



# St. Paul's First Lutheran Eighth Grade Curriculum

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## RELIGION

God has chosen to communicate to us through his written word. Through the use of the Bible, students will use their literature skills to grow in their faith and understanding of who they are and what God has done for them. This Christ-centered curriculum will highlight the origin of the Bible, the reformation of the Christian church, the Gospel study of the life of Jesus Christ and will also lead students to apply God's Word to a general overview and topical approach of their life issues. The pastoral staff of St. Paul's is included in the teaching team.

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## MATHEMATICS (Algebra ½, Algebra I, Saxon Publishing; Geometry, McDougal Littell)

Algebra ½ covers all topics needed to prepare for Algebra I and includes geometry and discrete topics that are commonly used in engineering and computer sciences. Algebra ½ includes compression, approximating roots, polynomials, advanced graphing, and real-world applications. Algebra I covers basic topics as well as more complex skills and understanding required for high school level math with instruction in proofs, statistics, probability, and real-world applications. Advanced Math students may be eligible for Geometry.

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## LANGUAGE/GRAMMAR (Grammar and Composition II, A Beka)

The students strive for mastery in understanding and writing all parts of speech. Understanding is demonstrated in diagramming of simple, complex, and compound sentences. Writing skills are practiced through construction of paragraphs, outlines, summaries, and paragraphs.

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## SPELLING (Spelling and Vocabulary, Houghton Mifflin)

Junior High spelling emphasizes a mastery of all spelling components including silent/sounded consonants, vowel changes, Latin and Greek word roots, Spanish & French words, prefixes, suffixes, homophones, synonyms, antonyms, unusual plurals, and common misspelled words. Exercises include writing and spelling with real-world connections and expanding vocabulary.



## COMPUTER

Students are expected to type at a minimum of 40 words per minute by the end of the eighth grade. Instruction and practice to achieve this goal begins as early as second grade. In the Junior High, they are also given instruction in word processing, PowerPoint presentation, and other related skills, which help to prepare them for high school, and beyond.

## SCIENCE (Science Insights, Exploring Earth and Space, Addison Wesley)

The areas of study include Astronomy, Meteorology, Geology and Physics. The eighth grade science student will explore the universe God has placed them in as they begin at interstellar space and continue their journey until they arrive back on earth and explore the land below their feet. Making use of available resources in the Los Angeles area as well as open-ended lab inquiries, the students will gain an appreciation of the vastness of space, the complexity of our atmosphere and the dynamics of our earth. The history of scientific thought will lead students to see how people have sought to explain the wonders of space and how technology enabled this exploration.

A "Science Fair" and "Invention Fair" is experienced in alternating years. A week in January is spent at Arrowhead Lutheran Camp involved in a great week of outdoor education.

## LITERATURE (Elements of Literature II, Holt, Rinehart, Winston)

The eighth grade literature student will build upon their knowledge of literary elements as they are introduced to classic authors and their works. English and American authors are emphasized as students explore prose and poetry according to genre. Student portfolios are filled throughout the course with their own writings and compositions. God's gift of comprehending the written word is celebrated throughout the course. The Accelerated Reader Program is an integral component of the course and will require daily reading both in the classroom and at home. Monthly book club selections are made available throughout the year.

## AMERICAN HISTORY (United States History, Holt, Rinehart, Winston)

In 8th grade, students continue the study of American history. The discovery of North America through the events leading up to the Civil War is studied in the seventh grade year. In the eighth grade, students learn about the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Westward Movement, the Industrial Age, the World Wars, and other important events in the last 60 years.



Every other year, the students in our Junior High have the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. where they learn first hand about our government and its history. Highlights include the White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian museums, Monticello, and Mount Vernon.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our bodies are “fearfully and wonderfully made”. This understanding leads us to appreciate and care for this gift from God. A varied curriculum is used to enhance health and conditioning along with athletic skills. Teamwork, attitudes-“winning quietly and losing quietly”, and learning how to make healthy decisions are stressed throughout the year. Our P.E. program also complements our extra-curricular school sports program.

## ART

With an emphasis on the elements of art production, students will learn how to develop their own works. Students will study artists and genres and will develop skills in art discernment and critique. From classic to neo styles, students will be led to find their own styles and enjoy God's gift of creativity as they develop portfolios of their work.