

Faith Lutheran School

Middle School Highlights

Mission Statement: *Raising up families and followers of Jesus Christ*

Religion

Religion in the middle school consists of two days of Theology classes, one day of Biblical Character Formation (from the *Friendzy* curriculum), and one day of worship in Chapel.

5th/6th	<p>Theology class is combined for grades 5 & 6 and is on a two-year rotation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1: <i>The God-Man: Christ in the Gospels</i> (Positive Action for Christ) – students explore the identity and purpose of Jesus as shown by His life and ministry. • Year 2: <i>Bible Replay</i> curriculum – Part 1, “Game Face – Adventures in the Display of God’s Supremacy,” focuses on heroes of the Old Testament. Part 2, “God City – Adventures in the Gift of God’s Kingdom,” focuses on the promises of eternity in the Gospel of John.
7th/8th	<p>Pastor Greg Strand teaches the Theology class to grades 7 & 8 on a two-year rotation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1: <i>Wise Up: Wisdom in Proverbs</i> (from Positive Action for Christ) – the focus is on Christian living by engaging God’s truths found in the book of Proverbs. • Year 2: <i>Re:form</i> (from Sparkhouse) – students explore faith through questions about the Bible, the Apostles’ Creed, the disciples, Jesus, and contemporary topics.

Language Arts (broken into a Writing/Grammar class and Reading/Vocabulary class)

- *Grammar for Writing* and *Vocabulary Workshop Achieve* (both from Sadlier) are Common Core, state-aligned curriculum used in all grades, 5 to 8.
- In Writing class, students develop their writing skills through direct grammar lessons, prompts, essays, and creative stories.
- In Reading class, students learn strategies to improve their comprehension skills and explore all genres through their independent choice reading from an extensive classroom library to build their fluency and enjoyment as readers.
- Novel studies are also a part of Language Arts – titles for each grade can include:
 - 5th grade: *Holes*, *Fish in a Tree*, *The Homework Machine*, and *Freak the Mighty*
 - 6th grade: *The One and Only Ivan*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, *The Watsons go to Birmingham*, and *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*
 - 7th grade: *The Wednesday Wars*, *Maniac Magee*, *City of Ember*, and *Animal Farm*
 - 8th grade: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Outsiders*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, and *The Westing Game*

Mathematics

Our Math Curriculum is *EnVisions Mathematics 2020* (Grade 5) and *EnVisions 2021* (Grade 6, Grade 7, and Grade 8) from Savvas.

5th	5th graders work with topics that include place value, adding & subtracting decimals & fractions, data representation & interpretation, volume, measurement conversion, numerical expressions, graphing on a coordinate plane, analysis of patterns & relationship, and classification of two-dimensional figures.
6th	The following topics are covered in 6th Grade Math: rational numbers; numeric & algebraic expressions; solving equations & inequalities; using ratio, rate, & percent; solving area, surface area, & volume; and display, description, & summarization of data.
7th	7th Grade Math includes the following: rational number operations, proportional relationships, analyzing & solving percent problems, equivalent expressions, solving with equations & inequalities, use of sampling to draw inferences about populations, probability, and use of geometry to solve problems.
8th	Topics covered in 8th Grade Math include real numbers, linear equations, functions, bivariate data, congruence & similarity, the Pythagorean Theorem, and surface area & volume.

Science

5th	5th grade will cover the following topics using the <i>Mystery Science</i> curriculum: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life Science: Ecosystems and the Food Web• Earth Science: Water Cycle, Resources, & Systems; Sun, Moon, Stars & Planets• Physical Science: Chemical Reactions & Properties of Matter
6/7/8	6th, 7th, and 8th have a three-year rotation from <i>Generation Genius</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 1 – Life Science: Structure of Life, Body Systems, Interactions in an Ecosystem• Year 2 – Earth Science: Space, Earth, Weather• Year 3 – Physical Science: Force and Motion, Chemistry, Energy

Social Studies

5th/6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5th and 6th grade are on a two-year rotation using the <i>World History: Voices and Perspectives</i> and <i>US History: Making a New Nation</i> (McGraw-Hill) curriculum.• Year 1 examines US History from early Native American civilizations to the reconstruction following the Civil War with the purpose of developing an understanding of how different cultures influenced early American settlements.• Year 2 examines the world history of the Near Ancient East through the Reformation and the Rise of Europe (3500BC - AD1600).• Students frequently work in small groups to prepare presentations and reports.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note-taking and Internet research are emphasized. • Presentation Fair in May rotates between State and Country reports
7th/8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th and 8th grade are also on a two-year rotation for Social Studies. • In Year 1, utilizing <i>Exploring Geography and Global Issues</i> (McGraw-Hill), students encounter the five themes of geography as they pertain to the different regions of the world. • The third trimester shifts in focus to Washington State History and Constitution, which satisfies a High School graduation requirement using <i>The Washington Journey</i> (Gibbs Smith Education). • In Year 2, utilizing <i>United States History: Voices and Perspectives</i> (McGraw-Hill), students encounter the people, places, and events that shaped our young nation. • Daily activities include a survey of current events through CNN Student News. • Presentation Fair in May rotates between Civilization and American Historical Figure reports.

Spanish

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish is taught every other day in grades 5 to 8, utilizing the <i>SOMOS 1</i> curriculum from The Comprehensible Classroom with a focus on language acquisition for communicative proficiency. • Instructional methods used center around personalized questions and stories, both proven to be effective based on Second Language Acquisition research from the last four decades. • The initial focus is more on the receptive skills (reading & listening) than on the productive skills (writing & speaking), but a minimum of Novice High proficiency (according to ACTFL's proficiency guidelines) is the goal for all students. • Students who take all four years of Spanish at Faith Lutheran will have completed the equivalent of two years of high school Spanish and will be ready to enter any high school Spanish 3 class after graduation.
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Enrichment

Art	Art classes (twice weekly) include instruction in a variety of media, both 2-D (drawing, painting, etc.) and 3-D (weaving, papier-mâché, etc.)
Physical Education (PE)	Physical education instruction (twice weekly) includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal fitness goals and the importance of regular physical activity • Individual and team sport rules and participation
Technology Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our middle school is 1:1 with all students using a school-issued Chromebook daily in their learning. • Students keep up with assignments in Google Classroom and develop

	<p>proficiency with Google Suite products such as Docs, Slides, and Gmail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students practice in <i>Typing Club</i> (via EdClub) one period each week to become proficient in touch typing. • Students also develop proficiency in Canva in creating visual graphics across the curriculum. • Many students participate in Robotics to prepare for the February tournament in Tacoma.
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Middle School Experiences

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly chapel with chapel buddies • Host daily video announcements • Piano lessons (by individual appointment) • School assemblies • Sports: Volleyball, Basketball, & Track • Crochet Club • International Festival, Art Fair, and Science Fair (alternate yearly) • Passport Club • Service projects 	<p>Field trips include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Education experience in September for grades 5 & 6 • L.E.S.T. (Lutheran Elementary School Tournament) – Thursday through Saturday of Presidents’ Day weekend • Day trip to Mt. St. Helens • Day trip to Seattle (Mariners game or Science Center) • Washington DC (optional – offered once every 4 years)
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Sample Daily Schedule in Grades 5 to 8

	8:30	Homeroom
1st	8:45	Reading
2nd	9:30	Writing
	10:15	Break
3rd	10:30	Math
4th	11:15	Science or Spanish
	12:10	Lunch & Recess
5th	12:50	Religion
6th	1:35	Social Studies
7th	2:20	Enrichment