

Kindergarten Curriculum

Religion

Children learn that God created them, forgives their sins, and loves them all the time. They learn a new Bible story approximately each week and complete activities and crafts that bring the stories to life. Children participate in worship at Thursday chapel services and join in prayer and praise in the classroom. We use the One in Christ curriculum.

Students will:

- Understand that God can be trusted as they trust adults in their world
- Know Jesus loves them and others too, and that Jesus died for all people; believe that God loves all people
- Express their love for Jesus
- Want to love and obey God
- Know that Jesus helps them be kind and loving and helps them do hard things
- Will ask God and others for forgiveness for their sins; can forgive playmates
- Worship joyfully, celebrating God's greatness
- Enjoy familiar songs
- Have opportunities to worship, pray, and sing; hear that Jesus loves them; act out the Bible narrative; see the Bible as God's Word; feel part of God's family

Language Arts

The Language Arts program includes reading, writing, and listening. We use the Scott Foresman Reading Street curriculum

Students will:

- Read and write letters of the alphabet
- Develop phonemic awareness skills – rhyming, blending sounds, segmenting words, hearing beginning, middle, and ending sounds
- Learn concepts of print – reading left to right, recognize capitalization and punctuation, and know upper and lowercase letters
- Learn phonological concepts – letter/sound recognition, word chunks, introduction to long and short vowel sounds
- Comprehension skills – retell, sequence, cause and effect, and plot
- Recognize and read some sight words
- Begin to write simple sentences
- Be able to listen, follow directions, and express ideas
- Use inventive spelling when writing ideas
- Use correct formation of letters and number

Mathematics

Students will gain mathematical skills through the use of hands - on activities with the use of manipulatives, group work, and our Pearson enVision workbooks and online tools.

Students will:

- Identify numbers 1 - 100
- Count in a variety of ways
- Sort, compare, and classify objects
- Identify and create patterns
- Identify and draw shapes
- Explore addition and subtraction using manipulatives and drawings
- Participate in activities that include measuring, graphing, estimating, and calendar/days of the week

Science

Students will explore and investigate the environment around them. They are introduced to process skills such as observing, predicting, classifying, inferencing, investigating and experimenting. We use kiddo-friendly National Geographic texts and ready-made experiments.

Students will:

- Learn seasons
- Learn about pumpkins and apples
- Study animals and insects
- Study weather and plants
- Explore properties of matter
- Learn to sort and classify objects

Social Studies

Students will develop an awareness of themselves, their community, and the world around them.

Students will:

- Learn about families
- Learn how to work together/rules
- Study Holidays – Christmas and Thanksgiving
- Learn about pilgrims
- Study our country
- Learn about veterans
- Study the difference between wants vs. needs

Fine Arts Art:

Students will have Art once a week for 30-45 minutes with our Art Teacher, Mrs. Horb.

Students will:

- Learn that we are all artists
- Experiment with mediums and materials
- Develop large and fine motor skills through loose drawing and painting
- Learn to focus with eyes, listen, and be ready to create artwork
- Learn about line, shape, and color and how to combine them all in artwork
- Introduce how to use materials and how to take care of them
- Learn to share and talk about artwork that we make or see

Music:

Students will participate in Musikarten with Mrs. Fields once a week for 45 minutes in a smaller group than our normal class size. This ensures that all students have access to a musical instruments and individualized attention from Mrs. Fields.

Students will learn and sing two songs in two different church services throughout the year. The kindergarten and first grade students are in one choir, named Genesis. The choir is directed by Mrs. Ickstadt.

Students will:

- Sing “Echo” songs line by line with the teacher
- Sing simple songs as a class
- Listen to the teacher sing “song tales”
- Move or dance to music
- Conduct “finger plays” to rhymes and music

Spanish

Students participate in Spanish lessons once a week with Mrs. Prahlow. They will focus on vocabulary such as colors, numbers, foods, days of the week, greetings, etc. They also receive their very own Spanish name.

Technology

Technology is incorporated into classroom instruction through the use of interactive white boards, document camera, and desktop computers.

Students will:

- Use the interactive white board during lessons

- Gain exposure to desktop computers during once a week computer lab time with Mrs. Block

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week with Mrs. Speckhard (known to the kindergarteners as Mrs. S. At the end of the year students participate in Field Day activities.

Students will:

- Learn body and spatial awareness
- Develop hand - eye coordination
- Enhance their social and personal development
- Learn to share, cooperate, take turns and experience personal success through movement
- Experiment with different types of equipment and manipulatives

8th Grade Buddies

The kindergarten class and the 8th grade class join together to foster lasting friendships between the two grades. One 8th grader and kindergartener are paired together and throughout the year we plan activities to do together such as card games, outside time, Lenten calendars, library reading time, coloring, etc. Buddies are thrilled to see each other in the hallways and form lasting bonds.

Field Trips and Service Projects

Students in Kindergarten will participate in a variety of educational field trips during the school year. Each field trip is designed so that students can easily make connections between the concepts they are learning in the classroom and the hands - on learning opportunities available in the field trip experience.

Students Will:

- We will travel to County Line Apple Orchard.
- We will participate in an in class activity of ladybug experiments and the Lorax.
- Our class will also visit Sunset Hill farm as well as have a special visit from a Sunset Hill Farm teacher to learn about winter animals.
- Finally, the Kindergarteners will have a year - end celebration with their 8th grade buddies at the Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City.
- Students will travel to Valparaiso University to watch a production

Homework:

In Kindergarten, we do have one nightly sheet of math homework that begins after 1st quarter. The math sheet corresponds to a lesson already taught in the classroom. I also ask that parents read to their child each night. We have a reading log that once it has been filled out helps to add to our kindergarten paper reading train. We try to make our train travel all around the classroom walls. I also encourage kindergarten children to have time daily to play and explore outside with their parents.

Parents Can Help By:

- Volunteer in the classroom and around the school
- Attend field trips
- Foster independence with their children

First Grade Curriculum

Religion

In first grade children will learn that God loves us and forgives us. As a result, we should love our neighbors as ourselves.

Students will:

- All things come from God and we are to take care of one another and his creation.
- Jesus is God and he died for all people. God's love is revealed in Jesus.
- God gave us the Ten Commandments out of love.
- God's word is always true.
- Jesus Forgives us when we disobey Him and those in authority.
- We are uniquely created to serve God, his world, and one another.

Language Arts

The Language Arts program includes reading, writing, and listening. We use the Scott Foresman Reading Street curriculum.

Students will understand:

The components of a sentence- capitalization, end punctuation etc.

Phonics

- Know letter - sound relationships.
- Blend sounds of letters to decode consonants.
- Blend sounds of letters to decode consonant blends and digraphs.
- Blend sounds of letters to decode short and long vowels.
- Blend sounds of letters to decode r - controlled vowels and vowel digraphs.
- Blend sounds of letters to decode diphthongs and other vowel patterns.
- Blend sounds of letters to decode phonograms and word families.
- Decode words with common word parts, such as contractions and compounds.
- Decode words with common word parts such as base words and inflected endings.
- Decode words with common word parts such as suffixes and prefixes.

Fluency - Weekly throughout the year students will be given a text to read repeatedly in order to build fluency.

Students will:

- Read aloud with accuracy, comprehension, and at an appropriate rate.
- Read aloud with expression.
- Attend to punctuation and use appropriate phrasing.
- Practice fluency in a variety of ways, including choral reading, paired reading, and repeated oral reading.

Vocabulary:

Students will:

- Be building and applying new vocabulary.
- Use strategies to determine and clarify words and understand their relationships.

- Build appreciation and understanding of fiction and non-fiction text by determining meaning of words and their uses.
- Read regular and irregular high - frequency words automatically.
- Develop vocabulary through direct instruction, concrete experiences, reading and listening to text read aloud.

Phonemic Awareness- students will segment, blend, and count syllables in words.

Students will:

- Recognize and produce rhyming words.
- Segment, blend, or count syllables.
- Segment and blend on set and rhyme.
- Identify sounds that are the same or different.
- Identify and isolate initial, final, and medial sounds in spoken words.
- Segment a word or syllable into sounds.
- Add, delete, or substitute phonemes.

Text Comprehension

Students will:

- Be able to ask and answer questions about main idea, and key details in a text.
- Retell stories in sequence, identifying plot, character, and setting.
- Make and confirm predictions.
- Recognize story structure.
- Summarize text by retelling stories or identifying main ideas.
- Use mental imagery.
- Understand author's purpose.
- Understand cause and effect.
- Use compare and contrast.
- Draw conclusions.
- Understand realism and fantasy.
- Understand literary elements of character, plot, setting, theme, and plot structure.

Writing

Students will:

- Be able to identify nouns, pronouns, and verbs.
- Be able to use appropriate end punctuation.
- Spell unknown words phonetically.
- Develop writing skills for different purposes and audiences.
- Write legibly.
- Use the writing process.

Mathematics

Math for first graders is made up of five strands: number sense, computation and algebraic thinking, geometry, measurement and data analysis.

Number Sense

Students will:

- Count to 120 by 1's, 5's, and 10's.
- Understand that 10 can be thought of as a group of ten ones.
- Understand ordinal numbers
- Use place value to understand and compare two-digit numbers and use symbols $<$, $>$ and $=$.
- Find mentally a number 10 more or 10 less than a given two-digit number
- Show equivalent forms of whole numbers as groups of tens and ones.

Computation and Algebraic Thinking

Students will:

- Demonstrate fluency with addition facts and the corresponding subtraction facts to 20.
- Solve real world problems with addition and subtraction by-taking from, putting together and taking apart etc.

- Solve real world problems that call for addition of three whole numbers whose sum is within 20.
- Add within 100 including adding a two-digit number to a one digit number, adding a two digit number to a multiple of ten.
- Understand the meaning of the equal sign to determine if equations involving addition and subtraction are true or false.
- Create, extend and give an appropriate rule for number patterns using addition within 100.

Geometry

Students will

- Identify and classify objects as two or three dimensional.
- Distinguish between defining attributes of two and three-dimensional shapes.
- *Use two or three-dimensional shapes to make new shapes.
- *Partition circles and rectangles into two and four equal parts.

Measurement

Students will:

- Compare and order objects according to length, area, capacity, weight and temperature.
- Tell and write time to the nearest hour and half hour.
- Find the value of a collection of pennies, nickels and dimes.

Science

Students will:

- Learn the properties of solid, liquid and gas.
- Separate solids and liquids based on their physical properties.
- Investigate sound and that vibrations make sound and sound can make materials vibrate.
- Observe that objects can be seen only when illuminated.

Earth and Space Science

Students will:

- Use observations of sun, moon, and stars to describe patterns that can be predicted.
- Observe and compare sand, clay, silt, and organic matter and how they are components of soil.
- Observe a variety of soil samples and describe their properties.
- Develop solutions that could be implemented to reduce the impact of humans on the land, water and air.

Life Science

Students will :

- About life cycles and that all life has birth, growth, reproduction, and death in common.
- Develop a model showing how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive and grow.
- Learn about habitats and how plants and animals adapt.

Social Studies

History

Students will:

- Compare the way people lived in the past compared to today.
- Look at past and present community life through biographies, folklore, and videos etc.
- Identify American songs and symbols.
- Identify local people who have shown courage, honesty and responsibility.
- Look at their own timeline.
- Explain clocks and calendars. Use the words “past, present, yesterday, today and tomorrow” correctly.
- Distinguish between historical fact and fiction.

Civics and Government

Students will:

- Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Define rules and laws in school and the community.
- Describe ways that actions can help the common good of the classroom or community.
- Describe a citizen and the characteristics of good citizenship.
- Know and understand the Pledge of Allegiance.

Geography

Students will:

- Identify the directions of north, south, east, and west on maps and globes.
- Identify and describe continents, oceans, cities, and roads on a map and globes.
- Identify relative locations of places in the school setting.
- Identify physical and human features of our community.
- Summarize weather patterns and how they affect people, plants, and animals.
- Draw simple maps using symbols.
- Compare cultures of various ethnic groups found in Indiana.
- Give examples of natural resources found locally and how we use them.

Economics

Students will:

- Identify goods and services.
- Compare and contrast different jobs.
- Describe how people are both producers and consumers.
- Explain that people have to make choices about goods and services because resources are limited in relation to people's wants and needs.
- Explain that people exchange goods and services to get the things they want and need.

Fine Arts Art:

Students will have Art once a week for 60 minutes with our Art Teacher, Mrs. Horb.

Students will:

- Develop fine motor skills through drawing, painting, and sculpture
- Become familiar with Art vocabulary including Elements of Art
- Introduction to proper use of techniques in various mediums
- Introduction to proper care of Art equipment
- Listening and following simple directions
- Create artwork theme based across curriculum

Music:

Students will learn and sing two songs in two different church services throughout the year. The kindergarten and first grade students are in one choir, named Genesis. The choir is directed by Mrs. Ickstadt.

Students will:

- Sing “Echo” songs line by line with the teacher
- Sing simple songs as a class
- Listen to the teacher sing “song tales”
- Move or dance to music
- Conduct “finger plays” to rhymes and music
- Keep the steady beat while singing or saying beat motion songs
- Sing hymns

Spanish

Students participate in Spanish lessons twice a week with Mrs. Prahlow. They will focus on vocabulary such as colors, numbers, foods, days of the week, greetings, etc. They also receive their very own Spanish name.

Chinese

Students participate in Spanish lessons once a week with Pastor Fields. They will focus on vocabulary such as colors, numbers, foods, days of the week, greetings, ect.

Technology

Technology is incorporated into classroom instruction through the use of interactive white boards, document camera, and desktop computers.

Students will:

- Gain exposure to desktop computers during once a week computer lab time with Mrs. Block

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week with Mrs. Speckhard

Students will:

- Learn body and spatial awareness
- Develop hand - eye coordination
- Enhance their social and personal development
- Learn to share, cooperate, take turns and experience personal success through movement
- Experiment with different types of equipment and manipulatives
- Develop locomotor and non-locomotor skills, directionality, pathways, levels and tempos

Field Trips and Service Projects

Students in First Grade will participate in a variety of educational field trips during the school year. Each field trip is designed so that students can easily make connections between the concepts they are learning in the classroom and the hands - on learning opportunities available in the field trip experience.

Students Will:

- Travel to Sunset Hill Park
- Travel to Valparaiso University for a production

Homework:

Homework in First Grade is primarily about developing responsibility. The students are responsible for bringing home an Assignment Sheet and materials daily, complete work with parents' guidance, and then return all work to school. Each First Graders should read five to ten minutes, daily. Assignments are designed to practice skills that are currently being worked on in class. The assignments should take five to ten minutes to complete each night.

Parents Can Help By:

- Praying for your child's growth, development, and relationships
- Modeling active participation in weekly worship and daily devotions
- Checking homework for understanding upon completion
- Looking through classroom papers with your child to monitor progress
- Encouraging your child to grow in responsibility
- Encouraging good nutrition, exercise and rest
- Reading with your child and listening to him/her read regularly
- Practice memory work and basic facts at home
- Assist with classroom projects, groups and field trips

Second Grade Curriculum

Religion

Second Graders will learn and grow in their faith through active participation in prayer, written activities, daily devotions, and worship. The Religion curriculum is integrated throughout the entire school day.

Students will be introduced to:

- Bible stories and characters
- The life of Jesus
- Faith, forgiveness, and Christian living

- Weekly chapel services
- Memory work: Bible verses and parts of the Catechism
- Songs and hymns
- Martin Luther and the foundation of Lutheranism

Language Arts

Writing: Through writing across the curriculum, reports, and journaling, students will be introduced to the writing process.

Students will:

- Write using complete sentences
- Be introduced to writing paragraphs
- Create stories
- Write Friendly Letters
- Use Writer's Voice

Reading: Through the use of the Scott Foresman Reading Street program, read alouds, and a novel study, students will be introduced to many concepts. **Students will:**

- Be introduced to theme studies
- Study vocabulary and learn about context clues
- Focus on comprehension and drawing conclusions
- Use critical thinking
- Recall details, understand sequencing, and summarizing what they have read
- Understand decoding strategies: phonics, word patterns, and structural analysis
- Learn different genres such as: Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, Fantasy, Folk Tales, and Fairy Tales
- Develop as fluent readers

Phonics/Spelling: Our school uses the Scott Foresman Reading Street program and the Rebecca Sitton Spelling curriculum.

Students will:

- Learn how to spell and use high-frequency words
- Study letter sounds
- Recognize short and long vowel sounds
- Identify vowel pairs
- Speak r-controlled vowels
- Recognize and use suffixes and prefixes
- Study homophones

Grammar: Through targeted Grammar lessons and daily classwork, students will be introduced to many concepts.

Students will:

- Identify types of sentences
- Understand capitalization and punctuation rules
- Identify plurals
- Use contractions
- Identify and create compound words
- Study nouns, pronouns, proper nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs
- Understand noun/verb agreement and tense

Listening and Speaking: Children will learn listening and speaking skills through classroom instruction, sentence dictation activities, classroom reports, reading fluency activities, memory work practice, and weekly chapel.

Students will:

- Listen attentively
- Respond appropriately
- Participate in discussions
- Form and verbalize opinions
- Present oral reports
- Fluently read with expression

Handwriting:

The Second Graders use the Handwriting Without Tears program, in addition to daily practice in regards to their handwriting instruction.

Students will:

- Study the correct handwriting technique
- Learn the correct production of all capital and lowercase letters

Mathematics

Second Graders build upon their foundational Math skills.

Students will:

- Study addition and subtraction basic facts and strategies
- Begin learning problem solving skills and strategies
- Explore place value to four digits
- Solve two and three digit addition and subtraction problems with regrouping

- Explore money (one cent to one dollar)
- Learn time to five minutes
- Study measurement (U.S. Standard and Metric System)
- Explore fractions
- Be introduced to geometry
- Solve basic multiplication and division problems
- Learn graphing

Science

Students will learn about God's creation.

students will:

- Study nutrition
- Explore habitats
- Investigate matter
- Develop an understanding of fossils and dinosaurs
- Study force, simple machines, and magnets
- Explore the solar system

Social Studies

Students will learn about God's world and his people.

Students will study:

- Maps/Geography
- Communities and rules/laws
- Holiday celebrations
- Our Earth and the environment
- Chinese culture
- U.S. History, government, and patriotism
- Economics through the Jr. Achievement program

Fine Arts Art:

Students will improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, and sculpture.

Students will:

- Participate in Art class one period per week with Mrs. Horb
- Be introduced to artists and their styles

- Study proper use of techniques in various mediums
- Be taught proper care of Art equipment
- Listen and follow directions
- Create artwork themes based on our Second Grade curriculum
- Be introduced to artistic reflections and discussions

Music:

Second Graders will learn songs and liturgical music to assist in leading the liturgy at Immanuel Lutheran.

Students will:

- Sing “Echo” songs line by line with the teacher
- Sing “simple” songs as a class
- Listen to the teacher sing “song tales”
- Conduct “finger plays” to rhymes and music
- Move or dance to classical music
- Engage in dialogue with the teacher using “arioso” (sing-speech)
- Keep the steady beat while singing or saying beat motion songs

Third Grade Curriculum

Religion

Third Graders will learn and grow in their faith through active participation in prayer, written activities, daily devotions, and worship. The religion curriculum is integrated throughout the entire school day.

Topics of study will include:

- Bible Stories and Characters
- The Law and Gospel
- Martin Luther
- Trinity
- Christian Love
- Commandments
- Prayer
- Weekly Chapel Services
- Parts of Worship Services

Language Arts

Grammar: Third Graders continue to strengthen their reading, writing, speaking, spelling, and listening skills. They are encouraged to apply these communication skills throughout all subject areas.

Students will study:

- Complete Sentences
- Nouns (Common/Proper/Possessive)
- Verbs (Action/Linking/Main/Helping/Irregular)
- Adjectives (Comparative/Superlative)
- Adverbs
- Pronouns (Subject/Object)
- Contractions
- Subjects/Predicates
- Prepositions
- Conjunctions
- Prefixes/suffixes

Reading: Students experience the world of literature. Many genres are studied including Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Plays, Fantasies, Biographies, and Realistic Fiction. Novel studies are done in small groups and at the end of the year.

Students will study:

- Cause and Effect
- Compare and Contrast
- Main idea/details
- Context clues
- Text structures
- Setting/characters/plot
- Summarizing
- Point of view
- Fact & opinion

Listening and Speaking: Students will listen for understanding, follow directions, and participate in discussions.

Students will study:

- Small and large group discussion skills
- Oral reading skills
- Oral presentations
- Literature Circles

Spelling:

Students will study:

- Review short/long vowels
- Synonyms/Antonyms/Homophones
- Prefixes/Suffixes
- Consonant Blends/Spelling Patterns

Writing:

Students will learn:

- Informative
- Argumentative • Narrative

Mathematics

Third Graders acquire knowledge of Mathematics and its relationship to daily living. Students are encouraged to apply Math skills in a variety of ways and strengthen their problem-solving skills. Hands-on activities and manipulatives are utilized.

Students will study:

- Place Value
- Money and Time
- Addition and Subtraction Basic Facts (Add/Subtract greater numbers up to 3 digits)

- Problem Solving Skills and Strategies
- Measurement
- Basic Multiplication and Division Problems
- Geometry
- Perimeter and Area
- Data

Science

Students will explore the world around them. They will learn through observing, predicting, questioning, and explaining.

Students will explore:

- Energy
- Sound

- Simple machines
- Weather
- Rocks/Minerals
- Plants
- Plant/animal adaptation

Social Studies

Third Graders will strive to be good, responsible citizens in their community. They will study the past to build a better future.

Students will study:

- Map Skills
- Communities
- Government
- Cultures
- Citizenship
- Economics
- Indiana geography
- Native Americans

Fine Arts

Art:

Students will improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, and sculpture

Students will:

- Participate in Art class one period per week
- Be introduced to artists and their styles and create artwork based on their style
- Study proper use of techniques in various mediums
- Be taught proper care of Art equipment and personal Art supplies
- Listen and follow several step directions independently
- Participate in class discussion on artistic style and use of elements
- Be introduced to composition and use of shape and color

Music:

Third Graders will learn songs and liturgical music to assist in leading the liturgy at Immanuel Lutheran.

Students will:

- Sing hymns from the Hymn of the Month Curriculum
- Repeat sung rhythms on neutral syllables
- Identify and sing quarter and eighth notes in 2/4 and 4/4 time
- Sing simple melodies on solfege
- Listen to played or sung rhythms and echo them back
- Execute vocal warm-ups
- Learn songs, psalms, and liturgical music to assist in leading the liturgy at Immanuel Lutheran
- Perform at regularly scheduled church and chapel services throughout the year

Technology

Technology is used in all curricular areas. Students will be comfortable completing assignments and taking assessments on the computer, as needed. A laptop cart will be utilized by students in elementary grades. Teachers will use the Mimio Board for classroom instruction and interactive learning.

Students will:

- Perform basic word processing skills (enter and delete, copy and paste, save and open, etc.)
- Understand the basics of computer ethics and etiquette
- Identify and use simple search engines

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week.

Students will:

- Learn body and spatial awareness
- Enhance their social and personal development
- Learn to cooperate, take turns and experience personal success through movement
- Be given substantial opportunities to actively engage in moving and learning sport, and fitness skills
- Learn the importance of being physically fit

Fourth Grade Curriculum

RELIGION

Through bible study, activities, prayer, and discussion students will continue to grow in their Christian faith and become more knowledgeable in their understanding of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Students will:

- Model Jesus' love and forgiveness to those around them
- Memorize the Old and New Testament Books of the Bible, From Luther's
- Small Catechism: The 10 Commandments and Meanings, The Apostles
- Creed and the Meanings of each of its parts (Articles), various Bible passages, and The Hymn of the Month
- Formal lessons concentrate on Old Testament stories and applying them
- to our daily lives. Also, New Testament accounts of the early church's growth
- Participate in worship services
- Attend Chapel services once each week
- Integrate the practice of their faith across all curricular areas

LANGUAGE ARTS

Grammar and Writing:

Students will develop methods and styles of both written and oral communication as the appropriate and necessary way to convey their ideas, beliefs, and thoughts to others.

Students will be introduced to the writing process and will:

- Write legibly in print and cursive Write well - structured paragraphs
- Identify and use parts of speech in writing tasks
- Type with speed and accuracy
- Write multi - paragraph essays on assigned prompts
- Use rules of grammar and supply sentences with adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, interjections, and prepositions
- Write for a variety of purposes such as persuade, inform, and entertain
- Understand and use the Writing Process: Pre - Writing, First Draft (Rough Draft), Edit and Revising, and Publishing
- Follow written and oral directions carefully
- Self - correct their work
- Orally present their work in a confident manner
- Understand punctuation, capitalization, and complete sentence structure
- Participate in small groups and efficiently work well with others
- Integrate written and oral communication skills into all subject areas
- Increase their vocabulary through our Spelling/Vocabulary lists that correspond to the Reading selection for the week (Scott Foresman Reading Street)
- Write using descriptive, expository, persuasive, and personal essay styles

READING

Students will:

- Students will gain an appreciation for different genres of literature such as realistic fiction, historical fiction, folk tale, play, fantasy, and non - fiction.
- Students will be given the tools and skills needed to aid in comprehension of all types of literature.
- Identify and explain parts of a story: characters, setting, plot, and conclusion
- Recognize and identify the characteristics of different genres
- Understand an author's purpose for writing
- Create and complete graphic organizers, such as Venn Diagrams or T Charts
- Extend their reading experience by inferring, predicting, and drawing on own personal experiences
- Understand and identify cause and effect
- Distinguish between fact and opinion
- Investigate and explore a variety of literature, including fantasy, autobiography, biography, and poetry

MATH

Students will:

- Understand that geometric figures can be analyzed (perimeter/area) and classified based on their properties such as having parallel or perpendicular sides, particular angle measures, and symmetry
- Fourth Grade students will apply their basic number skills to solve problems through many different means such as text, manipulatives, everyday experiences, and technology.
- Continue to develop addition and subtraction skills
- Identify place value through the hundredths
- Multiply and divide multi - digit numbers
- Begin exploring algebraic expressions
- Round numbers for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Estimate numbers for all four operations
- Describe, use, and complete patterns
- Measure and compare units of length
- Measure capacity and weight in customary and metric units
- Solve multi - step word problems
- Demonstrate a variety of problem solving strategies
- Find the range, mean, median, and mode of a set of data
- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators
- Explore decimals (introduction)

SCIENCE

Students will, in addition to learning facts about various topics, begin to learn how scientists observe, record, think, and operate safely.

Students will:

- Investigate living things
- Explore ecosystems
- Study matter (states of matter, matter changing state, and chemical properties)
- Study electricity (what it is, static electrical charge, current electricity, magnetism, electrical forces, and electrical safety)
- Develop an understanding of sound
- Investigate light and heat
- Explore weather, storms, and fronts
- Study earth's make - up (its layers, changes in the crust, etc.)
- Develop and implement the Scientific Process
- Participate in Inquiry Science which involves hands - on group activities
- utilizing the stages of scientific observation and experimentation

INDIANA HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES

Fourth Grade students will participate in an in - depth exploration of Indiana's history prior to statehood and then its role in relationship to U.S. history from the Revolutionary War, all the way up to the present. Indiana's geography, resources, and governance are also extensively studied

Students will study the following map skills and concepts:

- Using latitude and longitude to find absolute location
- Reading elevation, land use, and resource maps
- Understanding and reading a time line
- Comparing maps with different scales
- Read many types of maps such as mileage maps, historical maps, and population maps
- Analyze Indiana's economy throughout its history
- Study one state, in depth, through research and then completing and orally presenting a Power Point project to the class

Fine Arts

ART

Students will:

- Students will improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, and sculpture.
- Be introduced to mediums and new techniques
- Discuss varied artistic styles and create artwork based on those styles
- Learn about principles of art and use in artwork
- Reinforce proper care of art equipment and personal art supplies
- Develop listening skills by following several step directions and working independently
- Create artwork based on color theory and use of values

MUSIC

Students will:

- Develop composition skills and discuss choices in creating composition
- Fourth Graders will learn songs and liturgical music to assist in leading the liturgy at Immanuel
- Sing hymns from the Hymn of the Month Curriculum
- Repeat sung rhythms on neutral syllables
- Identify and sing dotted quarter and eighth notes in 6/8 time
- Improvise the end of two - bar phrases using learned patterns from 2/4, 4/4, and 6/8 time
- Sing simple melodies on solfege
- Listen to played or sung rhythms and echo them back
- Execute vocal warm - ups
- Perform at regularly scheduled church and chapel services throughout the year

Technology

Technology is used in all curricular areas. Students will be comfortable completing assignments and taking assessments on the computer, as needed. A set of Chrome books will be utilized by students in each grade. Teachers will use the Promethean Board for classroom instruction and interactive learning.

Students will:

- Develop keyboarding skills
- Produce a Power Point presentation
- Properly cite all sources used in a report or presentation
- Produce and edit a word process document with the use of Spell Checker
- Understand how to properly name and save a document or presentation to a flash drive

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week.

Students will:

- Learn body and spatial awareness
- Enhance their social and personal development
- Learn to cooperate, take turns and experience personal success through movement
- Be given substantial opportunities to actively engage in moving and learning sport, dance and fitness skills
- Learn the importance of being physically fit

Field Trips and Service Projects

- Canoeing on the Kankakee River
- Porter County Museum •
- Prairie, Indiana History Museum, State Capitol Building
- In Fourth Grade, the students will participate in multiple field trips as an enriching way to reinforce classroom learning.
- Pioneerland/ Laporte County Fairgrounds
- Every other year trip to Indianapolis.....War Memorial Museum, Conner
- Community Service....Angel Tree Christmas Gifts for needy children

Homework

Parents Can Help By:

- Checking Assignment Notebooks/Planner
- Time is allotted every day for practice assignments in each subject.
- Whatever is not completed during class is to be taken home and returned the next school day.
- Fourth Graders are required to complete his/her Assignment Notebook/Planner daily, to keep track of work and tests assigned.
- Modeling active participation in weekly worship and daily devotions
- Providing your children with a quiet place to study and do their homework
- Encouraging independence and responsibility
- Helping your children develop good study habits
- Monitoring academic progress by reviewing Progress

- Reports/Midterms, and Report Cards
- Encouraging good nutrition, exercise, and rest
- Monitor and limit screen time

Fifth Grade Curriculum

Religion and Memory Work-

As a result of the study of God's Word, students will be able to understand that the message of the cross is the power of God, and that Christ is our salvation, our strength, and our message.

Students will:

- Investigate God, the Father, and His Word, Jesus, Our Savior, and the Holy
- Explore worship and liturgy
- Explore the Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- Explore the Sacrament of the Altar and the Means of Grace
- Explore and memorize the Ten Commandments and their meanings
- Investigate and memorize the Apostles' Creed and Articles
- Study Martin Luther and the Reformation
- Read and relate to Old Testament stories and prophecies, the 4 Gospels,
- Paul's letters to New Testament churches, other New Testament writers, and the Revelation to St. John
- Be introduced to World Religions
- Attend weekly chapel services, sing for select chapels, and read the lesson for a month
- Memorize select parts of the Catechism, Hymn of the Month verses, and Bible selections
- Memorize select parts of the Catechism, Hymn of the Month verses, and Bible selections
- Integrate the practice of their faith across all curricular areas

Language Arts

Writing and Grammar:

Students will be introduced to the Writing Process.

Students will:

- Write for a variety of purposes – Narrative, Poetry, Expository, Compare/Contrast, Cause and Effect, Main Idea/ Details, Persuasive, Descriptive,
- Business Letter, Thank You letters, Book Reviews, and two Research Papers
- Produce clear and coherent writing appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- Choose topics for a Famous African American Biography and a Colonial Era Research Project using five or more sources for each paper, create a diorama(colonial only), and give an oral presentation – peer and teacher review given(colonial only)
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis/research
- Produce well - structured multi - paragraph essays and summaries
- Demonstrate command of the conventions or Standard English grammar rules and usage when writing or speaking
- Master the eight parts of speech, sentence structure, and mechanics Integrate written and oral communication into all subject areas

Reading

Students will read a variety of genres and be introduced to a balance of Fiction and Nonfiction. Students will connect and expand their concepts to build a deeper understanding of literature and the world around them.

Students will:

- Utilize graphic organizers such as Venn diagrams, outlines, and word webs
- Be more aware of elements of the Short Story - Setting, Characters, Plot, Theme, and Outcome
- Recognize different genres of novels and author's purpose
- Recognize written dialogue, time/order/place words, and text structure
- Utilize context clues in comprehension
- Develop a strong vocabulary and read aloud techniques
- Recognize and use figurative language – Simile, Metaphor, Idiom, Personification, Onomatopoeia, Hyperbole, Alliteration, and Imagery
- Read novels on their own and listen effectively to Teacher read aloud novels including: Number the Stars, A Christmas Carol, Everything on a Waffle...
- Utilize Main Idea and details, cause and effect, and outcome based learning
- Develop higher level thinking skills; analyze and synthesize information
- Use inference and draw conclusions from personal experiences
- Make a prediction on what is previewed or already read

Listening and Speaking:

- *Students will effectively work on comprehension and collaboration in a variety of settings.
- *Students will raise their hand before speaking

- *Students will respect the teacher and each other when another is speaking
- *Students will practice making “eye contact” while giving an oral presentation Students will:
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one - on - one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on Grade 5 and beyond topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly
- Summarize orally on written text or information presented in diverse media and formats
- Students will explore the many relationship of letters, patterns, and sounds for reading and spelling correctly

Spelling:

Students will:

- Master the spelling of high frequency words
- Apply essential rules for addition for suffixes and prefixes
- Visualize and remember words and their sequential letters
- Collect, analyze, sort, and contrast words; drawing conclusions about spelling and usage

Mathematics

Fifth Grade students will develop their knowledge in Math skills by utilizing a variety of methods, such as technology, manipulatives, experiences, and texts.

Students will:

- Read, write, and identify place value in whole numbers and decimals
- billions and the ten thousandths place
- Round, compare, and order whole numbers and decimals to the billions and the thousandths place
- Compare integers, positive, and negative numbers
- Analyze and solve problems using mathematical skills and strategies
- Write and evaluate numerical and algebraic expressions
- Write and solve multi-step equations
- Use properties (Distributive, Commutative, Associative, Identity Element equations
- Find mean, range, mode, and median of a set of data
- Convert between Metric and Customary Units of length, capacity, and weight
- Represent and interpret data in graphs and line plots
- Determine combinations and find probability
- Write the prime factorization of a number and use rules for divisibility

- Find common factors, greatest common factors, common multiples, and least common multiples
- Relate fractions, decimals, and mixed number
- Add/subtract fractions and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators
- Multiply & divide whole numbers, fractions, and mixed numbers using a 1 or 2-digit divisor, with a fraction or mixed number
- Multiply/divide and estimate products of whole numbers and decimals
- Divide a decimal by a whole number, a whole number by a decimal, and a decimal by a decimal
- Identify basic geometric figures and their parts
- Identify congruent figures and figures with line and rotational symmetry
- Find the area and perimeter of a triangle/polygon/parallelogram
- Find the volume and surface area of space figures
- Graph integers on a coordinate plan
- Complete function tables and graph a line on a coordinate plane
- Transformations
- Use ratio, percent, and probability
- Use estimation: rounding or compatible numbers to solve word problems
- Find radius, diameter, area, and circumference of a circle
- Explain, in words, strategies used to solve problems
- Complete algebraic expressions
- Connect Math to real life experiences

Science

Fifth Grade students will investigate God's creation and understand the processes of scientific inquiry and technological design to investigate questions, conduct experiments, and solve problems.

Students will apply scientific inquiries to:

- Explore and categorize organisms by their energy
- Investigate relationships in the environment
- Analyze action and reaction
- Distinguish the properties of matter
- Use evidence in text to form and refine question, prediction, and hypothesis
- Introduce concepts that explain planetary, interplanetary, and stellar characteristics and cycles
- Explore energy (sound, light, thermal, kinetic, potential, etc.)
- Explore constant, variable, and periodic motion
- Conduct scientific inquiry investigations

- Explore the patterns of change and stability at the microscopic and macroscopic levels of organisms
- Investigate Newton's three laws of motion
- Conduct inquiry lessons in cooperative groups
- Investigate characteristics of living things (basic life processes, trait, classification, kingdoms, cells, and organelles)
- Compile data into charts, labs, tables, and graphs

Social Studies

Fifth Grade students will investigate the geography and the early civilization of our country while becoming aware of how to be a responsible Christian citizen.

Students will investigate:

- Geography terms and atlas skills
- How historians learn about the past
- Primary and secondary sources
- How Native Americans adapted and modified their environment
- European explorers to the Americas
- Northern, middle, and southern colonies
- Events leading up to the Revolutionary War
- Declaration of Independence
- Independence to a New Nation
- The Constitution
- The Three Branches of Government
- The Bill of Rights

Fine Arts Art:

Students will:

- Students will improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, and sculpture.
- Participate in Art class
- Create art based on the style of artist or cultures and be able to discuss similarities with style and personal art supplies
- Reinforce proper care of art mediums, equipment, and personal art supplies
- Learn to work both collaboratively and independently on artwork
- Be introduced into figure drawing and drawing from life
- Develop artwork with a message

Music:

Students will:

- Fifth Graders will learn songs and liturgical music to assist in leading the liturgy at Immanuel Lutheran.
- Sing hymns from the Hymn of the Month curriculum
- Repeat sung rhythms on neutral syllables
- Identify and sing quarter and eighth notes in 6/8 time and half notes in 2/4 and 4/4 time
- Improvise the end of two - bar phrases using learned patterns from 2/4, 4/4, and 6/8 time.
- Learn to play the recorder
- Learn more complex melodies on solfege that incorporate some chromatic language
- Listen to played or sung rhythms and echo them back
- Execute vocal warm - ups
- Learn songs, psalms, and liturgical music to assist in leading the liturgy at ILS
- Perform at regularly scheduled church and chapel services throughout the school year.
- Orchestra (optional at VCS)

Technology

Technology is used in all curricular areas. Students will be comfortable completing assignments and taking assessments on the computer, as needed. Teachers will use the Interactive White Board for classroom instruction and interactive learning.

Students will:

- Develop and master keyboarding skills
- Produce and edit on Microsoft Word
- Be introduced to Google Chrome
- Use different programs to enhance skills
- Understand Internet safety and ethics
- Understand the basics of Internet searching
- I-pad skills
- Introduction to Microsoft office skills

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week.

Curricular Activities

Fifth Graders are able to participate in Cross Country, Co - Ed Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Choir, and our afterschool STEM Program.

Students will:

- Learn body and spatial awareness
- Enhance their social and personal development
- Learn to cooperate, take turns and experience personal success through movement
- Be given substantial opportunities to actively engage in moving and learning sport, dance and fitness skills
- Learn the importance of being physically fit

Field Trips and Service Projects

Students in Fifth Grade will participate in a variety of educational field trips during the school year. Each field trip is designed so that students can easily make connections between the concepts they are learning in the classroom and the hands - on learning opportunities available in the field trip experience.

- Beyond Boundaries
- NWI Symphony
- Merrillville Community Planetarium
- A day-long trip every other year (w/grade 4) to Indianapolis

Homework

Fifth Grade students will be assigned homework, as needed, for practice and reinforcement of skills taught. They will have weekly spelling, reading, other curricular area tests and memorization work. On average, Fifth Grade students can expect 30 - 60 minutes of homework daily.

Parents Can Help By:

- Providing a quiet environment for students to work
- Teaching students to plan for their week and upcoming projects; budget their time
- Providing needed supplies
- Reading the weekly newsletter on paper and on FastDirect and checking completed work
- Enforcing skills learned at school

- Communicating with the teacher, immediately, by phone, email or in person when a concern arises

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Religion

Sixth graders will learn about and grow in their faith through reading Scripture and studying the Lutheran understanding of Christianity. The religion curriculum is integrated throughout the school day.

Students Will:

- Study Luther's Small Catechism
- Study Old Testament history
- Memorize passages in Scripture relating to Catechism instruction
- Recognize and apply the way Christians respond to their faith in daily living
- Help lead School Chapel by sharing the scripture reading at various times in the year

English

Sixth graders will continue to improve their command of the English language in grammar, writing, and speaking.

Students will:

- Review and expand knowledge & use of writing mechanics
- Expand on use of organization in writing
- Assignments in narrative, expository, informative/descriptive writing
- Reinforce the writing process from brainstorming topics to proofreading a final draft
- Introduce research techniques culminating in writing an MLA style research paper with proper source citations
- Refine speaking skills through formal presentations
- Spelling comprehension and mastery continues to be developed through spelling and proofreading activities. Spelling is also emphasized as a separate grade on all 6th grade formal writing assignments.
- Review and expand knowledge of basic grammar

Literature

Students will:

- Sixth graders will strengthen their reading skills through the study of various fiction genres, non - fiction texts, and novels.
- Study short story fiction, poetry, folk literature, drama, and non - fiction essays
- Study two novels using all reading and analysis skills
- Reading comprehension skills such as predicting, making inferences, comparing & contrasting pieces of literature, establishing cause - and -effect, and identifying main idea and supporting details are reviewed and practiced
- Study vocabulary for each genre and novel
- Study of elements of fiction such as theme, setting, plot, characterization, and conflict
- Study of elements of non - fiction such as understanding author's purpose, evaluating fact and opinion, the importance of providing evidence, and organization
- Students read independently and in groups with assigned roles
- Students are encouraged to read their own books through established DEAR time, and reading skills are assessed for their individual reading

Mathematics

Sixth graders will add to their foundation of mathematical skills and expand into more advanced concepts throughout the year.

Students will:

- Review of number theory
- Order of operations
- Exploring algebraic functions
- Evaluate expressions with decimals
- Evaluate expressions with fractions & ratios
- Inequalities
- Data analysis including reading/creating graphs
- Probability
- Percentages
- Geometry concepts
- Perimeter, area, & volume of polygons, circles and polyhedrons
- Integers
- Coordinate planes

Science

Sixth grade science covers a variety of science disciplines. We use Grade 6 Discovery Education techbook series.

Topic of Study will include:

- The scientific method and how to use controlled and manipulated variables.
- The use of models and how they are used in science
- Astronomy and how Earth, Moon, Sun and stars help us measure various types of time (seasons, days, months, and years)
- The Moon and its effects on tides, as well as the cycle of lunar phases
- Solar and Lunar eclipses
- The location of objects in the solar system and how models of the solar system and universe have changed over time
- The life cycle of stars and how and why they give off energy
- Inertia and gravity and their role in motion of the solar system and galaxies
- Different forms of energy and how energy can change from one form to another
- The electromagnetic spectrum and how it can be used as well as the effects it can have
- Types of waves and how they carry energy from one place to another
- The different types of vascular plants and their parts, as well as their usefulness
- Photosynthesis and cellular respiration and how they are necessary for the carbon - dioxide – oxygen cycle
- The different types of biomes on earth and their characteristics
- The different levels of living things in an ecosystem, the biotic and abiotic factors, and their impact on the ecosystem
- How energy and matter moves through an ecosystem
- The nitrogen cycle, oxygen cycle, carbon cycle, and water cycle and why they are important to an ecosystem
- Engineering and design, including research, designing, constructing and testing various bridge structures

The sixth grade does a mini-unit on comets and rockets. The sixth grade also completes a research presentation project on Astronomy.

History

Sixth graders are introduced to a survey the Eastern Hemisphere in the context of its geography, history. This is then used to understand the Eastern

Students will:

- Study common experiences in human history
- Study the development of civilization

- In depth focus on African and Asian history
- Introduction to themes in geography
- Use of map skills
- Christian perspective on history emphasized

Fine Arts

Art:

Sixth graders take a visual art class three days a week for one quarter.

Students will:

- Improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics and printmaking
- Introduction into new techniques with advanced art materials
- Create artwork based on an artistic style from particular time period and be able to reflect how that style affected their artwork.
- Reinforce proper care of art mediums, equipment and personal art supplies
- Learn to work both collaboratively and independently on artwork

Music:

Jubilate Choir (Optional)

The Jubilate Choir is a choral ensemble for 6 - 8th grade students, which gives students the opportunity to further develop their musical and vocal abilities through an exciting range of repertoire from both sacred and secular genres.

Students rehearse twice per week and will regularly participate in performances at Immanuel and in the State ISSMA Contest

Band (Optional):

Students in Band (6th - 8th Grade) dive deep into an appreciation for their instrument through more challenging repertoire and performance opportunities through the VCS.

Technology

A vital part of the education of children is the modeling and teaching of

essential technological skills. It is our responsibility to equip our students to live, learn, and work productively in an increasingly complex and information - rich society. Computers and related technologies will be used to assist student development in curricular areas as well as used to teach technological skills to better prepare students for the future.

Topics of Study will include:

- Responsibility and etiquette for the use of online resources and office 365
- communication tools
- Logging into shared drive for Education and navigating their Microsoft
- Use Microsoft office 365 to submit work online for evaluation
- Use technology to do peer editing and collaborative work on projects
- Use of online tools to create a variety of documents for class work
- Use spreadsheets to do calculations and create graphs.
- Create presentations that include text, images, audio, and video
- Use of online resources to gather information for projects and supplement classroom texts
- Evaluate the reliability of various online resources.
- Use a variety of tools to enhance and expand the core curricular areas.

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week.

Students will:

- Develop personal fitness and skill - related abilities.
- Reinforce understanding and application of fitness concepts and motor skills through a variety of movement forms.
- Learn concepts and skills of individual and team activities.
- Develop personal and social responsibility, self-management skills, and ability to make informed choices.
- Enhance disposition toward leading a physically active lifestyle. Extra-
- Curricular Activities

There are a variety of extra - curricular activities for students to participate in, such as:

- Girls Volleyball
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Track
- Jr. High theater

In sixth grade, the students will participate in multiple field trips as an enriching way to reinforce classroom learning.

In the fall students travel to Albion, Indiana to experience 4 days of Outdoor Education. For over 40 years our sixth graders have used this experience to grow academically, but more importantly, socially and spiritually, in an environment outside of the classroom. Middle school teachers and our youth director lead this beneficial time of growth.

In the Spring students travel to the Challenger Learning Center in Hammond, Indiana to run a simulated space mission called Rendezvous With A Comet. They use the weeks leading up to the mission preparing for the mission in their Math, Science and Language Arts studies.

Homework

Students will have homework in sixth grade. Each student should complete his/her assignment notebook, daily, to keep track of work and tests assigned.

While they may have some time to work in class there will be work they will need to do outside of school. As a general rule an average student may have about 50 - 60 minutes per day. Homework may entail daily work, preparing for tests and quizzes, completing projects, reading, etc.

Parents Can Help By:

- Helping children establish good study habits and find a quiet place to do their homework.
- Parents should encourage independence and responsibility.

Seventh Grade Curriculum

Religion

We will have religion on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Thursday is Chapel. Memory will be due before lunch on Tuesdays. Memory work will be assigned at the beginning of each semester. We will be using our workbook-style religion text as well as discussing important topics relevant to young Christians.

Literature

The 7th Grade Literature curriculum is centered around, but not limited to, our Literature anthology. Our book was published by McDougall Littel. The theme for 7th Grade is coming of age and discovering who they are. We focus our studies around the literary elements appropriate and following the Indiana Standards for 7th Grade. We will also do 3 Novel Studies. We will be reading *The Outsiders*, Friedrich, and another novel that is picked in relation to the strengths of the students. Additionally, the students will be responsible for doing 3 book reports in a specific style. There will be opportunities to study classical literature and lessons on the Literary Elements. Various forms and opportunities for writing will be woven into the framework of our curriculum. Many informal writings will occur, with 3 specific formal writings; Narrative, Argumentative, and Informative. A research study will be done in conjunction with a separate class.

Topics of Study will include:

Study a number of genres including novels, short stories, anthologies, informational text, biographies, autobiographies, fantasy, and science fiction

- The elements of fiction and non-fiction and how to discriminate between the two.
- Identify the main idea, key points and supporting details in a work of literature
- Skills such as skimming, scanning, and close reading to help students read various types of literature
- Reflective and compare-contrast writing following novel units and short stories.
- Reading skills such as inferring, prediction, and compare-contrast
- Vocabulary development from the various forms of literature used throughout the course
- Literary elements such as theme, setting, plot, and characterization are reviewed through novel units and short stories
- Parts of story development like conflict, rising action, climax, resolution
- Reading comprehension skills such as inference, prediction, compare-contrast
- Review and develop reading comprehension skills and strategies (connections, visualizations, organization, sequencing, cause and effect, evaluating evidence, theme, and author's purpose)
- Analyze works of literature and annotate novels
- Presentation skills and public speaking

Grammar

Students will:

Learn prewriting, drafting revising, proofreading, editing, publishing and Grammar students will be studying the parts of speech, as well as Spelling and Vocabulary Skills. Each

week the students will have a Spelling and Vocab test on Spelling City; a website subscribed to by our school. presenting

- Focus on narrative, expository, persuasive, descriptive, and creative writing
- Expand on the research process that was introduced in sixth grade
- Learn how to develop an outline, title page, bibliography, and in-text citations that will adhere to the MLA format
- Review rules of basic grammar and mechanics as used in the English language
- Apply these conventions to written and oral activities
- Review and build upon their grammar knowledge in nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections, basic sentence parts, phrases and clauses, word agreement, punctuation and capitalization
- Writing skills taught in Language Arts will be integrated in other subject areas
- Spelling comprehension and mastery continues to be developed through spelling and proofreading activities. Spelling is also emphasized as a separate grade on all 7 grade formal writing assignments.

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra studies the foundations needed for success in higher-level mathematics. Students review number systems and basic arithmetic skills focusing on integers and real numbers, number theory, order of operations and the application of these skills to algebraic equations, geometry, and the graphing of linear equations. We use Passport to Algebra and Geometry by McDougal-Littell

Topics of study will include:

- Properties of integers and real numbers
- Variables, expressions, and integers
- How to solve, simplify, and manipulate expressions, equations, and functions
- Solving of multi-step algebraic equations and inequalities
- Use of ratios, percentages, statistics and probability to solve problems
- Using factors, fractions, and exponents
- Using percentages, proportions, and ratios to solve problems
- Analyzing data using probability and statistics
- Using and applying geometry concepts, measurement, and spatial thinking

- Writing and graphing equations or inequalities for linear functions using the slope-intercept form
- Factoring of polynomials
- Creating and analyzing a variety of graphs

Science

Seventh grade science covers a variety of science topics. We use Grade 7 Discovery Education techbook series.

Topics of Study will include:

- The different organ systems and how they function and how we can keep each one healthy. They include:
 - The skeletal and muscular system and the skin
 - Food and nutrition and the digestive system
 - The circulatory, respiratory system and excretion
 - How the immune system helps us fight disease
 - The nervous and endocrine system and how they control various aspects of all of the other systems
- Defining what characteristics determine what is a living thing and what the needs of living things are
- Cells and all of the different organelles that make them function
- Development of Cell Theory and the 3 parts that make cell theory
- Cell processes such as photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and forms of cell division
- Genetics and heredity and how traits are passed from one generation of organisms to the next
- Comparing viruses and bacteria and the structures they contain as well as ways to treat or prevent the diseases that can be caused by them
- Physics, including Newton's Laws, Laws of Universal Gravitation and Laws of Conservation
- States of Matter and how various states transfer energy
- Heat Transfer
- Chemistry, including atomic structure, molecules and ions, as well as atomic theory and how its development has changed over time
- The four states of matter and how substances change state
- Geology, such as:
 - Rocks, minerals, fossils and the rock cycle
 - Weathering and erosion, and that various natural factors change the surface of the earth through weathering and erosion

- Plate tectonics, volcanoes, fault boundaries and earthquakes, and how plate tectonics relates to their formation and results
- Architecture and building design
- Biomedical engineering

In seventh grade the students are involved in a creating a project/experiment for the Science Fair.

Fine Arts

Art:

The students have Art class twice a week.

Students will:

- Improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, sculpture, hand built ceramics, and printmaking
- Introduction into enlarging techniques using grid system
- Create artwork based on an artistic style from particular time period and be able to reflect how that style affected their own artwork.
- Reinforce proper care of art mediums, equipment and personal art supplies
- Learn and create artwork based on principle of space (perspective, proportion)
- Improve on artistic composition, and use of proportion in figure drawing and landscape drawing.
- Able to create paintings independently with plan and use of elements of art, color and theory. value theory.

Music:

Jubilate Choir (Optional) The Jubilate Choir is a choral ensemble for 6-8th grade students, which gives students the opportunity to further develop their musical and vocal abilities through an exciting range of repertoire from both sacred and secular genres. Students rehearse twice per week and will regularly participate in performances at Immanuel and in the Indiana ISSMA Contest.

Band (Optional):

Students in Concert Band (6th-8th Grade) dive deep into an appreciation for their instrument through more challenging repertoire and performance opportunities. Ensemble rehearsals are three times per week during the school week through VCS.

Spanish

Students participate in Language Spanish Program five days a week.

Technology

A vital part of the education of children is the modeling and teaching of essential technological skills. It is our responsibility to equip our students to live, learn, and work productively in an increasingly complex and information - rich society. Computers and related technologies will be used to assist student development in curricular areas as well as used to teach technological skills to better prepare students for the future.

Topics of Study will include:

- Responsibility and etiquette for the use of online resources and communication tools
- Logging into shared drive for Education and navigating their Microsoft office 365
- Use Microsoft office 365 to submit work online for evaluation
- Use technology to do peer editing and collaborative work on projects
- Use of online tools to create a variety of documents for class work
- Use spreadsheets to do calculations and create graphs.
- Create presentations that include text, images, audio, and video
- Use of online resources to gather information for projects and supplement classroom texts
- Evaluate the reliability of various online resources.
- Use a variety of tools to enhance and expand the core curricular areas.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a variety of extra-curricular activities for students to participate in, such as:

- Girls Volleyball
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Track
- The Jr. High theater production
-

Field Trips and Service Projects

In Seventh Grade, the students will participate in multiple field trips as an enriching way to reinforce classroom learning.

- Officer Cox will be coming in second semester to lead the G.R.E.A.T. program. 7th graders from Valparaiso have participated in this program for years, and it contains useful information and practical advice for dealing with bullies, peer pressure, etc.

- We will again be traveling to St. Louis for a servant event. We will work with a sister Lutheran school to help them in any way possible and to spend some quality time with their younger students. We will also provide a VBS-style event to Christian Friends of New Americans. We will work at St. Trinity/Extreme Faith to help them with some upkeep to ensure that they can continue to support their neighbors with a food pantry, summer child-care programs, monthly breakfast, and open gym. Never fear, we will also have some fun while we are there!

Physical Education

is provided twice each week. In addition to class.

Students will:

- Develop personal fitness and skill-related abilities.
- Reinforce understanding and application of fitness concepts and motor skills through a variety of movement forms.
- Learn concepts and skills of individual and team activities.
- Develop personal and social responsibility, self-management skills, and ability to make informed choices.
- Enhance disposition toward leading a physically active lifestyle.

Homework

Students will have homework in seventh grade. Each student should complete his/her assignment notebook, daily, to keep track of work and tests assigned. While they may have some time to work in class there will be work they will need to do outside of school. As a general rule an average student may have about 60-70 minutes per day. Homework may entail daily work, preparing for tests and quizzes, completing projects, reading, etc.

Parents Can Help By:

Parents should encourage independence and responsibility in student(s). Parents can help by encouraging them to give their best effort on all of their work. It is also important to give them adequate time and space for studying and doing homework.

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Religion

Religion class is held four days a week and is replaced by our weekly chapel service on Thursdays.

Our Religion Curriculum follows the Concordia Publishing House One In Christ series. Memory is a review of the Lutheran Catechism Chief Parts. In our school, we have the great opportunity to talk about Christ in all aspects of our day.

- The six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism
- Bible passages
- Hymns
- Portions of the liturgy

Literature

The 8th Grade Literature curriculum is centered around, but not limited to, our Literature anthology. Our book was published by McDougall Littell. The theme for 8th Grade is your role in the place where you are and the world at large. We focus our studies around the literary elements appropriate and following the Indiana Standards for 8th Grade. We will also do 3 Novel Studies. We will be reading *Baseball in April*, *My Brother Sam is Dead*, and another novel that is picked in relation to the strengths of the students. Additionally, the students will be responsible for doing 3 book reports in a specific style. There will be opportunities to study classical literature and lessons on the Literary Elements. Various forms and opportunities for writing will be woven into the framework of our curriculum. Many informal writings will occur, with 4 specific formal writings. The first will be a research project on the US Presidents. They also follow the 8th Grade standards by completing narrative, argumentative and informative writings.

Students will:

Learn and use the following reading skills: make predictions, recognize the author's purpose, compare and contrast, make inferences, main idea, fact and opinion, context clues, paraphrasing, draw conclusions, cause and effect, and summarizing.

- Study the following genres: fiction, nonfiction, short stories, poetry, drama, American stories, and informational texts.
- Explore the following themes: Coming of Age, Meeting Challenges, Quest for Freedom, From Sea to Shining Sea, Extraordinary Occurrences, and The Lighter Side.
- Review literary elements
- Study the five parts of a story exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution
- Analyze works of literature and be encouraged to make personal connections

Grammar

Grammar students will be studying the parts of speech, as well as Spelling and Vocabulary Skills. Each week the students will have a Spelling and Vocab test on Spelling City.

Spelling comprehension and mastery continues to be developed through spelling and proofreading activities.

Students will:

- Learn prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, editing, publishing, and presenting of their work
- Focus on narrative, expository, persuasive, descriptive, creative writing, and letter writing
- Continue to expand on the research process that was introduced in sixth grade and added to in seventh grade; use a title page, an outline, in-text citations that adhere to the MLA format, a bibliography
- Review the use of basic grammar and mechanics used in the English language and apply them to written and oral activities
- Review and build upon their grammar knowledge in: nouns, pronouns, verb types - their phrases and tenses, adjectives and adverbs, prepositions and their phrases, conjunctions and interjections, basic sentence parts, phrases and clauses – appositives and verbals, effective sentences, subject and verb agreement, antecedents, comparison of adjectives and adverbs, rules of punctuation and capitalization
- Writing skills taught in Language Arts will be integrated in other subjects

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra students study the foundations needed for success in higher-level mathematics. Students review number systems and basic arithmetic skills focusing on integers and real numbers, number theory, order of operations and the application of these skills to algebraic equations, geometry, and the graphing of linear equations. We use Passport to Algebra and Geometry by McDougal-Littell

Topics of study will include:

- Properties of integers and real numbers
- Variables, expressions, and integers
- How to solve, simplify, and manipulate expressions, equations, and functions
- Solving of multi-step algebraic equations and inequalities
- Use of ratios, percents, statistics and probability to solve problems
- Using factors, fractions, and exponents
- Using percents, proportions, and ratios to solve problems
- Analyzing data using probability and statistics
- Using and applying geometry concepts, measurement, and spatial thinking

- Writing and graphing equations or inequalities for linear functions using the slope-intercept form
- Factoring of polynomials
- Creating and analyzing a variety of graphs

Algebra One (Advanced Math)

Algebra One students study the foundations of the higher levels of mathematics. Students will review number systems and basic arithmetic skills focusing on integers and real numbers, the order of operation, and then move to working on equation solving and graphing for linear, quadratic and simple exponential functions. This course of study will lay the foundation for the higher levels of math like geometry, algebra 2, trigonometry, and pre-calculus. We use the Algebra 1 textbook by McDougal Littell

Topics of study will include:

- How to simplify, solve, and manipulate, expressions, equations and functions
- Properties of integers and real numbers
- Write an equation or inequality for a linear function given limited information and graph them
- Write an equation or inequality for linear function in point-slope form, slope-intercept form, and standard form
- Solving, writing, and graphing of linear, exponential, and quadratic equations and inequalities
- Solve systems of equations and inequalities with two variables using a variety of techniques
- Perform operations with polynomials
- Factor polynomial expressions and solve polynomial equations and inequalities using a variety of methods
- Perform operations and solve complex rational expressions and equations
- Use ratios, percents, statistics and probability to solve problems
- Simplify and solve radical expressions and equations
- Use properties of exponents to simplify expressions and solve equations

American History

Students will study and evaluate the history of their country through:

Primary source readings

Our History curriculum is very diverse. Along with the study of early civilization through Civil War and Reconstruction, our standards require the study of American Government, Civics and Economics, and Geography. With the opportunity to visit our Nation's Capitol in

the spring, we also add in the study of Washington DC and the sacrifices our citizens have given in service of their country.

- Simulations of events & concepts in American history
- Use of map reading skills
- Document based short answer and essay writing
- Emphasis on the Christian perspective of American history
- Current events highlighted as appropriate

Science

Eighth grade science covers physical science for the beginning of the year and then moves into ecological and biological science toward the end of the year. We use Grade 8 Discovery Education techbook series.

Topics of study will include:

- Lab and safety procedures for science and working with chemicals
- The scientific method and variables
- Using the tools of science to measure a variety of characteristics and properties of matter
- The difference between chemical and physical properties and the characteristics of each
- Exploring characteristic properties of matter like density, boiling point, and freezing point to help identify substances
- Measuring mass, volume, temperature and density
- Describe and measure matter in a variety of forms (solid, liquid, and gas)
- The development of the periodic table and the atomic model and how both have changed from its origins
- The structure and organization of the periodic table (metal, non-metal, groups, families, etc.)
- Atomic structure and how it influences chemical reactions and bonds.
- Balancing chemical equations and introducing different types of chemical reactions
- The use of elements, compounds, and alloys for application in real life
- The atomic structures and characteristics of various materials

- Environmental Science
- The study of populations, communities and ecosystems and how they are interdependent
- How energy and matter flow through an ecosystem
- The nitrogen cycle, oxygen cycle, carbon cycle, and water cycle and why they are important to an ecosystem
- Aquatic biomes and ecosystems
- Environmental issues and their impact of ecosystems and biomes
- The differences between renewable and non - renewable resources and how they can be conserved
- The difference between climate and weather and the types of weather.
- The water cycle and energy transfer through the atmosphere
- The classification of living things and the levels of classification, including binomial nomenclature
- Forms of sexual and asexual reproduction as well as mitosis and meiosis
- Organisms adaptations to their environments
- Genetics and heredity and how traits are passed from one generation of organisms to the next
- Agricultural engineering

The eighth grade students are involved in a creating a project/experiment for the Science Fair.

Fine Arts

Art:

Art class 3 periods per week for one quarter

- Demonstrate personal skills in creating original art through detailed drawings, painting, sculpture , hand built ceramics , and printmaking
- Create artwork based on portrait as a theme
- Create artwork based on an artistic style from particular time period, culture and be able to demonstrate global awareness through the artwork
- Reinforce proper care of art mediums, equipment and personal art supplies

- Create artwork based on 2 or 3 point perspective.
- Continue skills on pottery wheel . Students will demonstrate centering and creating a cylinder independently and alter that form to create a functional
- Improve on artistic composition , and creating art with a message or art that serves the community at large.

Music:

Jubilate Choir (Optional)

The Jubilate Choir is a choral ensemble for 6-8th grade students, which gives students the opportunity to further develop their musical and vocal abilities through an exciting range of repertoire from both sacred and secular genres. Students rehearse twice per week and will regularly participate in performances at Immanuel and in the State ISSMA Contest.

Concert Band (Optional):

Students in Concert Band (6th-8th Grade) dive deep into an appreciation for their instrument through more challenging repertoire and performance opportunities. Band students receive technique classes at the VCS.

Spanish

Students participate in Language Stars Spanish Program five days a week.

Technology

A vital part of the education of children is the modeling and teaching of essential technological skills. It is our responsibility to equip our students to live, learn, and work productively in an increasingly complex and information - rich society. Computers and related technologies will be used to assist student development in curricular areas as well as used to teach technological skills to better prepare students for the future.

Topics of Study will include:

- Responsibility and etiquette for the use of online resources and communication tools
- Logging into shared drive for Education and navigating their Microsoft office 365
- Use Microsoft office 365 to submit work online for evaluation
- Use technology to do peer editing and collaborative work on projects
- Use of online tools to create a variety of documents for class work
- Use spreadsheets to do calculations and create graphs.
- Create presentations that include text, images, audio, and video
- Use of online resources to gather information for projects and supplement classroom texts
- Evaluate the reliability of various online resources.
- Use a variety of tools to enhance and expand the core curricular areas.

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week. In addition to class, students will participate in

Students will:

- Develop personal fitness and skill-related abilities.
- Reinforce understanding and application of fitness concepts and motor skills through a variety of movement forms.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a variety of extra-curricular activities for students to participate in, such as:

- Boys and Girls Volleyball
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Track
- The Jr. High theater production

Field Trips and Service Projects

In Eighth Grade, the students will participate in multiple field trips as an enriching way to reinforce classroom learning.

- In the Fall the class will also attend a speaker on the Holocaust
- Washington DC trip
- Shrine of Jesus Passion in St. John Indiana
- Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City with Kindergarten Buddies

Homework:

Is anywhere from 60 to 90 minutes per night.

Parents Can Help By:

Parents should encourage independence and responsibility in student(s). Parents can help by encouraging them to give their best effort on all of their work. It is also important to give them adequate time and space for studying and doing homework.