

# **CURRICULUM GUIDE**

*Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

***St. Paul Lutheran School***



*“Where Education and the Love of Christ Come Together”*

Dear Parent,

This curriculum guide of St. Paul Lutheran School is designed to help understand the flow of curriculum from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Curriculum is the course or plan of study in a school. It is intended that a child attending St. Paul will learn many things over the years of enrollment. Each of the subjects taught will introduce new topics and ideas, review and build on past teachings, and prepare students for future topics to be covered in advanced grade levels. The goal of the curriculum on the elementary and middle school levels is to build a broad and solid foundation of knowledge in core curriculum subjects. As the faculty prepares educational goals, selects textbooks, and utilizes web-based materials, it is always necessary to see a wide spectrum in a child's education, as well as meeting the needs of *each* child. Weekly lesson planning involves prior knowledge, future learning, and the needs of each child.

The curriculum guide is organized beginning with Kindergarten and follows each successive grade level up to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Each grade level covers the following subjects in this order:

- Religion
- Math
- Language Arts
  - Reading
  - English
  - Spelling
  - Handwriting
  - Creative Writing
- Social Studies
- Science
- Physical Education
- Computer
- Music
- Spanish
- Art

St. Paul Lutheran School is a place *"Where education and the love of Christ come together"*, and exists to carry out our mission statement which is:

**S . . . Sharing the Word of God and His love**

**E . . . Educating students for academic, spiritual, and social success**

**R . . . Responding creatively to the needs of all children**

**V . . . Valuing family life**

**E . . . Equipping God's children for service**

The teaching of the Christian faith stands out as the most important part of our curriculum. We want students to gain knowledge of God's Word, to grow spiritually through its study, have a close relationship with Jesus, and to be equipped to share Jesus with others. Therefore, God's Word permeates other curriculum areas in classroom teaching and discussion. All subjects are taught from a Lutheran / Christian perspective.

If at any time, you have questions concerning the curriculum of St. Paul Lutheran School, you are invited to discuss it with either the teachers or principal.

Mr. Jared Weiss, Principal

## KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

**Religion** - Bible stories are taught as well as real-life application to the child's daily life. Prayers, songs and worship are included throughout the day. We also attend a weekly Chapel service to worship with the rest of our school family.

**Math** - Sorting and classifying, patterns, number and shape recognition, time, measurement, and beginning addition and subtraction are taught through hands-on activities as well as paper and pencil. We strive for an understanding concepts rather than memorization of facts at this level.

### Language Arts:

**Reading** - Phonemic awareness as well as phonics are emphasized. Recognition of basic sight words as well as forming and sounding out words help children to prepare to become readers. Rhyming and word play as well as concepts of print prepare the child to understand the written word. Read aloud as well as pre-decodable and decodable reading experiences are provided.

**English** - Taught in connection with reading. We learn to put a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, as well as use of punctuation at the end of sentences.

**Spelling** - Also taught as part of our reading experiences. Children learn to form words by sounding out the beginning, middle and ending. Words are posted around the room to form a print-rich environment.

**Handwriting** – D’Nealian upper and lower case letters are taught, and proper pencil grip is also emphasized.

**Creative Writing** - Shared writing as well as dictation is used to help the child learn that the spoken word can be written down. We encourage children to try to write phonetically, as much as they are able, providing sight words and other familiar words to copy and eventually memorize.

**Social Studies** – Topics include community helpers (fire safety), important people in history (presidents, Martin Luther King) and Holidays (Thanksgiving – Pilgrims/Indians, St. Patrick’s Day).

**Science** – Topics include animals and insects (polar animals, caterpillars and butterflies), plants, and health (food groups, dental health, and caring for the body God gave us).

**Physical Education** - Basic large motor skills are encouraged through practice and games. Sportsmanship and working together are emphasized.

**Technology:** Android tablets with detachable keyboards are available in our classroom for educational apps and games, as well as beginning keyboarding experiences.

**Music** - Songs are taught for worship and fun. Music and movement are a daily part of our classroom experience.

**Art** – Seasonal crafts, painting, stamping, and creativity are encouraged. Proper use of glue, scissors, crayons, markers, etc. are also taught.

**Annual Kindergarten Field Trips** – Experiences include visits to an Apple Orchard, plays at the Marquis Theater, and in-house presentations such as Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and a visit from the Northville Fire Fighters.

## FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

**RELIGION** -Weekly memory verses, Bible stories with related prayers and songs.

### LANGUAGE ARTS:

**Reading** - The students will engage in guided reading using fiction and non-fiction stories from the basal reader and/or chapter books, depending on the students' reading abilities.

**Phonics** - Sight words will be emphasized, as well as short vowels, long vowels, and word families.

**Comprehension** - Students will learn how to use picture/context clues, back up and reread, skip the word and come back to it, use known words to work out other words, re-read, identify story elements, and sequence story events to gain greater comprehension.

**Fluency** - teacher reads aloud, choral reading, repeated (echo) reading, partner reading.

**Writing** - Correct letter formation, writing complete sentences, correct usage of capital letters and punctuation, and writing stories with a clear beginning, middle, and end will be emphasized.

**Spelling** - Words will be a combination of sight words, word families, and words that have similar vowel sounds.

**MATH** -Students will learn strategies for adding and subtracting to 12, and solving simple story problems. They will also learn to identify patterns, how to sort items, and how to read graphs. In addition, they will learn how to skip count by 2's, 5's and 10's, tell time to the hour and half-hour, and count coins.

**SOCIAL STUDIES** - Six Units will be taught: School Days, At Home With My Family, Living in a Community, In and Around the Land, My Country, My Heroes, and My World, Near and Far.

**SCIENCE** - Four units will be taught: Life Science – Living things, animals, and plants will be taught. Physical Science – the world and how things move will be taught. Earth Science – the sky, the Earth, and weather will be taught. Human Body – growing up and staying healthy will be taught.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Students participate in learning activities that provide opportunity to learn and practice efficient and effective movement skills and concepts. They learn and practice a functional level of activity specific object control skills. Students work toward demonstrating an ability to cooperate with others. Some examples of the activities for these grades are fitness challenges, chasing and fleeing games, obstacle courses, and target games.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Android tablets with detachable keyboards are available in our classroom for educational apps and games, as well as beginning keyboarding experiences.

**MUSIC:** Students explore the use of instruments in the classroom, have a solid understanding of beat vs. rhythm, listen critically to music, understand ABA form, develop comfort with their voice, identify simple rhythms including quarter, eighth and half note rhythms, create own rhythm and vocal patterns, be able to perform echo and response patterns, express themselves musically in a variety of ways, and begin to appreciate music from a variety of genres.

**ART:** Students will explore the use of new materials and the basic elements and principles of art such as line, shape, color, form, etc. Students will be provided the chance to make creative decisions with their artwork and create artwork that connects to the world around them, for example, using newly learned shapes and forms to create a seasonal landscape. Students will be introduced to new artists of different cultures, time periods, and styles and will have a chance to experiment with art in similar mediums/styles as the artists.

## SECOND GRADE CURRICULUM

**RELIGION** -Weekly memory verses, Bible stories with related prayers and songs.

### LANGUAGE ARTS:

**Reading** - The students will read fiction and non-fiction texts, a combination of basal reader and chapter books (depending on the students' reading abilities), and engage in guided and independent reading.

**Phonics** - Students will learn root words, how to chunk words into known parts, and continue building their sight word vocabulary.

**Comprehension** - Students will answer questions about the text as well as use context clues, making connections, summarizing, predicting, and making inferences to increase comprehension.

**Fluency** - The teacher will read aloud, as well as engage the students in choral reading, repeated (echo) reading, and partner reading to build fluency.

**Writing** - The students will learn how to add details to sentences, how to write paragraphs, and how to use transition words. They will learn about and complete all steps of the writing process. In addition, they will learn how to write reports.

**Spelling** - Spelling words will consist of words with similar spelling patterns and sight words, as well as words from the curriculum

**MATH** - Students will continue to work on speed and accuracy with basic addition and subtraction facts, as well as learn how to add 2-digit numbers and solve multi-step story problems. In addition, they will review and learn place value to thousands. Moreover, they will build on their knowledge of counting money by introducing dollars. They will also build on their knowledge of telling time by learning how to tell time to 5 minutes as well as calculating elapsed time. Non-standard and standard units of measurement will also be introduced.

**SOCIAL STUDIES** - Six Units will be taught: We Belong to Many Groups, Where We Live, People Make History, We All Work Together, Being a Good Citizen, and Our Neighbors, Near and Far.

**SCIENCE** - Four units will be taught: Life Science – grouping animals, plants, and living things of long ago. Physical Science – matter and energy. Earth Science – the sun, air & water, and weather. Human Body – how your body works and keeping your body safe.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Students participate in learning activities that provide opportunity to learn and practice efficient and effective movement skills and concepts. They learn and practice a functional level of activity specific object control skills. Students work toward demonstrating an ability to cooperate with others. Some examples of the activities for these grades are fitness challenges, chasing and fleeing games, obstacle courses, and target games.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Android tablets with detachable keyboards are available in our classroom for educational apps and games, as well as beginning keyboarding experiences.

**MUSIC:** Students explore the use of instruments in the classroom, have a solid understanding of beat vs. rhythm, listen critically to music, understand ABA form, develop comfort with their voice, identify simple rhythms including quarter, eighth and half note rhythms, create own rhythm and vocal patterns, be able to perform echo and response patterns, express themselves musically in a variety of ways, and begin to appreciate music from a variety of genres.

**ART:** Students will explore the use of new materials and the basic elements and principles of art such as line, shape, color, form, etc. Students will be provided the chance to make creative decisions with their artwork and create artwork that connects to the world around them, for example, using newly learned shapes and forms to create a seasonal landscape. Students will be introduced to new artists of different cultures, time periods, and styles and will have a chance to experiment with art in similar mediums/styles as the artists.

## THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM

**Religion** – This curriculum focuses on giving students the optimal opportunity to grow in their relationship of faith and life with God in study of the Lutheran doctrine from Luther’s Small Catechism, daily Bible reading and discussion, twice weekly memory work, weekly Chapel worship, an annual trip to sing at Historic Trinity in Detroit, and singing in church at St. Paul at least four times a year

**Mathematics** – This curriculum focuses on traditional mathematic principles while leveraging technology to present them (i.e. Smart Boards, Chromebooks, etc.) Study includes: graphs, place value to hundred thousands, comparing and rounding numbers, understanding time / calendars, adding and subtracting 2-4 digit numbers and column additions including missing numbers and estimating, add and subtract money and counting change back, multiplication, division, geometry, fractions, measurements, and utilizing manipulations and problem solving skills

### Language Arts –

**Reading** – This curriculum focuses on: various genres of literature, reading silently and aloud, vocabulary expanded by definitions and games, comprehension assessments

**English/Grammar** – Study usage of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns. Write sentences, paragraphs, stories, reports, and poems

**Spelling** – Each unit has a pattern of words to spell, proofread, complete word puzzles, utilize [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

**Handwriting** – Fine tune D’Nelian print, cursive alphabet

**Social Studies** – Students learn about: land, people, and regions, U.S government and its three branches, states divided into regions, each child picks a state to on which to report, detailed study of Michigan history

**Science** – Students read and search texts on the following topics: habitats, gardening, shelters, movement, sound, protecting the Earth, minimum of two experiments a week, record findings in a science journal and discuss

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Students participate in learning activities that provide opportunity to learn and practice efficient and effective movement skills and concepts. They learn and practice a functional level of activity specific object control skills. Students work toward demonstrating an ability to cooperate with others. Some examples of the activities for these grades are fitness challenges, chasing and fleeing games, obstacle courses, and target games.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Android tablets with detachable keyboards are available in our classroom for educational apps and games, as well as beginning keyboarding experiences.

**MUSIC:** Students explore the use of instruments in the classroom, have a solid understanding of performance techniques. know basic pentatonic notes for the met allophones (C and F pentatonic), listen critically to music, use musical vocabulary to explain parts of the songs, read short rhythmic and musical patterns, improvise and create their own patterns, appreciate music from a variety of genres, and express themselves musically.

**ART:** Students will learn about and experiment with creating different art styles and periods (such as abstraction, cubism, expressionism, etc.), explore how an artist’s ideas and experiences can influence their artwork, learn about a new culture by studying its artwork, identify and explore careers in the visual arts, learn how to critique and better understand artwork by using the elements and principles of design.

**Current Events** – Weekly discussion on *Time for Kids* magazine used to keep students informed on recent news.

**Field Trips** – The following field trips are offered annually:

- Cranbrook Science
- Mill Race Village
- Pumpkin patch and maze
- Victorian Festival in Northville
- Marquis Theatre
- Aquarium
- Museums

## FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM

**Religion** – This curriculum focuses on giving students the optimal opportunity to grow in their relationship of faith and life with God in study of more Bible stories and the life of Christ, daily Bible reading and discussion, twice weekly memory work, weekly Chapel worship, an annual trip to sing at Historic Trinity in Detroit, and singing in church at St. Paul at least four times a year

- **Mathematics** – This curriculum focuses on traditional mathematic principles while leveraging technology to present them (i.e. Smart Boards, Chromebooks, etc.) Study includes: parallel and perpendicular lines, right angles, lines and line segments, squares and square roots, fractions and mixed numbers, dividing and multiplying 2-4 digit numbers, decimals, Roman numerals, and utilizing manipulations and problem solving skills

### Language Arts –

**Reading** – This curriculum focuses on: various genres of literature, reading silently and aloud, vocabulary expanded by definitions and games, comprehension assessments

**English/Grammar** – Study usage of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns. Write sentences, paragraphs, stories, reports, and poems

**Spelling** – Each unit has a pattern of words to spell, proofread, complete word puzzles, utilize [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

**Handwriting** – Fine tune D’Nelian print, cursive alphabet

**Social Studies** – Students learn about: land, people, and regions, U.S government and its three branches, states divided into regions, each child picks a state to on which to report, detailed study of Michigan history

**Science** – Students read and search texts on the following topics: space and planets, water, volcanoes, earthquakes, flying, weather, rain forests; minimum of two experiments a week, record findings in a science journal and discuss

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Students participate in learning activities that provide opportunity to practice and apply efficient and effective movement skills and concepts. They practice and apply a functional level of activity specific object control skills. Students work toward demonstrating an ability to cooperate with others within an activity strategy. Some examples of the activities for these grades are fitness challenges, obstacle courses, team sports, team challenges and target games.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Android tablets with detachable keyboards are available in our classroom for educational apps and games are individualized for each student, as well as expanding keyboarding experiences. Smart boards are utilized to enhance instruction, and student interaction throughout the curriculum.

**MUSIC:** Students explore the use of instruments in the classroom, have a solid understanding of performance techniques. know basic pentatonic notes for the met allophones (C and F pentatonic), listen critically to music, use musical vocabulary to explain parts of the songs, read short rhythmic and musical patterns, improvise and create their own patterns, appreciate music from a variety of genres, and express themselves musically.

**ART:** Students will learn about and experiment with creating different art styles and periods (such as abstraction, cubism, expressionism, etc.), explore how an artist’s ideas and experiences can influence their artwork, learn about a new culture by studying its artwork, identify and explore careers in the visual arts, learn how to critique and better understand artwork by using the elements and principles of design.

**Current Events** –Weekly discussion on *Time for Kids* magazine used to keep students informed on recent news.

**Field Trips** – The following field trips are offered annually:

- Cranbrook Science
- Mill Race Village
- Pumpkin patch and maze
- Victorian Festival in Northville
- Marquis Theatre
- Aquarium
- Museums

## FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM

**Religion** – This curriculum focuses on giving students the optimal opportunity to grow in their relationship of faith and life with God in study of basic Christian doctrine, the Ten Commandments, the articles of the Apostle’s Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion, worship and liturgy, and effective witnessing. Chapel is weekly. Memory assignments of scripture and / or *Luther’s Small Catechism* are bi-weekly

**Mathematics** – Students will develop a strong foundation in four key areas:

- Number and Operations – multiply and divide whole numbers, understand division of whole numbers, multiply and divide fractions, prime factorization
- Measurement – understand the concept of volume, know and convert measurement units within a given system, find areas of geometric shapes using formulas
- Geometry – know the meaning of angles, and solve problems about geometric shapes
- Data and Probability – construct and interpret line graphs, find and interpret mean and mode for a given set of data

**Language Arts** –

**Reading** – Students study literature by reading a variety of genre (poetry, non-fiction, historical fiction, etc.) through novels and other primary sources. Some of the authors include Roald Dahl, Patricia MacLachlan, Eleanor Coerr, Carol Ryrie Banks, and E.B. White. In addition comprehension strategies (fact & opinion, main idea & details, compare & contrast) are studied through the use of the novels being read and additional sources.

**English/Grammar** – Students study the parts of speech and then implement this knowledge through writing assignments. Included in these writing assignments is the use of the writing process to complete works of poetry, short stories, letters, reports, persuasive essays, etc.

**Spelling** – Students study word lists based on the most common spelling patterns, word origins, and vocabulary words found in their literature readings. Emphasis is placed on spelling words correctly across the curriculum in all of their work and assignments. Tests are given weekly on assigned words.

**Social Studies** – Students learn about World History from "The Stone Age" through the 1400s.

**Science** – Students will explore five key areas of Science: **Science Processes** – inquiry and reflection, **Physical** – motion of objects, energy, properties of matter, changes in matter. **Life** – organization of living things, heredity, ecosystems. **Earth** – Solid Earth, Earth Systems, Fluid Earth, Earth in Space and Time. **Health** – human body systems. Students will also have the opportunity to demonstrate the Scientific Method and their expertise of a Science topic to their families, friends, and the community through the annual St. Paul Science Fair.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Students participate in learning activities that provide opportunity to practice and apply efficient and effective movement skills and concepts. They practice and apply a functional level of activity specific object control skills. Students work toward demonstrating an ability to cooperate with others within an activity strategy. Some examples of the activities for these grades are fitness challenges, obstacle courses, team sports, team challenges and target games.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Chromebooks are available in our classroom for educational apps and games are individualized for each student, as well as expanding keyboarding experiences. Smart Boards are utilized to enhance instruction, and student interaction throughout the curriculum.

**MUSIC:** Students explore the use of instruments in the classroom, have a solid understanding of performance techniques. know basic pentatonic notes for the met allophones (C and F pentatonic), listen critically to music, use musical vocabulary to explain parts of the songs, read short rhythmic and musical patterns, improvise and create their own patterns, appreciate music from a variety of genres, and express themselves musically.

**ART:** Students will learn about and experiment with creating different art styles and periods (such as abstraction, cubism, expressionism, etc.), explore how an artist’s ideas and experiences can influence their artwork, learn about a new culture by studying its artwork, identify and explore careers in the visual arts, learn how to critique and better understand artwork by using the elements and principles of design.

**Field Trips** – A variety of field trips are offered annually. Examples include: Cranbrook Science, Marquis Theatre, and museums.



## SIXTH GRADE CURRICULUM

**Religion** – This curriculum focuses on giving students the optimal opportunity to grow in their relationship of faith and life with God in study of the Old Testament (from the Patriarchs through Captivity) and the New Testament (from the birth of Jesus through the growth of the early Christian church). Chapel is weekly. Memory assignments of scripture and/or Luther’s Small Catechism are bi-weekly.

**Mathematics** – Students will use the “Progress in Mathematics” textbook and workbook in this course. Students will learn priority topics, such as: writing and interpreting expressions and equations, multiplying and dividing decimals, ratios and rates, multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers, number theory, proportions, areas and volumes of geometric figures, formulas, and solving equations. This curriculum offers regular opportunities to develop problem-solving competence through lessons that foster strategic thinking and give students clear practice in choosing effective problem-solving strategies.

### Language Arts –

**Reading** – Students study literature by reading a variety of genre (poetry, non-fiction, historical fiction, etc.) through novels and other primary sources. Some of the authors include Lynne Reid Banks, Avi, Jim Freeman, Scott O’Dell, and Jerry Spinelli. In addition comprehension strategies (fact & opinion, main idea & details, compare & contrast) are studied through the use of the novels being read and additional sources.

**English/Grammar** – Students study the parts of speech and then implement this knowledge through writing assignments. Included in these writing assignments is the use of the writing process to complete works of poetry, short stories, letters reports, persuasive essays, etc.

**Spelling** – Students study word lists based on the most common spelling patterns, word origins, and vocabulary words found in their literature readings. Emphasis is placed on spelling words correctly across the curriculum in all of their work and assignments. Tests are given weekly on assigned words.

**Social Studies** – Students study World History from the Renaissance through Modern Times.

**Science** – Students will explore **Physical Science** topics such as properties of matter and changes in matter; **Life Science** topics such as ecosystems and the organization of living things; **Earth Science** topics such as Earth Systems and Fluid Earth; and the **Science Processes** through inquiry, reflection, and social implications. All scientific concepts will be studied through lectures, demonstrations, group activities, and hands-on labs. Students will also have the opportunity to demonstrate the Scientific Method and their expertise of a Science topic to their families, friends, and the community through the annual St. Paul Science Fair.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Students participate in learning activities that provide opportunity to practice and apply efficient and effective movement skills and concepts. They practice and apply a functional level of grade-appropriate activity specific object control skills. Students work toward demonstrating an ability to cooperate with others within an activity strategy. Some examples of the activities for these grades are fitness challenges, team sports, and team challenges.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Chromebooks are available in our classroom for educational apps and games are individualized for each student, as well as expanding keyboarding experiences. Smart Boards are utilized to enhance instruction, and student interaction throughout the curriculum.

**MUSIC:** Students identify note names on the treble clef music staff, identify and perform basic rhythms including eighth, quarter, half and whole notes and rests, able to identify basic form in music including ABA, Theme/variations, and Rondo forms, create and improvise, have a basic understanding of the Orff instruments in the classroom and performance technique, are to play the recorder with proper technique, and appreciate and identify music from a variety of genres.

**ART:** Students will learn how to refine artistic skills to achieve desired effects, be introduced to artists in a historical context and will explore how the culture and time period affects visual arts, be provided the chance to make creative decisions with their artwork, Identify and solve creative problems , effectively communicate intended meaning and ideas through their artwork

**Field Trips** – A variety of field trips are offered annually. Examples include: Cranbrook Science, Marquis Theatre, and museums.

## SEVENTH GRADE CURRICULUM

**Religion** –This curriculum focuses on giving students the optimal opportunity to grow in their relationship of faith and life with God in study of Christ. Bible literacy is organized around a theme-based Bible story approach. Interactive PowerPoint and video clips are used with the Smart Board to help engage the students. Each lesson consists of at least three objectives, which include showing human sin and our need for a Savior, seeing God’s grace in sending Jesus to redeem us from sin, and to encourage learners as they live daily in Christ. Chapel is weekly. Memory assignments of scripture and/or Luther’s Small Catechism are bi-weekly.

**Mathematics** –The curriculum for 7<sup>th</sup> grade math leads into pre-algebra and provides students a foundation with whole numbers, fractions, and certain aspects of geometry and measurement. Our curriculum simultaneously develops conceptual understanding, computational fluency, and problem-solving skills. While using the “Fundamentals of Algebra” textbook and workbook, students will also develop a deeper understanding about integers, expressions and equations, inequalities, ratio and proportion, and data analysis and statistics.

### **Language Arts** –

**Reading** – Students study literature by reading a variety of genre (poetry, non-fiction, historical fiction, etc.) through novels and other primary sources. Some of the authors include Sterling North, Christopher Paul Curtis, Lois Lowry, and Jean Craighead George. In addition comprehension strategies (fact & opinion, main idea & details, compare & contrast) are studied through the use of the novels being read and other sources.

**English/Grammar** – Students study the parts of speech and then implement this knowledge through writing assignments. Included in these writing assignments is the use of the writing process to complete works of poetry, short stories, letters, reports, persuasive essays, etc.

**Spelling** – Students study word lists based on the most common spelling patterns, word origins, and vocabulary words found in their literature readings. Emphasis is placed on spelling words correctly across the curriculum in all of their work and assignments. Tests are given weekly on assigned words.

**Social Studies** – Students focus for 7th grade is United States History from The First Americans through 1860.

**Science** The main focus is on exploring life science and the study of living things. Students will learn about cells, genetics, the human body, and populations and ecosystems. There is also a focus on physical science, Earth systems, and the scientific process. All scientific concepts will be studied through lectures, demonstrations, group activities, and hands-on labs. There is also a Science fair each year where students become experts on a Science topic and demonstrate their knowledge and research to family, friends and the community.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Students participate in learning activities that provide opportunity to practice and apply efficient and effective movement skills and concepts. They practice and apply a functional level of grade-appropriate activity specific object control skills. Students work toward demonstrating an ability to cooperate with others within an activity strategy. Some examples of the activities for these grades are fitness challenges, team sports, and team challenges.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Chromebooks are available in our classroom for educational apps and games are individualized for each student, as well as expanding keyboarding experiences. Smart Boards are utilized to enhance instruction, and student interaction throughout the curriculum.

**MUSIC:** Students identify note names on the treble clef music staff, identify and perform basic rhythms including eighth, quarter, half and whole notes and rests, able to identify basic form in music including ABA, Theme/variations, and Rondo forms, create and improvise, have a basic understanding of the Orff instruments in the classroom and performance technique, are to play the recorder with proper technique, and appreciate and identify music from a variety of genres.

**ART:** Students will learn how to refine artistic skills to achieve desired effects, be introduced to artists in a historical context and will explore how the culture and time period affects visual arts, be provided the chance to make creative decisions with their artwork, Identify and solve creative problems, effectively communicate intended meaning and ideas through their artwork

**SPANISH:** Students learn the fundamentals of pronunciation, acquisition of basic vocabulary, construction of simple sentences, become familiar with the construction and usage of the present tense verbs. Students also gain a basic understand of the cultures of the Latin world.

**Field Trips** – A variety of field trips are offered annually. Examples include: Cranbrook Science, Marquis Theatre, and museums.

## EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM

**Religion** – This curriculum focuses on giving students the optimal opportunity to grow in their relationship of faith and life with God in study of Christ. Through the use of one hundred chronological Bible lessons which are built around one hundred Bible stories, emphasis for student learning will be on God’s Word from the Old and New Testament, along with discipleship. All studies of God’s Word, life-related activities, and memory verses have been chosen and included with the overall goal of helping students learn more about God’s love for them in Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Interactive PowerPoint and video clips are used with the Smart Board to help engage the students. Chapel is weekly. Memory assignments of scripture and/or Luther’s Small Catechism are bi-weekly.

**Mathematics** – The curriculum for 8<sup>th</sup> grade math is preparation for high school Algebra and Geometry. While using the “Foundations of Algebra” textbook and practice book, students will gain strength in foundational math skills and problem-solving skills, which are essential for success in high school Algebra. Topics covered in this course include: expressions and equations, inequalities, polynomials and factoring, linear functions and inequalities, two-dimensional geometry, coordinate geometry, patterns and non-linear functions, three-dimensional geometry, data analysis and statistics.

### **Language Arts** –

**Reading** – Students study literature by reading a variety of genre (poetry, non-fiction, historical fiction, etc.) through novels and other primary sources. Some of the authors include Harper Lee, Elizabeth George Speare, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, and Natalie Babbitt. In addition comprehension strategies (fact & opinion, main idea & details, compare & contrast) are studied through the use of the novels being read and additional sources.

**English/Grammar** – Students study the parts of speech and then implement this knowledge through writing assignments. Included in these writing assignments is the use of the writing process to complete works of poetry, short stories, letters reports, persuasive essays, etc.

**Spelling** – Students study word lists based on the most common spelling patterns, word origins, and vocabulary words found in their literature readings. Emphasis is placed on spelling words correctly across the curriculum in all of their work and assignments. Tests are given weekly on assigned words.

**Social Studies** – Student study for 8<sup>th</sup> grade is United States History from 1860/The Road to Civil War through Modern Times.

**Science:** The main focus will be on Earth Science, Physics and Chemistry. Topics such as forces and motion, chemical reactions and the periodic table, molecular structures, solid fluid Earth systems, biogeochemical cycles, human impacts on Earth systems, and the entire scientific process will be studied through lectures, demonstrations, group activities, and hands-on labs. A health unit is also taught giving students an opportunity to learn about the human body and ways to stay healthy. There is also a Science fair each year where students become experts on a Science topic and demonstrate their knowledge and research to family, friends and the community.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Students participate in learning activities that provide opportunity to practice and apply efficient and effective movement skills and concepts. They practice and apply a functional level of grade-appropriate activity specific object control skills. Students work toward demonstrating an ability to cooperate with others within an activity strategy. Some examples of the activities for these grades are fitness challenges, team sports, and team challenges.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Chromebooks are available in our classroom for educational apps and games are individualized for each student, as well as expanding keyboarding experiences. Smart Boards are utilized to enhance instruction, and student interaction throughout the curriculum.

**MUSIC:** Students identify note names on the treble clef music staff, identify and perform basic rhythms including eighth, quarter, half and whole notes and rests, able to identify basic form in music including ABA, Theme/variations, and Rondo forms, create and improvise, have a basic understanding of the Orff instruments in the classroom and performance technique, are to play the recorder with proper technique, and appreciate and identify music from a variety of genres.

**SPANISH:** Students learn the fundamentals of pronunciation, acquisition of basic vocabulary, construction of simple sentences, become familiar with the construction and usage of the present tense verbs. Students also gain a basic understand of the cultures of the Latin world.

**ART:** Students will learn how to refine artistic skills to achieve desired effects, be introduced to artists in a historical context and will explore how the culture and time period affects visual arts, be provided the chance to make creative decisions with their artwork, Identify and solve creative problems , effectively communicate intended meaning and ideas through their artwork

**Field Trips** – A variety of field trips are offered. Examples include: Cranbrook Science, Marquis Theatre, and museums.