

## **FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM**

### **RELIGION:**

Grade five Religion focuses on the study of God's word as it is found in the Bible and interpreted in the light of Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Martin Luther and the history of the Lutheran Church are also studied in detail. A personal copy of *Luther's Small Catechism* is given to each student. The Ten Commandments, daily prayers, and sacraments are studied and applied toward daily life. Weekly memorization of Scripture is incorporated throughout the year. Christian values, reflecting the heart of Jesus, are lovingly instilled and nurtured in each student. Prayer and journal reflection are encouraged as a means of spiritual growth and development.

### **ENGLISH:**

Grade five English emphasizes basic grammar skills. Identification and correct usage of parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, and more) are all reviewed. Correct sentence structure and paragraph skill writing are highlighted. Writing skills are taught in personal narratives, story writing, explanatory and expository writings, and other writings. A research report about an animal or insect is also required with a preliminary field trip to our local library. The computer is used as an aid to writing and researching.

### **MATH:**

Basic computation of multiplication and division are extended to include larger numbers. Place value and decimal computations are studied. Basic geometric principles and terms are covered. The algebraic concept of a variable and solving equations are introduced. The process of identifying, solving, and converting fractions is taught. Graphing, word problems, and problem-solving skills and strategies permeate the entire course.

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

Students experience a variety of genres through a literature-based text. Research-based strategies are used to provide students with the necessary skills to become independent strategic readers. Phonics, comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, and study skills are interwoven throughout the curriculum. Two classroom novels, *My Side of the Mountain* and *Number the Stars*, are read and analyzed according to story structure and figurative language. Personal connections and historical implications are discussed. In addition, the Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workshop series is also utilized in order to provide extensive development of vocabulary through spelling, parts of speech, definitions, and context clues. Note cards are created and utilized as a study aid.

### **SCIENCE:**

The fifth grade science curriculum encompasses three major areas of science. Life science, earth science and physical science are taught through a Biblical perspective. Students are provided a variety of inquiry-based experiences which foster conceptual understanding. Students are given hands-on activities through weekly science labs and visual representations through the use of technology in order to connect the content and vocabulary throughout the text. The scientific method and various study skills are emphasized throughout the year. STEM activities integrate science, technology, engineering, and math with real-world problem solving.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES:**

American history is the focus of fifth grade social studies. Students begin their journeys by studying Native American cultures and their influence throughout our country. Students will then be exposed to European colonization, the birth of our country and its government, slavery and emancipation, and industrialization. Students will conclude their studies with the modern era through the twentieth century. Map skills, research techniques, study skills, *Scholastic News* and current events permeate the entire course.

## **MUSIC**

Students will sing and play instruments with increasing independence based on melodic and rhythmic learning from fourth grade. Making music, particularly American music, with several vocal or instrumental parts in groups will be an important part of their musical development. Musical games, movement, and listening continue to play a part in the fifth grade curriculum, as does written work and musical notation. 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.