

CURRICULUM

First Ev. Lutheran School offers subjects commonly taught at the kindergarten, elementary, and junior high levels.

Kindergartens through fourth grade are basically self-contained. In grades 5-8, departmental teaching is done in math, science, English, social studies, and physical education.

All the courses taught meet the educational requirements of the State of Minnesota and the Glencoe-Silver Lake Public School District. Graduates are admitted to high schools on the same basis as those who graduate from the public schools.

In keeping with the philosophy of the school, all subjects are taught in the light of God's Word. The subject of all religious instruction is the Word of God, both the Law and the Gospel, as revealed in the God-inspired sacred scriptures, the source and norm of Christian faith.

All students enrolled at First Lutheran take both the confirmation and the homeroom religion classes during 7th and 8th grade, although being confirmed at First Lutheran Church is a decision made by the student and parent.

Each child takes part in daily devotions, weekly chapel services and other religious projects.

Qualified teachers who have been trained in accredited teacher's colleges staff the school.

Another strength of the school's curriculum is its on-going review and updating. The faculty studies an area of the academic program each year and then adopts new materials that fit the school's aims and objectives. Normally, the subjects are updated in a five-year cycle, more frequently if needed. Through a textbook loan program to students, we are able to maintain an academic program of excellent quality taught in a Christian environment.

The areas of learning are:

RELIGION - Worship, Bible Study, catechism, Church History, Life of Christ, Christian Doctrine, Confirmation Instruction, and Church Liturgy.

SOCIAL STUDIES -- geography, citizenship, American History, government, current events, and community life.

LANGUAGE ARTS -- phonics, English, grammar, spelling, literature, handwriting, speaking, and creative writing, and listening.

GENERAL SCIENCE/COMPUTER - the physical world, physiology, plant and animal life, human anatomy, astronomy, ecology, energy, and computer programming.

MATHEMATICS -- fundamental concepts, general math, basic computation, functional math, algebra, and geometry.

WRITING -- note taking, summarizing, style, narrative stories, creative, essay and critique.

FINE ARTS -- singing, choirs, band, music, art appreciation, drawing, sketching, painting, and crafts.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH -- physical fitness, game knowledge, rhythm skills, first aid, sportsmanship, and team games.

Kindergarten Curriculum

Religion

One in Christ curriculum emphasizes Jesus' love for each student. This focus incorporates God's love for us as shown in His plan for our salvation. The Bible stories are enhanced through chapel worship, songs, puppets, books, dramas, flannel sets, and finger plays. Prayer and sharing from God's Word are intertwined throughout the day.

Mathematics

The **Scott Foreman Addison Wesley** curriculum focuses on solving problems using everyday experiences. Hands-on manipulatives and learning games enhance the key concepts of position, sorting, classification, patterns, measurement, shapes, fractions, operations and functions, estimating, graphing, time, money, data organization, skip counting, and problem solving.

Reading/Language Development

This **McGraw-Hill** program is a theme approach with a print-rich, activity-based curriculum that nurtures emergent writing. It utilizes a variety of types of literature and encourages interactive and independent journal writing on a daily basis. Major areas of study include Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Rhyme, Decoding, High Frequency Words and Word Families, Reading Strategies, Comprehension Skills, Vocabulary, Writing, and Listening/Speaking/Viewing.

Phonics

Fostering strong phonemic awareness, this **McGraw-Hill** curriculum provides take-home books and many individual weekly phonics activities created by the teacher. High-frequency sight words, word families, and handwriting activities are practiced.

Science and Cooking

This curriculum promotes the child's awareness of the physical, environmental, and life sciences through group and individual hands-on activities and labs created by the teacher. Cooking classes help students incorporate mathematics and science to give concrete experiences showing changes in matter. Units of study include: Your Senses, Your Body, Your Food, Seeds and Plants/ Growing, Animals, Energy and Matter, Our Earth and Space, Weather and Seasons, and Care of the World.

Social Studies

We use the **Scott Foresman** series. Our focus starts with the child and then proceeds to explore the importance of cooperation within the family and the community. We explore the links between other communities and the world. Some topics include: My World, Growing, Families, Community Helpers, Transportation and Communication, Weather and Seasons, Our Food, and Special Days to celebrate. The curriculum is enhanced through the use of maps, graphs, activities, posters, songs, and celebrations of holidays. Students can participate in two different drama center areas each month to work on relationship skills, communication skills, and citizenship skills. Game Time is a weekly activity to integrate social skills with academic learning. The **Getting Along** curriculum is incorporated to learn peaceful problem solving skills. We use **Scholastic: Let's Find Out** for our study of current events.

Art and Music

These areas of learning promote the child's awareness of cultural and aesthetic value in the fine arts. A variety of art experiences and opportunities are given to each child daily at Creation Station, at Easel Station, and at Drama Centers. Regular group experiences incorporate a wide variety of media and may be integrated with other curriculum areas. Daily classroom Music includes: listening, singing, instrument identification, creative movement, and/or choir with the classroom teacher. The curriculum is enhanced through the use of guitar, piano, rhythm instruments, and CDs.

Music

Kindergarteners have music instruction once a week. They work on singing, listening, playing rhythm instruments, and moving their bodies to music. Through these activities, they learn about expression, performance, rhythm, and music history. They also learn about and listen to a specific composer and instrument each month. Classroom music instruction is daily integrated into other areas.

Physical Education

This area of learning promotes the child's awareness of self and of others and enhances development of fine and gross motor skills. The curriculum includes movement experiences, apparatus, stunts, simple games, rhythmic activities, relays, and dramatics. The instructor utilizes parachutes, beanbags, mats, hoops, gunnysacks, the drum, props, and a variety of balls.

Computer

Students reinforce basic mathematics and reading skills using a variety of educational software and the Internet. Students practice mouse control and begin using the keyboard.

Cultural Experiences

Students go on field trips as are related to units and learning activities in class. They participate in the Minneapolis Institute of Art program where each year they learn about 8 different artworks. There are 4 interactive sessions presented to the students. The K-2 choir (named Lambs of the Lord), participate in one chapel and one Sunday service each month.

Grade 1 Curriculum

Religion

We use **One in Christ** by Concordia Publishing House. Exploring God's Word is designed to help the children to learn the concepts of faith such as Law, Gospel, confession, repentance, and forgiveness. The class meets four days a week (chapel on Thursday). Memory work includes Bible passages (usually 2 per week) as well parts of Luther's Small Catechism.

Math

Students' mathematical skills are being learned and refined through the **Scott Foresman Addison Wesley** series. The focus is on numerical relationships, adding and subtracting to 18, using two-digit numbers, graphing, recording data & making charts, understanding place value to 100, patterning, problem-solving skills, shapes, fractions (halves, thirds, fourths), estimating, skip counting, learning time to the hour & half-hour, identify, name, count, and exchange numerical value of coins, measurement and probability, Skills are practiced daily with the use of many math manipulatives.

Reading/Phonics

Reading is an important stepping stone in the development of a student's reading skills. The students learn to read basic sight vocabulary words, apply word attack skills, use comprehension skills, use correct punctuation and sentence structure, and create an enjoyment for reading. We use the **McGraw-Hill** series. Reading daily with their parents is also encouraged.

English

First graders use the **McGraw-Hill** series which introduces writing readiness through listening, speaking and thinking. Students begin with letters and numbers and work up to sentences and paragraph structure.

Writing

As students progress in their knowledge of letters, sounds, and word families, their writing proficiencies also increase. Students are able to practice and apply their knowledge in written form during various writing activities throughout the year. Emphasis is placed on developing complete sentences using appropriate punctuation.

Spelling

The first grade spelling curriculum is included in the **McGraw-Hill** series with 8 weekly words (includes 2 challenge words).

Handwriting

When students know how to make letters without guesswork, their written communication skills increase. Focus is placed on the proper formation and spacing of letters and words.

Science

In Science we use the **Scott-Foresman** series. Included in the first grade science curriculum are: Life Science (plants & animals), Physical Science (grouping objects, sound, light and heat, moving and working) Earth Science (earth,

weather, sky), Human Body (senses, growing & changing, taking care of yourself)

Social Studies

In social studies, **Harcourt Brace**, first graders study families, homes, working together, and celebrations. **Scholastic News** is also used.

Technology

Demonstrates the use of a mouse, and keyboard, along with the ability to use age-appropriate software in math, phonics, reading, science and social studies.

Physical Education

First graders continue building their skills to include fitness, rhythm, relays, jump rope, kickball, bean bags, parachute, and cooperative/team games. In the spring of the year we also participate in the President's Physical Fitness Program.

Music

First graders have music instruction once a week. They work on singing, listening, playing rhythm instruments, and moving their bodies to music. Through these activities, they learn about expression, performance, rhythm, and music history. They also learn about and listen to a specific composer and instrument each month.

Art

Students use their creativity to paint pictures, make prints, collages, drawings, etc. Each year they learn an appreciation of art through volunteer parents who bring us a study of art paintings from the Minneapolis Art Institute.

Cultural Experiences

Students go on field trips as are related to units and learning activities in class. They create artworks using the same style and materials used by the artists from the Minneapolis Art Institute. They participate in an annual operetta with K and 2nd graders.

Grade 2 Curriculum

Religion

The **One in Christ** curriculum is used as a basis for teaching religion in the second grade. Our focus is on God's love and wonderful plan of salvation as we study Old and New Testament Bible stories from creation to Paul and the early church. Our religion studies include workbook activities, Bible readings, singing, drama, and art projects related to our studies. Second graders are also assigned memory work which includes Bible verses, the commandments, the Apostle's Creed, and books of the New Testament. Each Thursday students attend a chapel service held in the church.

Mathematics

The **Scott Foresman** math curriculum is designed to help second graders comprehend and apply basic facts through lessons and activities that include reading, problem solving, real world applications and technology. Math activities include worksheets, flash cards, computer games, math games, hands-on manipulatives, and whiteboard activities. Students in second grade learn addition and subtraction strategies (up to three digit numbers), place value to 100, money, geometry and fractions, time, data, and graphs, measurement and probability, and an introduction to multiplication and division.

Reading

The **McGraw-Hill** reading program used in second grade includes daily lessons that teach core-reading skills in phonics, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. A variety of activities and resources are incorporated into the classroom to teach reading skills and strategies. These include small reading groups, whole group lessons, computer activities, overhead lessons, and leveled reading books - which include fiction and non-fiction selections.

Phonics

Phonics skills are taught and reinforced using the **McGraw-Hill** reading curriculum and consists of activities within small and large groups. Activities include whiteboard writing, workbook lessons, student generated word lists, computer games, and poetry.

English

Second graders learn important English skills through lessons and activities taught from the **Houghton Mifflin English** curriculum. Basic skills taught include sentence structure, adjectives, capitalization, punctuation, and writing in various formats.

Writing

Zaner-Bloser manuscript handwriting is reinforced in second grade and cursive writing is introduced later in the year. Students participate in various writing activities within all areas of the curriculum. Graphic organizers are used to gather information and organize thoughts as part of the prewriting process. Students gain knowledge in revising, editing, and publishing their writing and often share their work through oral reading or publishing class books.

Spelling

The **Houghton Mifflin** spelling and vocabulary curriculum is used in second grade. Spelling and vocabulary words are learned through workbook activities, computer games, small group instruction, and sentence writing. A spelling test is given each Friday from a weekly word list taken from the current unit of study in the workbook.

Science

Second grade science is taught using the **Scott Foresman** curriculum, which includes four units of study: life science (plants, animals, fossils), physical science (matter, sound-heat-light, and force-magnets-electricity), earth science (features of the earth, weather and seasons, the solar system), and the human body (how your body works, nutrition, keeping healthy). Students learn through observation, hands-on experiments, completing lab manuals, science songs, and reading.

Social Studies

In social studies second graders study under the theme People and Places using the **Silver Burdett** curriculum. Units of study include map skills, rules and laws, then and now (people and places change over time), the environment, and global awareness (exploring places around the world). Second graders also learn about current issues by reading and discussing the Weekly Reader magazine. We also participate in a unit of study on bullying that includes worksheets, videos, and class discussion.

Art

Art is integrated throughout the curriculum in the second grade classroom. Students experience art by participating in drawing, sculpting, collage, coloring, and painting through various activities which often enhance lessons taught in science, religion, reading, and math. During Art in the Classroom in the month of October, volunteers present artworks brought from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and facilitate an art lesson, which corresponds with the artwork.

Music

Second graders have music instruction once a week. They work on singing, listening, creating rhythms, playing instruments, moving their bodies to music, and learning the cultural significance of music. Through these activities, they learn about style, expression, performance, rhythm, music history, and elementary music reading. They also learn about and listen to a specific composer and instrument each month. Second graders also participate with Kindergarten and First Graders in the Lambs of the Lord choir. They learn songs and sing during chapel and First Lutheran Church services once a month. Second graders also work with Kindergarten and First Grade students to present a musical each spring.

Physical Education

Second graders participate in physical education every day. Structured activities focus on teamwork, balance, physical movement, and fitness. These activities include team relays, kickball, softball, basketball, dodge ball, running, dance, aerobics, and physical fitness testing in the spring.

Computer

Second graders learn keyboarding skills through the use of individual portable keyboards for practicing basic skills. They also participate in typing lessons on the classroom computers through the use of *Typing Made Easy* software from Scholastic. A final project enables each student to use typing and word processing skills to publish a story created by the student. Second graders also learn various computer skills through phonics, reading, spelling and math games implemented within small groups during reading instruction.

Cultural Experiences

Students go on field trips to enhance learning experiences in the classroom. They participate in Art in the Classroom and learn about the artistic style and view the work of various artists then they are given the opportunity to create their own art. Students learn about areas throughout the world as they participate in charitable programs that provide for needy children and families. They participate in an annual operetta with K and 1st graders.

Grade 3 Curriculum

Religion

Using **One in Christ** third graders have religion class four times a week. Starting with Creation they study sequential Bible stories that cover biblical history, formation of the early church, and the ministry of Paul. The curriculum teaches students about key concepts of faith: Law, Gospel, forgiveness, and grace always centering on the cross of Christ, the Word of God, and the work of the Holy Spirit. They also attend chapel services weekly and learn memory work from Luther's Small Catechism.

Math

Third grade Math curriculum follows the **Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley** book. Math class is held every day with instruction, monitored practice, and work time. Lessons include: place value, money, addition and subtraction, time, data, and graphs, multiplication concepts and facts, division concepts and facts, geometry, and measurement. They have reviews and chapter tests to assure the concepts are being understood.

Spelling

Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary is used in the classroom to study words and improve spelling and vocabulary. There are 18 words weekly to practice, learn, and test. Use of phonics, word meaning, dictionary, and proofreading help students with their spelling.

Reading

Reading is an important subject to third graders. Reading class is held every day to practice reading skills, improve comprehension, and progress as independent readers in all of the subjects. The **McGraw-Hill** curriculum is used. This basal reader contains short stories that focus on skills such as: sequence of events, author's purpose and point of view, cause and effect, inferences, forming generalizations, figurative language, and more. Third graders experience many different strategies of learning to meet individual needs. We listen to stories, read with guided instruction, and read independently. They use a coordinating workbook to practice learned skills and story comprehension. Third graders also enjoy a variety of enrichment projects to coincide with the stories. Examples would be: experiments, plays, art projects, and magic shows. Unit tests are given to assure learning retention and progress.

English

Third Graders use **Houghton Mifflin English**. Students practice grammar skills such as punctuation, capitalization, usage, and parts of speech. Students apply these skills in a variety of compositions and workbook pages. Students are taught to demonstrate their understanding and use of the English language, which includes chapter reviews and tests.

Writing

The writing curriculum for 3rd grade is from the Institute for **Excellence in Writing** and is titled **Teaching Writing: Structure and Style**. Goals to be accomplished during the 3rd grade year are:

- *To learn the abilities of note taking and outlines*
- *To be able to summarize from notes*
- *To summarize a narrative story one paragraph in length*

Social Studies

Harcourt Brace Social Studies is about the community. Students learn about the people, government, history, and

resources in a community. They learn about life in various communities throughout the world. They also practice skills with maps and globes, charts, and graphs, critical thinking, and research projects. Chapter reviews and tests are given to assure learning retention.

Science

Using **Harcourt Science** third graders study the exciting and informative aspects of life, earth, and physical sciences. Students use the tools and processes of scientific inquiry in every lesson, which include hands-on investigations. Students are assessed in a variety of ways.

Computer

Students go to the computer lab once a week. The main emphasis is on typing skills with home positioning of the hands and practice drills for touch-typing. Students also play games that reinforce the keyboard positions.

Art

Third grade art is self-contained and explores a variety of mediums and techniques used with creativity. The projects and assignments correlate with topics from the other subjects. Collage, murals, watercolor and tempera painting, and crafts are a few examples that are explored in art every week.

Music

Third graders have music instruction once a week. They work on singing, listening, creating rhythms, playing instruments, moving their bodies to music, and learning the cultural significance of music. Through these activities they learn about style, expression, performance, rhythm, music history, and reading music. They also learn about and listen to a specific composer and instrument each month.

Physical Education

Third graders have Physical Education daily. Students participate in activities that promote individual skills along with team cooperation. Christian sportsmanship is always emphasized. During the year students participate in the President's Physical Fitness Test. Some of the activities that are covered during the school year are soccer, volleyball activities, floor hockey, track and field, basketball, and softball.

Cultural Experience

Once a year the third graders go on an organized educational field trip. We have visited places like The Mill, The Works (science museum), Natural History Museum, and the Renaissance Festival. We also visit local nursing homes with art projects or to sing. We have Lyceums throughout the year bringing in different topics to explore. We visit the public library once a month. Our chapel families meet monthly for a service project like Operation Christmas Child or to send soldiers care packages. Third graders help lead chapel twice a year. We celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week each spring with various activities.

Grade 4 Curriculum

Religion

Every morning starts with devotions and prayer. Fourth graders use **One in Christ** from **Concordia Publishing House**, which explores Old Testament stories from Genesis through Ruth, and the New Testament focusing on the life and works of Jesus Christ and the travels and letters of Paul. Each lesson centers on God's plan for the redemption of mankind through Jesus' death and resurrection. Students memorize selected Bible verses and portions of Luther's Small Catechism. Students attend a chapel service each Thursday morning, and they lead the service several times throughout the year.

Math

Fourth graders use **Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley Mathematics**. They learn skills such as place value, money and decimals, beginning algebraic concepts, reading and interpreting graphs, geometric figures, fractions, and extended practice on multiplication and division. Students also work to master basic facts in all four operations.

Reading

In the **McGraw-Hill Reading** students read samples from award winning authors. They are exposed to all kinds of literature- fiction, nonfiction, biographies, fantasy, mystery, and poetry. Written exercises emphasize comprehension, interpretation, and vocabulary. Fourth graders also do book reports based on home reading. Students break from the anthology and read novels during the year. While reading the novels as a class, they do related projects, vocabulary, and work on comprehension, setting, characters, inferencing and generalizations.

English

Fourth Graders use **Houghton Mifflin English**. Students practice grammar skills such as punctuation, capitalization, usage, and parts of speech. Students apply these skills in a variety of compositions and workbook pages. Students are taught to demonstrate their understanding and use of the English language with chapter reviews and tests.

Writing

The writing curriculum for 4th grade is from **the Institute of Excellence in Writing** and is titled **Teaching Writing: Structure and Style**. Goals to be accomplished during the 4th grade year are:

- *To perfect the abilities of note taking and outlines*
- *To be able to summarize from notes*
- *To summarize a narrative story of more than one paragraph*

Spelling

Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary is used to increase vocabulary and transfer spelling skills to descriptive writing. Weekly tests are given with spelling words dictated in sentence form. The sentences reinforce listening skills. Challenge words are also included each week.

Social

The fourth graders use the **Harcourt Brace Social Studies** about States and Regions . Students learn about the people, government, history, and resources of the United States. They also practice skills with maps and globes, charts, and graphs, critical thinking, and research projects. Chapter reviews and tests are given to assure learning retention.

Science

Fourth graders use **Harcourt Science**, with units in life science, earth science, and physical science. Students complete hands-on laboratory explorations in each unit, as well as read and interact with the material. Students learn about living things, ecosystems, the earth's surface, patterns on earth and in space, matter and energy, and forces and motion. Learning focuses on the wonder and beauty of the creation God has given us.

Music

Fourth graders have music instruction once a week. They work on singing, listening, creating rhythms, playing instruments, moving their bodies to music, and learning the cultural significance of music. They also begin learning to play the recorder and read music more efficiently. Through these activities, they learn about style, expression, performance, rhythm, music history, and reading music. They also learn about and listen to a specific composer and instrument each month.

Choir

Students have choir rehearsal twice a week. During each rehearsal, they spend time doing breathing exercises and a variety of vocal warm-ups and exercises. They learn one seasonal hymn each month, and work on a variety of sacred and secular choral literature. They sing during chapel and First Lutheran Church worship services every two months, and they are also involved in the Advent Choral Concert and the Children's Christmas Service. The choir also performs periodically at local retirement homes.

Physical Education

Fourth graders have Physical Education daily. Students participate in activities that promote individual skills along with team cooperation. Christian sportsmanship is emphasized. During the year students participate in the President's Physical Fitness Test. Some of the activities that are covered during the school year are soccer, volleyball activities, floor hockey, track and field, basketball, and softball.

Cultural Experience

First Lutheran School provides opportunities for cultural experiences by educational and entertaining lyceums. In addition, third and fourth graders are usually invited to the local high school to view their fall musical with children from the Glencoe-Silver Lake Public High School. During National Lutheran Schools Week they attend a Christian concert at Mayer Lutheran High School. Each year they take a field trip. They also hear music from around the world during music class.

Grade 5 Curriculum

Religion

Our Religion curriculum utilizes the **Concordia Publishing House** series entitled **One in Christ** and **Luther's Small Catechism**. Students have weekly memory assignments, which come from the catechism including a review of the catechism beginning with the Ten commandments and moving through the Sacrament of Baptism. Bible passages are also memorized as they fit into the lessons in the curriculum. Through the lessons in the curriculum, students:

- *Are able to easily find references in the Bible.*
- *Learn about our forefathers in the faith.*
- *Recognize the Triune God.*
- *Continue to grow in their faith through the study of Holy Scripture.*
- *Value each other as brothers and sisters in the faith.*
- *Live in the realization that they are redeemed children of a loving God.*

Mathematics

We use the **Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley** series for fifth grade mathematics. Developing computational proficiency, problem solving and cooperative learning is the focus of the lessons in this series. Fifth graders work on the skills of basic math in whole numbers, decimals and fractions, being able to use addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with each. Linear measurement and perimeter, time and temperature are explored in both metric and the American system (English units).

Reading

The fifth grade reading curriculum consists of two elements. The first is the use of the **SRA Reading Laboratory**. This is a curriculum developed in the early 1970's by the Science Research Associates and published by Harper and Rowe. The reading "lab" has four components.

- **Listening Skill Builders** in which students listen to a story and then answer questions about it
- **Power Builders** in which students read a short story, answer questions about the story itself and general questions that serve to develop word attack skills
- **Rate Builders**, three minute timed tests in which the students read a very short story and answer questions about it
- **Skill Builders** which serve as reinforcement of skills practiced when doing the Power Builders

The second is the use of novels to encourage reading and to develop reading comprehension.

English

We use the **Houghton Mifflin English** series. All the basic grammar rules are emphasized including parts of speech, capitalization and punctuation. Students recognize and use simple and compound sentences. They are also able to identify simple subjects and verbs.

Writing

The writing curriculum for fifth grade is from the **Institute for Excellence in Writing** and is titled **Teaching Writing: Structure and Style**. Goals to be accomplished during the fifth grade year are:

- *to perfect the abilities of note taking and outlines*
- *to be able to summarize from notes*
- *to summarize a narrative story*
- *to write reports from references*

- *to write stories from pictures*

Spelling

We use **Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary** for the fifth grade text. Fifth graders apply their spelling through weekly spelling tests and paper/pencil activities. Dictionary and thesaurus work as well as the identification and understanding of analogies, acronyms, homophones, homographs, and idioms are used and practiced.

Science

Harcourt Science Life & Earth Science is the text of the fifth grade. Living systems, their interaction in nature, the changing earth and the solar system are stressed. Activities are mainly research oriented with teacher demonstrated introductions. Experiments are done using everyday materials.

Social Studies

In fifth grade social studies we use **Harcourt Brace: The United States** as our text. Fifth graders study about the Native Americans, Africans and Europeans who migrated to the Americas. Our study consists of the exploration of North and South America by Europeans. Also included is the study of the relationships between the Native Americans, Africans and Europeans in the Americas. Also studied are the colonization of North America, including detailed studies of the New England Colonies, the Southern Colonies, and the Middle Colonies. Learning about the French and Indian War leads students to a better understanding of the impact of the westward expansion on the Native Americans. Causes of the Revolutionary War are examined as we learn about our nation's fight for independence from Great Britain and come to understand the ingenuity and determination of the early European Americans. Students acquire skills in the study of geography and history as they develop skills in cooperation through group work and independence through individual studies and projects.

Computer

Fifth grade goes to the computer lab at least once a week. The main emphases are typing skills to promote touch-typing. Word processing and internet activities are used to obtain this objective.

Physical Education

Fifth graders have PE twice a week – grade five and six together, male/female separated. Skills and participation in individual and team sports is promoted. After school interschool athletics are offered to the students through the *Minnesota Lutheran Athletic Association*, depending upon interest and numbers, or the *Glencoe-Silver Lake school district*.

Health

The curriculum used in fifth and sixth grades for health is published by **Harcourt Brace** and is titled **Your Health**. In fifth and sixth grades the health curriculum is taught with the girls from both grades grouped together in one class and the boys from both grades grouped together in another class. Health is taught two times per week to each group. In the class students are taught the basics of care for the human body. There is an emphasis on the fact that we should all respect our own and other people's bodies because our bodies are a gift from God. Scripture says, they are the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (I Corinthians 6:19-20) and because of that they deserve to be treated with respect. Topics taught in health class include systems of the human body, growth and development, dealing with emotions, staying fit and healthy, and nutrition. In addition, time is spent learning about some things we should NOT do with our bodies such as the use of illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The school nurse is on hand to help educate as questions arise and a local dentist and a doctor volunteer their time to help when units that involve their areas of expertise are being taught.

Music

Fifth graders have general music instruction once a week. They work on singing, listening, creating rhythms and melodies, playing instruments, and learning the cultural significance of music. Through these activities, they learn about style, form, expression, performance, rhythm, music history, and reading music. They also learn about and listen to a specific composer and instrument each month.

Choir

Students have choir rehearsal twice a week. During each rehearsal, they spend time doing breathing exercises and a variety of vocal warm-ups and exercises. They learn once seasonal hymn each month, and work on a variety of sacred choral literature. They sing during chapel and First Lutheran Church worship services every two months, and they are also involved in the Advent Choral Concert and Children's Christmas Service. The choir also performs for the senior citizens at Glencoe Regional Health Services Long Term Care facility.

Band

During fifth grade students have the opportunity to begin band instruction with the band director from the Glencoe-Silver Lake public school.

Art

Fifth graders have art instruction once each week. The focus of this grade level is on the **Masters of the Art World**. We look at their styles, famous works and why they are viewed as the Masters. Elements of art, color, texture, composition and perspective are also studied. The enjoyment of actually doing art is explored in new ways that lead to creativity and the appreciation of art.

Cultural Experience

First Lutheran School provides opportunities for cultural experiences by providing four lyceums per year in our facility. fifth graders are usually invited to the local high school to view their fall musical with children from the Glencoe-Silver Lake Public High School. In addition, they take two field trips out of Glencoe each year. During National Lutheran Schools Week in March, First Lutheran School students attend a Christian musical concert at Mayer Lutheran High School in Mayer, Minnesota. Each year the fifth and sixth grades take a field trip to the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. The trips vary from year to year. Every other year the two grades visit the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul and also make a stop at the James J. Hill House nearby. On alternating years the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades take a trip together either to take a cruise on a paddle boat on the Mississippi River and pay a visit to historic Fort Snelling or they may visit the Science Museum and Omni Theatre in St. Paul and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Grade 6 Curriculum

Religion

Morning devotions, using *My Devotions* from Concordia Publishing House, start off our day. Chapel replaces this routine on Thursday morning.

Sixth graders use **One in Christ** from **Concordia Publishing House** as the main tool for studying God's Word. An introduction to the Bible starts out the year, but the main emphasis is that of the life of Jesus Christ, using the Gospel of Mathew as the main source of development.

Students memorize selected Bible verses and portions of Luther's Small Catechism.

Math

We use the **Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley** series. Building proficiency in working basic skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division are reviewed and expanded from whole numbers, decimals, and fractions to also percents, probability, ratios and rates. Introduction into Algebra is explored with order of operations, integers and rational numbers, operations with integers and coordinate graphing.

Reading

The **SRA Reading Laboratory** and the novel *Where the Red Fern Grows* are the weapons of choice for sixth grade reading. **Listening Skill, Power, Rate and Skill Builders** are the basic blocks of the lab.

Students work at their predetermined levels of reading developing each of the above mentioned skills.

The novel encourages students to read and develop their comprehension and vocabulary with pencil/paper activities.

English

We use the **Houghton Mifflin English** series. Basic grammar skills are used and applied throughout the school year. Sentence structure, capitalization, and punctuation lessons are used and applied in all areas.

One small unit includes taking notes in class on different states. Then a test is taken to see if enough notes were taken.

Writing

The writing curriculum for 6th grade is from the **Institute for Excellence in Writing** and is titled **Teaching Writing: Structure and Style**. Goals to be accomplished during the 6th grade year are;

- *To perfect the abilities of note taking and outlining*
- *To be able to summarize from notes*
- *To summarize a narrative story*
- *To write reports from references*
- *To write stories from pictures*
- *To produce creative writing on topics chosen by the teacher*

Spelling

We use **Houghton Mifflin Spelling** and **Vocabulary** for the 6th grade text. Sixth graders apply their spelling through weekly spelling tests and paper/pencil activities. Dictionary & thesaurus work as well as the identification and understanding of analogies, acronyms, homophones, homographs, and idioms are used and practiced.

Science

Harcourt Science Physical & Earth Sciences is the text of the sixth grade. Matter & energy, forces & machines are the major emphases with the Living Planet & Cycles in Earth & Space the follow up. Activities are research oriented with teach demonstrated introductions. Experiments are done using every day materials.

Social Studies

The sixth grade at First Lutheran School uses **Prentice Hall** social studies in the form of a book titled **History of Our World**. In sixth grade the students study a combination of history and geography as they learn about the world around them. The beginnings of human society are studied as we visit ancient Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent. It is here that we find Abraham and his travels as the Hebrew people have their beginning. As we study the ancient world, we also visit Ancient Egypt and Nubia, Ancient India, Ancient China. We then move to the study of Ancient Greece and Rome. Through the study of ancient history we learn how all people are tied together, how we are similar and how we are different. We study geography, history, and culture as we move through time. Map skills are used to locate the people we study. Students are urged to see the similarities between all people as we realize and accept our differences.

Computer

6th grade goes to the computer lab at least once a week. The main emphases are typing skills to promote touch-typing. Word processing and internet activities are used to obtain this objective. The class has its own mini-lab and students are encouraged to use it to turn in any homework word processed for extra credit.

Physical Education

6th graders have PE twice a week --- grade 6 & 5 together, male/female separated. Skills and participation in individual and team sports are promoted. After school interschool athletics are offered the students through the *Minnesota Lutheran Athletic Association*, depending on interest and numbers, or the *Glencoe-Silver Lake school district*.

Health

The curriculum used in sixth and fifth grades for health is published by **Harcourt Brace** and is titled *Your Health*. The health curriculum is taught with the girls from both grades grouped in one class and the boys from both grades grouped together in another class. Health is taught two times per week to each group. In the class, students are taught the basics of care for the human body. There is an emphasis on the fact that we should all respect our own and other people's bodies because our bodies are a gift from God and as the Scripture says, they are the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and because of that deserve to be treated with respect.

Topics taught include systems of the human body, growth and development, dealing with emotions, staying fit and healthy, and nutrition. In addition, time is spent learning about some things we should NOT do with our bodies such as the use of illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Art

Art instruction is a once a week experience. The major project of the year is an activity using a “graphing” method to enlarge and transfer an object (7 ½ x 9) to a finished product (30x36). Line design is explored as well as colors with the completion of coloring activities for programs and prize competitions.

Music

Sixth graders have a general music instruction once a week. They work on singing, listening, creating rhythms and melodies, playing instruments, and learning the cultural significance of music. Through these activities, they learn about style, form, expression, performance, rhythm, music history, and reading music. They also learn about and listen to a specific composer and instrument each month.

Band

During sixth grade students have the opportunity to take band instruction with the band director from the Glencoe-Silver Lake public school.

5th – 8th Choir

Students have choir rehearsal twice a week. During each rehearsal, they spend time doing breathing exercises and a variety of vocal warm-ups. They learn one seasonal hymn each month and work on a variety of sacred choral literature. They sing during chapel and First Lutheran Church worship services every two months, and they are also involved in the Advent Choral Concert and Children’s Christmas Service.

Cultural Experience

Sixth graders are provided with four lyceums per year in our building. The fall musical at the district high school allows the students an opportunity to see drama in action. A field trip to the twin cities area - state capitol, James J. Hill House, paddle boat ride, Fort Snelling, and a visit to Lutheran High School, Mayer, during Lutheran Schools Week for a Christian concert round out a great yearly experience.

Grade 7 Curriculum

Religion

We have two major areas of study: the life and times of **Martin Luther in LUTHER, SERVANT of GOD** and **HOW the CHURCH GREW**, which talks about the times from Ascension to the present time.

Martin Luther helped prepare the way for the freedom of thought and worship that we now enjoy. He led the fight to restore the sacred truth of salvation through Christ alone.

Present-day worship and life in the church follow a pattern established in the past. The study of their development gives greater meaning to our worship and fellowship practices today.

Students participate in Bible study and answer questions about each lesson after each has been taught and talked about. Memory work is given as an assignment but the main memory work comes from Confirmation class.

Mathematics

We use the **Holt Mathematics Course 3** series. Constant reviews of basic math skills are kept sharp while moving on to pre-Algebra lessons. The principles of Algebra are covered along with rational numbers, graphs, functions, and sequences. Exponents and roots, blend into ratios, proportions, and percents merger with multi-step equations and inequalities, graphing lines, sequences and functions.

Reading

Working extensively in the area of literature, we read **ISLAND** of the **BLUE DOLPHINS**, **THE LEGEND of SLEEPY HOLLOW**, **RIP VAN WINKLE**, and **SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON**. There are tests given after each chapter is read. Summary reports are written by the students that include the following areas: Plot, Setting, Characterization, Critique, and Climax. After each book is thoroughly discussed, we watch the video of each book. Most students agree that the books are better than the movies.

English

We use the **Houghton Mifflin ENGLISH Series**. Grammar skills are applied throughout the school year. Sentence structure, capitalization, and punctuation are used and applied in all areas.

Writing

The writing curriculum for 7th grade is from the Institute **for Excellence in Writing** and is titled **TEACHING WRITING: STRUCTURE and STYLE**. Goals to be accomplished during the 7th grade are

- *To perfect the abilities of note taking and outlining*
- *To be able to summarize from notes*
- *To summarize a narrative story*
- *To write reports from references*
- *To write stories from pictures*
- *To produce creative writing on topics chosen by the teacher*
- *To produce creative writing on topics of their own choosing*

Spelling

We use **Scott Foresman EVERYDAY SPELLING**. Students are taught words from their grade level that they actually write and misspell most frequently. A review unit is used every six units to reinforce the learning process. All of this helps students to prepare for the Spelling Bee at Lutheran High School in Mayer every April.

Science

Prentice Hall Science Explorer EARTH SCIENCE is the text used by the seventh grade. After a brief introduction to Earth Science, the class studies Planet Earth by using mapping activities. Plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes are discussed with paper/pencil activities. Astronomy as well as weather and climate are areas of study. Related activities are found on the internet using text-based websites. Students are required to do a SCIENCE FAIR project due in time to participate at the state level, if desired.

Social Studies

Seventh grade social studies continues to employ the **Prentice Hall** text entitled **HISTORY of OUR WORLD** with the time of Constantine and Byzantine Empire, early Muslim civilization, and the civilizations of ancient kingdoms of Africa. Moving forward in time, we study the golden age of China and medieval times in Japan and Europe. Continuing to move through time, we study European expansion and colonization all over the globe from their beginnings to the dawn of the age of revolutions. We learn about how the world changed and move through the two World Wars, the Holocaust, and view the world from 1945 to the present time. Students gain further map and globe skills as they compare the location of the areas of study. Students gain an understanding of how civilizations developed and how many of them fell. Understanding is also gained of how people have interacted throughout history.

Computer

7th grade goes to the computer lab at least once a week. The main emphases are typing skills to promote touch-typing. Word processing and internet activities are used to obtain this objective.

Physical Education

Seventh graders have Physical Education twice a week. Students participate in activities that promote individual skills along with team cooperation. Christian sportsmanship is always emphasized. At the end of the year all students have the opportunity to participate in the President's Physical Fitness Test. Some of the activities that are covered during the school year are soccer, flag football, hand volleyball, dance, track and field, basketball, and softball.

Health

In the even-numbered years we use **HUMAN SEXUALITY** from **Scott, Foresman, and Company**. Abstinence is the main idea that is stressed. We also use **TOTAL HEALTH**, a **Christian-based** series from Rivers Edge. This series has Bible studies to develop knowledge of God as their creator. Included in the class are studies of the body's systems, fitness and exercising, infectious and noninfectious diseases, STD's, social health, and spiritual health.

Music

Seventh graders have general music instruction once a week. They work on singing, listening, creating rhythms and melodies, playing instruments, and learning the cultural significance of music. Through these activities, they learn about style, form, expression, performance, rhythm, music history, and reading music. They also learn about and listen to a specific composer and instrument each month.

5th -8th Grade Choir

Students have choir rehearsal twice a week. During each rehearsal, they spend time doing breathing exercises and a variety of vocal warm-ups and exercises. They learn one seasonal hymn each month and work on a variety of sacred choral literature. They sing during chapel and First Lutheran Church worship services every two months, and they are also involved in the Advent Choral Concert and Children's Christmas Service.

Band

The seventh graders are offered band in the Glencoe-Silver Lake school system.

Art

Seventh graders have art instruction each week. Exploring different styles of art, from pointillism to cubism, mixed with 1 and 2 point perspectives, fosters the joy of seeing that art is different to different people. Crafts are explored, using wax, metal, and other media. Symmetry, color, and compositions are also explored.

Cultural Experiences

In the even-numbered years, the seventh and eighth graders go on a day-long class trip that they have had fundraisers for. We tour the Sudan Mine near Tower, Minnesota, where we get to ride on the ore cars and visit the physics lab that the University of Minnesota sponsors. We also visit Duluth and the headwaters of the Mississippi River. In the odd-numbered years we rotate visiting the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Science Museum, Fort Snelling, and taking a riverboat on the Mississippi River.

Grade 8 Curriculum

Religion

We utilize **Concordia Weekday Series Jesus, the Messiah**. Students have weekly memory work assignments. The curriculum follows Jesus from birth to resurrection. Students have opportunities to present chapel services during the school year. They help lead and aid in their chapel families and do family service projects. In addition, they view and have discussions on movies which help them deal with problems they will face in high school and as they enter the difficult years ahead of them.

Mathematics

We use the **Holt Algebra I** series. This series is a freshman algebra course. Foundations for Algebra are covered along with equations, inequalities, functions, linear functions, exponents, polynomials, and quadratic functions. Equations with exponential and radical functions are also covered.

Reading

In eighth grade we use the **SRA** reading lab in which individual skill builders at each student's ability level are completed. We also read five novels during the course of the school year. The students read, analyze, evaluate and discuss literary forms, hidden meaning, literary styles, and develop a love for reading. Some of the novels included are **Shane**, **Call of the Wild**, and **Treasure Island**, as well as others.

English

We use the **Houghton Mifflin English** series. Grammar skills are applied throughout the year. Sentence structure, capitalization, and punctuation are used and applied in all classes. In the last two weeks of the school year, students learn how to diagram sentences.

Writing

The writing curriculum for eighth grade is from the Institute for **Excellence in Writing** and is titled **Teaching Writing: Structure and Style**. Goals to be accomplished during the eighth grade year are:

- *To perfect the abilities of note taking and outlining*
- *To be able to summarize from notes*
- *To summarize a narrative story*
- *To write reports from references*
- *To write stories from pictures*
- *To produce creative writing on topics chosen by the teacher*
- *To produce creative writing on topics of their own choosing*
- *To write an essay*
- *To write a critique*

Spelling

We use **Scott Foresman's Everyday Spelling**. Students are taught words from their grade level that they actually write and misspell most frequently. A review unit is used every sixth unit to reinforce the learning process. All of this helps students to prepare for the Spelling Bee at Mayer Lutheran High School every April.

Science

Prentice Hall Science Explorer Life Science is the text used by the eighth grade. After a brief introduction to **Life Science**, the class studies cells and heredity, bacteria to plants, animals and human biology using models and activities made from everyday items. Related activities are found on the internet using text-based websites. Students have the option of a *science fair* project.

Social Studies

The eighth grade curriculum begins where the fifth grade curriculum ended. The text used in eighth grade is **America History of Our Nation** published by **Prentice Hall**. Through an examination of the Articles of Confederation, students are led to see the need for a new, stronger central government while still preserving individual rights in our country. The constitution is studied so that students are familiar with its structure and function. The beginnings of our country are studied as we learn about the presidency of George Washington as he paved the way for all future presidents. As we move through the history of the United States, we learn about the establishment of the first National Bank, about the presidencies of early leaders of our country and how the nation developed under the leadership of each individual. Events which led up to the Civil War are studied as well as the reconstruction of the South after the war and the continued westward expansion through the Age on Industry. We move through history to our modern times, finding an understanding of how events of history have come together to evolve into the nation as we know it today.

Computer

Eighth grade goes to the computer lab at least once a week. The main emphases are typing skills to promote touch-typing. Word processing and internet activities are used to obtain this objective. Power Point is introduced and taught the last quarter of the school year with a comprehensive project due at quarter's end.

Physical Education

Eighth graders have physical education twice a week. Students participate in activities that promote individual skills along with team cooperation. Christian sportsmanship is always emphasized. At the end of the year all students have the opportunity to participate in the President's Physical Fitness test. In May they participate in the annual track and field event at Mayer Lutheran High School in Mayer, Minnesota. Some of the activities that are covered are soccer, flag football, hand volleyball, dance, track and field, basketball, and softball.

Health

In the even-numbered years we use **Human Sexuality** from **Scott, Foresman** and Company. Abstinence is the main idea that is stressed. We also use **Total Health a Christian** based series from Rivers Edge. This series has Bible studies to develop knowledge of God as their creator.

Included in the class are studies of the body's systems, fitness and exercise, infectious and noninfectious diseases, STD's, social health, and spiritual health.

Music

Eighth graders have general music instruction once a week. They work on singing, listening, creating rhythms and melodies, playing instruments, and learning the cultural significance of music. Through these activities, they learn about style, form, expression, performance, rhythm, music history, and reading music. They also learn about and listen to a specific composer and instrument each month.

Choir

Students have choir rehearsal twice a week. During each rehearsal, they spend time doing breathing exercises and a variety of vocal warm-ups and exercises. They learn one seasonal hymn each month, and work on a variety of sacred choral literature. They sing during chapel and First Lutheran Church worship services every two months, and they are also involved in the Advent Choral Concert and Children's Christmas Service. In addition, the choir entertains the residents at Glencoe Regional Health Services Long Term Care facility.

Band

The eighth graders are offered band in the Glencoe-Silver Lake school system.

Crafts

For two quarters during the school year, students are taught how to cross-stitch on aida cloth and how to sew on plastic canvas.

Art

Eighth graders have art instruction once each week. Exploring different styles of art throughout the world brings an appreciation of the creative aspect of art. Some examples of areas explored are drawing, perspective, lines, symmetry, mosaics, watercolor, pointillism, and many more. Since art is constantly changing, the curriculum is open to the students submitting suggestions and exploring new and sometimes completely different ways of doing art.

Cultural Experience

First Lutheran School provides opportunities for cultural experiences by providing four lyceums each year in our facility. Each year during Lutheran Schools week we attend a concert at Mayer Lutheran High School. Every other year the eighth graders, along with the fifth, sixth and seventh graders, take a field trip to the Minneapolis St. Paul area. Sites visited include taking a cruise on a paddleboat on the Mississippi River and touring historic Fort Snelling, or they may visit the Science Museum and Omni Theatre and the Minneapolis Institute of Art. On alternating years, the seventh and eighth grades visit Duluth and the Sudan Mine at Tower, Minnesota, as well as paying a visit to the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Itasca, Minnesota.