



BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

SEVENTH 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 Seventh grade the students will be working through the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism as well as survey the Old 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.

- Novels and literary sources include *Wonder*, *a Christmas Carol*, *The Giver* or *The Hobbit*, and *A Long Walk To Water*
- Analyze and compare texts spanning diverse forms or genres (for example stories and poems, historical novels, and fantasy stories), exploring their approaches to common themes and topics
- Define and examine various story elements, including character, plot, setting, theme, point of view, conflict, and tone
- Examine how multiple authors, writing on the same topic, mold their presentations of key information by highlighting distinct pieces of evidence or putting forth different interpretations of facts
- Engage in Readers' Workshop and Literature Circle formats
- Examine in depth how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and expanded upon in a text
- Analyze the placement and contribution of specific sentences, paragraphs, chapters, or sections within the overall structure of a text, considering their role in developing ideas
- Identify the author's point of view or purpose in a text and clarify how it is conveyed throughout the work
- Evaluate the argument and specific claims presented in a text, differentiating between claims supported by reasons and evidence and those lacking support
- Analyze similarities and differences between a functional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period. Explore how authors of fiction utilize or modify historical events, offering insights into their creative interpretations and adaptations of history

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.

- Compose persuasive arguments that substantiate claims in the analysis of substantial topics or texts, employing valid reasoning and presenting relevant and cited evidence
- Craft informative/explanatory texts to explore and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information with clarity and accuracy. Students will achieve this through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- Construct narratives that develop real or imagined experiences or events, employing effective techniques, carefully chosen details, and well-structured event sequences
- Refine, enhance, and/or experiment with new approaches in their writing. Emphasis is placed on addressing what is most significant for a specific audience and purpose
- Narrate historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes
- Students will write a MLA research paper, developing a chosen topic with pertinent and well-known facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other supporting information and examples. They will utilize precise language and vocabulary to effectively inform or explain the chosen topic. They will maintain a formal style and objective tone throughout the text as well as consistently use proper source citations

Grammar

Resource: Shurley Grammar

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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

Resource: Big Ideas Math

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

SCIENCE

Resource: Glencoe Life iScience by McGraw Hill

Seventh grade science covers a variety of science topics. The students study human anatomy and physiology and then move to the different classifications of living things. 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

HISTORY

Resource: BJU Press American Republic

Seventh grade students study the U.S. and Illinois Constitution and take the Constitution Test. They explore U.S. history with a Christian perspective.

- Primary source documents
- The thirteen colonies: settling, expansion, daily life, and challenges
- American Revolution including the Revolutionary War and the Declaration of Independence
- The United States Constitution including the 3 branches of government and the Bill of Rights
- The first seven presidents: Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Adams, Jackson
- Westward expansion including the Oregon Trail and the Alamo

Specials

ART - TWICE PER WEEK

Resource: *Understanding Art* by Glencoe

Students will:

- Improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, sculpture, handbuilt ceramics, and printmaking
- Be introduced into enlarging techniques using grid system
- Create artwork based on an artistic style from a 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 and landscape drawing
- Be able to create paintings independently with plan and use of elements

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. Seventh 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 - ONCE 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 - ONCE PER WEEK

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, and 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

LIBRARY - ONCE PER WEEK

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.

- Learn about the daring adventures within medieval times where heroism brings justice to those deserving in both Robin Hood and King Arthur.
- Author studies of Edgar Allen Poe including *Tell Tale Heart* and *Hop-Frog* and Dicken's *Christmas Carol*.

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 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 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.

HOMEWORK

Students will have homework in Seventh 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