

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

Many kinds of art experiences are done in eighth grade. Students have a chance to do wood working with sanding and decoupage. They have opportunities to paint on glass, learn and use watercolor and crayon techniques, draw, make posters, practice calligraphy, work with clay, and work with stenciling and printing. They learn primary colors and secondary colors and the difference between shades, tones, and tints. An artist is studied each trimester that goes along with U.S. history. November is art appreciation month when volunteers bring in and discuss famous art works from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. An Art Fair is put on every three years.

Physical Education

All students participate in team and individual sport activities to be able 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, and 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, skating, sledding, skiing, bowling, soccer,

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

Computer

Internet sites are used for research. Typing skills are reviewed. Writing projects are done on computer as needed.

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CURRICULUM REVIEW

EIGHTH GRADE

Teacher: Mrs. Gretchen Kliche
Mr. Gary Volberding

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 once a week. The students will recite the six chief parts of *Luther's Small Catechism* with supporting Bible verses and proof texts.

Reading

Each day the eighth graders will have reading. They will read a novel each semester and also use the *EMC Masterpiece Series* literature book. The students cover structural analysis, vocabulary, comprehension, drawing conclusions, predicting outcomes, cause and effect, inferences, summarizing, paraphrasing, author's purpose, fact and opinion, and bias. The students study different genres of literature including poetry. They also learn study skills like following directions, understanding advertisements, note taking, test taking, outlining, and skimming. Every month the students read a book of their choice outside of class and take an AR computer test to check for comprehension. Oral reading is encouraged daily. Library time is once a week.

English

Using the *Houghton Mifflin* series the eighth grade students review in depth all eight parts of speech. The curriculum also includes punctuation and capitalization rules, subject-verb agreement, sentence structure, independent and subordinate clauses, and verbals. Planning and delivering speeches are also included. Daily

Oral Language is used weekly. About once a month the eighth graders work on a writing project. These may include comparison papers, reports with bibliographies, autobiographies, and letters. They write about their Washington, D.C. trip and design a picture scrapbook.

Spelling

Using *Zaner Bloser* curriculum the students study twenty words each week. Every week has a rule to follow. They write exercises to practice spelling and learn definitions. A final test is given at the end of the week. Two religious words and dictation sentences are included in the weekly test.

Science

The eighth grade uses Prentice Hall 2007 to study the intricacies of God's created, incredible world. The areas of study focuses on cells, heredity, human biology, health, weather, climate, and chemical building blocks and interactions. 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

Holt, Rinehart and Winston is the series used for American history. The students are introduced to the basic events of different time periods. The basic periods include Native American culture, European exploration, European colonies, American Revolution, foundation of American government, War of 1812, Era of Good Feelings, Mexican-American War, Manifest Destiny, Civil War, Reconstruction, Western frontier, World War I, the Roaring 20's, The Great Depression, World War II, and the Modern Era. Students also learn important skills like compare and contrast, fact or opinion, critical thinking, citizenship, and social

participation. A Social Studies Fair will be put on every three years. The eighth grade takes a trip to Washington D.C. in the spring.

Current Events

Eighth graders use the *Junior Scholastic* magazine to learn about current event on a weekly basis. The Star Tribune newspaper may also be used.

Math

The *McDougal Littell Pre-Algebra* math series is a very high level pre-algebra program. Students will be introduced to and use basic algebra concepts throughout the year including solving equations and inequities containing one or more variables and quotients that are integers, fractions, or decimals. Problem solving strategies are practiced throughout the year. Students will use powers and exponents to work with monomials, polynomials and rational numbers, and find terms in arithmetic sequences and geometric sequences. Students will graph solutions to both equations and inequalities with two variables and connect algebra with basic geometric properties. Students use, display, and interpret numerical data by a variety of methods. Some advanced probability methods are taught. Algebraic concepts are applied to geometric basics. Polygons and the Pythagorean theorem are studied and applied to real world situations. Students are introduced to working with polynomials and nonlinear functions.

Music

At St. John's the eighth graders have many musical opportunities. Choir is held twice a week. The students learn breath control, good