



BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

EIGHTH GRADE OVERVIEW

SUBJECTS TAUGHT DAILY WITH A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE AND WORLDVIEW

RELIGION

Resource: One in Christ

Religion class is held four days a week and is replaced by our weekly chapel service on Wednesdays. In Eighth grade the students will be working through the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism as well as survey the New Testament. 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

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading

Students will be exposed to a variety of texts and tasks, engaging with intricate reading materials appropriate to their level. They will read, comprehend, compare, and contrast literary works across genres like short stories, poems, fiction, and fantasy. This exploration will extend to various formats, including written as well as audio, video, and/or live performances of the text.

- Novel and literary sources include *Freak the Mighty*, *Our Town*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, and *The Westing Game*

Students will:

- Distinguish factual information from personal opinions or judgments within a text
- Analyze in depth how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and developed within a text
- Examine how a specific sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section aligns with the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of ideas
- Identify author's purpose or point of view in a text and interpret how it is conveyed
- Evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing the validity of the reasoning and the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence. They will recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced
- Analyze a case where two or more texts present conflicting information on the same topic, and identify points of disagreement on matters of fact or interpretation
- Analyze significant U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (e.g., Washington's Farewell Address, the Gettysburg Address, King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail"), exploring how they address related themes and concepts
- Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and delivery, identifying any fallacious reasoning or exaggerated/distorted evidence

Writing

Students will enhance their organizational skills, writing proficiency, and capacity for planning, revising, editing, and publishing. These skills are broadly applicable across various types of writing such as argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative.

- Engage in both brief and extended research projects to address a question, including those self-generated or aimed at solving a problem. They will adjust the scope of the inquiry as needed, synthesizing information from multiple sources to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the topic
- Write an MLA research paper, collecting pertinent information from various authoritative print and digital sources, employing advanced search techniques effectively. They will evaluate the relevance of each source in addressing the research question and selectively integrate information into the text to maintain the flow of ideas. They will ensure proper citation following a standard format, avoiding plagiarism
- Utilize evidence from literary and informational texts to reinforce analysis, reflection, and research
- Develop compelling arguments that support claims in the analysis of significant topics or texts, utilizing valid reasoning and presenting relevant and properly cited evidence
- Create informative/explanatory texts that thoroughly explore and communicate complex ideas, concepts, and information with precision and clarity. Analysis of the material selection, organization, and content will show levels of growth.
- Construct narratives that unfold either real or imagined experiences and events, employing effective techniques, carefully chosen details, and well-structured event sequences. Students will use story elements accurately throughout the entire piece.
- Continuously refine, enhance, or experiment with new approaches in writing, with a focus on addressing what is most crucial for a specific purpose and audience
- Narrate historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes
- Construct claims and counterclaims in a balanced manner, providing evidence for each and highlighting the strengths and limitations of both perspectives. They will anticipate the audience's knowledge level and concerns to effectively communicate the complexities of the argument

Grammar

Resource: Shurley Grammar

Students will learn and retain the knowledge and skills needed to be effective communicators

- Review and build upon their grammar knowledge in the eight parts of speech, four sentence types, sentence patterns
- Learn a well-defined system of classifying and writing sentences
- Memorize “jingles” that will help to retain grammar knowledge

Listening & Speaking

Students will actively participate in collaborative discussions including one-on-one, group, or teacher-led. They will build on the ideas of others while expressing their thoughts clearly.

- Convey claims and findings in a concentrated and coherent manner, highlighting essential points with relevant descriptions, facts, details, and examples
- Maintain appropriate eye contact, sufficient volume, and clear pronunciation
- Incorporate multimedia elements and visual displays into presentations to clarify claims and findings, emphasizing key points
- Adjust speech to suit different contexts and tasks, exhibiting master of formal English when called for

MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra 8th Grade Math

Resource: Big Ideas Math

Pre-Algebra studies 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. 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, percentages, statistics and probability to solve problems
- Using factors, fractions, and exponents
- Using percentages, 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)

Resource: Big Ideas 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. 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

Resource: *Glencoe Physical iScience* by McGraw Hill

Eighth grade covers physical science. The students spend time in 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.

- 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 its 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

HISTORY

Resource: *BJU Press American Republic*

Eighth grade students study the history of the United States from the Civil War through the 20th century. They explore U.S. history with a Christian perspective.

- Primary source documents
- The Civil War including significant battles, President Abraham Lincoln, and reconstruction
- Industrialism and the Progressive Era including Presidents Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson
- World War I and World War II
- The 1920s and 1930s including The Great Depression
- Review of The United States Constitution

Specials

ART - TWICE PER WEEK

Resource: *Understanding Art by Glencoe*

- 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 a 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 two or three point perspectives
- Continue skills on pottery wheel. Students will demonstrate centering and creating a functional cylinder
- Improve on artistic composition, and create art with a message or art that serves the community at large.

MUSIC - ONCE PER WEEK

Music Class for Grades 6-8 is in the form of “Choir.” In this mandatory Choir that meets once per week during the school day, students will learn vocal fundamentals and techniques in addition to singing Hymns, Liturgy, and other repertoire. Performance opportunities include Bethany School Chapel services, Bethany Church services, the School Christmas Program in December, and a Lutheran Schools Music Festival in the spring.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - TWICE PER WEEK

Students K-8 participate in the Royal Run, where they run laps throughout the year totaling 26.2 miles. They also end the year with an outdoor Field Day. We begin the year with an introductory unit that establishes class environment, behavioral expectations, and management/organizational protocols. Eighth grade primary objectives include:

- Learn and practice Christian sportsmanship
- 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.

SPANISH - TWICE PER WEEK

Students participate in an active and immersive Spanish program. They continue to learn vocabulary to aid in comprehension. They speak in small complete sentences and ask questions. Jr. High students focus on conversation as well as making cultural connections with Spanish.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Resource: Second Step

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. We cover social skills students will need to be able to interact in a positive way with their peers as well as adults. We also develop skills and techniques necessary for success in the classroom as well as in life. Students will::

- Develop organizational skills
- Practice problem solving techniques
- Practice developing empathy and inclusivity
- Develop strategies for dealing with conflict and disagreements in a positive way
- Learn how to cope with stress in their life
- Learn how to make goals and evaluate their plan

LIBRARY

Weekly class visits for story time, guidance and exploration of a variety of literature, and print and electronic research in later grades. Introduce students to beloved children's literature and help instill a love of literature. Teach students the importance of reading and help them improve their reading comprehension through various methods and activities.

- Author study of CS Lewis including reading *Screwtape Letters*.
- Introduce the novel *The Giver* and identify central themes.
- Speech and Debate is used as the continuing goal to foster readers, thinkers, defenders, and leaders. Debate encourages team work and life skills striving to understand each other.
- Each graduating student will memorize a work of poetry, prose, or historical speech. Culminating in May as they present their piece to the fifth graders modeling truth, beauty, goodness, and excellence to the incoming class.

TECHNOLOGY

All student computers are monitored through Go Guardian. We are not a 1-to-1 school, and students do not take home technology. We have class sets of chrome books for grades 3-8. The students are taught about internet safety and privacy.

- Teach our students to utilize the gift of technology to glorify God and enhance their understanding of the world in which they live
- Be responsible in the use of online resources and communication tools
- Log 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 Slides 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

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Band

The Walther Band Program is optional and available to all 4th - 8th Grade students. Instructors travel to Bethany once per week for a before school group rehearsal as well as an individual lesson with each student. In addition to the traditional band instruments, lessons are available for piano and strings, as well. There is also an opportunity for Bethany's band students to join students from other Lutheran Schools in a larger ensemble, which meets at Walther Christian Academy (Melrose Park) on Monday nights. (A separate fee applies.)

Schola Cantorum

Schola Cantorum translates from Latin to English as "Singing School." This optional choral ensemble is available to all Bethany School and Church students in Grades 3-8. Students will further develop their musical and vocal abilities under the direction of Bethany's Kantor and other qualified assistants. Rehearsals are once per week after school, and the main performance opportunities are participating in Bethany Church services approximately once per month.

Sports

- Cross Country
- Track and Field
- Basketball
- Co-ed Volleyball
- Cheerleading

Chess Club

Spring Musical (every other year)

Student Council

FIELD TRIPS & 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.
- 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 Eighth grade. Each student should daily complete his/her Assignment Notebook 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. Homework may entail daily work, preparing for tests and quizzes, completing projects, and reading.

PARENTS CAN HELP BY

- Praying for you child's growth, development, and relationships
- Modeling active participation in weekly worship and daily devotions
- Encouraging independence
- Providing a quiet environment for students to work
- Teaching students to plan for their work week and upcoming projects by budgeting time
- Providing needed supplies
- Reading the weekly newsletter and checking through completed work
- Enforcing skills learned at school
- Communicating with the teacher, by phone, email, or in person, when a concern arises
- Becoming room parents and/or being a part of our Parent Teacher League