

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 text books are adopted. Often areas are re-written 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. Prayers and bible verses are taught with each lesson weekly.



Language Arts - The students will be read story books 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 play dough 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.



Math

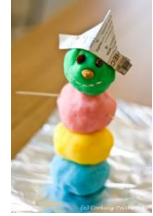
Fine Motor Skills - Children are able to improve their fine-motor skills by playing with building blocks, play dough, puzzles and other educational toys. Along with this experience, the students will also be taught how to hold and use marking implements and scissors correctly.

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.

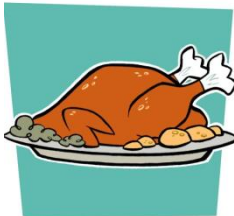


Social Studies - Students will learn more about themselves, their families, their health, community helpers, holidays, manners, and safety through thematic units. They will also realize that God has made each one of them unique and special.

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.

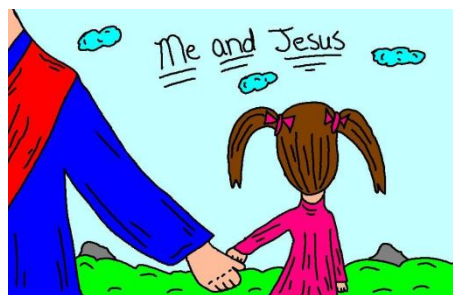


Library - Visiting Trinity Lutheran School's library once a week is a regular part of the three year-old curriculum. The children will have a short story read to them, and will be able to check out a book of their choice.



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 in the computer lab.

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.

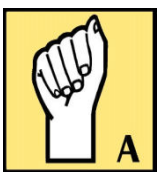


Gross Motor Skills - In addition to daily recess, physical education class is part of the student's weekly schedule. Physical education is taught by Trinity's P.E. instructor, and the children learn to play games, skip, hop, run, jump, kick, catch and throw balls, and balance. They will also enjoy individual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



Religion - 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, flannel graphs, 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, retelling a story and text comprehension. A variety of literature is utilized that enhances our program. Take-home books are also a part of the Reading curriculum.



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 and social skills that they will need throughout their lives. Families, communities, holidays, and our country are all presented.

Science - Kindergarteners study concepts such as the nature of Science, solving problems, earth and sky, matter and mixtures, motion of an object as well as learn about broader topics such as plants, animals, and the four seasons of the year.



Choir/Music - Kindergarteners participate in "Cherub Choir" and have several opportunities during the year to sing during the worship services. They also participate in the annual Fine Arts Festival. In Cherub Choir, students learn basic music theory as well as singing techniques.

Technology - Once a week the school's technology teacher leads the children in using age-appropriate, educational websites/games, reinforcing concepts taught in the areas of reading, math, and art, in addition to building understanding of seasons and holidays. Students practice mouse control and begin using the keyboard.



Art - Art projects are incorporated throughout the subjects using various types of art tools such as water colors, paints, crayons, markers, and colored pencils.

P.E. - This area of learning promotes the child's awareness of cultural and aesthetic value in development of fine and gross motor skills.

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



Centers - Various academic centers are offered during the third and the fourth quarters which include Math, Reading, Phonics, Spelling, STEM, and Art.

Field Trips - Kindergarteners participate in a variety of field trips throughout the school year which enhances learning. In the past, Kindergarten has visited a nature center, a pumpkin farm, a theatre to watch a live play and gone bowling, to name a few.



Classroom Parties - The following holidays are celebrated during the year with a classroom party: 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 a worship service for Wednesday morning chapel during the school year.

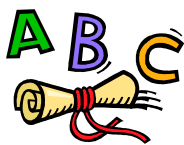
Reading - Five different basal readers introduce and support basic phonic skills such as long and short vowel patterns, blends, contractions and compound words. Other components of the series include building a sight vocabulary, fluency, story elements, and comprehension skills.



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, high frequency words and sentence structure.

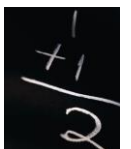
English - Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and writing forms are some of the areas covered. Creative writing is also covered through weekly writing assignments connected to the weekly reading story, social events, or children's literature.

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 lower case 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" choir and have several opportunities during the year to sing during the worship service.

Art - Weekly art expressing 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 highlighting 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. 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.



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, verbs, adverbs and adjectives are used to build sentence structure. Writing units: on personal narrative, descriptive writing, opinion essay explanatory writing, comparative writing and expository writing.



Mathematics - Second graders become proficient in addition and subtraction facts, counting patterns within 1,000, place value-regrouping 2-digit addition and subtraction, working with fractions and measurement (length in metric units and standard units). They are introduced to money, time, three-digit addition and subtraction, geometry and graphs.

Social/Studies - Students learn about the major landforms, bodies of water, regions, environment, geography, resources, and continents. The children will learn the 3 parts of government, rights, constitution, America's colonial history. Students will learn needs, wants, barter, scarce, choice, producers, consumers, and natural resources. Second graders discover the nation's past, studying Abraham Lincoln, Sitting Bull, Golda Meir, Martin Luther King, Jr., Harriet

Tubman, Yuri Kochiyama, Cesar Chavez, Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, Jane Addams, Thomas Edison, and Marie Curie. They will learn about primary and secondary sources (artifacts, journal, biography, historians). The children will learn about families, communities, responsibility, traditions, history, ancestors, and culture.



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 "Jubilation Singers" choir and have several opportunities during the school year to sing during the worship services. They also participate in the annual Fine Arts Festival each spring. In this choir, students learn music theory, how to play specific rhythm instruments, and they learn singing techniques.

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, and designs.



Technology - Once a week, the school's technology teacher leads the children in using age-appropriate, educational websites/games, reinforcing concepts taught in areas such as reading, math, art, and social studies. Students practice mouse control and beginner keyboarding skills, including proper typing technique. Second graders learn to use word processing software to type some of their writing examples.

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 the 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 also be introduced to the government and ways to be a good citizen. 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 Technology and the Design Process, as well as Life, Physical, and Earth sciences. 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 - Trinity's technology teacher leads third graders in enhancing beginner computer and keyboarding skills (including proper typing technique), as this focus becomes a larger component to technology class. Third graders frequently use Microsoft Word or Google Docs to gain keyboarding practice and type longer writing examples. Basic computer skills, such as file storage/retrieval and printing, are emphasized. The children are guided in using age-appropriate, educational websites or games, reinforcing concepts taught in areas such as reading, math, art, science, social studies, and health.

Choir/Music - Third graders participate in "Jubilation Singers" choir and have several opportunities during the year to sing during the worship services. They also participate in the annual Fine Arts Festival each spring. In this choir, students learn music theory, how to play specific rhythm instruments, and they learn singing techniques.



"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/Christian Studies - 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, hymnody, and leading a school Chapel worship are integral components of this class.

Reading - The reading curriculum includes an 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 projects, maps, and the textbook (featuring primary sources). The memorization of state capitals and abbreviations is a central focus, as well as knowledge regarding the regions of the United States. Fourth grade features an emphasis on the development of study skills and high level thinking. Students independently complete a project for Trinity's Social Studies Fair (held biennially), which correlates with a specific school-wide theme.



Science - Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science are the areas of concentration. Related experiments or demonstrations are a significant part of the program. Trinity's Science Fair (held biennially) requires each student to independently complete a project that gives them exposure to either the S.T.E.M. learning process or scientific method.

Technology - Trinity's technology leads fourth graders in building keyboarding skills (including proper typing technique), as this focus is an integral component to technology class. Fourth graders frequently use Microsoft Word or Google Docs to gain keyboarding practice and type longer, personal writing examples. Basic computer skills, such as file storage/retrieval and printing, are emphasized. Children learn how to create simple presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Slides. They are guided in using age-appropriate educational websites or games that reinforce concepts taught in areas such as reading, math, art, science, and social studies.



Choir/Music - Fourth graders participate in "Middle Grade Choir" and have several opportunities during the year to sing during the worship services. They are one of three choirs featured in Trinity's "Lessons and Carols" worship services, which includes both church and school choirs. They also participate in the annual Fine Arts Festival each spring. In this choir, students learn music theory, how to play specific rhythm instruments, and they learn singing techniques. Fourth graders also learn how to play recorders in a separate music class. Students learn how to read music and rhythms on a musical instrument, the recorder.

"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 across 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, and 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, while also offering guidance in how to pray and serve your neighbor.



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. Greek and Latin Roots, prefixes, suffixes, synonyms, antonyms, and figurative language are developed and assessed throughout the year. Students also work on being able to cite evidence from a text, and offer this evidence as support to expand their answers to questions. Quarterly book reports help support a passion for reading, as well as develop each student's knowledge of basic story elements.

English - Grammar, parts of speech, and different formats of writing are integrated to enhance the students' whole understanding of our written and spoken language. Students are challenged to express themselves during a variety of creative writing assignments. Google Docs is used to help students integrate and use technology to further their writing and proofreading skills. Neatness, organization and pride are expected in a student's handwriting and all work. Students often self-evaluate to gain personal understanding of their own writing style.



Trust In Him

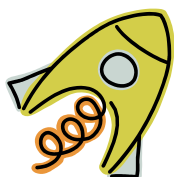
Mathematics - The fundamentals in place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, fractions, and graph skills are emphasized through the alignment of the text with CCSS. Students are challenged to build their problem solving skills and strategies, while also reviewing concepts previously covered in problem solving situations 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, but dedicated time is spent at the beginning of the year on the 5 themes of geography and the use of map skills. Reading strategies and writing skills are emphasized and used throughout the Social Science curriculum.



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 - The first and second quarters' Health is taught in partnership with the Tinley Park's Police Department's DARE program by a DARE trained officer. This weekly class uses reading, discussion, demonstration, and simulations so students can develop skills in decision-making, understanding the areas of mental, social, physical, and spiritual health, body language, drug and alcohol awareness, and other various topics. The curriculum continues into the third and fourth quarter with a text to continue exploring these topics. Human Development is taught every other year.



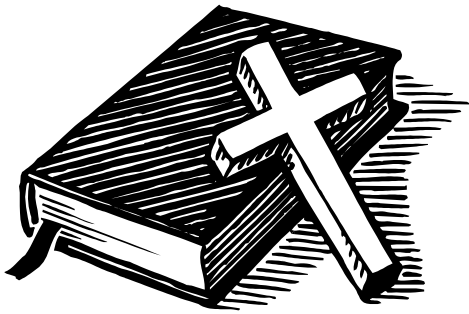
Art - Expression of oneself is encouraged through a variety of art projects. Students learn about specific pieces of work and art concepts before creating projects of their own. Students also receive art instruction based on various art concepts.

Technology - Trinity's technology instructor leads a skill/task-oriented class, in which fifth graders use their Chromebooks as well as the desktop computers in the lab. Students work individually or collaboratively to complete several projects (some in collaboration with other curricular areas). Curriculum includes digital citizenship and Internet safety, web research/authentic websites, computer science foundations/coding, word processing (Google Docs), presentations (Google Slides), spreadsheets (Google Sheets), and using Google Drive & Classroom. Fifth graders are expected to manage time carefully in order to complete much of each project during class. Building proper keyboarding skills is a central component, and typing speed and accuracy will be assessed. Websites are also utilized that reinforce grade-level concepts taught in areas such as reading, math, science, and social studies.



Choir and Band - Fifth graders participate in "Middle Grade Choir" and have several opportunities during the year to sing during the worship services. They are one of three choirs featured in Trinity's "Lessons and Carols" worship services, which includes both church and school choirs. They also

participate in the annual Fine Arts Festival each spring. In this choir, students learn music theory, how to play specific rhythm instruments, and they learn singing techniques. Choir is a performance-oriented class focusing on music in worship services at Trinity. 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





JR. HIGH 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 Old and New Testament lessons, an introduction to the 6 chief parts of the catechism, and the Church year. 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. Students are able to build upon each year of study and are well-versed in the English language and the expectations that will be set before them beyond the walls of Trinity.



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 proper 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 Math - 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: 7th Grade Traditional Math or 7th Grade Accelerated Math.

7th Grade Traditional Math - Student focus on ratios and proportional relationships, reviewing operations with fractions and decimals, understanding integers, working with expressions, solving equations, and various geometry, probability, and statistics concepts.

7th Grade Accelerated Math - This class is provided for our advanced students to increase skills and knowledge in this accelerated course to hopefully lead them to Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Students will study integers, rational numbers, exponents, ratios, and proportional and linear relationships in one variable.

Students explore different sampling methods and probability concepts as well as volume and surface area of 3 dimensional figures, and angle relationships in 2 dimensional figures.



8th Graders are enrolled in either 8th Grade Traditional Math or Algebra 1.

8th Grade Traditional Math - Students will focus on the number system including rational and irrational numbers, working with expressions, solving equations, an introduction to linear functions, various geometry concepts, and analyzing and graphing bivariate data. This course is designed to introduce algebraic concepts and prepare students to enter Algebra 1 or Math 1 in high school.

Algebra 1 - Students will learn how to solve equations and inequalities. A transition of the real-world applications to algebraic methods and techniques are emphasized by solving systems of equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials and exploring quadratic and exponential functions and rational and radical expressions.

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. The students have many opportunities to complete STEAM/STEM activities such as chocolate chip cookie mining in 6th grade, how viruses spread activity in 7th grade, and pendulums in 8th grade.



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 flying.

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, owl pellets and deer hearts. The seventh graders conclude their year with oral presentations on the human body and 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 8th grade also has a unit on forensics. 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 and Constitution Study - is the beginning of a two year experience with American History. Students in seventh grade will learn about the exploration of North America, colonial times and continuing through the Civil War. Seventh graders are required to study for and pass the U.S. and Illinois Constitution tests.

8th Grade US History - Students continue with the study of American History from Reconstruction into the 20th century.

Choir/Band - Middle grade students are able to choose to be involved in Choir (the "Trinity Singers"), Chimes, or a music class. All three 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. Trinity Singers are one of three choirs featured in Trinity's "Lessons and Carols" worship services, which includes both church and school choirs. In this choir, students learn music theory, how to play specific rhythm instruments, and they learn singing techniques. 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 - Trinity's technology instructor leads a skill/task-oriented class, in which junior high students use their Chromebooks as well as the desktop computers in the lab. Students work individually or collaboratively to complete several projects (some in collaboration with other curricular areas). Curriculum includes digital citizenship and Internet safety, email communication, web research/authentic websites, computer science foundations/coding, word processing (Google Docs), presentations (Google Slides), spreadsheets (Google Sheets), website creation (Google Sites), and using Google Drive & Classroom. Students are expected to manage time carefully in order to complete much of each project during class. Building proper keyboarding skills is a central component, and typing speed and accuracy will be assessed. Websites are also utilized that reinforce concepts taught in areas such as reading, math, science, and social studies.

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."

Matthew 22: 37 & 39



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

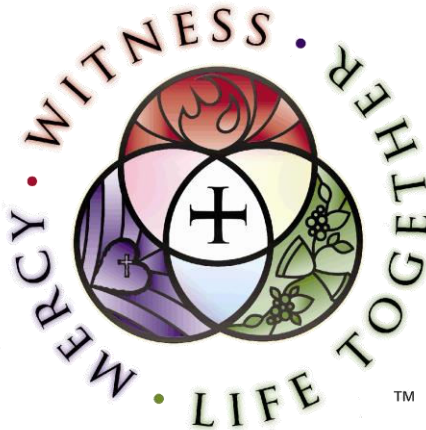
3 Year-Old Pre-Kindergarten through Third Grade

The focus at this level begins with body movement, basic gross motor skills, and the understanding of concepts that are needed to engage in individual and group healthy physical activity. There is also an emphasis on teamwork which is accomplished beginning with partners and moving to team games.

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 individually or in groups to continue in a healthy and active lifestyle. Focus is directed teamwork which 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!