

Music

At St. John's the seventh graders have many musical opportunities. Choir is held twice a week. The students learn breath control, good posture, expression, diction, and work on intonation. They learn to sing two and three part music. They learn not only good hymnody and liturgy, but also patriotic and American folksongs and other songs written by the "Masters". The students sing in chapel and Sunday services. Students have a Christmas concert and sing for the graduation service. A musical is put on every three years by sixth through eighth grade.

Art

Students learn the elements of art including line, shape, texture, space, light, and color. They do activities for each element. The students also do seasonal art activities throughout the year. November is art appreciation month when volunteers bring in and discuss famous art works from the Minnesota Institute of Art. The seventh graders study the artist Georgia O'Keefe. An Art Fair is put on every three years.

Physical Education

All students participate in team and individual sport activities in order to follow rules, use good sportsmanship, develop strategies for success, accept and respect individual differences in abilities, and support and encourage each other to do their best to enjoy physical activity. Students will regularly participate in exercise activities to improve strength, endurance, and flexibility to reduce risk of injury. Students will be tested on skills, knowledge of the games, and fitness. They will take part in relays, games, group activities, sledding, skiing, bowling,

soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, track and field, flag football, and a variety of other games.

Computer

Instruction is integrated into other subjects. Students learn keyboarding skills, Microsoft office, research and Internet skills, and Power Point.

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CURRICULUM REVIEW

SEVENTH GRADE

Teacher:

Principal
Gary L. Volberding

Religion

Catechism is held as a regular class three days a week. The students study *Luther's Small Catechism* so that they will be able to explain and defend Lutheran theology according to the Bible. Hymnody, worship practices, evaluating sermons, and differences between Lutheranism and other denominations will be taught.

Memory

Memory is recited one day a week. Students will recite the six chief parts of *Luther's Small Catechism* with supporting Bible verses and proof texts.

Reading

The reading program is focused on using *EMC Master Piece 2001*, quality literature to captivate and motivate students to engage in reading. The students use the stories to develop greater reading comprehension through the use of main ideas, details, sequence, and inference. Vocabulary words are taught for word meanings, antonyms, synonyms, multiple meanings, homographs, homophones, connotations, classification, and analogies. The class also reads and discusses a novel each term. The students engage in independent reading that is assessed using our Accelerated Reader program. The library is visited weekly.

English

Through our English program, *Houghton Mifflin 2004*, students review in depth all eight parts of speech. The curriculum also includes punctuation rules, capitalization rules, subject-verb agreement, sentence structure, independent and subordinate clauses, and verbals. The writing process is approached so that writing can help make writing easier and more natural. Students link prior knowledge to new

experiences as they use the five stages of the writing process. Each lesson is carefully constructed not only to help students learn the concept well, but also to help build interest and background knowledge for the thinking, reading, and writing they will do in their writing process.

Spelling

The spelling program, *Zaner-Bloser 2000*, is centered on giving students methods of breaking down and understanding the structures and patterns that occur in spelling. Students have the opportunity in each unit to divide the words down into syllables, understand the phonics and letter structure, learn the definitions, and use the words in written contexts. Two religious words and dictation sentences are included in the weekly tests.

Science

The seventh grade uses *Prentice Hall 2007* to study the intricacies of God's created incredible world. The areas of study focuses on Earth's waters and changing surface, sound, light, bacteria, plants, and environmental science. Science is taught by use of textbooks, demonstrations, lecture and labs. Sex education is taught every other year and a Science Fair is held every three years.

Social Studies

The social studies program, *Holt, Rinehart, Winston 2000*, in seventh grade is focused on the study of geography. In geography students use the textbooks to understand basic geography concepts like land formations, climates, land uses, cultures, and world problems. They use mapping packets to memorize the locations of physical features like continents, oceans, seas, mountain ranges, and countries. The students also prepare and present Power Point

presentations on four different countries throughout the year. In the presentation the students cover such topics like the country's capital, population, GDP, monetary unit, flag and meaning, foods, sports, and holidays. Most students bring in food, music, and currency from their selected countries for the Social Studies fair. A Social Studies Fair is held every three years.

Current Events

Seventh graders use the *Junior Scholastic* magazine to learn about current events on a weekly basis.

Math

The math series, *McDougal Littell Middle School course 2* Math is a continuation from the sixth grade class where course one is used. Problem solving strategies are introduced, used and reviewed throughout the year. Estimation strategies are also taught. They are used and reviewed across all operations and involving a variety of sets of numbers. Students will review and expand their knowledge and ability to work with the basic math operations of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, integers, and percents. An increased emphasis is placed on statistics, and methods to display and interpret results and make predictions tying in probabilities. Basic algebra is introduced including graphing with two variables. Basic geometry is reviewed and expanded using the Pythagorean theorem, estimating square roots, finding areas, surface areas, and volumes. Congruent, and similar figures are used with proportional relationships. Basic consumer concepts are also incorporated.