

EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION:

Biblical truths and their applications to our daily lives are studied. The students are taught to distinguish between Law and Gospel and how to apply each in real-life situations. The Six Chief Parts of *Luther's Small Catechism*—The Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Supper, Baptism, and the Office of the Keys and Confession—are studied in detail. The class does several service projects during the year, learning the importance of putting their faith into action. Committing parts of Scripture to memory is also stressed, hoping that it will remain with them for a lifetime. Salvation by grace through faith is the core of the curriculum. Each student is encouraged to not only live their faith, but to share it with others.

ENGLISH:

All parts of speech and their respective functions are reviewed and practiced in detail. Great emphasis is given to correct sentence structure, fragment and run-on correction, and paragraph sequence. The study of prefixes, suffixes, and context clues is highlighted. All punctuation and capitalization rules are stressed and implemented in all writing. Because the students are being prepared for high school, much writing is completed. Various types of creative, expository, and persuasive stories, and essays are written. Student proofreading is utilized in all writing. A research paper with note cards, outline, rough and final copies, and a Works Cited page is the final written work. In May, verbals (participles, gerunds, and infinitives) are learned. Application of Biblical scripture is done throughout the year in religion class when writing about the relationship of the Bible to daily living.

MATH:

Basic Course: Pre-Algebra:

Introducing the language of algebra begins this course of study. Basic computation of positive and negative numbers is covered before solving one and two-step equations and inequalities. Graphing these equations is explored. Fractions are reviewed and factoring is explained. Basic math concepts, such as proportions, percents, simple geometry, and measurement are investigated. Problem solving and word problems are consistently related throughout each lesson. All the fundamentals of basic algebra are covered along with the necessary skills for proceeding to the study of Algebra I.

Advanced Course: Algebra I:

Basic mathematical concepts and processes are reviewed. Algebraic equations and inequalities are studied. Computation procedures with positive and negative numbers, including their integration into equations, are introduced. Factoring and its applications are also studied. Applying basic algebraic principles to word problems and problem solving is done throughout the course. All the fundamentals of algebra are covered in the course, and the necessary skills for continuing in the study of Algebra II and Trig are taught. Simple and compound interest is studied and applied to everyday situations. Money management and good stewardship principles are also emphasized. During the year, all required curriculum is covered for the student to be successful on the Keystone Exams. At the end of the year the State Algebra Keystone Exam is administered.

READING & SPELLING/VOCABULARY:

The students will read and analyze, according to certain literary techniques, the following types of literature: short stories, plays, non-fiction, poetry and mythology. Also, the students will complete three class novels—The Pearl, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, and The Outsiders—and various outside book reports or projects. The students will learn vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills with each selection that is read. Finally, the students will be evaluated with quizzes, tests, written compositions, and various projects on each reading selection. A separate spelling/vocabulary textbook is used to introduce new words, emphasizing pronunciation, meaning, part of speech, word usage, and synonyms and antonyms of each word.

SCIENCE:

Physical Science:

Students will study God's creation and begin to understand the magnitude of the universe. Matter and motion will be studied by looking at solids, fluids, heat, magnetism, and electricity. The students' skills are honed in the use of the metric system. Area of physical science are studied and explored. Basic scientific reasoning skills will be developed as we explore the complexity and beauty of God's universe. Time is spent studying meteorology as we use our own school's weather station, part of the WeatherBug network. One of the activities in eighth grade involves an extensive science experiment, which the student displays for the entire school and their parents at the annual Art & Science Fair.

Advanced Course: Introductory Physical Science (IPS):

The basic purpose of the course is to give all students a beginning knowledge of physical science and to offer insight into the means by which scientific knowledge is acquired. Basic principles of physical science such as mass, volume, density, solubility, mixtures, and compounds are covered. Emphasis is on learning through laboratory procedures. Successful completion of this course allows graduating students to go directly into biology in high school.

AMERICAN HISTORY:

Students will learn about the importance of studying history and how it is relevant to their lives today. American history will be traced from the early European explorers in America to modern twenty-first century events. Significant people and events will be studied as they relate to American history. The U.S. Constitution and duties and privileges of being an American citizen will be understood by students as they study how America became the country that it is today. Current events and world issues will also be discussed using Jr. Scholastic magazine and daily newspapers as resources. The seventh and eighth grade classes will go on educational field trips to Washington, DC and New York City on alternating years. Important sites and landmarks and how they relate to our history and culture will be discussed.

MUSIC

Students will develop musical expression by utilizing the skills learned in prior grades to learn basic songwriting techniques. Identifying compositional devices and creating their own songs with keyboard accompaniment, students will learn to express themselves using the elements of music, and also to appreciate the compositions of others. 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.