

Note from the Principal of SFLS

April 27 & 28, 2019

Dear Faith Lutheran Families,

Each year, enrollment season blesses us with opportunities to speak with parents across Sioux Falls who have never encountered our school before. Whether they hear about us at church, from a friend, or elsewhere within the community, newcomers are often surprised by the quality and quantity of academic and extra-curricular programming available at Sioux Falls Lutheran School.

During a recent conversation with one such parent, we heard a comment that eloquently describes the hidden gem that SFLS seems to be within our community. It went something like this: “We open enrolled our child at a local public school with strong academics and a focus on the arts, but then I discovered Sioux Falls Lutheran School and realized that you’re basically several specialty schools wrapped up into one!”

This parent’s surprise and delight over a newly discovered educational gem is a sentiment we continue to encounter as more and more families come through our doors to visit. To ensure that you—one of our own association congregations—understand what it is that we do within the walls of SFLS, please take a moment to read about the programming that inspires such joy and excitement among parents in our community.

Music

Throughout their SFLS careers, students participate in a robust music program that begins in preschool and includes classroom music, Suzuki-based violin instruction, band, choir, orchestra, guitar and tone chime ensembles, and marching band. The well-researched benefits of music lessons generally and the Suzuki method specifically—especially at a young age—include improvements in spatial task performance, contextual memory, IQ, achievement scores, reading and math scores, self-discipline, self-image, rhythm, and memory (Munsey, 2006).

Spanish

Beginning in Fantastic Fives, our Spanish program uses proficiency-based instruction to immerse your child in the language during class time. By speaking primarily Spanish and relying on props, visual aids, voice intonation, and body language to promote

comprehension, our teacher meets the individual child wherever they are in the language learning process, just as one would with a native speaker learning a language for the first time. By the time our students reach 8th grade, they have the option to take Spanish I for high school credit.

Zoned Recess & Movement Integration

At SFLS, our students participate in zoned recess multiple times every day. The program provides a physically and emotionally safe “zoned” play space that promotes improved student health, behavior, and academics. An extension of our zoned recess program, our classroom movement integration program incorporates “brain boosts” into the school day every 20 minutes, or so. The boosts are designed to increase brain activity and help students get 30-60 minutes of daily physical activity, which helps improve academic performance and overall wellbeing.

A School of Distinction

During our most recent reaccreditation cycle through National Lutheran Schools, the accreditation team noted, “SFLS provides a challenging academic curriculum that intentionally and thoroughly integrates what we teach and believe as Christians.” Additionally, our Suzuki philosophy violin program and zoned recess practice were recognized as “powerful and replicable best practices for children.” All three factors were instrumental in our designation as a School of Distinction.

Christ-Centered Conflict Resolution Curriculum

Because employers share that soft skills—those personal attributes that enable individuals to interact effectively and harmoniously with one another—will continue to increase in importance as our students apply for future jobs, we use resources from Peacemaker Ministries to teach Christ-centered conflict resolution skills that will serve our students throughout the course of their personal and professional lives.

To learn more about how a Christ-centered education at SFLS can make a difference in your child’s life, contact our admissions director, Mrs. Megan Baedke, at 605-335-1923 to schedule an Educational Success Consultation—we would love to have your family join ours!

*With Gratefulness,
Tia Esser, Administrator*