



*Elm Grove Ex. Lutheran Church
School and Childcare*

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Curriculum Synopsis



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ELM GROVE LUTHERAN SCHOOL
“Equipping God’s Children for His Service”
Curriculum Synopsis
PreK-3 through 4th Grade

CURRICULUM

Our school is established on the foundation of God’s Word. Students should read the Word of God, study it, and apply it to their lives, daily. In addition Lutheran doctrine is taught at all grade levels culminating in a confirmation class for eighth grade students.

Religion however is not just a segregated subject in the day’s schedule; rather, it is integrated throughout the entire curriculum. We believe that only in keeping God’s Word can all secular subjects be properly understood and applied.

The curriculum in its entirety is drawn from curriculum guides for Lutheran schools of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and from a study of the guidelines for elementary school developed by the State of Wisconsin.

The curriculum is meant to challenge students academically and prepare them for success as they prepare to move on to high school.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the “Parent’s Curriculum Guide” is to summarize for parents and prospective parents what is being taught at Elm Grove Lutheran School. It also identifies the texts that are being used to teach the curriculum. In addition the guide will demonstrate for parents the developmental nature of the curriculum building a solid foundation on which additional learning can take place. The purpose of this guide is not to provide a comprehensive curriculum guide (that can be obtained in the school office) but rather to briefly summarize what is being taught at each grade level.

PREK-3 CURRICULUM

Social/Interpersonal Goals

The children will:

- Learn the importance of cooperation and sharing
- Develop caring attitudes toward others
- Establish positive relationships with adults and children outside the home setting
- Engage in activities involving taking turns
- Practice social courtesies

Self-help/Intrapersonal Goals

The children will:

- Demonstrate healthy habits (covering coughs, washing hands etc...)
- Demonstrate proper eating habits and table manners
- Engage in the following activities with modeling and assistance from adults if needed (zipping, snapping, buttoning, buckling, tying etc.)

Self-Image Goals

The children will:

- Engage in successful experiences through developmentally appropriate activities.
- Develop a feeling of competence in abilities
- Learn to appreciate and care for the human body
- Recognize that each person created by God is special
- Develop pride in self and family through opportunities to share special stories and experiences

Spiritual Living

Little ones are children of God and need to learn how to live and love as Christians. There is “Jesus Time” during each class session; however Christian instruction is incorporated throughout the entire class session. The children will:

- Learn of Jesus’ love and friendship
- Use prayer to talk with Jesus
- Be encouraged to worship and praise Jesus
- Know that Jesus forgives their sins
- Become familiar with a wide variety of Bible characters and stories
- Participate in songs and activities which share the Good News of God’s love with others

Communication Arts

Reading to children is essential in helping them to communicate well with others. Through the use of stories and book experiences, children begin to learn about the individual parts of our language. The children will:

- Engage in activities to enhance listening skills
- Enhance their vocabularies
- Increase oral expression
- Improve conversational skills (i.e. turn-taking, responding appropriately, etc...)
- Develop an awareness of print as an important means of communication
- Engage in a variety of writing experiences including use of journals, experience stories, dictated and retold stories
- Increase their attention spans
- Engage in activities to improve letter recognition skills

Expressive Arts

Since young children are often unable to verbally express their ideas and feelings due to a limited vocabulary and minimal amounts of oral expression, it is important to offer them other means of expressing emotions. The children will:

- Participate in songs and finger plays
- Explore the use of low, middle and high vocal sounds
- Sing and make music that is loud and soft, quick and slow
- Engage in a variety of rhythm activities
- Use a variety of media for creative expression through art (i.e. paint, tissue paper, glue, markers, chalk, clay, etc...)
- Participate in creative movement to a variety of music
- Engage in dramatic play

Wellness

Physical growth and development occurs at a rapid pace during the early childhood years. Children need guidance to help them care for the wonderful bodies created by God so they will grow up healthy and strong. The children will:

- Engage in activities to develop both fine and gross motor skills
- Be instructed in the observance of healthy habits such as covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands, using tissues appropriately, brushing teeth, etc...)
- Be encouraged to taste a variety of healthy foods during snack time
- Learn safety rules pertaining to fire safety, strangers and basic traffic rules

Discovery

This area of the curriculum includes activities, which are traditionally labeled as science, social studies, and math concepts. Through this portion of the curriculum, the children will develop a better understanding of the world around them. The children will:

- Develop their observational skills
- Use the scientific method to ask questions, make predictions, and participate in experiments, which will provide results to help students draw conclusions
- Perform simple experiments using the scientific method
- Learn through the use of a variety of senses
- Tend plants and animals
- Identify and distinguish between living and nonliving things
- Be encouraged to use their inquisitiveness to help them explore areas of interest to them
- Learn about differences between the various seasons in God's world
- Recognize the uniqueness of others
- Learn about a variety of occupations and careers through the use of special visitors, field trips, dramatic play areas and a variety of other books and manipulatives
- Engage in cooking activities as a way to practice following directions, cooperation, and to observe changes in matter.
- Explore the concepts of color, shape and size
- Develop thinking skills in activities involving sorting, classifying, patterning, counting and graphing
- Engage in activities to foster numeral recognition skills
- Participate in activities to enhance spatial awareness skills, such as doing puzzles and building with blocks
- Engage in activities involving estimation skills

Class Themes

School Friends	Fun on the Farm	Trees and Fall
We are Thankful	Advent-Jesus is Coming	Christmas
Winter Wonderland	Nursery Rhymes	Author/Illustrator Unit
Lent-Jesus Died for Me	Easter-Jesus is My Savior	Spring
New Life-Hatch Ducklings	Creation	

Field Trips

Fire Station	Grocery Store	Nature in the Parks Program
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Special Events

Parties- Harvest, Christmas, Valentine's Day	Reading Week
Incubate Mallard duckling eggs	Track and Field Day
School Picnic	Spring Concert

PREK-4 CURRICULUM

Language Art

Children learn language by using it in a natural way. Our classroom will be a “language rich” environment where the children will be exposed to various types of oral and written language. The students will learn to be good listeners and to express their own ideas clearly. Your child will demonstrate oral language by:

- Using conversation skills
- Expressing their own needs
- Answering and asking questions
- Participating in oral language activities
- Sharing ideas, experiences, and feelings
- Learning letter sounds
- Your child will practice listening skills by:
 - Being attentive
 - Looking at the speaker
 - Following directions
 - Listening without interruption
- Your child will become aware of written language, its purpose, mechanics, and process through:
 - Selected stories, poems, rhymes, and written language in the environment
 - Use of upper and lower case letters
 - Use directionality (left to right, up and down)

Mathematics

Mathematics exploration is based on meaningful, concrete experiences. This is usually accomplished through the use of manipulatives (the use of objects such as blocks, cubes, or even edible math). The pre-kindergarten math program provides many hands-on activities. Your child will demonstrate an awareness of basic concepts:

- Colors, sizes, shapes, and spatial relationships
- Your child will demonstrate an awareness of patterns through:
 - Sorting, classifying, ordering, sequencing
- Your child will demonstrate an awareness of number sense through:
 - Counting, recognition, adding, subtracting, one to one correspondence
- Your child will demonstrate an awareness of measurement in relationship to:
 - Comparison, estimation, graphing

Social Studies

Thematic units planned for the social studies program, deal with self, family, and community. The children will work towards developing positive attitude about themselves and others. Learning expectations include the following:

- Your child will demonstrate an understanding of self, including:
 - Uniqueness, personal needs/wellness, responsible citizenship, careers
- Your child will demonstrate an understanding of others including:
 - Exposure to different languages, cultures, and celebrations

Science

Children understand concepts of science as they interact with things in their world. In thematic units they will use their natural curiosity and questioning to explore science in their everyday lives. The following are science-learning expectations:

- Your child will demonstrate awareness of the environment in relationship to:
- Seasons, weather, animals, plants
- Your child will demonstrate awareness of cause and effect through:
- Observation, making predictions, performing experiments, and drawing conclusions

Religion

Little ones are children of God and need to learn how to live as Christians. The children will begin to understand and practice giving thanks and praise to God. Jesus time is incorporated into each class session and Christian instruction is taught whenever the opportunity or need arises. In religion class the child will develop:

- A relationship with Jesus, their Savior, through prayer and studying God’s Word
- Ways to worship and praise God
- An awareness of a variety of Bible characters and stories
- Activities and songs which share the Good News of God’s love

Class Themes

Welcome to School	God Made Me/ I am Special	Families
Fall	Apples and Pumpkins	Fun on the Farm
Thanksgiving/Harvest	Advent-Jesus is Coming	Christmas- the Savior is born
Epiphany- Wisemen Visit	Winter	Nursery Rhymes
Outer Space	Author/ Illustrator Unit	Post Office
Valentines Day	Dental Health	Lent
Spring	New Life- Hatch Ducklings	Easter
Careers	Summer Fun	

Special Events

- Field Trips: pumpkin farm, nature program at Greenfield Park, Zoo-to- You class
- Class parties: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine’s Day
- Reading Week
- Incubation and hatching of Mallard Ducklings
- Track and Field Day
- End of the year picnic
- High Interest Day
- Christmas Service
- Music Informance participation
- Spring Concert
- Child of the Week Activities – 2nd semester

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

Religion

Throughout the year the children are taught about God’s love. God the Fathers’ love for them, Jesus’ love in dying for their sins and the Holy Spirit’s part in strengthening their faith. The children learn to pray and share their prayers with others. They are encouraged to give gifts to our Triune God. We gather in chapel to recognize a sense of belonging with other students in our school. We

learn about how we are God's Children through baptism. We talk about the liturgical seasons of the church and also develop an appreciation for Martin Luther.

Reading Readiness/Language Arts

Our Super Kids text provides a phonetic approach to the name, shape and sound of each letter. The series promotes oral expression and develops vocabulary. The listening CDs excite students with experiences they may not have had, and also exposes them to a wide variety of culture. Comprehension is developed through guided reading and direct instruction techniques. Ideas are expressed through illustrating, writing, role-playing and retelling stories. Literary appreciation is developed through reading the stories of familiar authors and illustrators as well as differentiating fiction, non-fiction, and fairy tales at library time.

Handwriting

Students will recognize and use capital and lower case manuscript letters and numerals. Proper posture, pencil grip, and paper positioning will be taught for good writing habits. Spacing between letters and word will be introduced. In Kindergarten, written work will begin and exposure to self-evaluation will take place.

Social Studies

The students learn to identify the different parts of God's world through the study of people and places. By looking at the roots of various holidays the child will be able to make the connection between past and present. Respect for those in authority is expected and taught through the Ten Commandments and incorporated in citizenship. Through social studies students learn to work together as a class and school as well as working independently. Units include:

- Our classroom- rules and maps
- Families- living and working together
- Geographical places in the world- city, farm, ocean and woods
- Our special country

Mathematics

Children will explore the everyday uses for math through the use of the calendar and the kindergarten math series. Students will sort by color, shape, and size as well as finding patterns and extending those patterns. Students will learn to make predictions and read a graph. Counting, writing numbers, and exploring numbers are also an integral part of Kindergarten math. Comparing and estimating capacity, weight, and length will be part of the make-up of each unit. Students will also learn to identify shapes and solids, fractions of the whole, as well as a whole object. During calendar time students will learn about the use of money, time, sequencing, ordinal numbers, and months of the year. Joining and separating sets will be taught to help students gain an understanding of adding and subtracting.

Science

The science program helps provide the child with different areas through which they can explore and observe God's marvelous world. Students will begin classifying, observing, and predicting key scientific concepts. Our program utilizes hands-on activities with specific units of study. The curriculum centers on:

- life- animals, plants
- earth- land, water, air, weather
- physical science- sorting objects, magnets, tools, and water characteristics

Health

Through the health program students will learn good personal health and hygiene practices. The child will be introduced to healthy personal choices and the importance of personal health will be reinforced. Students will learn where germs are found, how they spread, and how to prevent their spread through a unit on disease prevention. Children will be able to select reliable help for their health care problems. Students will understand that they are one of God's unique creatures, who have their own special qualities. Through identifying and fostering these unique qualities students will develop a sense of self-worth. Students will also recognize the differences in others and learn to respect each person's uniqueness. Children will learn the importance of communication skills, especially within the family, through identifying family roles, rules, and responsibilities. Situations and actions that lead to conflict will be identified, so students can understand their feelings and practice their responses to those situations.

Physical Education

Students will:

- Engage in activities that establish a foundation to engage in appropriate motor patterns in daily physical activities such as loco-motor movements, manipulative skills, tumbling and rhythms
- Identify movement patterns and body parts
- Know that their body and movement skills are gifts of God
- Sustain physical activity for short periods of time
- Begin to learn and utilize acceptable behaviors for active settings
- Enjoy participation alone and discover the joy of playing with others
- Grow in wonder at the creation of their body and associate positive feelings with participation and try new skills and movements
- Participate in establishing rules, procedures, and etiquette for activity situations; demonstrate courtesy, self-control, loyalty, truthfulness, and Christian conduct in cooperative and competitive activities
- Spark P.E. program utilized at this grade level

Art

The "Arts Attack" curriculum is designed to help students gain an interest in and appreciation of the arts while developing skills and a sense of accomplishment. Students will demonstrate their understanding of God's work as the Creator. Areas of art that are explored include drawing, painting, design, and sculpture. Art is also integrated into literature, social studies, and science activities. Some projects are teacher-directed utilizing color, shapes, painting, paper creations, and exploration with clay. Others are open ended where children can explore and create using a wide variety of media.

The artists Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keefe, and Vincent VanGogh are introduced.

Music

The music curriculum encourages all students to develop their unique musical abilities. This is achieved through singing, movement, listening, and playing instruments both in choir and music class. The music is integrated throughout the day fostering a lifelong enjoyment, exploration, and creativity.

Kindergarten Texts

- Religion: Voyages: Concordia Publishing,
- Reading: Super Kids Reading: Rowland Reading Foundation,
- Handwriting: Super Kids Reading: Rowland Reading Foundation

- Math: Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley,
- Science: Harcourt Publishers,
- Social Studies: Here I Am: MacMillan/ McGraw-Hill,
- Health: Health Promotion Waves,
- Music: Share the Music: MacMillan/ McGraw Hill,
- Art: Arts Attack : Arts Attack Publications 1996
- Phy Ed. Spark K - 2

FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

Religion

Students learn many characteristics of our Triune God including his almighty power, love, care, and forgiveness through many Bible stories that are read in chronological order from New Testament to Old. The themes for each unit are “God Blesses a Family”, “God Blesses a Nation”, “God Blesses Leaders”, “God Speaks through Prophets”, “The Savior Comes”, “Jesus’ Miracles”, “Jesus Speaks to the People”, “Jesus Saves”, and “Tell About Jesus”. Each of the lessons within these units provides a daily devotion, songs of praise and adoration, the Bible story itself, references to Luther’s Catechism, prayer, and ways the students can apply the Bible stories to their own lives. This curriculum puts a lot of emphasis on discipleship and how even as young as these children are, they are called by God to show His love and care through their interactions with others for His glory and witness purposes. They study the Lord’s Prayer and the 10 commandments. Children also have weekly memory work that reflects the coordinating Bible story lesson.

Language Arts

First Grade Superkids steps up students’ phonics instruction by teaching more complex letter-sound relationships, such as digraphs and long-vowel sounds. Instead of focusing just on individual letter-sounds, children learn to use word families and whole-word patterns to help them decode and encode. They also learn how to read and spell six new Memory Words—high-frequency or sight words—in every unit. The decodable stories children read in this level are longer and more complex than those in kindergarten. Lessons for each story help guide children’s understanding and explicitly teach comprehension skills and strategies. Lessons also teach and have children practice using fluency skills, such as reading with expression and natural phrasing. Explicit and systematic instruction in expressive writing teaches children how to write a wide variety of products and introduces them to the writing process.

Handwriting

The student will be able to write the manuscript letters and numerals (Zaner- Bloser) using the correct formation, spacing, and writing position.

Social Studies

The first grade child will develop a greater understanding of the world God created and the people in it. He/she will learn more about their own family, its history, uniqueness, and responsibilities. He/she will add to their understanding of friends and neighbors through map study, community development, occupations, and civic responsibility. He/she will be introduced to the world around them through the study of landforms, communities, and countries. He/she will see God's guiding hand through our nation's past and present. He/she will learn patriotic symbols and Christian citizenship.

Mathematics

First grade students learn mathematical concepts, critical thinking, computation, and application. A broad range of concepts are introduced, developed and practiced through a variety of formats and frequent use of manipulatives. Hands on and interactive learning lead to discovery and understanding. Children learn number concepts and strategies to 18, beginning geometry, fractions, counting patterns, place value, money, telling time, and measurement including linear, liquid and temperature in standard and metric systems. The first grader learns God's wonderful plan for order in the world through the understanding of beginning mathematics.

Science

Students learn about the complex world God created as they learn about plants, animals, earth science, weather, seasons, matter, energy and forces. They use their senses to observe, compare, classify, file, gather information, plan, predict and draw conclusions. As they learn about the wonderful world around them, they also learn to care for it and appreciate God's power and plan.

Health

This curriculum helps students develop positive behaviors and attitudes that will lead to a lifetime of good health. Students will learn about their body, nutrition, physical fitness, injury and disease prevention, drug use prevention, family life, emotional/intellectual/social health, and community/environmental health. They also learn some life skills such as making responsible decisions, managing stress, setting goals, resolving conflicts, communicating, and refusing risky behaviors. Students are also introduced to consumer skills such as being able to analyze advertisements and media messages, make buying decisions, and access valid health information. All of these lessons emphasize positive character traits such as how to be caring, a good citizen, fair, respectful, responsible, and honest (trustworthy).

Physical Education

Students will:

- Demonstrate mature patterns using loco-motor skills, perform simple combinations and demonstrate smooth transitions between motor skills such as catching and throwing, striking and kicking
- Identify characteristics of mature movements and skills
- Be encouraged to seek and participate in a wide variety of activities outside of physical education class
- Sustain activity for longer periods of time and recognize physiological changes during activity
- Practice cooperation through partner and small group activities. They will know and apply rules and procedures with little or no reinforcement
- Treat self and others as children of God
- Try new activities and gain enjoyment from a growing competency of movement skills as they begin to master selected skills
- Participate in establishing rules, procedures, and etiquette for activity situations; demonstrate courtesy, self-control, loyalty, truthfulness, and Christian conduct in cooperative and competitive activities
- Spark P.E. program utilized at this grade level

Art

Students will be introduced to different concepts for line formation, color, shape and form, patterns, texture, space, and composition. They will explore and create using the concepts learned

with drawing markers, oil pastels, tempera paint, watercolor paint, chalk, crayon resist, and other various media. The artists Paul Klee and Joan Miró are introduced.

Music

The first grade child finds expression for praising God and enjoying music through musical concepts and appreciation of the language of music. He/she becomes aware of melody and pitch and can respond through moving, clapping, echoing, and simple actions. He/she learns beat, dynamics, and rhythmic patterns.

Computer Education

First Grade students utilize computers in the classrooms and in the LAB. Students are introduced to and develop a variety of computer skills such as computer basics, keyboarding, word processing, drawing and graphics, gadgets, presentation, spreadsheet, database, electronic reference, and internet use.

First Grade Textbooks

- Religion: One In Christ, Concordia Publishing
- Reading: Super Kids Reading, Rowland Reading Foundation
- Phonics: Phonics, Harcourt Publishers
- Spelling/Vocabulary: Spelling, Houghton Mifflin
- Math: Scott Foresman Math 1 Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley
- Science: Science, Harcourt Brace
- Social Studies: People and Places, McMillan/McGraw Hill
- Computer Education: Tech Knowledge, SRA/McGraw-Hill
- Art: Art Attacks Publication: 1996
- Health: Health Waves, Health Waves Inc.
- Music: Share the Music, Macmillan-McGraw Hill

SECOND GRADE CURRICULUM

Religion

- Daily devotional and Bible lesson time
- Weekly chapel services
- Prayer time
- Bible story lessons with application to daily life
- Weekly memory work
- Catechism study
- Study of Martin Luther and the Reformation
- Family Life Education presented from the Christian point of view
- Lutheran faith and doctrine is incorporated throughout each day

Language Art (Reading, Writing, and Grammar)

- Reading selections offered in life situation reader entries, non-fiction articles in magazine form, and a wide selection of genre/leveled trade books
- Daily phonics practice
- Writing – personal narrative, descriptive paragraph, explanatory and comparative
- Writing of individual and class stories as well as journal entries

- Grammar activities (i.e. punctuation, capitalization, identifying subjects and predicates, sentence structure, paragraph construction, grammar usage)*
- Daily routine is a process that helps children to learn and practice spelling and editing skills. The students identify mistakes in a given written and spoken text and make the appropriate corrections in written and oral form
- Dictionary skills
- Weekly school library times and classroom library
- Teacher read-aloud stories
- Spelling includes: twelve spelling words weekly; practice activities in the classroom daily routine
- Accelerated Reading Program to encourage reading

Handwriting

Review of all manuscript letters for legibility, ease and correct formation

Social Studies

- Our Community- God places us in families, neighborhoods and communities. We study the differences in these groups and learn about urban, suburban, and rural areas.
- All About Earth- God created the earth in all its wonder. In this unit we learn about oceans, islands, continents, landforms, and bodies of water. It also stresses the importance of protecting our resources
- All About Work- This unit explores wants, needs, goods, services(consumer/produce). The student is taught that money is earned to pay for things and how tax dollars are spent for community services. Attention is given to God's promise to provide for all of our daily needs
- Our Government -Here we explore city, state, and national governments, voting, and how communities can solve problems
- Our Past- This unit helps us look at the discovery of America by explorers, the arrival of the colonists, slavery, the War for Independence and slavery, and Civil War
- People, Places, and Holidays-Americans celebrate people and holidays in special ways. We will look at important people in our history, special places in our country and several American holidays

Mathematics

- Review of addition and subtraction facts through ten
- Addition and subtraction strategies to learn basic facts through 18 (lots of practice for quick recall)
- Time concepts
- Money (values, equivalent values, counting back change)
- Measurement (i.e. length, estimation, capacity, weight, mass, temperature in standard and metric systems)
- Place value through hundreds
- Fractions
- Geometry (i.e. identifying and classifying plane and solid figures, area, perimeter, patterning, etc.)
- Two-digit addition (with renaming)
- Two-digit subtraction (with regrouping)

Science

- Life science-living things grow and change; plants, animals with classifications, and people; habitats and environments
- Earth Science-exploring the Earth's surface; the Earth's resources; fossils and dinosaurs; space and weather
- Physical Science-exploring matter; energy in motion; forces and sound, magnetism

Physical Education

Students will:

- Demonstrate mature patterns using loco-motor skills, perform simple combinations and demonstrate smooth transitions between motor skills such as catching and throwing, striking and kicking
- Identify characteristics of mature movements and skills
- demonstrate and participate in a wide variety of activities outside of physical education class
- Sustain activity for longer periods of time and recognize physiological changes during activity
- Practice cooperation through partner and small group activities. They will know and apply rules and procedures with little or no reinforcement
- Treat self and others as children of God
- Try new activities and gain enjoyment from a growing competency of movement skills as they begin to master selected skills
- Participate in establishing rules, procedures, and etiquette for activity situations; demonstrate courtesy, self-control, loyalty, truthfulness, and Christian conduct in cooperative and competitive activities
- Spark P.E. program utilized at this grade level
- Health
- The growing body – skeletal, muscular, digestive, respiratory, circulatory, and nervous systems
- Caring for our bodies to keep them healthy, clean, and strong
- Being and keeping fit and building life skills to do so
- Basic safety rules
- Medicines/drugs (alcohol, nicotine, caffeine) safe use of medicines
- Feelings and getting along with family members and friends
- Caring for the neighborhood

Throughout the year are special lessons of making good choices, resolving conflict, being respectful and responsible, etc.

Art

- Projects using a variety of media which offer an opportunity for creative expression (i.e. – watercolors, line drawings, paper projects, tempera paint)
- The children are offered a variety of art experiences ranging from structured lessons to free expression
- The artist Henri Matisse is introduced

Music

- Music concepts (i.e. beat, rhythm, pitch, instrument families, counting beats, etc.)
- Weekly choir practice
- Participation in special music programs (i.e. chapel services, Christmas program, concerts, singing at a nursing home, Sunday worship services)

Computer Education

Second Grade students utilize computers in the computer LAB and in the classrooms. Primary students will utilize a computer software program to learn computer operations. Students will be able to: operate computers constructively; define and use computer terminology; load software; store, retrieve, and print out documents; use and create computer graphics. Keyboarding, using correct “home keys” is also taught through a second software program (Paws).

Second Grade Textbooks

- Religion: One In Christ, Concordia Publishing House
- Reading/ Language arts/Phonics: Super Kids, Rowland Reading Foundation
- Handwriting: Zaner-Bloser
- Math: Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley
- Science: Harcourt Publishers
- Social Studies: We Live Together, MacMillan/McGraw-Hill
- Computer Education: Tech Knowledge, SRA/McGraw-Hill, Paws
- Art: Arts Attack Publication 1996

THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM

Religion

- Daily devotion and prayer
- Bible story time with singing and activities: Old Testament stories; Life of Jesus; the Early Christian Church.
- Weekly memory work includes: the books of the Bible; the Ten Commandments (including What Does This Mean? From Luther’s
- Small Catechism); the Apostle’s Creed; various corresponding Bible Verses; weekly chapel services

Language Arts

- Reading- Complete selections of children’s literature in two basal texts; separate reading selections (trade books); teacher read-aloud stories; weekly school library time; book reports
- Grammar- Sentence structure; nouns and verbs; pronouns; adjectives and adverbs; abbreviations; commas and apostrophes; quotation marks; homophones
- Phonics- Daily phonics practice
- Spelling- Twenty to twenty-five words on a weekly test; practice activities in the classroom.
- Writing Activities- Personal narrative; explanatory; persuasive; comparisons; expository and letter writing

Handwriting

Learn how to correctly form letters in the cursive alphabet and use them in some daily assignments.

Social Studies

- Living in communities- rural, suburban, and urban communities; what citizens do; different kinds of communities; communities in Mexico ; different landforms and climates.

- Looking back to the past- Native American Communities; the community of Mesa Verde; the English Colony at Jamestown (long ago and today); the Spanish Mission in San Antonio (long ago and today)
- Building a government-13 English Colonies; Ben Franklin and Philadelphia; The American Revolution; The Declaration of Independence; Our Country's Flag; George Washington; The Constitution and the Bill of Rights; elections; Our Nation's Capital (long ago and today); governments in communities
- Communities on the move-The Oregon Trail; Coming to America (immigration); The Civil War; migration; immigration today; transportation (long ago and today); communication (from the Pony Express to computers)
- Working together- different kinds of jobs; the importance of jobs; the economy; life in Japan; farming, mining and assembly lines; trade with other countries
- Geography Skills- map scales; intermediate directions; hemispheres; reading grid maps; reading transportation maps

Mathematics

- Review of addition and subtraction with regrouping
- Multiplication and division facts through 10 (lots of practice quick recall)
- Time (to the exact minute)
- Money (includes making change)
- Measurement (capacity and volume, weight, temperature, metric measurements, and measuring to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ inch)
- Fractions (equal parts, equivalent fractions, addition and subtraction of fractions)
- Place value up to hundred thousands
- Comparing, ordering, and rounding numbers
- Multiplying two and three digit numbers
- Dividing with remainders
- Decimals (tenths, hundredths, adding and subtracting decimals, and using decimals in money)

Science

- Life Science- how plants grow; types of animals; where living things are found; living things depend on one another
- Earth Science- rocks, minerals, and fossils; how rocks form; fossils; forces that shape the land; soils; Earth's resources; the water cycle; observing weather; Earth and the solar system
- Physical Science- properties of matter; changes in matter; heat and light; forces and motion

Health

- Personal Health- Take care of your teeth and body; good grooming; be physically active; be fair and safe.
- Mental and Emotional Health – Good character, responsible decisions, self-concept, expressing emotions, reducing and managing stress.
- Human Growth and Development- human body (an extensive unit covering all the major organs); understanding disabilities and differences
- Drug Prevention- medicines; tobacco prevention; alcohol and other drugs; prevention skills
- Community Health – consumers and advertising; wise buys; community health care

Physical Education

Students will:

- Attain mature motor patterns for loco-motor and manipulative skills (throwing, catching, and striking) as well as acquire some specialized skills through lead-up games to sports
- Recognize critical elements of a skill and provide feedback through peer-observation and assessments and accept the talent that God gives to them and others
- Begin to be aware of the activities they enjoy and regularly participate in physical activity to improve their skills and develop a healthy lifestyle
- Identify the fitness components, associate results of fitness testing to personal health and participate in moderate to vigorous activities in a variety of settings; recognize that their bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit
- Follow rules and procedures with few reminders and work cooperatively with a partner or small groups on task for short periods of time
- Respect individuals and cultures through various games, dances and activities.
- Participate with others and use physical activity as a means of self-expression and enjoyment by creating new dances, games or routines
- Participate in establishing rules, procedures, and etiquette for activity situations; demonstrate courtesy, self-control, loyalty, truthfulness, and Christian conduct in cooperative and competitive activities
- Spark P.E. program utilized at this grade level

Art

During the course of the school year third grade is introduced to the work of four artists: Georges Rouault, Henri Rousseau, Claude Monet, and Raoul Duffy.

Music

- Music skills- beat; rhythm; pitches; tone; markings in music (such as forte, piano, crescendo, decrescendo, repeat, slur, etc.); names of notes and rests and their value in music
- Weekly choir practice; participation in special musical programs; and an opportunity to sing in church services

Computer Education

Third Grade students utilize computers in centers in the classrooms and in the computer LAB. Students will utilize a computer education text and various software programs to learn and become competent in the curricular objectives. Students will be able to: operate computers constructively; keyboarding skills; learn to write and illustrate stories using computer software; use technology to complete classroom assignments; use the Internet for class projects safely

Third Grade Textbooks

- Religion: Various sources from Concordia Publishing House,
- Reading: Reading Street 3, Scott Foresman,
- Language Arts: Language Arts, MacMillan/McGraw – Hill,
- Phonics: Level C Phonics, Modern Curriculum Press,
- Handwriting: Handwriting – with a new alphabet, Zaner – Bloser,
- Math: Math, Scott Foresman – Addison Wesley,
- Science: Science, Harcourt Publishers,
- Social Studies: Our Communities, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill,
- Computer Education: Tech Knowledge, SRA/McGraw-Hill, Paws Typing Program
- Art: Arts Attack, Arts Attack Publications 1996
- Health – Health and Wellness, McMillan/McGraw hill

FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM

Religion

The Bible Stories studied are in chronological order. After beginning with creation, the stories include Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Ruth, and Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. The stories conclude with the formation of the early church and the beginning ministry of the apostle Paul. The focus of the lessons is on the key concepts of faith, such as Law, Gospel, confession, repentance, forgiveness, and God's grace. The memory is based on Luther's Small Catechism, which includes the 10 Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, and Luther's Evening Prayer.

Reading

A varied program of literature genres is provided to help develop reading skills and strategies. Using word study skills, such as gaining meaning from context and using a dictionary, will help to increase vocabulary. Comprehension skills that are practiced include being able to: recognize main ideas, locate important details, summarize information, understand inferences, draw conclusions, make predictions, understand cause and effect, and understand comparisons and contrasts. A Word Study/Phonics program is used to review and reinforce phonetic skills as well as to enrich vocabulary skills. In addition using the basal reader, four additional trade books will be read and studied: Sarah, Plain and Tall, Owls in the Family, Cricket in Times Square, and Caddie Woodlawn.

Language Arts

Besides reinforcing and developing many grammar skills, new skills will also be introduced. They will be able to identify the four sentence types, know how to write compound sentences, know how to fix run-on sentences, and be able to identify the complete subject and predicate, as well as the simple subject and predicate. They will be able to identify and use proper, common, singular, plural, and possessive nouns. They will be able to identify and use main, helping, linking, and irregular verbs. They will be able to recognize present and past tense. They will be able to identify and use subject, object, and possessive pronouns. They will be able to identify and use adjectives and adverbs for descriptive writing and comparisons. They will be able to identify and use prepositions and prepositional phrases. The mechanics of writing will include the use of end-of-sentence punctuation, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes, capital letters, and abbreviations. Using the writing process, they will be able to practice and develop their composition skills by creating a personal narrative, an explanatory writing, an expository writing, a comparative writing, and a persuasive writing.

Spelling

The fourth grade level words will focus on spelling combinations of various vowel sounds and consonant patterns. They will also study compound words, 2- and 3-syllable words, different word endings, and silent letters. As they work with each word list, they will review homophones, synonyms, antonyms, analogies, dictionaries skills, thesaurus skills, and proofreading. Through exposure to words from the Theme section and from the fourth grade curriculum, they will expand their vocabulary.

Handwriting

Cursive letterforms will be reviewed and reinforced, for use in daily writing activities. The practice activities include check stroke alerts, hints about common problems, and evaluation of their own handwriting.

Wisconsin History

A unique look at history of the United States will be presented from Wisconsin's viewpoint. The students will take a chronological look at Wisconsin from its early inhabitants to present-day history. These events will include: early Indians, explorers, settlers, the Revolutionary War, Wisconsin's statehood and government, immigrants, the Civil War, the Reconstruction Period, railroads, farming, paper industry, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, Vietnam war, and current recreational activities.

Social Studies

The United States is divided into six different regions in order to study the environment and its people: the southwest, the southeast, the northeast, the mid-west, the mountain states, and the west states. A summary of the history of each region will be presented, and also an overview of the people living in that region. Students will practice geography and map skills, including locating states, identifying capitals, using lines of longitude and latitude, using a mileage key, and using a time line.

Math

Basic math skills will be reviewed, developed, and expanded by using various methods including manipulatives and various problem-solving strategies.

They will build number sense by comparing, ordering, rounding, and estimating numbers. They will develop an understanding of place value through the millions. They will review basic addition and subtraction facts through 3- and 4- digit numbers. They will be able to name, compare, and order decimals and will be able to add and subtract them. They will review the meaning of multiplication and division in order to be able to multiply and divide 2-, 3-, and 4-digit numbers by 1- and 2- digit numbers. They will use customary and metric measure and will be able to compare and change units of weight, capacity, or length. They will develop fraction concepts to be able to order, compare, and simplify fractions, as well as to interchange fractions between mixed and improper. They will be able to add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators. They will explore the characteristics of polygons; learn about lines, line symmetry and quadrilaterals. They will explore using formulas for calculating perimeter, area, and volume. They will read and use pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs, and line plots. They will explore various aspects of probability, such as likelihood, fairness, and predictions. They will utilize many problem-solving skills including these: use logical reasoning, make a table or list, draw a picture, guess and check, work backwards, and use multiple steps.

Science

The three areas of science studied in the fourth grade are Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. In Life Science the students will study our world of living things. They will be introduced to classifying living things and further develop concepts about animal growth and adaptations, as well as plant growth. They will also look closer at what ecosystems are and how to protect them. In Earth Science the students will continue to explore the Earth's surface and Earth's role in the solar system. They will identify the causes of earthquakes and volcanoes, and the different types of rocks, minerals, and fossils. They will examine the causes of weather conditions, how currents move in the ocean, and how scientists continue to explore outer space. In Physical Science the students will investigate matter, energy, forces, and motion. They will identify and further develop concepts about the physical properties of matter. They will examine how heat energy moves and how sound waves move. They will be introduced to electricity and its relationship to magnetism. They will also investigate simple machines, which affect motion and force.

Health

Besides discussing ways to handle conflict, three different health areas will be covered. The Safety section will include knowing what to do in emergency situations, knowing basic first aid, reviewing procedures for fire safety, bike safety, and water safety. Nutrition and Fitness will include the food groups and the 6 major nutrients, nutrition labels, proper serving size, the proper way to handle food, healthy snacks, and healthy fitness choices. The Disease Prevention section will include personal hygiene, the immune system, common illnesses and their prevention, and identifying the symptoms and prevention of communicable diseases.

Physical Education

Students will:

- Attain mature motor patterns for loco-motor and manipulative skills (throwing, catching, and striking) as well as acquire some specialized skills through lead-up games to sports.
- Recognize critical elements of a skill and provide feedback through peer observation and assessments and accept the talent that God gives to them and others
- Begin to be aware of the activities they enjoy and regularly participate in physical activity to improve their skills and develop a healthy lifestyle
- Identify the fitness components, associate results of fitness testing to personal health and participate in moderate to vigorous activities in a variety of settings; recognize that their bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit
- Follow rules and procedures with few reminders and work cooperatively with a partner or small groups on task for short periods of time
- Respect individuals and cultures through various games, dances and activities.
- Participate with others and use physical activity as a means of self-expression and enjoyment by creating new dances, games or routines
- Participate in establishing rules, procedures, and etiquette for activity situations; demonstrate courtesy, self-control, loyalty, truthfulness, and Christian conduct in cooperative and competitive activities
- Spark P.E. program utilized at this grade level

Art

The students are given an overview of four different artists and their style of artwork : Franz Marc, Henri Matisse, Vincent Van Gogh, and Marc Chagall. Different types of projects include the use of lines, patterns, beginning drawing techniques, negative space, crayon resist, printing, mosaics, weaving, chalk, watercolors, and architecture.

Music

The students will begin to read music. Some of the musical terms covered will be: treble clef, staff, meter signature, measure, quarter note, eighth note, half note, whole note, and quarter rest. After they learn how to name the notes in the treble clef and count beginning rhythms, they are given a soprano recorder. Learning one new note each lesson, they demonstrate their knowledge of how to read music and how to play together as a group. They will have an opportunity to perform together at a spring concert.

For music appreciation, they will also be exposed to various styles of music as well as music from different countries.

Computer Education

Fourth Grade students utilize computers in the computer LAB and in centers in the classrooms. Students will utilize a computer education text and various software programs to learn and become competent in the curricular objectives. Students will be able to: operate computers constructively;

use a simulation program; refine and demonstrate keyboard skills; store, retrieve, and print documents; use and create computer graphics; use technology to complete classroom assignments.

Fourth Grade Text Books

- Religion: ESV Bible
 - One in Christ,, Concordia Publishing House, 2011
- Reading: Reading Street 4, Scott Foresman,
- Paperbacks:
 - Sarah, Plain and Tall- Patricia MacLachlan
 - Owls in the Family- Farley Mowat
 - Cricket in Times Square- George Selden
 - Caddie Woodlawn- Carol Ryrie Brink
- Language Arts: Language Arts, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill,
- Phonics: Plaid Phonics Level D Word Study, Pearson 2012
- Spelling: Spelling and Vocabulary, Houghton Mifflin,
- Handwriting: Handwriting, Zaner Bloser,
- Math: Math, Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley,
- Science: Science, Harcourt Publishers,
- Wisconsin History: Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story, Wisconsin Historical Society Press 2008
- Social Studies: Our Country, MacMillan/McGraw-Hill,
- Computer Education: Tech Knowledge, SRA/McGraw-Hill,
- Health: Health and Wellness, MacMillan/McGraw-Hill 2008
- Music: Share the Music, MacMillan/McGraw-Hill,
- Art: Arts Attack, Arts Attack Publications 1996

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Students in fourth grade are also eligible to begin string (violin, cello, etc.) lessons. In June and July the Evangelism Board of Elm Grove Lutheran School sponsors a T-Ball League for ages 4-6 here at the church. The Board also sponsors a soccer league for 5-6 year olds in the fall.

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