

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

TINLEY PARK, IL

CURRICULUM GUIDE



Trinity Lutheran School exists to challenge and enable young people to grow in both Christian Spirit and academic wisdom, and to prepare them to be witnesses in God's Kingdom.



The curriculum of any school must be a living document that can be altered and adapted to fit the needs of the learners. Discussion and evaluation of the curriculum must be a continuing activity by the faculty and administration.

In developing a curriculum many educational principles must be taken into consideration. It is the belief of the teaching ministers of Trinity Lutheran School and the administration that certain concepts, attitudes, appreciations, knowledge, understandings, and skills are essential for academic success. For this reason, specific objectives (outcomes) have been identified and developed for each subject area. Recently a number of the objectives have been revised, and in some cases, additional outcomes have been added.

Each year an area of Trinity's curriculum is evaluated as new text books are adopted. Often areas are re-written to coordinate with many of the standards set forth by the State of Illinois while still centering on the outcomes as developed by Trinity's faculty.

The following pages are a brief summary of Trinity's curriculum. It is by no means exhaustive, rather a snapshot of what children learn and do within the Christian education program at Trinity Lutheran School.



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To Him be glory now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18



KINDERGARTEN



The program in Kindergarten seeks to provide age-appropriate experiences that fully develop a student's God-given potential in an atmosphere that promotes spiritual growth and a positive self-concept. The schedule features daily routines with structured large-group lessons. Small-group learning and free-choice activities provide for the development of students' social interactions and promote cooperation. Students learn standard-based concepts and do skill-based activities using fun and creative themes. While planned activities cover all of the core curriculum areas, the students' faith life, pre-reading/reading skills and a solid math foundation are the most prominent.



Religion - The curriculum on this level emphasizes Jesus' love for each student. This focus incorporates God's love for us as shown in His plan for our salvation. Bible stories are enhanced through chapel worship, songs, puppets, books, and finger plays.

Reading/Language Arts - This program is a print-rich, activity-based curriculum that nurtures phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension. A variety of literature is utilized that enhances our program. Take-home books and handwriting are also practiced.



Mathematics - On this level the math curriculum helps students to develop proficiency in conceptual understanding and problem solving skills. Hands-on manipulatives and learning games enhance the concepts of numeration (counting), sorting, graphing, patterns, numbers, money, time, measurement, and addition and subtraction concepts.

Social Studies - Students understand that God created the world and they learn study and social skills they'll need throughout their lives. Families, neighborhoods, communities, and our country are all presented.

Computer - Students reinforce basic math and reading skills using a variety of educational software such as Jump Start Kindergarten and Kid Pix. Students practice mouse control and begin using the keyboard with Paint and Word.



Art, Music, P.E. - These areas of learning promote the child's awareness of cultural and aesthetic value in the fine arts as well as development of fine and gross motor skills. Children participate in a bi-annual operetta.

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9:37



First Grade



Religion - Each student receives nine activity books throughout the school year. Basic Bible stories, both Old and New Testament, are taught within the context of these books and the concepts applied to the lives of first graders. In addition, weekly memory work is given and the curriculum is supplemented with videos.

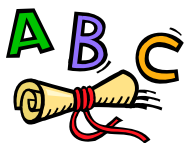
Reading - Five different basals attack basic phonic skills such as long and short vowel patterns, blends, contractions and compound words. Other components of the series include building a sight vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skills using leveled mini books and various learning centers related to each story.



Phonics - In addition to the phonics skills covered in the reading curriculum, a supplemental workbook is used to reinforce consonant sounds, long and short vowels, digraphs, blends, and contractions.

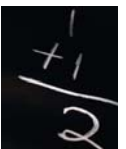
English - Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and sentence structure are some of the areas covered. Creative writing is also a regular area of practice for these young learners.

Handwriting - The D'Nealian philosophy of handwriting includes respect for individuality. The program includes letters in groups that are formed by similar writing strokes. First graders learn the basic manuscript letter formations for lower case and capital letters, along with the numerals.



Spelling - The spelling series guides students to recognize spelling patterns and reliable spelling strategies to assist them with familiar and unfamiliar words. There are basic words and special words for writing.

Mathematics - Math on this level stresses computational skills of addition, subtraction and memorization of basic facts. Money, time, fractions, geometry, measurement, and place value are also addressed. Hands on skills and games, making patterns, reading graphs, and interpreting data complete this area of study.



Science & Social Studies- Activities from National Geographic, videos, and many hands-on experiments and demonstrations teach the student about the world around us, and bring science concepts to life. First graders explore landforms, map skills, neighborhoods, different cultures, government, history, graphs and charts as they learn about their world.



Choir - First graders participate in Cherub Choir and have several opportunities during the year to sing during the worship service. Cherub Choir participates in a bi-annual operetta.

Art and Music - Special times for singing and art are planned each week.

Computer - Students reinforce basic math and reading skills using a variety of educational software. Students practice mouse control and begin using the keyboard.



SECOND GRADE



The primary goal of second grade is to develop in our students a higher level of independence as learners. More emphasis is put on personal responsibility for remembering to complete work and use time in the classroom wisely. As is the case in every classroom, independent reading and higher level writing skills are the foundations on which growth is built.

Religion - God and His grace are reinforced through Bible stories about people who overcome obstacles. Miracles of Jesus provide testimony from those who witnessed for Jesus. Weekly memory verses reinforce God's Word.



Reading - Working through a sequential program of skill mastery results in the students becoming competent and independent readers. The children learn through both cognitive and kinesthetic experiences while writing and retelling student developed stories.



Phonics - Students work through decoding processes which provide clues, that supported by context, lead them to word recognition. Rhyming, synonyms, antonyms, blends, contractions, prefixes, and suffixes are some of the areas introduced.

English - Concentration on writing complete sentences using correct capitalization and punctuation is the focus. Nouns, verbs, and adjectives are used to build sentence structure. Writing units: on personal narrative, descriptive writing, explanatory writing, comparative writing and expository writing.



Mathematics - Second graders become proficient in addition and subtraction facts, regrouping, working with fractions, and are introduced to money, time, geometry and graphs.

Social/Studies - The focus is on people in their communities and neighborhoods. We learn about the major landforms and continents, government, people, places and holidays. Second graders discover their past studying Native Americans, pioneers and explorers.



Science - In life science we study plants, animals, and fossils. In physical science the students learn about matter, sound, heat and light, force, electricity and magnets. Earth science includes the study of the earth, weather, seasons, and the solar system. The students in second grade also learn about the human body.

Spelling / Handwriting - After review of manuscript letters the first half of the year, students are introduced to cursive handwriting for the remainder of the year. Weekly lessons and tests help students learn specific spelling rules and related writing skills.



Art - Seasonal and thematic artwork using a different variety of mediums is accomplished on a weekly basis

Computer - Students reinforce basic math and reading skills using a variety of educational software. Students practice mouse control and begin using the keyboard. Various Internet sites are used in correlation with the second grade reading program

And Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3



THIRD GRADE



Third grade students continue to grow into more independent learners. A high emphasis is placed on developing a sense of responsibility for both themselves and the academic expectations of the teacher. Organizational skills are taught and reinforced regularly. Sensitivity to the feelings and needs of others in the classroom is fostered with the expectation of appropriate behavior as a result.



Religion - The students will understand that the Bible is God's inspired word. They are exposed to the key concepts of the Lutheran Christian Faith and develop a growing appreciation for God in His creating, saving, and sanctifying work through these concepts.

Reading/Language Arts - Encountering a variety of literature, focus is placed on reading comprehension, decoding, and vocabulary skills. Students will write utilizing the five-step process while integrating proper grammar, usage, and mechanics.

Handwriting / Spelling - Third graders continuing in learning to write the upper and lower case letters of the manuscript and cursive D'Nealian alphabet. Weekly lessons and tests help students learn specific spelling rules and related writing skills.



Mathematics - Math concepts are developed through skills such as problem solving, use of basic operations, and identifying patterns.

Social Studies - Students will understand that God created the world and it is their responsibility to care for it using natural resources to God's glory. Skills include map reading, use of a globe and other geographical skills. They will recognize communities are places where people live, work and cooperate with each other to accomplish tasks and goals.



Science - The students are exposed to concepts relating to Life, Physical, and Earth sciences, as well as the human body. Third graders will understand that God is the creator and ruler of the universe.

Art - The student will broaden skills by experimenting with a variety of art media on a weekly basis.

Music - Music education continues to have a high place in the weekly life of the students through classroom and choir activity. Third graders are part of the Cherub Choir which meets on a weekly basis during the school day. The students are also introduced to song flutes as part of their music curriculum. Trinity's Minister of Music instructs the third graders in music. Participation in a bi-annual operetta is part of the choir program.



"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

Matthew 5:8



FOURTH GRADE



Fourth grade is a major step for students to become independent learners. Much of the teacher directed activity is gradually replaced by more student initiated and directed work. Building on the third grade introductions to organization and self-discipline, this grade takes students to the next level of responsibility.



Religion - Students use the Bible as the primary source in learning God's plan for salvation. Comprehensive Bible study includes stories from Old and New Testaments. Memory Work is an integral part of the class.

Reading - The reading curriculum includes phonics review, introduction of relevant vocabulary, instruction in comprehension and study skills, and opportunities for oral reading. Supplementary materials accommodate the individual abilities and needs of students.



English - Includes the study of sentence structure and parts of speech. Writing Activities includes narratives, letters, stories, descriptive writing, comparison and persuasive writing, along with written and oral reports.

Spelling, Handwriting - Weekly lessons and tests help students learn specific spelling rules and related writing skills. Handwriting practice aims to improve cursive legibility.



Mathematics - A multitude of hands-on games are used to help prepare students to be life long math thinkers. Logic and problem solving are the backbone of the coursework. Geometry, data organization, numeration, measuring, and algebra are studied along with mastery of the four basic groups of math facts.

Social Studies - Fourth grade develops geography skills with maps, graphs and thinking and study skills. The cultural, historical, and geographical features of all the regions of the United States are studied.



Science - Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science are the areas of concentration. Related experiments and projects are a big part of the program.



Music - Students in grade four are required to enroll in one of two course offerings; CHOIR is a performance-oriented class focusing on music for worship services at Trinity; MUSIC THEORY AND APPRECIATION CLASS is a general music education class. Both classes meet during the school day. Fourth graders in CHOIR participate in the bi-annual operetta.

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."

Matthew 5: 13a & 14a

FIFTH GRADE

The primary focus of fifth grade is to strengthen all content areas to prepare the student for the junior high experience. Math and language arts are stressed as important building blocks to middle school. Integration of the subject areas is common to increase the student's understanding of the world around them as a whole. Hands-on activities are used daily and wherever possible, while worksheets and readings are used to practice, master, and connect different educational skills. A hidden curriculum of moral education in personal responsibility, group building, life skills, and study skills are taught through daily discussions and class meetings. Students are encouraged to take an active role in their education to increase motivation for learning and individual understanding of the subject areas. Daily connections are found across the curriculum to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and his amazing creation. One week of the school year is spent at Walcamp, a Lutheran camp in Kingston, IL. This week is spent in outdoor education, Bible study, and team building.

Religion - Old Testament history and Reformation are the focus of study at this level. Lessons are taught in a life -applicable way. The emphasis is on the Scripture itself with a workbook to guide application.



Reading - Students focus on building reading strategies, vocabulary, and comprehension through 3 multi-cultural novels and many stories found in our reading series. Leveled Readers are used to challenge students at their level and above. Phonics is developed and assessed throughout the year. Students can be challenged in the 6th grade reading level if signs of a level change are noticed. Yearly evaluations support these level changes.



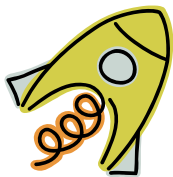
English - Grammar, parts of speech, and creative writing are integrated to enhance the students' whole understanding of our written and spoken language. Students are challenged to express themselves in a variety of creative writing assignments. Writing business letters, organizing speeches, and formatting written work is also reinforced. Neatness and pride is expected in the handwriting and orderliness of all work. Students often self-evaluate to gain personal understanding of their own writing style.



Mathematics - The fundamentals in place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, fractions, and graph skills are seen as the foundation to this year in mathematics. Students are challenged to build skills in problem solving, while working on strengthening and building skills and understanding of fractions, decimals, percents, geometry, and algebraic concepts. Students are challenged to relate the concepts throughout the year.



Social Studies - After time is spent understanding and personalizing the world before the American Revolution, the curriculum mostly focuses on United States history, map skills, and cultural diversity. Geography and time lines are integrated throughout each lesson.



Science - Students use experimentally based education opportunities to understand and visualize scientific concepts. Time is spent in each area of the science curriculum. The scientific method is stressed through demonstrations and labs. Units of study cover life science in the areas of cells, classification of the 5 kingdoms, heredity, and ecology. Physical science is experienced in the areas of chemistry concepts, the laws of physics, light, sound, and energy. Earth science covers the concepts of our earth and its resources, climate, and astronomy.

Trust In Him

Health - A biweekly class that stresses the many areas of a healthy human being. Through reading, discussion, demonstration, and simulations students develop skills in decision-making, life applications, and effectively understanding the areas of mental, social, physical, and spiritual health.



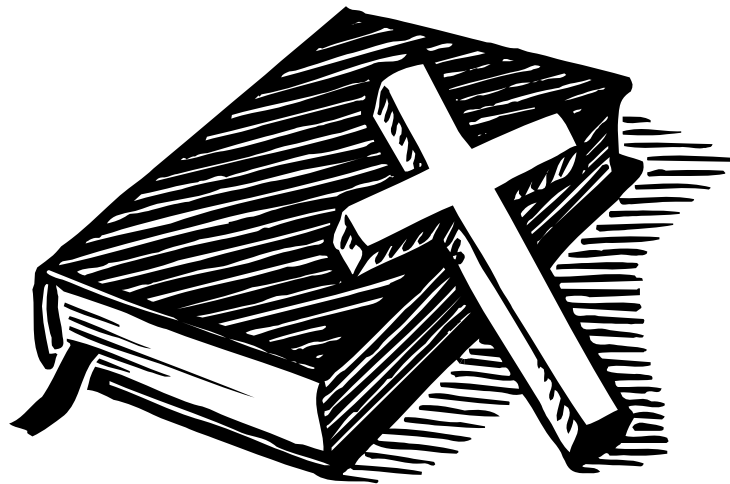
Art - There are two pieces to art instruction. Through monthly experiences with Art in the classroom, students learn about specific pieces of work and art concepts from volunteers. Students also receive art instruction bi-weekly in their classroom. Expression of oneself is encouraged through a variety of art projects.

Music, Choir, Band - Students in grade 5 are required to enroll in one of two course offerings. Choir is a performance-oriented class focusing on music in worship services at Trinity. Music Theory and Appreciation Class is a general music education class. Both classes meet during the school day. Band is contracted through Music Education Service and is available for a monthly cost to the parent(s)



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To Him be glory now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18





Middle School Grades 6, 7, & 8



The students attending Trinity Lutheran School do so first and foremost to experience a Christian atmosphere and to receive a Christian education, based on God's Word. As part of their curriculum, they learn about God's word and how God's people live in His world. Learning is an important aspect for the young Christian, and motivation to learn must come from both the home and school. Trinity provides students with an introduction to the experiences of high school such as changing classes, multiple teachers, and high levels of personal responsibility for organizing and completing work.



- **Religion** - *6th Grade* is a preparatory study for confirmation. The Sacraments are covered in detail. *7th Graders* are instructed in Luther's small catechism. *8th Grade* is the study of the New Testament history.



- **Reading, Literature** - Grades 6 - 8 are based on a Basal Reading Literature text. An Advanced Literature class is offered covering classic novels for qualified students in grades 7 and 8. Christian applications of the novel's themes are also covered. Students read such novels as: *To Kill a Mockingbird, The Giver, The Pearl, etc.*



- **English/Writing/Spelling** - The scope and sequence of the English /writing/spelling program covers the six traits of good writing, grammar study, spelling, and vocabulary. *8th graders* are required to complete a 12-step research paper.
- **Mathematics** - *6th Grade* students focus on problem solving using several techniques. Decimals, fractions, measurement and geometry are key topics covered. An introductory algebraic form is

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also covered. In *7th Grade* students are divided into two sections: Pre-algebra or Traditional Math. Students learn how to solve algebraic equations and inequalities, use of graphs, ratios, fractions, geometry and measurement are covered. Projects are used in both class settings to show understanding of key concepts. *8th Graders* are enrolled in either Algebra I or Pre-Algebra. Students solve and graph linear equations and inequalities, and use Pythagorean Theorem and trigonometric functions. Problem solving is focused on in both class settings.



- **Science**- Our science program presents Earth Science in *6th Grade*, Life Science in *Grade 7*, and Physical Science in *8th Grade*. Hands-on activities, experiments and/or demonstrations are used to enhance the curriculum and foster curiosity and understanding. The scientific method is taught in all areas and topics and is used in conjunction with Trinity's bi-annual science fair.

Trust In Him

- **Social Studies, Geography, US History-** 6th Grade Social Studies focuses on the cultures, history and geography of nations of the world. 7th Grade is the beginning of a two year experience with American History, beginning with Native Americans through Reconstruction. 8th Grade students continue with the study of American History from Reconstruction into the 20th century. 8th graders are required to take and pass the U.S. and Illinois Constitution Tests. Bi-annually a school-wide social studies fair is held.



- **Health** - Through the middle school years students learn about handling stress, family life, physical fitness, nutrition, controlling disease, drug use prevention, safety and first aid, and community health topics. 6th Grade is also involved in a 3-month DARE program.

- **Music/Choir** - Students in grades 6 through 8 are required to enroll in one of two course offerings: CHOIR is a performance-oriented class focusing on music for worship services at Trinity; MUSIC THEORY AND MUSIC APPRECIATION CLASS is a general junior high music education class. Both classes meet during the school day.



- **Art** - Our art program is a project-based instruction completed in the homeroom class setting. Students use a variety of medium implementing seven elements of art.



- **Computer** - The computer classes in grades 6- 8 are project oriented. Each project deals with one or more phases or parts of the overall curriculum. Students will complete 2 - 3 projects per quarter, with additional time allotted to enhance their keyboarding skills. Some projects are in collaboration with other classes, i.e. health and social studies. Curricular areas include word processing, Internet search engine evaluation, Publisher, E-mail communications, brochures, spreadsheet development, databases, graphic manipulations, and PowerPoint. Students are also responsible to learn vocabulary terms that correspond with the curricular phase being studied.



Students in the middle school are provided with many opportunities to be Christian examples to the younger students at Trinity. Activities include:

- Chapel Buddies
- Prayer Partners
- Reading Buddies

Students, through their homeroom classes, are also involved in leading at least one chapel service during the school year.

As a way of recognizing outstanding academic achievement for grades 6-8, Trinity has four "Honor Rolls" in which students may be a part. The four "Honor Rolls" are: Principal's List, High Honors, Honors, and Extra-Ordinary Effort.

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind ... And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22: 37 & 39



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



4 Year-old Pre-Kindergarten through Third Grade

The focus at this level begins with movement skills and the understanding of concepts that are needed to engage in healthy physical activity. There is also an emphasis on teamwork which is accomplished through team games to promote working together.

Fourth and Fifth Grade



At this level, the students begin to advance the motor skills they have learned and start to develop a better understanding of the activities they can use to continue in a healthy lifestyle. There is a record of individual physical fitness achievements in order to help the student improve and set goals. There is additional emphasis on teamwork which again is accomplished through team games and activities.

Sixth through Eighth Grade

The focus is on team games that introduce students to different sports and life-long activities. The Presidential Fitness Test is administered to reward and identify those students who are physically fit. There is a record of individual physical fitness achievements in order to help the student improve and set goals.

