

MIDDLE SCHOOL AT ST. PAUL

Curriculum Summary

Welcome to St. Paul's Middle School

Welcome to St. Paul Middle School! Our middle school students are offered an exciting, engaging curriculum that lays a solid foundation in all subject areas. Student explore and discover as they develop a love and passion for learning. Middle school students also engage in a variety of additional classes including technology, art, music, gym and library. The following sheets describe the curriculum for sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like more information.

Religion

Bible Study 6

During 6th grade, the Bible Study curriculum is an overall view of the Bible. The class centers on the Old Testament stories which share God's covenant to His people and on the New Testament which shows how He fulfilled His covenant. Along with learning and reviewing God's Word, the students also learn some important Bible verses and the first four of the Chief Parts of the Catechism.

Bible Study 7

God's Word reminds us that our faith unites us with Christ just as it unites us with other Christians. Our faith in Jesus makes the Christian classroom a unique and wonderful place, different from any other classroom. With a special emphasis on Bible literacy and discipleship, materials for grade 7 are organized around a theme-based Bible story approach emphasizing biblical themes that explore the elements of doctrine commonly referred to as the Six Chief Parts. These consist of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession, and Holy Communion. Taught in the context of Bible stories selected especially for the seventh-grade level, these themes help students grow in discipleship as they explore the key doctrinal themes and apply them to their lives. Once a week, the associate Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church teaches confirmation to the seventh grade class.



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Religion (cont.)**Bible Study 8**

In 8th grade bible study, students look at a variety of Old and New Testament events to see God at work. The goal is for the 8th graders to grow in their faith and relationship with their Savior as they see God at work in the lives of Old and New Testament people as He carried out His plan of salvation for all people. Twice a week, St. Paul's senior pastor teaches about the six chief parts found in the Small Catechism. Memory work is incorporated with Bible study. There are ten core passages that the 8th graders memorize and review several times over the year. They also memorize a few other Bible verses and almost all of the small catechism.

Math**Math 6**

Math 6 includes a general review of decimals and fractions, with the greatest emphasis on multiplying and dividing fractions. The algebra concepts are taught with an emphasis on the properties which are involved in solving equations and inequalities. Also important to Math 6 are ratios and proportional relationships. The year also includes a study of area, surface area, volume, data display, and measures of center and variation.

Math 7

Math 7 takes an in-depth look at ratios and proportional reasoning. This study includes how fractions and percents are related to ratios and proportions. Rational numbers are covered in-depth before the students continue in the topic of expressions and equations.

Math 8

Math 8 involves a comprehensive study of expressions, equations, and inequalities. This area involves exponents (positive and negative), scientific notation, and linear functions (including systems). There is also a review and extension of proportional relationships. The area geometry extends to congruence and similarity, transformations, surface area, volume, and Pythagorean Theorem. If time, some statistics including scatter plots is covered.

Algebra

Algebra I is a high school class for those students who excel in math. The course covers extensively equations, inequalities, and functions, all of a greater depth than earlier courses. The course includes polynomials, exponential functions, quadratic functions, radical functions, and rational functions. When time permits, data analysis and probability are also covered.

Science

Science 6

The 6th grade science program is a general science curriculum. This focuses on the general disciplines of science which includes life, earth and physical science strands. Each strand emphasizes inquiry-based activities and state standards-based content. Each unit stimulates student interest and prepares them for the lesson, provides a hands-on experience around which the lesson concept is developed. It introduces vocabulary and makes the science content understandable through words and visuals, assesses student understanding and provides opportunities for re-teaching, and lastly, links the development of science big ideas to other curriculum areas such as math, language arts, and social studies. Assessments include tests, presentations and projects. Every third year the sixth grade students do a science fair project of their own culminating in a middle-school science fair held in an evening in January. All middle-school students attend presenting their projects to parents and students of St. Paul Lutheran School.

Science 7/8

The 7/8 grade science program is a 2 year program. Year one begins with Earth Science strand while the second year focuses on the Life Science strand. Each unit emphasizes once again an inquiry-based and state standards-based content. The Life Science Strand includes studies in Bacteria to Plants, Environmental science, Animals, and the Human Body and its systems. Earth Science includes, Plate Tectonics and continental movement, Weather, Geological processes and Formations, and The Atmosphere. As in the Life Science strand hands-on activities reinforce concepts learned from the chapters. Assessments include tests, presentations and projects. Every third year the seventh and eighth grade students do a science fair project of their own culminating in a middle-school science fair held in an evening in January. All middle-school students attend presenting their projects to parents and students of St. Paul Lutheran School.

Language Arts

Language Arts 6

Sixth grade language arts has three components. The first is English grammar which involves sentence structure, parts of speech, punctuation, and capitalization. The second component is writing which utilizes the English grammar. The final component is literature. Literature stresses the elements of literature along with comprehension. Novels used for this area may include Tuck Everlasting, The Teacher's Funeral, and All of the Above.

Language Arts 7

Seventh grade language is divided into three components. Grammar is divided into the identification of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections, capitalization, and punctuation. Seventh graders write compare and contrast, descriptive, persuasive essays. Research skills are also taught using MLA Guidelines. Research papers following aforementioned MLA Guidelines are written for science fair projects. The study of the elements of literature such as, fiction, historical fiction ie Timothy of the Cay, fantasy ie C.S. Lewis' The Chronicles of Narnia and J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit", and poetry are taught.

Language Arts 8

Social Studies

6th Grade - Social Studies

Students in 6th grade study the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece and Rome. Emphasis is placed on extracting information from informational text, understanding how geography impacted the development of these civilizations, and recognizing the contributions of the ancient civilizations on society today. When applicable, students compare what we know from history with what we know from the Bible. Students also learn about the basic beliefs of three of the world's major religions-- Judaism, Buddhism, and Hinduism—and discuss a Christian response to them.

7th Grade - Geography

7th grade geography focuses on the following regions: Canada and the United States, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, Monsoon Asia, and Oceania and Antarctica. Each major unit begins with mapping skills and an overview of the physical and human geography of the region. Within these units, we look at various topics and issues affecting the world such as the following: protecting freshwater ecosystems, urban sprawl, consumption patterns, spatial inequality, population trends, micro-entrepreneurs, oil, the global IT revolution, population density, and globalization. Emphasis is placed on being able to extract important information from a text.

8th Grade - U.S. History

8th grade U.S. history focuses on the American Revolution through Reconstruction following the Civil War (approximately 1764-1876) with key units on the causes of the Revolution, the Constitution, westward expansion, Jacksonian democracy, reform movements, causes of the Civil War and the Civil War itself. The 8th graders work with many primary source excerpts as they learn to make statements and support them with evidence from the text. Assessments include tests, essays, presentations, and projects.

