

# Grade 7 Curriculum

## RELIGION

The religion curriculum is based on the Concordia Publishing House textbook titled *Voyages: Exploring God's Word*. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade class, taught by Mr. Matt Springer, uses Old Testament history as it unfolds God's plan of salvation, emphasizes God's unending faithfulness toward His people, and focuses on the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word to fortify His people for the challenges of living and sharing their faith in an adversarial world. Memory work is included to teach Bible verses that coincide with weekly lessons and tie to the faith walk of every Christian student.



## LANGUAGE ARTS

### English

The English curriculum for junior high, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, is a study of grammar, usage, mechanics and sentences. The course work begins from the text book published by Holt which includes language and sentence skills practice. The curriculum continues with the seven traits of good writing with project based activities that include; Writing in the Real World, Descriptive Writing, Procedural Writing, Compare and Contrast Writing, Narrative Writing, Writing an Autobiography and Writing a Book. The seven good writing traits are: *Sentence Fluency, Ideas, Presentation, Word Choice, Voice, Conventions, and Organization.*

### Literature

The students in grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> read a variety of novels, from a variety of reading genres. The novels are chosen based on interest level, themes that can connect to the

world around us, and to the students' lives, and teachability. The students respond to the literature through a variety of methods including questioning, whole and small group discussions and journal responses. At the end of every novel, the students have a responding activity in which they are given a creative task that they must think critically and deeply about the novel. The students also have reading mini lessons that focus on a variety of skills including: story elements, figurative language, literary techniques, poetic language and reading skills. The mini lessons are then tied into the novel that the students are reading. Five book reports are given a year in which the students choose (with some guidelines) their own novel and type a book report that focuses on the story elements of the novel, theme, importance and author. The book reports are also taught and presented in a way that enhances writing skills

such as good introductions, conclusions, paragraphing, mechanics and style. The students and I also D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) twice a week. Most importantly, my literature classrooms are filled with discussions about all of the books we are reading both inside and outside of the classroom, a good adult role model that reads and is seen reading the books the students are reading, and a classroom filled with students who *want* to read.

### Spelling

Themed units help students improve on spelling by reinforcing reading strategies, correct grammar, mechanics, and word usage. Challenge words introduce vocabulary from a wide variety of subjects. Students demonstrate their skills through weekly workbook practice and spelling tests.

## ART

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The seventh grade art instruction exposes students to a wide variety of art media and techniques. Students are encouraged to explore their creativity and artistic ability through painting, collage, drawing, sculpture, and design.

## COMPUTER

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Seventh graders use the laptop computers in the classroom for research of content related to classroom studies as well as preparation and presentation of reports for history and literature. Cross curricular projects are enhanced through the use of technology in the classroom on a regular basis.



## HEALTH

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The curriculum for health is based on *Health and Wellness* by Macmillan / McGraw-Hill. Lessons are presented with age-appropriate content readers as well as integrating supplemental material. Seventh and eighth grade students in divided classes of boys and girls study the body systems and how they interact and interrelate. The importance of personal and family health is emphasized throughout the year.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

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The Social Studies curriculum for junior high students is a study of United States history. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade History covers American colonization through the Civil War. Also covered in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade is an intense 3-4 week study of the U.S. Constitution. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade History covers Reconstruction (post Civil War) through the Reagan administration. 8<sup>th</sup> graders spend roughly 1 week studying the Missouri Constitution each year.



7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Miss Katie Luepke - Favorite Bible Verse: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path. Proverbs 3:5.* My Greatest Joy in working in Christian School: *I enjoy sharing my faith and being a witness of God's love to my students.* I love W.O.L. because...*Word of Life feels like a big family. Even though we are divided amongst 3 locations, we are united in Christ. You can feel the togetherness of the faculty, staff, and students as soon as you walk into the building.* Significant Life Experiences that have led me to W.O.L.: *I come from a family of Lutheran school teachers. My grandfather and father were both great influences on me, as my grandfather was the principal at Salem, Affton, and my father teaches at Holy Cross Lutheran in Ft. Wayne, IN. I graduated from Concordia University, River Forest in 2005 with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a concentration in Art.* Other Activities I am involved with at W.O.L.: *Coaching A1 Girls' Volleyball and Track. I am also currently working on my Masters in Communications and Media Literacy at Webster University.*

**OUR MISSION:** *Word of Life Lutheran School is committed to providing a high quality educational program in an environment where Christ prevails, where a child's human and spiritual needs are met, and where love, dignity and professional accountability are valued promoted and implemented.*