



BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

SIXTH GRADE OVERVIEW

SUBJECTS TAUGHT DAILY WITH A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE AND WORLDVIEW

RELIGION

Resource: Concordia's Bible History

- Students will be able to understand that the message of the cross is the power of God and that Christ is our salvation, strength, and our refuge.
- Attend weekly chapel and explore worship and liturgy
- Investigate God and His Word through New Testament stories including the birth and childhood of Jesus, the public ministry of Christ, the passion of our Lord, the Resurrection & glorified God, and the founding & early growth of the church
- Integrate the practice of their faith across all curricular areas
- Memorize select selections from the Bible and Catechism, including the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and the Apostles' Creed

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 other literary readings include *Hatchet*, *Maniac Magee*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Tuck Everlasting*, and *Sadako and the 1000 Paper Cranes*
- 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 by presenting clear supportive cited evidence and clear reasoning
- Craft narratives that develop real or imagined experiences by utilizing effective techniques, pertinent descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences
- Be able to compose informative and explanatory texts, encompassing the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes
- Introduce research techniques culminating in writing an MLA style research paper with proper source citations
- Expectations for the research paper include developing a chosen topic with pertinent and well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, and other supporting information and examples. Students 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

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

Resource: Big Ideas Math

Sixth graders will add to their foundation of mathematical skills and expand into more advanced concepts throughout the year, focusing on real-life application of knowledge. Students will:

- Review whole number operations
- Powers & Exponents
- Order of operations
- Exploring algebraic expressions
- Evaluate expressions and equations with decimals
- Evaluate expressions and equations with fractions & ratios
- Measurement systems
- Data analysis including reading/creating graphs
- Probability and percentages
- Geometry concepts, including perimeter, area, & volume of polygons and circles
- Coordinate planes

SCIENCE

Resource: McGraw Hill: Earth and Space iScience

Students will acquire knowledge using both text and hands-on investigations, delving into rigorous science content with engaging real-world applications

- The scientific method and how to use controlled and manipulated variables
- Understanding of maps in relation to climate and weather around the globe
- Weathering and erosion to the Earth's surface
- Forms of energy that include, but are not limited to: tidal, stars, electromagnetic, magnetism, electricity
- How matter and energy move through an ecosystem
- Different types of biomes on Earth and their characteristics
- Levels of living things in an ecosystem, the biotic and abiotic factors, and their impact
- The solar system, astronomy, and how Earth, moon, and stars help to measure types of time (seasons, days, months, and years)
- The life cycle of stars
- The differences between renewable and non-renewable resources and how they can be conserved

HISTORY

Resource: BJU Press Heritage Studies

Sixth grade students study ancient history with a Christian worldview. Students will learn:

- Practical skills such as reading maps and charts, sequencing events, and making timelines
- How to judge and interpret primary sources and other evidence
- Develop skills of discerning change and causation in history
- Study world history, geography, government, economics, and culture of ancient civilizations from Creation to the beginning of the Middle Ages

Specials

ART - TWICE PER WEEK

Resource: *Understanding Art by Glencoe*

- Improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, and ceramics
- Be introduced to new techniques with advanced art materials
- Create artwork based on an artistic style from particular time periods and be able to reflect how that style affected their artwork
- Reinforce proper care of art mediums, equipment, and personal art supplies
- Learn to work both collaboratively and independently on artwork
- Introduction to the pottery wheel. Students will learn how to center and create a low flat dish on the wheel
- Students may choose an art elective for a semester

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. Sixth 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 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
- Practice how to be an ally to someone in need
- Develop skill to be inclusive and building up of others
- 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.

- Focus on biographies of inspiring innovators and believers including Johnny Appleseed and Ichabod Crane.
- Read the One & Only Ivan and Tom Sawyer.
- Author Study of Madeleine L'Engle reading *A Wrinkle in Time* and Hans Christen Andersen reading *Match Stick Girl*.

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

- The end of Sixth Grade culminates in a week-long field trip and overnight stay at Walcamp in Kingston, Illinois. Students stay in boys/girls cabins, and experience an entire week of outdoor education. It includes many different activities, such as archery, orienteering, escape rooms, devotions, and much more! The students work pizza days during the school year to fundraise for the cost.
- Students participate in a Clean-up Modaff Service Project. We partner with the City of Naperville and walk Modaff Road from 75th Street to Countryside and pick up trash to give back to the community.
- Our class will take a walking trip to the fire station that we sponsor for the entire month. We present the men and women with a small token of our appreciation for their service to our community.
- The Jr. High participates in Feed My Starving Children to pack food for the starving children around the globe.
- We host an annual Careers and Manners Luncheon (on or off campus). 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.

HOMEWORK

Students will have homework in Sixth 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