

Friends,

Westlake Lutheran Academy strives to assist young people in preparing for the future. A rigorous academic curriculum within a strong spiritual community is the foundation of our philosophy. Through daily prayer, Bible study classes and contact with Christian teachers, students are provided with opportunities to grow closer to Jesus while preparing for their post-graduation endeavors.

An important goal of Westlake Lutheran Academy is to prepare our students academically. To accomplish this, WLA has aligned its curriculum to move our students to that goal one step at a time. This helps us accomplish our mission of education for today, tomorrow, and eternity.

This planning guide outlines our curriculum from pre-kindergarten thru grade 5 and is useful as a description of the scope and sequence of our curriculum. It is our hope that this guide provides the needed information to help in this planning process.

The academic progress and success of each and every one of our students is important to us. Our administration and faculty are committed to helping students succeed in this endeavor.

Securing Their Future Together,

Glenn D. Gerber
Head of School

Administration

Glenn D. Gerber – Head of School

LUTHERAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Wayne Kramer – Executive Director
Mr. Kurt Rosenhagen, Chairman – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Mrs. Lynn Moers – Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Mr. Vince Parks – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Mr. Ben Schoppe – Our Savior Lutheran Church
Mr. David Theiss – Epiphany Lutheran Church, Jersey Village

LOWER SCHOOL GRADE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Pre-Kindergarteners (three-year old level and four-year old level) explore the world with their senses and at their pace through varied activities and experimentation. The curriculum for these two age groups revolves around monthly themed units with specific objectives for Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science and Religion. Skills for physical, emotional, social, aesthetic and spiritual development are interwoven within the academic areas.

Individual work in centers, as well as large and small group times, integrates the development of the whole child. Learning centers provide opportunities for hands-on reinforcement of concepts and skills that have been introduced in a group setting. These centers are deliberately planned and organized to give support to the themes, skills and concepts.

The monthly themes for Pre-Kindergarten are August/September, *Back to School*; October, *All About Me*; November, *My Family and Friends*; December, *Time, Weather and Seasons*; January, *My Neighborhood*; February, *Living Things*; March, *The World Around Me*; April, *Habitats*; and May, *My Favorites*. Specific objectives for each unit in Pre-Kindergarten Three differ from the objectives of Pre-Kindergarten Four. Within these monthly themes the religion curriculum teaches the children that Jesus loves them and is their Friend. The Bible stories are presented in chronological order so the children know Jesus as the Savior who takes away sin and is always present in their lives. The concepts from the Bible stories make an application to the young child's life in today's world.

Pre-Kindergarten classes participate in Physical Education and Music. Students experience Art through planned activities related to the monthly themes. Various media are incorporated into both the guided activities and the free exploration centers. Students are active in worship through weekly Chapel services and through service projects.

KINDERGARTEN

Language Arts

Kindergarten students engage in activities to develop their use of oral language skills in accordance with beginning the foundations of reading and writing. Activities focus on extending vocabulary skills of familiar words while learning words that are conceptually challenging. Students are exposed to classic and contemporary children's literature. They focus on listening skills to develop comprehension. Students also differentiate between fiction and nonfiction literature.

Students in Kindergarten begin the process of writing, focusing on the sequence of sounds and letters and connecting these concepts. Students begin reading and writing words. In Kindergarten, students write the letters of the alphabet, and using their knowledge of sounds and letters, begin independent writing.

Mathematics

The goals of mathematics in Kindergarten include developing whole number concepts and using patterns and sorting to explore numbers, data, and shape. These key components are building blocks to mathematical processes such as algebraic thinking, quantitative reasoning, number operation, and mathematical expression. Through manipulative materials, students in Kindergarten develop these processes to solve mathematical problems, as well as infer relationships of mathematics in the everyday world.

Religion

The Kindergarten curriculum is designed to assist students in learning the key concept of faith that reflect a child's growing perception of his or her relationship with Jesus Christ. These relationships include "Me and God," "Me, God, and Others," and "Me, God, and my World." Students worship during weekly Chapel services and participate in regular service projects.

Science

Science in Kindergarten introduces the use of simple classroom and field investigations to assist students in asking questions, gathering information, communicating their findings, and making informed decisions. Students focus on components of the natural world. Students develop a sense of seasons and change in the natural world. Students investigate organisms and their parts, and learn how to group living and nonliving organisms based on their features.

Social Studies

The focus of social studies in Kindergarten is on self, home, family, and the classroom. Students are exposed to our state and national heritage, including patriotic holidays and the contributions of historic figures. Students discuss the geographic concepts of location and chronology. Meeting basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing is discussed. Authority of home and school, along with customs symbols, and celebrations are also a focus of social studies in Kindergarten. Through a variety of oral and visual sources, students begin to understand their roles as members of society.

Physical Education

In Physical Education, students acquire the knowledge and skills for movements that provide the foundation for enjoyment, social development, and a physically active lifestyle. The students learn fundamental movement and apply concepts dealing with space and body awareness. Students are engaged in activities that develop basic levels of strength, endurance, and flexibility. In addition, students learn to work safely in a group and individual movement settings.

Art

Students rely on their perceptions of the environment, memory, imagination, and life experiences as sources for creating artwork. Students develop respect for the traditions and contributions of each artistic period by analyzing styles, thus developing life-long skills of making informed judgments and evaluations.

Vocal Music

Kindergarten Students participate in a choral music class in which they not only learn how to sing, but also to understand musical concepts such as beat, rhythm, and pitch. Students sing together as a class and as individuals. During class, Kindergarten students participate in singing games, Christian songs and music, and various manipulatives to learn beat and rhythm.

Technology

Students learn the five major parts of a computer and demonstrate proper care of software and hardware. Students use prepared software to identify letters and numbers on the key board.

FIRST GRADE

Language Arts

Students continue to develop their language and communication skills toward becoming independent readers and writers. Students listen and respond to a variety of children's literature, including selections from classic and contemporary works, which stimulates vocabulary development. Students learn decoding techniques to develop their reading skills. Students read stories, poems, and informational text (both orally and silently) which are appropriate in difficulty for their word recognition level and understanding. First semester emphasizes phonics; second semester emphasizes fluency and reading comprehension.

Students demonstrate knowledge and comprehension by asking and answering questions, retelling stories, predicting outcomes, and making and explaining inferences. Students develop their skills as writers, demonstrating the differences between phrases and sentences. Students organize information into stories and journals using grammatical rules. Students work to become proficient spellers.

Mathematics

The primary focal points of mathematics in Grade One are adding and subtracting whole numbers, and organizing and analyzing data. Students work to build a foundation of basic number theory, quantitative reasoning, geometric skills, algebraic thinking, and basic mathematical reasoning. Students use numbers to order, compare, label, and express quantities in relationship to solving mathematical problems. Students use informal language to analyze mathematical graphs, geometric properties, and measurement concepts. Students learn to use simple fractions, to tell time to the hour and half hour, and to count coins.

Religion

Religion is designed to assist students in learning key concepts of faith such as Law and Gospel, confession and repentance, forgiveness and grace. This is achieved in accordance with a specific focus on the person, attributes, and work of the Triune God. Students worship during weekly Chapel services and participate in regular service projects.

Science

Students identify components of the natural world while learning to gather information, perform measurements, and draw conclusions. Topics including heat, natural resources, weather, physical health, symbiotic relationships, and living organisms are studied. Students are also exposed to systems and cycles of interaction in terms of space, time, energy, and matter. Students actively explore these properties and apply the components of the scientific method.

Social Studies

The Focus of social studies is on developing a relationship between classroom, school, and community. Students piece together elements of chronology among past, present, and future events. Students design simple maps to identify the location of places in the classroom and the world. The value of goods, wants, and services is developed. Students identify historic and ordinary people who are examples of good citizens and study their importance in society. Students build a foundation in history, geography, economics, government, citizenship, and culture.

Physical Education

Students acquire the knowledge and skills for movements that provide the foundation for enjoyment, social development, and a physically active lifestyle. Students understand the relationship between physical activity and health throughout life.

Art

Students continue to develop their art skills by relying on their perceptions of the environment, memory, imagination, and life experiences. Students respond to and analyze artwork, thus contributing to the development of life-long skills of making informed judgments and evaluations.

Vocal Music

Students learn the basics of singing through the use of solfege (do,re,mi,...), which enables them to understand proper technique. The concept of beat rhythm, and pitch continue to be emphasized. Students are active in musical games and singing Christian music.

Technology

Students review the five major parts of a computer, the proper care of software and hardware, and identification of letters and numbers on the keyboard. Students will use appropriate terms as they begin using simulation programs to develop problem-solving skills. Under the guidance of the teacher, students use the web to enhance and extend other curricular areas.

SECOND GRADE

Language Arts

Second grade students move from learning to read to reading to learn. They continue to develop their language and communication skills toward becoming independent readers and writers by reading and responding to a wide variety of literature selections including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, biography, historical fiction, folklore, and readers' theater. During whole group, small group, independent instruction, and literacy centers, students learn and practice reading strategies to build comprehension including making inferences, drawing conclusions, comparing and contrasting, and finding main ideas.

Students develop written communication skills through participating in writing workshops incorporating personal narratives, fiction, writing instructions, letter writing, and beginning research. Students also receive direct instruction in sentence structure, parts of speech, grammar, syntax, and spelling patterns. Students practice D'Nealian manuscript handwriting and begin cursive handwriting mid-year.

Mathematics

Students continue to develop a strong foundation in number and problem-solving skills and concepts through direct instruction, technology, use of manipulatives, and independent practice. Students learn place value, adding and subtracting numbers up to three digits, geometry, fractions, American and metric measurement of distance, volume and mass, and multiplication/division readiness.

Religion

Religion instruction focuses on faith development. Students study Old Testament Bible stories illustrating God's promises and faithfulness and New Testament Bible stories demonstrating His great love for us in Jesus Christ. Students memorize Bible verses, retell stories, and learn to share their growing faith. Students worship during weekly Chapel services and participate in regular service projects.

Science

Second graders continue to investigate Life, Earth, Physical, and Health sciences through the science text, technology, and hands-on activities. Students increase knowledge of plant and insect life cycles, formation of rocks and fossils, movements of earth, moon, and sun, interactions of force, matter, sound, and light. Health topics including care of teeth and safety are part of the curriculum.

Social Studies

Second grade students continue to develop an understanding of self, classroom, and community, and their relationship to society. Students explore citizenship, geography (including map skills and landforms), local, state, and national government, American history, and economics.

Physical Education

Students acquire the knowledge and skills for movements that provide the foundation for enjoyment, social development, and a physically active lifestyle. Students learn to describe the function of the heart, lungs and bones as they relate to movement. Students understand the relationship between physical activity and health throughout life.

Art

The Arts Attack curriculum introduces students to various elements of art including line, color, shape, form, texture, pattern, space, and composition. Students use variety of art media.

Vocal Music

Students continue to practice solfege in choral instruction and learn to interpret the use of beat and rhythm while singing.

Technology

Students review the five major parts of a computer, the proper care of software and hardware, and demonstrate mastery in identification of letters and numbers on the keyboard and in using the mouse. Students learn the correct procedure for powering up and down a Microsoft Windows system.

THIRD GRADE

Language Arts

Third grade students read and write more independently than in previous grade levels. Students spend time engaged in their own reading and writing as well as in assigned tasks and projects. Students learn root words, prefixes, and suffixes. Students begin to distinguish fact from opinion, as well as to learn to support their inferences by citing portions of text. Students read from a variety of genres including realistic and informative fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Classroom discussion enables students to develop oral skills.

Students write with more proficient spelling as they are instructed in spelling techniques. Continued development of skills in syntax and grammar including word usage, capitalization, and punctuation is emphasized as students write in longer sentences and organize their writing into longer passages. Students master manuscript writing and begin to use cursive writing in the production of writing samples and drafts which have been edited and finalized according to grammatical rules.

Mathematics

Students use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division as generalizations connected to concrete experiences. Students are introduced to fractions and decimals. Students use visual mathematics, such as graphs and charts, to develop mathematical understanding. Students learn the correct formal language used to communicate shapes and solids, make predictions, estimate and compare, and solve application problems. Students are equipped with skills necessary to evaluate data and make predictions and decisions to solve mathematical problems.

Religion

The religion curriculum is designed to help students learn the concepts of faith. Topics of instruction include Law and Gospel, confession and repentance, forgiveness and grace, while emphasizing the actions of God on behalf of His people. Lessons reflect the need for the Law, which shows us our sins, and the Gospel, which leads us to God's grace. Students are encouraged to live in Christ through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Students worship during weekly Chapel services and participate in regular service projects.

Science

Students learn use of the scientific method in a variety of content areas. Students explore systems, physics, forces that cause change, matter, ecosystems, natural resources, layers of the earth, air, and astronomy. Students use tools, technology, and visual resources to accomplish the objectives of this curriculum.

Social Studies

Students build a foundation in history, geography, economics, government, citizenship, culture, society, and social studies skills through a variety of rich resources. Students expand their knowledge through the identification and study of people who make a difference.

Physical Education

Students acquire the knowledge and skills for movements that provide the foundation for enjoyment, social development, and a physically active lifestyle. Students continue to develop strength, endurance, and flexibility. Students demonstrate more mature movement forms, learn age-specific skills, and the health benefits of physical activity. Students begin to learn game strategies, rules, and etiquette.

Art

The goal of the art program is to teach every child to express him/herself through art. The first half of the year emphasizes understanding art elements (line, color, space, balance, etc.) and the development of drawing skills and painting techniques. During the second half of the year, students explore a number of media while studying the great artists and their cultures.

Vocal Music

Students continue to develop proper singing methodologies through instruction in more advanced solfeges. Students begin reading music and learn to identify notes, beats, and rhythms. The students are actively engaged in this process through activities that address these concepts of music literacy and performance.

Technology

Students review the five major parts of the computer, review care of software and hardware, and proper terminology. Students are introduced to keyboarding and begin word processing incorporating graphics into their work. Students continue using the web under the guidance of the teacher and are introduced to e-mail.

FOURTH GRADE

Language Arts

Significant blocks of time are devoted to independent reading. Students continue to read selections from classic and contemporary literature, and adapt their reading approach to a variety of texts. Students read for meaning and develop the ability to paraphrase their reading. Students continue to develop a variety of vocabulary words and concepts. Students produce summaries of their reading focused on plot, character analysis, setting, and cause and effect. Students begin to analyze spoken language for meaning by evaluating content and the speaker's intent.

Written language is developed through direct instruction in parts of speech and spelling. Students use their skills to create manuscripts which are edited and produced as written compositions. Students create responses in complete sentences and communicate their thoughts effectively.

Mathematics

Mathematics reinforces the use of mathematical skills and operational strategies involving numbers. Students apply this learning to analyze graphs, charts, and data to develop comparisons, predictions, and estimation of data involving numbers. Students continue their development in the use of numbers to measure and explore objects along with solving mathematical application problems.

Religion

Religion is designed to assist students in learning key concepts of faith, such as Law and Gospel, confession and repentance, forgiveness and grace, while focusing specifically on the actions of God on behalf of His people. Students study the Biblical patriarchs as well as the life of Christ. Students worship during weekly Chapel services and participate in regular service projects.

Science

Students continue to use the scientific method when investigating the natural world. Students explore properties of soil, effects of the oceans on land, and the role of the sun as a major source of energy. Students are active in investigation of matter, especially the cause and effect of change in states of matter. Students investigate living organisms including adaptations, cycles, structures, and processes of interaction with the intent of explaining relationships between living organisms and nonliving matter. Students use a hands-on approach with the materials and tools appropriate for their investigations.

Social Studies

Grade Four examines the history of Texas from its beginnings to the present. Topics include the Texas revolution, establishment of the Republic of Texas, and subsequent annexation by the United States. The curriculum emphasizes an understanding of the people involved in these events, as well as the numerous populations which are a part of Texas history. Economics, geography, and culture are also topics of study in the exploration of Texas history and Texas today. Students use critical-thinking skills, including generalizations, predictions, and comparison/contrast to better understand the development of the Republic and State of Texas.

Physical Education

Students continue to develop strength, endurance, and flexibility. Students demonstrate mature form in fundamental motor and manipulative skills. Students demonstrate more mature movement forms, learn age-specific skills and the health benefits of physical activity.

Art

Four basic strands – perception, creative expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage, and critical evaluation – provide broad, unifying structures for organizing the knowledge and skills students acquire.

Instrumental Music

Fourth grade music is designed to give students the opportunity to perform music with a musical instrument. Students have an opportunity to begin learning to play recorder and hand chimes, grow in their knowledge of music, participate in a group activity, and use music as an outlet for self expression to the glory of God. Students participate in instrumental music two days per week.

Vocal Music

Fourth grade beginning vocal ensemble is designed to introduce students to basic ensemble participation including rehearsal etiquette, proper singing technique, vowel formation, blend, balance, pitch, intonation, and harmony. Students in the fourth grade participate in vocal music one day per week.

Technology

Students demonstrate mastery in the use of prepared software, use of the mouse, use of computer terminology, and ability to use software and hardware. Students develop keyboarding skills in conjunction with basic word processing.

FIFTH GRADE

Language Arts

Students refine and master skills for language development. Focus is on main idea, summarizing, generalizing, inferencing, sequencing, cause and effect, fact and opinion, and drawing conclusions. Students continue to read contemporary and classic literature in several genres. Students are able to organize information and analyze in more depth the use of characterization, plot, and setting.

Student writing builds on previously learned concepts as students link ideas and produce final error-free pieces. Specific grammar units in usage and mechanics are taught, supplemented with daily oral language activities. Students incorporate research in cross-curricular areas as they learn to select multiple pieces of text to complete research-based writing assignments. Vocabulary development is another focus of language development.

Mathematics

Students continue to build their knowledge of number theory, number operations, quantitative and spatial reasoning skills using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. These operational skills are combined with instruction in analyzing charts, graphs, shapes, and space, along with problem-solving applications.

Religion

Religion is designed to acquaint students with the concepts of faith. Topics include Law and Gospel, confession and repentance, forgiveness and grace, while emphasizing the actions of God on behalf of His people. Lessons in Grade Five reflect the need for the Law, which shows us our sins, and for the Gospel, which leads us to see God's grace. These lessons encourage students to lead a daily life in Christ through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Students also study both the Old and New Testaments and look at the role of Martin Luther in the formation of the Lutheran Church.

Science

Science includes the planning and implementing of field and laboratory investigations as students integrate the scientific method into their study. Students study life, physical, and earth sciences. Areas of emphasis include cells, life structures, ecosystems, atmosphere and weather, water on Earth, Earth's changing surface, the solar system, and properties and structure of matter. Students use the computer for science research activities.

Social Studies

Students learn the history of the United States from exploration through the 20th Century. Topics include early exploration, the colonial and revolutionary periods, the establishment of the United States, issues that led to the Civil War, Reconstruction, and an overview of major events during the late 19th and 20th centuries. Students also study the roots of democratic governance in our nation and its important ideals. Study of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution are part of this process. Customs, celebrations, and contributions of various racial and ethnic groups, inventors, and scientists are identified and discussed.

Physical Education

Students demonstrate competence including improved accuracy in manipulative skills. Basic skills including jumping rope, catching, and throwing are now used in games. Students match different physical activities to health-related fitness components and learn ways to improve fitness based on frequency, intensity, and time.

Art

Fifth Grade students continue to study art through the four basic strands of perception, creative expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage, and critical evaluation. Students use art to respond to and demonstrate their understanding of concepts across the curriculum.

Instrumental Music

Fifth Grade Band is a course in which students begin learning a band instrument, grow in their knowledge of music, and participate in a group activity. Band is an outlet of self expression to the glory of God. Students participate in instrumental music two days per week.

Vocal Music

Fifth Grade intermediate vocal ensemble is designed to further develop students' ensemble musicianship. Students focus on proper singing technique, including attention to dynamics, rhythm, intonation, balance, blend, breathing, and music reading. Students participate in vocal music class one day per week.

Technology

Students continue to develop their keyboarding skills in conjunction with word processing. They will expand their knowledge of the "Start" menu system and learn the basic concepts of the data and spreadsheet. Students will be introduced to the copyright laws that govern computers and other media.