

Seventh 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 seventh grade the Pastors will be working through the six chief parts of *Luther's Small Catechism*. On the other days the seventh grade will cover the Gospel of Matthew and cover a unit on the life of Martin Luther.

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 seventh grade Language Arts curriculum is to improve students' writing, speaking, vocabulary, and grammar knowledge base. 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
- Focus on narrative, expository, persuasive, descriptive, and creative writing
- Expand on the research process that was introduced in sixth grade
- Learn how to develop an outline, title page, bibliography, and in-text citations that will adhere to the MLA format
- Review rules of basic grammar and mechanics as used in the English language
- Apply these conventions to written and oral activities
- Review and build upon their grammar knowledge in nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections, basic sentence parts, phrases and clauses, word agreement, 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 7th grade formal writing assignments.

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Literature

Literature class is designed to increase students reading proficiency and comprehension by using various types of literature including fiction, non-fiction, informational text, novels, and short stories.

Topics of Study will include:

- Study a number of genres including novels, short stories, anthologies, informational text, biographies, autobiographies, fantasy, and science fiction
- The elements of fiction and non-fiction and how to discriminate between the two.
- Identify the main idea, key points and supporting details in a work of literature
- Skills such as skimming, scanning, and close reading to help students read various types of literature
- Reflective and compare-contrast writing following novel units and short stories.
- Reading skills such as inferring, prediction, and compare-contrast
- Vocabulary development from the various forms of literature used throughout the course
- Literary elements such as theme, setting, plot, and characterization are reviewed through novel units and short stories
- Parts of story development like conflict, rising action, climax, resolution
- Reading comprehension skills such as inference, prediction, compare-contrast
- Review and develop reading comprehension skills and strategies (connections, visualizations, organization, sequencing, cause and effect, evaluating evidence, theme, and author's purpose)
- Analyze works of literature and annotate novels
- Presentation skills and public speaking
- Journaling and free writing to develop creative writing skills

Mathematics

Using McDougal-Littell *Passport to Mathematics* Book 2, students will be provided with a “strong foundation in key middle grades mathematical concepts and skills balanced with a thorough development of problem solving skills.” By the end of the year, students will develop skills focusing on the algebraic approach in order to be successful in advanced courses.

Topics of Study will include:

- Number relationships
- Fractions and their operations
- Algebra and integers
- Data analysis and statistics
- Ratios and proportions
- Percentages and decimals
- Geometry in the plane and space
- Equations and functions
- Probability and discrete mathematics
- Problem solving

Pre-Algebra (Advanced 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.

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, 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

Science

Seventh grade science covers a variety of science topics. The students study the human anatomy and physiology and then move to the different classifications of living things. We use several modules of the Prentice Hall science modules:

Human Biology and Health, Cells and Heredity, and Bacteria to Plants

Topics of Study will include:

- The different organ systems and how they function and how we can keep each one healthy. They include:
 - The skeletal and muscular system and the skin
 - Food and nutrition and the digestive system
 - The circulatory, respiratory system and excretion
 - How the immune system helps us fight disease
 - The nervous and endocrine system and how they control various aspects of all of the other systems
- Defining what characteristics determine what is a living thing and what the needs of living things are
- Cells and all of the different organelles that make them function
- The development of cell theory and the 3 parts that make cell theory
- Cell processes such as photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and forms of cell division
- Forms of sexual and asexual reproduction as well as mitosis and meiosis
- Genetics and heredity and how traits are passed from one generation of organisms to the next
- Comparing viruses and bacteria and the structures they contain as well as ways to treat or prevent the diseases that can be caused by them
- The classification of living things and the levels of classification
- The kingdoms of protist and fungi and their structures as well as their role in an ecosystem

In seventh grade the students are involved in a mousetrap car project. The students work in groups to construct a car that is powered by a single mousetrap. They are involved in the design, implementation and troubleshooting of their car.

Geography

Seventh grade students will begin to explore this diverse world we live in using the textbook *Geography: The World and Its People* (Glencoe McGraw-Hill). In connection with English Class, there will be a country research paper with information being displayed on a presentation board for the curriculum fair.

Topics of Study will include:

- The six essential elements of geography which are The World in Spatial Terms, Places and Regions, Physical Systems, Human Systems, Environment and Society, and The Uses of Geography
- Political and physical geography of all North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia
- Map skills such as location of countries, capital cities, water bodies, and mountains
- Different cultures throughout the world
- Economic and social issues involving different countries

Fine Arts

Art:

The students have Art class twice a week.

Students will:

- Improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, sculpture, hand built ceramics, and printmaking
- Introduction into enlarging techniques using grid system
- Create artwork based on an artistic style from particular time period and be able to reflect how that style affected their own artwork.
- Reinforce proper care of art mediums, equipment and personal art supplies
- Learn and create artwork based on principle of space (perspective, proportion)
- Continue skills on pottery wheel. Students will demonstrate centering and learn how to create a cylinder piece with emphasis on lip and foot.
- Improve on artistic composition, and use of proportion in figure drawing and landscape drawing.
- Able to create paintings independently with plan and use of elements of art, color and theory. value theory.

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 as well as adults.

Students will:

- Practice developing empathy
- Practice how to be an ally to someone in need
- Develop skill to be inclusive and building up of others
- Talk about how to deal with the topics of sexual harassment and drug use and abuse
- Develop strategies for dealing with conflict and disagreements in a positive way by looking at situations objectively and using constructive language that is not de-valuing to others

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 seventh 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
- Student Council

Field Trips and Service Projects

In Seventh 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 Road from 75th to Countryside and pick up trash to give back to the community.
- In the fall the class will also travel to the Field Museum. The students will see exhibits on ancient China and Egypt to tie in with our Social Studies curriculum.
- In late January, our class will take a walking trip to the local fire station that we sponsor for the entire month. We will present the men and women with a small token of our appreciation for their service to our community.
- During Lutheran Schools week the class will go to 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 students dress up and we have people from various careers come and talk to the students about their careers.
- In the spring the class will go to see a theater production to explore drama and or musical theater.

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 60-70 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 for class.