication
- Practice how to prevent bullying
- Develop strategies for de-escalating a tense situation
- Learn how to cope with stress in their life
- Learn how to make goals and evaluate their plan

- Discuss substance abuse and how this could interfere with future goals along with methods to prevent substance abuse

The Second Step Program gives us a common language for dealing with issues that come up in the daily life of the classroom to help us deal with situations in a positive manner.

Technology

A vital part of the education of children is the modeling and teaching of essential technological skills. It is our responsibility to equip our students to live, learn, and work productively in an increasingly complex and information-rich society. In Eighth grade we seek to teach our students to utilize the gift of technology to glorify God and enhance their understanding of the world in which they live. Computers and related technologies will be used to assist student development in curricular areas as well as used to teach technological skills to better prepare students for the future.

Topics of study will include:

- Responsibility and etiquette for the use of online resources and communication tools
 - Logging into Google for Education and navigating their Google drive
 - Use Google Classroom to submit work online for evaluation
 - Use technology to do peer editing and collaborative work on projects
 - Use of online tools (Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides) to create a variety of documents for class work
 - Use spreadsheets to do calculations and create graphs.
 - Use slide to create presentations that include text, images, audio, and video
 - Use of online resources to gather information for projects and supplement classroom texts
 - Evaluate the reliability of various online resources.
- Use a variety of tools to enhance and expand the core curricular areas

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week. In addition to class, students will participate in recess daily.

Students will:

- Develop personal fitness and skill-related abilities.
- Reinforce understanding and application of fitness concepts and motor skills through a variety of movement forms.

- Learn concepts and skills of individual and team activities.
- Develop personal and social responsibility, self-management skills, and ability to make informed choices.
- Enhance disposition toward leading a physically active lifestyle.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a variety of extra-curricular activities for students to participate in, such as:

- Boys and Girls Volleyball
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Girls Cheerleading
- Boys and Girls Track
- The Jr. High theater production (every other year)
- Jazz Band
- Student Council

Field Trips and Service Projects

In Eighth Grade, the students will participate in multiple field trips as an enriching way to reinforce classroom learning.

- In the fall and spring students will participate in a Clean-up Modaff Service Project. We partner with the City of Naperville and walk Modaff from 75th Street to Countryside and pick up trash to give back to the community.
- In the fall the class will also travel to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center to coincide with The Diary of Anne Frank novel study in Literature.
- During Lutheran Schools week the class will go Feed My Starving Children to pack food for starving children around the globe.
- In February, we have our annual Careers and Manners Luncheon. At this event we have a formal luncheon where the children all dress up and we have people from various careers come and talk to the students about their careers and education that helped them get there.
- At the end of the year, we have our annual class trip to St. Louis. This is a three day trip in which we are able to see several sites in and around the city. This final trip includes visiting the Arch, Concordia Seminary, Six Flags, Cahokia Mounds, and the City Museum.

Homework

Students will have homework in seventh grade. Each student should complete his/her Assignment Notebook, daily, to keep track of work and tests assigned. While they may have some time to work in class there will be work they will need to do outside of school. As a general rule an average student may have about 70-80 minutes per day. Homework may entail

daily work, preparing for tests and quizzes, completing projects, reading, etc...

Parents Can Help By:

Parents should encourage independence and responsibility in student(s). Parents can help by encouraging them to give their best effort on all of their work. It is also important to give them adequate time and space for studying and doing homework. Parents can find the weekly newsletter posted on our classroom blog each week. This will have information on what will be going on in classes throughout the week. Make sure to check the blog for each teacher the student has classes with.

