

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 textbooks are adopted. Often areas are rewritten 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.



*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.***

Deuteronomy 6: 4 - 9

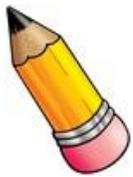


Three Year Old Pre-Kindergarten



Trinity Lutheran School offers a developmentally age appropriate Early Childhood Program. Each child is a unique gift of God. Providing the best educational opportunities for each child to achieve their ultimate potential for which God has created him or her is Trinity's ultimate goal. By providing a nurturing and God-loving educational environment with appropriate experiences for each child, we assist our Creator and Redeemer in the developmental process. Trinity also instills in the student a desire and love for learning at a young age. Our goal is to educate the whole child academically, spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically.

Religion - Our religion curriculum is Christ-centered to provide the children with the opportunity to grow in faith and life with God. The curriculum follows lessons and teachings from the Bible. New and common prayers are taught and a new bible verse is taught each month.



Language Arts - The students will be read storybooks daily and participate in group discussions, while building their vocabulary and oral language skills. They will also be exposed to upper and lower case letters and the sounds of the letters. The children will recognize their name and be introduced to handwriting skills. Puppets, books, and flannel boards are also a part of the curriculum.

Art - The students will be introduced to different kinds of art media such as colored pencils, crayons, markers, paint, glue, paper, stickers, and playdough to help express their creativity.

Math - The students will learn math skills such as how to count in numerical order, one to one correspondence, shapes, and learning the difference between big/little and long/short. They will also learn to group and sort objects with a variety of small manipulative objects.



Fine Motor Skills - Children are able to improve their fine-motor skills by playing with building blocks, play dough, puzzles and other educational toys. Along with this experience, the students will also be taught how to hold and use marking implements and scissors correctly.

Gross Motor Skills - Physical education class is part of the weekly schedule. Individual skills such as running, hopping, jumping, throwing and catching balls will be taught. Sharing and cooperation is also taught during large group activities while playing games together.



Baking/Cooking - Participate in measuring, mixing, stirring, pouring, and creating delicious and nutritious foods to eat in the classroom is part of this experience.

Creative Play - This is the time, in the classroom, where students are able to make their own choice as to where they would like to play, and the items with which they would like to play. They will improve their imagination, problem-solve, make new friends, and learn social skills.



Science - Learning more about the world God gave us will be explored through senses. The children will also learn through thematic units such as animals, plants, seasons, weather, cooking, and hands-on discovery.

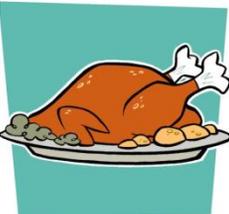


Social Studies - Students will learn more about themselves, their families, their health, community helpers, holidays, manners, and safety through thematic units. They will also realize that God has made each one of them unique and special.

Music - Music will be enjoyed in a variety of different ways. They will have the opportunity to dance, listen, march, move, and sing to music. Musical instruments such as rhythm sticks and bells will be used while music is being played so that they can get the rhythm of the music. Nursery rhymes are also sung. The children will also get to sing and praise God with other children in the school.



Library - Visiting Trinity Lutheran School's library once a week is a regular part of the three year-old curriculum. The children will have a short story read to them, and will be able to check out a book of their choice.



Annual Events - The students have two special events that they get to share with their parents at school. The first one is the "Thanksgiving Breakfast" in November, followed by the "Easter Breakfast" in the spring.

Classroom Parties - The following holidays are celebrated during the year with a classroom party: Reformation, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Trinity's three year-olds are also included in the end-of-year school picnic.





Four Year Old Pre-Kindergarten



Trinity Lutheran School offers a developmentally age appropriate Early Childhood Program. Each child is a unique gift of God. Providing the best educational opportunities for each child to achieve their ultimate potential for which God has created him or her is Trinity's ultimate goal. By providing a nurturing and God-loving educational environment with appropriate experiences for each child, we assist our Creator and Redeemer in the developmental process. Trinity also instills in the student a desire and love for learning at a young age. Our goal is to educate the whole child academically, spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically.

Religion - Trinity's religion curriculum is Christ-centered providing children with the opportunity to grow in faith and life with God. The curriculum follows lessons and teachings from the Bible. Prayers and Bible verses are taught with each lesson weekly.



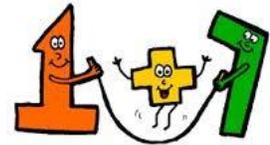
Language Arts - During this time of the day, the students learn to develop their vocabulary and participate in classroom discussions and "Show and Tell." Pre-reading skills of letter recognition and phonemic awareness are also a fundamental part of this curriculum. The children learn that every letter makes a sound, and by putting these sounds together, one is able to read. Books are read daily and are available to the children at all times.



Science - Exploring the world created by our awesome God occurs through the student's senses. The students will learn about various topics including their own bodies, animals, magnets, plants, seeds, and seasons. Science is explored by participating in demonstrations and using critical thinking skills.

Social Studies - The classroom environment encourages each child to have a positive sense of self-esteem. Social skills, manners, and communication skills are also taught. The four year-olds will also learn more about the world around them including community helpers and the families God has made.

Math - Introduction to several different kinds of math concepts such as classifying, counting, measurements, numerical recognition, sequencing, shapes, sorting, measuring, patterns, and time are a part of this area of the curriculum.



Art - The students will be able to express and create their own "masterpieces" with clay, colored pencils, crayons, finger painting, markers, paint, play dough, shaving cream, and other mediums.



Technology - The children attend computer class once a week where they have age appropriate software supplementing the areas of math, reading, and phonetic awareness, as well as become involved in a few games. Trinity's technology coordinator assists in this area.

Creative Play - Creative play allows the students to learn how to problem-solve and encourages abstract thinking. The children will be building their vocabulary and language skills, developing their imagination, building friendships and good social skills. All these attributes promote positive interaction between other children.

Fine Motor Skills - Learning how to hold and use marking implements and scissors correctly is an integral part of any early childhood program. The students will have access to puzzles, lacing cards, building blocks, pegs and other educational toys that will help them master their fine motor skills.



Gross Motor Skills- In addition to daily recess, physical education class is part of the student's weekly schedule. Physical education is taught by Trinity's P.E. instructor, and the children learn to play games, skip, hop, run, jump, kick, catch and throw balls, and balance. They will also enjoy individual and group activities, while being taught cooperation and sharing.



Library - Attending Trinity Lutheran School's Library once a week, the students will have a short story read to them, and then have the opportunity to check out a book of their choice.

Music - Music is explored in many different ways. The children will be listening to music, singing, dancing, marching, playing musical games, using rhythm sticks, bells, etc. They will also have the opportunity to sing and praise God with other children in the school and during church services.

Sign Language - Using thematic units such as the alphabet, numbers, colors, family members, people, manners, feelings, pets, and toys, the children will learn some sign language useful in their everyday life. Teaching American Sign Language is an effective early childhood teaching strategy that can help in verbal communication skills and increase vocabulary. It may also enhance early reading skills like comprehension, sight word recognition, phonemic awareness, and phonetics. The students will also be given a better understanding that God has made us all unique and special in different ways.



Baking/Cooking - Measuring, mixing, stirring, pouring, and creating delicious and nutritious foods to eat in the classroom are part of this weekly activity. Health and nutrition is also discussed.

Handwriting - The children will learn how to print their name, both upper and lower case letters of the alphabet, and write numerals.

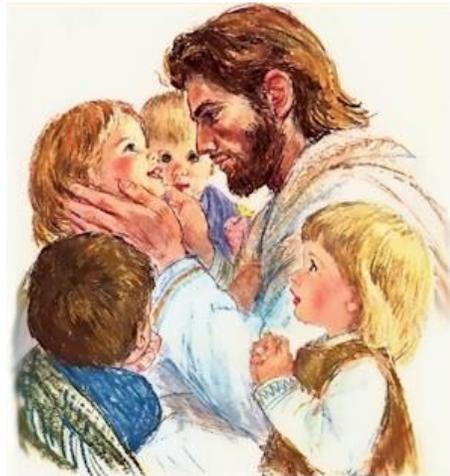
Field Trips - Field trips are also an important part of the Pre-Kindergarten curriculum. In the past Trinity has gone into the community to visit farms, observe live theater, and bowling, to list a few.



Annual Events - Four year-old Pre-K has two special events that they enjoy with the Kindergarten children. The "Thanksgiving Mini-Feast" and the "Holy Week Luncheon" is a wonderful time to socialize and share God's Word with each other.



Classroom Parties - The following holidays are celebrated during the year with a classroom party: Reformation, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Trinity's four year-olds are also included in the end-of-year school picnic.



We cannot fashion our children after our desires, we must have them and love them as God has given them to us.

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe



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, creative play, 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, nurturing students' faith life in Christ is most prominent in the Kindergarten curriculum.



"Jesus Time" - 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, props, flannelgraphs, and digital resources.

Reading/Language Arts - This program is a print-rich, activity-based curriculum that nurtures phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, sight word recognition, 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, patterns, numbers, geometry, measurement, and addition and subtraction concepts.

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

Science - Kindergarteners study concepts such as sinking and floating, how living things grow, etc. as well as learn about broader topics such as plants, animals, the solar system, and the four seasons of the year.

Computers - Basic math and reading skills are reinforced 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. Kindergarteners participate in singing for worship services on occasion.

Technology - The children attend computer class once a week where they have age appropriate software supplementing the areas of math, reading, and phonetic awareness, as well as become involved in a few games. Trinity's technology educator assists in this area.

Library - Kindergarteners are read aloud a story in the library and are able to check out a book every week.

Field Trips - Kindergarteners participate in a variety of field trips throughout the school year which enhance learning.

Classroom Parties - The following holidays are celebrated during the year with a classroom party: Reformation, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Kindergarteners are also included in the end-of-year school picnic.

Annual Events - Kindergarteners have two special events that they enjoy with the 4-year old Pre-K children. The "Thanksgiving Mini-Feast" and the "Holy Week Luncheon" are wonderful times to socialize and share God's Word with each other.



"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



First graders come to the classroom with a wide variety of experiences. All of them display their enthusiasm and desire to learn about our Lord's world. All subject areas are discussed and taught on this level; however, emphasis is placed upon reading, developing written stories, and mathematics. Students are given many opportunities to work collaboratively and independently. Learning centers are a vital part of the learning experience for these young learners.

Religion - Each student receives nine activity books throughout the school year. Well known 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. First graders also prepare and present one worship service for a Wednesday morning chapel during the school year.

Reading - Five different basal readers introduce and support 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, story elements, and comprehension skills.



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, contractions, inflectional endings, high frequency words and sentence structure.

English - Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and the writing process are some of the areas covered. Creative writing is also covered through weekly writing assignments connected to the weekly reading story, social events, or children's literature.

Handwriting - Students use the D'Nealian philosophy of handwriting. Compared to block printing D'Nealian gives students an easier transition into cursive writing. First graders learn the basic manuscript letter formations for lowercase and capital letters, along with the numerals.



Spelling - Weekly spelling lists are connected to the reading series. A majority of the list follows phonetic patterns, such as short and long vowels, beginning and ending blends and diphthongs. Each list also contains two high frequency words. Many of the spelling words are contained within the weekly reading story.

Mathematics - Math on this level stresses computational skills of addition, subtraction and applying number sense such as making a ten and counting on to build math fluency in these areas. 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 - Many areas of life, earth, and physical science are covered including plant and animal life, landforms, weather, the solar system, matter, light, and sound. The curriculum is supplemented in order to incorporate hands-on activities for the student which brings science to life.

Social Studies - American government, consumerism, symbols, communities, and history are the main focus for this age level. Additional areas of study added to the textbook curriculum are units on African American history, character education, and cultural studies.



Choir/Music - First graders participate in "Joyful Praise" and have several opportunities during the year to sing during the worship services

Art - Weekly art expressions include using mediums such as pastels, chalk, clay, and yarn along with many traditional projects. Students also study artists and techniques such as weaving, abstract painting, and lines throughout the year. Artist studies are also highlighted through Trinity's "Picture Person" program.

Technology - The children attend computer class once a week where they have age appropriate software supplementing the areas of math, reading, and phonetic awareness, as well as become involved in a few games. Students reinforce basic math and reading skills using a variety of educational software. Students practice mouse control and begin using the keyboard. Trinity's technology educator assists in this area.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6





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 - Second grade's "One in Christ" materials consist of 72 lessons taught throughout the school year. God's love for all and His grace are reinforced through Bible stories taught in chronological order. The goal of these materials is to help students grow in discipleship as they study God's Word and learn to apply the Biblical truths to their lives. Miracles of Jesus provide testimony from those who witnessed for Jesus. The study of Jesus' ministry, Salvation through Jesus, and The Spread of the Good News are the titles of the units. 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. They experience a variety of genres. The children work on comprehension, vocabulary, and decoding skills. The children learn through both cognitive and kinesthetic experiences while writing and retelling student developed stories. The skills taught during the second grade include, but are not limited to drawing conclusions, sequence, cause and effect, compare and contrast, and fact and opinion, author's purpose, plot and theme, main idea and details, character and setting.



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

English - Concentration on writing complete sentences using correct capitalization and punctuation is the focus. Nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs 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 measurement. They are introduced to money, time, three - digit addition and subtraction, geometry and graphs.

Social/Studies - Students learn about the major landforms, regions, geography, resources and continents, government, people, places and holidays. Second graders discover the nation's past studying Native Americans, pioneers, and special Americans.



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.



Choir/Music - Second graders participate in "Cherub Choir" and have several opportunities during the year to sing during the worship services. Cherub Choir participates in a bi-annual operetta.

Art - Seasonal and thematic artwork using a different variety of mediums (paint, crayons, oil pastels, tissue paper, pipe cleaners, cotton, marbles, fruit, watercolors, clay) is accomplished on a weekly basis. The children learn about crayon resist, scratch art, collages, silhouettes, mosaics, painting background, blending colors, dioramas, forming clay, lines, textures and shapes, designs.

Technology - 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. Students are introduced to word processing in Microsoft Word by keying several mini projects.

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 learn God's Word with practical ideas that connect to their everyday lives. They will develop growth in discipleship as they explore key Lutheran doctrinal themes.

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 continue the journey of 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. Multiplication and division, fractions, measurement, and geometry are key concepts.

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.

Technology - Students reinforce basic math and reading skills using a variety of educational software. Students practice mouse control and begin using the keyboard. Students are introduced to use of Microsoft Paint to create and edit graphics. Students are introduced to word processing in Microsoft Word by keying many simple projects. Keyboarding becomes a larger component to Technology classes. Free Typing Test is used from practice and evaluation of keyboarding speed and accuracy.

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 music coordinator 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 through faith in Christ Jesus. Comprehensive Bible study includes lessons from Old and New Testaments. Memory Work and hymnody 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. Student basal texts, leveled reading materials, novels, and short stories are used within the curriculum.



English - Instruction includes the study of sentence structure and parts of speech. Writing activities include 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, along with the use of an interactive board are used to help prepare students to be lifelong mathematics thinkers. Logic and problem solving are the backbone of the coursework. Multi-digit multiplication, long division, fraction concepts, measuring, and algebra are studied along with mastery of the four basic groups of math facts.

Social Studies - This area of study is taught through the use of maps, textbook, projects, and hands-on activities. State capitals and state abbreviations are taught in depth. Fourth grade develops higher level thinking and study skills.



Science - Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science are the areas of concentration. Related experiments and projects are a big part of the program. An every-other year Science Fair requires each student complete a project to become well acquainted with the scientific method.



Technology - Students reinforce basic math and reading skills using a variety of educational software. Students practice mouse control and begin using the keyboard. Students learn to use Microsoft Paint to create and edit graphics. Students are introduced to word processing in Microsoft Word by keying many simple projects. Keyboarding becomes a larger component to Technology classes Free Typing Test is used from practice and evaluation of keyboarding speed and accuracy. Students are introduced to Microsoft PowerPoint to create presentations on simple topics.



Music - Students in grade four are required to enroll choir. Choir is a performance-oriented class focusing on music for worship services at Trinity. Fourth graders 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, working in groups, life skills, and study skills are taught through daily discussions, class meetings, and intentional activities. 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, character development, and team building.

Religion - Following the Concordia Publishing House, 'One In Christ' curriculum, students experience steps in the faith through discussion, activities, and scripture readings. Focus is upon God and His Word and how we learn, apply, and use His Word. Partnered with weekly Memory Quizzes, the students break down the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, The Sacraments, The Commandments over the course of the year to better understand the 6 Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine and how these can be used to help grow in the faith and witness to others. Daily conversations about God's love, forgiveness, and gracious gifts are highlighted.



Reading - Students focus on building reading strategies, vocabulary, and comprehension through 2 historical fiction novels, 1 fiction novel, 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 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. Quarterly book reports help support a passion for reading, as well as develop each student's knowledge of basic story elements.



Trust In Him

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

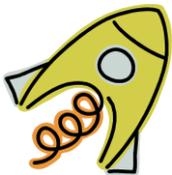
challenged to build skills in problem solving, while working on strengthening and building skills and understanding of fractions, decimals, geometry, and basic algebraic concepts. Students are challenged to relate the concepts throughout the year.



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



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.



Health - A weekly 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 weekly in their classroom. Expression of oneself is encouraged through a variety of art projects.

Technology - Students reinforce basic math and reading skills using a variety of educational software. Students complete several spreadsheet projects in Google Sheets. Students are introduced to word processing in Google Docs to complete projects for several other subjects. Keyboarding becomes a larger component to Technology classes Free Typing Test is used from practice and evaluation of keyboarding speed and accuracy. Students are expected to complete several Google Presentation Projects for other classes.



Choir and Band - Choir is a performance-oriented class focusing on music in worship services at Trinity. An operetta is performed once every other year, with a Spring Fine Arts Festival occurring the other year. 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 the Old and New Testament lessons and how they apply to our lives in preparation to confirmation in 8th grade. 8th Grade is the study of Luther's Small Catechism.



Reading - Literature - Grades 6 - 8 use a novel-based approach for its students. Novels are studied and discussed on all three middle school levels. An Advanced Literature class, which is taught at a high school level, is offered for qualified students in grades 7 and 8. Students are assigned to a reading class according to their ability in oral reading, comprehension, and writing capability. Students read such novels as: *The Cay*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Hatchet*, *The Westing Game*, *The Outsiders*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Giver*, etc.

Middle School reading classes equip students to analyze plot, character, and literary elements in novels. Students are also taught how to cite evidence and quotes from novels in order to support their answers. Most importantly, Christian applications of the novel's themes are covered.

English/Writing/Vocabulary - The scope and sequence of the English /writing/Vocabulary program covers a comprehensive grammar study, in which grammar skills are built over three years of study. Students study the eight parts of speech, phrases, clauses, sentence structure, sentence clarity, punctuation, and many more topics. In eighth grade, the students study a sentence diagramming approach to grammar.

The Writing Program - A comprehensive writing program is also implemented, and various writing skills are developed over three years. The following writing styles are studied in Jr. High English: personal, narrative, persuasive, informative, expository, and descriptive.



All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are also required to complete a research paper that covers the elements of researching, recording evidence, and citing the evidence in MLA format.

The Vocabulary Program - A vocabulary development-based approach is employed in the area of Language Arts for Trinity's middle school (grades 6-8).



The vocabulary program at Trinity focuses on how to spell words as well as discussing the words' definitions, parts of speech, denotation and connotation, and how to correctly use them in writing. There are also various units that focus on Greek and Latin roots, which are a very important piece of the puzzle when it comes to unlocking the meaning of words. Encouraging an ever-expanding vocabulary is an important part of language development that significantly strengthens students' writing and speaking abilities. Students are encouraged to enhance their writing with stronger word choice. As they spend time with their vocabulary words, they are challenged to use them in their own original writing.

Mathematics - 6th Grade students focus on problem solving using several techniques. Ratios and proportional relationships, fractions decimals, and percents, computation with multi-digit numbers and fractions are the key topics covered. Students also learn about integers and the coordinate plane, expressions, equations, functions and inequalities are introduced. Area, volume and surface area are introduced.

In 7th Grade students are divided into two sections: Pre-algebra or Traditional Math. Students learn how to solve algebraic equations and inequalities. They are involved with the use of graphs and coordinate geometry, percents, ratios, fractions, decimals, geometry, statistics, and measurement. The Pythagorean Theorem, squares, square roots, and probability are also covered.



8th Graders are enrolled in either Algebra I or Pre-Algebra. Students solve and graph linear equations and inequalities, and use the Pythagorean Theorem and trigonometric functions. Analyzing, writing, graphing, and interpreting components of linear functions are also covered. Problem solving and higher level thinking is focused on in both class settings.

Science - Hands-on activities, experiments and/or demonstrations are used to enhance the curriculum and foster curiosity and understanding in Trinity's science curriculum. The scientific method is taught in all areas and topics and is used in conjunction with Trinity's biennial Science Fair.



Earth Science is the course of study for our 6th graders. The topics covered on that level include minerals, rocks, earthquakes, volcanoes, energy, water, weather, and astronomy. The year concludes with a unit on the dynamics of kite making and demonstrating.

Life Science is presented in 7th grade. Some of the topics covered are cells, plants, animals, and the human body. Students are given the opportunity to dissect earthworms, grasshoppers, frogs, and owl pellets. The seventh graders conclude their year with a unit on inventions.



Physical Science is studied during the 8th grade year. Topics covered include matter, atoms, chemistry, motion, forces, machines, energy, sound, light, magnetism, and electricity. The year in eighth grade concludes with a unit on rocketry.

Social Studies, Geography, US History - A rigorous, but exciting program includes games, simulations, and current events for the middle school student. Biennially a school-wide social studies fair is held.



6th Grade World Cultures and Geography - focuses on the cultures, history and geography of nations of the world.

7th Grade US History - is the beginning of a two year experience with American History. Students in seventh grade will learn about Native American history, the exploration of North America, colonial times and continuing through the Civil War.

8th Grade US and IL Constitution and US History - Students continue with the study of American History from Reconstruction into the 20th century. 8th graders are required to study for and pass the U.S. and Illinois Constitution Tests.

Choir/Band - Students in *grade 6 are required to enroll in Choir*. An operetta is performed once every other year, with a Spring Fine Arts Festival occurring the other year. *In grades 7 and 8 students are able to choose to be involved in Choir or Chimes*. Both classes meet during the school day. Both choir and chimes perform at church services throughout the year. The choir and chimes also perform at local nursing homes. The choir and chimes are a part of the Spring Fine Arts Festival every year. Band is contracted through Music Education Service and is available for a monthly cost to the parent(s).



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.

Technology - The technology 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. English and social studies. Curricular areas include word processing, html/css coding exposure, Web-site Design in Google Sites, I-Movie, spreadsheet development, graphic manipulations, and Keynote and Google Presentations, as well as several other I-Pad Apps as selected by classroom teachers.

As a way of recognizing outstanding academic achievement for grades 6-8, Trinity has three “Honor Rolls” in which students may be a part. The three “Honor Rolls” are: Principal’s List, High Honors, and Honors.

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

- Chapel Families
- Prayer Partners
- Reading Buddies

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



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.”



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



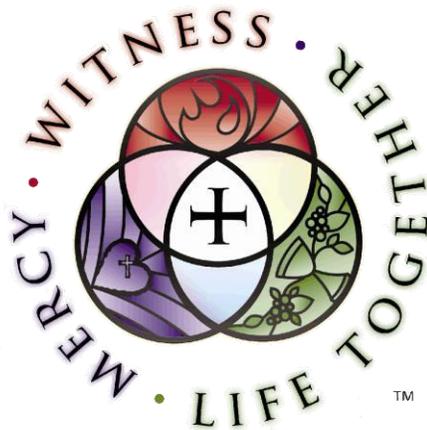
4 Year-Old Pre-Kindergarten through Third Grade

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 through Eighth 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 additional emphasis on teamwork which again is accomplished through team games and activities. Organized games and sports are introduced and skills are developed.



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.

To God Be the Glory!