

# Grade 8 Curriculum

## RELIGION

The religion curriculum used in 8<sup>th</sup> grade is published by Concordia Publishing House and thoroughly examines the New Testament. Much of the content focuses on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ with special emphasis given to His death and Resurrection. Also covered are the early Christian church and the Epistles. Within the contexts of the lessons, students are taught key concepts of faith such as Law and Gospel, fruit of the Spirit, confession, repentance, forgiveness, and grace. Through a planned memory program, students learn selected Scripture verses and portions of foundational Lutheran doctrine. Pastors from the three association churches teach the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Religion class twice each week.



## 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 and 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 eighth 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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Eighth 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. 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.



Scott Rowsell – I am beginning my 9th year of teaching, all of which have been at Word of Life. Prior to teaching, I worked as a pension valuation analyst and as a magazine circulation auditor. In addition to my teaching certification in Mathematics, I have a B.A. in Economics and a Lutheran Teaching Diploma. I also serve as the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball coach.

*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.*