

Faith Lutheran School Curriculum Program *8th Grade*

Religion: Basal Textbook: *Voyage's*- Concordia Publishing House

This course points the biblical compass on New Testament lessons, focusing on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. These interactive lessons prepare eighth-graders for the next phase in their lives, and beyond.

Literature: Basal Textbook: *The Language of Literature*- McDougal-Little

The students read and analyze well-known fiction and non-fiction short stories, plays, essays, poetry, and novels. They study each author's background and literary techniques. Vocabulary enrichment, as well as, various types of written critical analysis is done for each piece of literature covered.

Language Arts-Spelling/Vocabulary: Basal Textbooks: *The Writer's Craft*- McDougal-Little; *Vocabulary Workshop*- Sadlier-Oxford; *Daily Oral Language*- Great Source Ed. Group

Students continue to develop skills in grammar, parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation, phrases, and clauses. They develop composition skills from paragraph to essay to short story writing. In spelling/vocabulary we do various vocabulary and writing activities on 20 new words. There are challenging exercises involving shades of meaning, definitions, synonyms, antonyms, analogies, sentence completion, and word families.

Math: Basal Textbook: *Algebra ½* & *Algebra 1*- Saxon Publishers

Algebra ½ covers all topics normally covered in pre-algebra, as well as, additional topics from geometry. Students will be working on the following concepts: fractions, decimals, mixed numbers, signed numbers, numbers in base 2, percent, proportions, ratios, divisibility, rounding, unit conversions, scientific notation and word problems. Students are also introduced to rudimentary algebra topics such as evaluation of algebraic expressions, and the solution of linear equations in one unknown. Geometric concepts covered include perimeter, area, surface area, volume, classification of geometric figures and solids, geometric constructions, and symmetry.

Algebra 1 covers topics typically treated in a first-year algebra course. Specific topics include arithmetic and evaluation of expressions involving signed numbers, exponents and roots, properties of real numbers, absolute value, equations and inequities involving absolute value, scientific notation, unit conversions, solutions of equations in one unknown, solution of simultaneous equations, the algebra of polynomials and rational expressions, word problems requiring algebra for the solution, graphics, Pythagorean theorem, algebraic proofs, functional notation, quadratic equations by factoring and completing the square, and all basic geometric operations of area and volume.

Science: (2 yr rotating cycle grades 7-8) Basal Textbook: *Exploring Life Science-Exploring Physical Science*- Prentice Hall

Life Science- The objective is to give the student a general survey of life science, and develop an understanding for, and appreciation of, the scientific method of problem solving.

Through lecture, discussions, reading, questioning, and labs we cover areas of the characteristics of living things including monerans, protists, fungi, plants, animals, and human biology. The labs provide hands on experience of important concepts discussed in class. Proper lab procedures are stressed and practiced. Each year the students complete a minimum of one science demonstration- a practical exercise researching, reporting on, and demonstrating a common scientific principle.

Physical Science- The objective is to give the student a general survey of physical science, and develop an understanding for, and appreciation of, the scientific method of problem solving. Through lecture, discussions, questioning, and labs we cover areas including matter, motion, forces and energy, heat energy, electricity, magnetism, sound, and light. The labs provide hands on experience of important concepts discussed in class. Proper lab procedures are stressed and practiced. Each year the students complete a minimum of one science demonstration- a practical exercise researching, reporting on, and demonstrating a common scientific principle.

Social Studies: Basal Textbooks: *A More Perfect Union-* Houghton/Mifflin

Our goal is to have students explore major historical events and see how they relate to their life today. The year is spent on United States History picking up from the pre-Revolutionary War times through the post Civil War period. The focus is on important people and events. In addition we have a weekly program of current events with a DVD, activities, and quizzes.

Computer:

They learn to work with word processing, database, spreadsheet, and desktop publishing programs. Proper use of the internet is emphasized.

Art: “Arts Attack”- Art Training for Teachers and Creative Kids

A complete video based developmental and sequential art program based on the teaching of art principals. Various media are used including watercolors, crayons, tempera, markers, finger-paint, and pastels. Art history is also a component of this program.

Music:

Students have the opportunity to participate in Honor Choir and Bell Choir. Review theory concepts and reinforce them.

Physical Education:

The physical education class begins with a variety of calisthenics, stretching exercises, followed by, running two laps and jumping rope for 5 minutes followed by running a lap while jumping rope. Improving competitive team sport skills are included for volleyball, softball, soccer, kickball, dodge ball, four square and basketball. Nuances in technique are addressed for each sport. Remedial action is covered for those requiring help for a particular skill. Leadership is taught through the students resolving their own disputes. Grading is based on C for no participation or poor sportsmanship, B is for limited participation or occasional poor sportsmanship, A is for excellent participation and good sportsmanship.

