

## **SIXTH GRADE CURRICULUM**

### **RELIGION:**

The Old and New Testament stories are studied in sixth grade religion class. The Bible, a concordance, and the series *One in Christ* by Concordia Publishing House are the key materials. *Luther's Small Catechism* is also utilized. Memory work comes from Luther's Small Catechism along with verses from the Bible and is done three to four times per month. Large and small group instruction takes place. Students lead and participate in chapel, and field trips to our local senior center, Concordia Lutheran Ministries, are also part of our religion class. God's power and beauty throughout scriptures and prayer are emphasized.

### **ENGLISH:**

English grammar utilizes the major parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and more). Proper paragraph formation is emphasized along with essay writing in the other core subjects (social studies, religion, and literature) as part of the learning process. Writing includes journaling and other personal narratives, story writing, explanatory, expository, comparative writing and poetry. A biographical research report is required with the use of the Saxonburg Library. The computer lab and the Google Chromebooks are also tools in writing and researching in English.

### **MATH:**

The real-world use of whole numbers is continued in the course, showing the student how to integrate what they know mathematically. Basic decimal computation is reviewed and then extended. Simple equations are solved. Measurement is explored as well as simple geometry. Extensive study is devoted to fractions and their uses. The concept of integers, positive and negative numbers, is investigated along with using the coordinate plane. Solving proportions, finding ratios, and understanding percents are covered. Throughout the entire course we relate problem solving and word problems during each area of study.

### **READING & SPELLING/VOCABULARY:**

A variety of literary styles are explored in the language arts curriculum for sixth grade. The students read poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and biographical excerpts from respected authors. Comprehension, selection vocabulary, and grammar skills are incorporated into the reading/literature class by use of homework, writings, special projects, and quizzes. Students write essays, stories, and poems. Book reports are created for the personal novels that the student has read. Three class novels are also read throughout the year for a more complete, in-depth study of certain literary works. They are *The Winter Room* or *The Big Wave*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, and *Macaroni Boy*. (*Macaroni Boy* is written about Pittsburgh in the 1930's by a local author, Katherine Ayers.) As a supplement, vocabulary/spelling development is emphasized in sixth grade with the use of Sadlier Oxford's Vocabulary book. Parts of speech, sentence writing, antonyms, synonyms, and context clues are also incorporated into the spelling program with the use of their texts. Vocabulary is practiced by writing sentences and paragraphs.

### **SCIENCE:**

Students examine concepts in more detail! The sixth grade curriculum looks at God's wonderful world by using inquiry-based explorations in the classroom, in the computer lab, and outside in the fresh air. We investigate how animals and plants interact with their environment. Solids, liquids, gases, and the atoms and energy that make up the world are explored. Sixth graders will each complete individual science experiments, which they will display and present to all students and their parents at the annual Art & Science Fair.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:**

Ancient world civilizations, empires, and their religious cultures are highlighted in sixth grade. The historical development of these civilizations and cultures are studied in detail. Current world events are incorporated with the use of the *Jr. Scholastic Magazine*. Map skills are integral to understanding these civilizations. Comprehension questions, note-taking, projects, quizzes, and tests are implemented for evaluations purposes.

**MUSIC**

Students will develop increasing musical independence and interdependence by singing vocal parts, building instruments, playing syncopated melodies, and performing in groups. They will also enhance their musical reading skills and technique by playing keyboards. All students are given opportunities to praise God as they learn to express their musical gifts to His glory through worship, special presentations, and classroom activities.