

SEVENTH GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION:

The Ten Commandments and their meanings are studied in detail. The petitions of the Lord's Prayer are thoroughly discussed with each student's individual prayer life in mind. The Apostles' Creed is memorized, and the three articles dealing with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are explored to understand their relationship according to God's Word. The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are emphasized. The relationship between Law and Gospel is also discussed. Utilizing role plays and written compositions, the students apply these topics to their daily lives. Bible verses, scripture readings, and *Luther's Small Catechism* are used as resources. Emphasis is placed on personal spiritual growth and a stronger Christian faith.

ENGLISH:

All parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, interjections, and conjunctions) are studied. The functions of each part of speech such as direct and indirect objects, verb tenses, and predicate adjectives are also learned. All capitalization and punctuation rules are taught. All grammar instruction is implemented in various creative and expository compositions. Creative writing is done in stories and descriptive essays. Expository writing is employed in personal narratives, explanations, and biographical sketches. Persuasive writing is exemplified in editorials and critical reviews. The culminating writing activity is a research paper. Application of writing skills is also used in religion class when learning how to apply Biblical scripture to daily life.

MATH:

Basic Course:

Basic algebraic formulas and equations are studied, while reviewing pre-algebra principles. Graphing and learning how to interpret graphs are emphasized in the course. Solving equations using all mathematical basic operations furthers the students' skills. Basic geometric principles are grasped by studying angles, theorems, and all shapes such as trapezoids and parallelograms. Ratios, rates, and proportions are covered along with a meshing of percents, decimals, and fractions. Integers with the four basic math operations in simple equations are learned along with converting units, creating figures, problem solving and calculating with scales. This class is usually small, and the students are given much individualized math instruction. The overall course will prepare the students to enter pre-algebra in eighth grade.

Advanced 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.

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 four class novels—*Hatchet*, *The Red Pony*, *Johnny Tremain*, *The Light in the Forest*—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:

The sandstone that's the foundation under Saxonburg is different from the lava flows of Hawaii. In seventh grade we study the Earth's crust and the forces that move and shape it, and we take a look out into the starry sky. Hands-on science activities help us understand our Earth, and lab experiments let budding scientists connect with their learning.

GEOGRAPHY:

Geography is the focus of the seventh grade social studies curriculum. The five themes of geography (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and regions) are interwoven throughout the text. Map skills, atlas usage, research techniques, web quests, *Jr. Scholastic* and current events are applied throughout the study of various cultures and populations. Students are encouraged to compare and contrast components between the various cultures and their own lives.

MUSIC

Students will broaden their musical perspective by learning about and playing instruments from other cultures. They will use the singing, movement, playing, and music reading skills they have gained to perform both independently and in groups. Their listening skills will be further developed as they identify various musical instruments and styles. 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.