



St. Paul's First Lutheran Seventh Grade Curriculum

RELIGION

Through Bible study, students will grow in their faith and knowledge of God with an emphasis on Christian life and worship.

MATHEMATICS (Saxon Math 8/7, Algebra ½, Saxon Publishing)

Students are placed in one of two math classes depending on their needs and abilities. The advanced students are placed in the pre-algebra class where they prepare for Algebra I, which they take in the eighth grade. The general math students continue to improve their math skills in preparation for the pre-algebra class, which they will have in the eighth grade. Advanced Math students may be eligible for Algebra I or Geometry.

LANGUAGE/GRAMMAR (Grammar and Composition I, A Beka)

The students continue in their study of the English language, reviewing and refining their skills. In the second semester, the students will learn steps and procedures involved in writing a research paper. They also participate in a weekly creative writing course.

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.



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

The study of American history, from the discovery of North America through the events leading up to the Civil War, is covered in the seventh grade year. Emphasis is placed on the Constitution in the second quarter. In the eighth grade, they will study the Civil War through the twentieth century.

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.

SCIENCE (Science Insights, Exploring Living Things, Addison Wesley)

The areas of study include Cellular biology, Genetics, Vertebrate/Invertebrate studies, Human physiology and anatomy. From the simple complexity of protein synthesis to the wonders of the human body as a whole, students will be led to appreciate the gift of life God has given to us to enjoy and use responsibly. Students will be led to examine life in science labs as well as the area they live in. Through the study of the history of scientific thought, students will see how "life" has been interpreted through the discoveries of the past as well as the present. Students will gain an appreciation for their own lives that God has given to them.

A "Science Fair" and "Invention Fair" is experienced in alternating years.

LITERATURE (Elements of Literature I, Holt, Rinehart, Winston)

The elements of story construction are emphasized instruction throughout this course. Students will analyze and "dissect" prose and poetry and discern how the elements were used by the author to create the piece of literature. This process helps to increase comprehension while also increasing writing skills as students create their own literature. Use of the Accelerated Reader Program is an integral part of the curriculum and will require daily reading both in the classroom and at home. God's gift of comprehending literature is stressed through exploration of all genres. Monthly book club selections are made available throughout the year.



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.

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

Weekly classes give students the opportunity to create, draw, illustrate, design and construct two- and three-dimensional projects.