



BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN OVERVIEW

SUBJECTS TAUGHT DAILY WITH A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE AND WORLDVIEW

RELIGION

Resource: One in Christ

Children learn that God created them, forgives their sins, and loves them all the time. They will learn a new Bible story each week to help them learn about God's love for all people.

- Attend weekly chapel, worship joyfully, celebrating God's greatness
- Understand that God can be trusted as they trust adults in their world
- Know Jesus loves them and others too, and that Jesus died for all people; believe that God loves all people
- Express their love for Jesus and want to love and obey Him
- Know that Jesus helps them be kind and loving and helps them to do hard things
- Recognize sin; ask God and others for forgiveness; can forgive others
- Need to hear that Jesus still loves them and forgives them, even when others don't show love to them
- Enjoy familiar songs
- Have opportunities to worship, pray, sing, hear that Jesus loves them, act out Bible narratives, see the Bible as God's Word, feel like a part of God's family

LANGUAGE ARTS

Resources: Scott Foresman Reading Street, Tara West Kinder Lit, Michael Heggerty Phonemic Awareness

- Read and write letters of the alphabet
- Develop phonemic awareness skills: rhyming, blending sounds, segmenting words, hearing beginning, middle, and ending sounds
- Learn concept of print: reading left to right, recognize capitalization and punctuation, and know upper and lowercase letters
- Learn phonological concepts: letter/sound recognition, word chunks, introduction to long and short vowel sounds
- Comprehension skills: retell, sequence, cause and effect, and plot
- Recognize and write sight words
- Write simple sentences
- Be able to listen, follow directions, and express ideas
- Use "brave" spelling when writing ideas
- Know the difference between fiction and nonfiction
- Recognize the role of an author and purpose in writing
- Use correct formation of letters and numbers

HANDWRITING

Resource: Handwriting Without Tears

- Letter formation, alignment, and spacing
- Watch and imitate, guided practice, and independent practice
- Use of manipulatives, songs, and repetition
- Multisensory learning engages visual, audio, and kinesthetic learners
- Hands-on tools build fine motor and alphabet knowledge prior to writing letters

MATHEMATICS

Resource: Saxon Math

- Learn that math is a reflection of God's orderly mind
- Students will gain mathematical knowledge and skills through hands on activities and manipulatives
- Identify numbers 1-100
- Count in a variety of ways
- Sort, compare, and classify objects
- Identify and create patterns, identify and draw shapes
- Explore addition and subtraction using manipulatives and drawings
- Participate in activities that include measuring, graphing, estimating, calendar/days of the week
- Be introduced to money/coin values and telling time

SCIENCE

Resource: Scott Foresman Science, the Diamond Edition

Students will explore and investigate the environment around them. They are introduced to processing skills such as observing, predicting, classifying, inference, investigating, and experimenting.

- Understand the design and order of God's creation
- Learn about the four seasons
- Learn about pumpkins and apples
- Study animals and insects
- Hear about the life cycle of chicks/hatch chicks in the spring
- Study weather and plants
- Explore ocean animals and their habitats

SOCIAL STUDIES

Resource: Macmillan/McGraw Hill Friends and Neighbors, Weekly magazines of God's Big World

Students will develop an awareness of themselves, their community, and the world around them

- Study God's creation, including how students are created in God's image
- Learn about families and the role each person serves
- Learn how to be good citizens by working together and following the rules
- Study Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter
- See God's hand present in all parts of our world

Specials

ART - ONCE PER WEEK

- Students learn the beauty of God's creation through art
- Learn we are all artists
- Experiment with mediums and materials
- Develop large and fine motor skills through cutting, drawing, and painting
- Learn to focus with eyes, listen, and be ready to create artwork
- Learn about line, shape, and color, and how to combine them in artwork
- Introduce how to use materials and how to take care of them
- Learn to share and talk about artwork that we make or see

MUSIC - TWICE PER WEEK

Resource: First Steps in Music

- Learn to be tuneful, artful, and beautiful with music.

Tuneful – to have tunes in their heads and learn to coordinate their voices to sing those tunes.

Beatful – to feel the pulse of music and how that pulse is grouped in either 2s or 3s.

Artful – to be moved by music in the many ways music can elicit a response.

- Sing “echo” songs line by line with the teacher
- Sing simple songs as a class
- Listen to the teacher sing “song tales”
- Move/dance to music
- Conduct “finger plays” to rhymes and music
- Memorize and perform music that will be sung at the school Christmas program and selected church services

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. Kindergarten primary objectives include:

- Learn and practice Christian sportsmanship
- Learn body and spatial awareness
- Develop locomotor and non-locomotor skills, directionality, pathways, levels, and tempos
- Develop hand-eye coordination
- Enhance social and personal development
- Learn to share, cooperate, take turns, and experience personal and team success through movement
- Experiment with different types of equipment and manipulatives

SPANISH - ONCE PER WEEK

Students participate in an active and immersive Spanish class, complete with vocabulary such as greetings, animals, colors, etc.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL EDUCATION - ONCE PER WEEK

Resource: Second Step

Our school uses the Second Step program to introduce and develop social/emotional skills with students of all grade levels. These skills will help students to be successful in school and life.

- Students will learn about empathy, skills for learning, emotional management, and problem solving skills
- Learn how to deal with all emotions in a positive way

LIBRARY - ONCE PER WEEK

Classes will participate in weekly visits for story time, guidance and exploration of a variety of literature, and research in older grades. Students are introduced to beloved children’s literature that help instill a love of literature. Students learn the importance of reading and improve their reading comprehension through various methods and activities.

- Follow the storyline in a book
- Compare and contrast aspects of a story
- Participate in storytelling activities and share with class
- Students will hear various literary works that include fiction and non-fiction and represent various authors and illustrators, themes, styles, and cultures

TECHNOLOGY

We are not a 1-to-1 school, and students do not take home technology. We have class sets of iPads for K-2, and class sets of chrome books for 3-8. Jr. High students use some technology, including for math assignments, although the majority of math problems are hand written. Computers are used for specialty research projects and for occasional review games.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students have many opportunities to engage with one another after school through activities such as Basketball Cheer Camp, Run Club, Soccer Club, Kindergarten Stay & Play dates, and other camps and clinics.

FIELD TRIPS & SERVICE PROJECTS

Students in Kindergarten will participate in three educational field trips during the school year. Each field trip is designed so that students can easily make connections between the concepts they are learning in the classroom and the hands-on learning opportunities available in the field trip experience.

- Fire Station #8 where we show our appreciation by collecting food items to donate to the men and women at the station
- Woody's Apple Orchard to culminate the study of apples
- Cosley Zoo to study feathered creatures following our Chick Unit
- Students support School Chapel offerings as well as projects organized by the Student Council and Church
- Students correspond with Senior Buddy Bethany Church Members

HOMEWORK

In Kindergarten, we do not have nightly homework. We send home a monthly themed assignment. We encourage children to have time to play, read, and explore outside with their parents.

PARENTS CAN HELP BY

- Praying for you child's growth, development, and relationships
- Modeling active participation in weekly worship and daily devotions
- Becoming room parents and/or being a part of our Parent Teacher League
- Volunteering in the classroom
- Attending field trips
- Helping prep materials at home
- Reading to and with children
- Fostering independence in children