



## Eighth Grade Curriculum

**Religion, Catechism and Memory:** The students will study the six chief parts of Lutheran Theology based on Luther's Small Catechism and The Bible as they prepare for Confirmation and participation in the Lord's Supper. This is done through lecture and small group discussion. Bible studies are also offered in the classroom that deal with issues that are important to the eighth grade child. Memory is the six chief parts of the catechism, the books of The Bible, curriculum core passages, and other Bible passages relating to Bible studies and lessons.

**Pre-Algebra and Algebra:** All 8th graders are placed in either Pre-Algebra or Algebra as determined by the previous math teacher. Pre-Algebra is the next natural progression of classes, and those in Algebra are essentially in a high school course. Both classes solve and write equations and inequalities in varying degrees depending on their class. Students are also exposed to factoring polynomials, graphing lines, 2-D and 3-D Geometry, and various units with statistics and probability. All students should be prepared for Algebra or beyond upon entering high school.

**English:** Grammar instruction is emphasized and includes parts of speech, punctuation, usage, sentence and paragraph structure as well as capitalization and other rules of grammar. Students engage in numerous writing and speaking activities. Writing and oral presentation are emphasized in and outside of classroom instruction.

**Literature:** Using a variety of novels, students will explore different types of literature. We will discuss and analyze reading selections, apply literature devices, expand vocabulary, master comprehension skills, write and create, and hopefully enhance or develop a love of reading. Students will write a research paper in conjunction with U.S. History as well as a final project relation to their spring class trip to Washington D.C.

**Vocabulary and Word Study:** Word study teaches word knowledge, not just words. Word study is an approach of instruction that moves away from a focus on memorization. Word study and word understanding improve reading comprehension skills. With high-quality instruction and lots of reading and writing, students' word knowledge is continually progressing. Students learn word knowledge that they can apply to a wider range of reading and writing activities.

**Science:** The Science curriculum provides opportunities for students to hypothesize, investigate, observe, and draw conclusions about the world around them. Students are

encouraged to combine text information with experience gained through hands-on experiments, demonstrations, and exploration activities. Topics include classification of matter, atomic structure, and the periodic table, properties of elements, chemical reactions, energy forces & rocketry. Additionally, select organs are studied and dissected.

**History:** Eighth grade begins with an in-depth look at the Civil War, particularly highlighting how the war and its aftermath still affect our country today. Their study continues with the growth of the United States in terms of physical size, its economy, and also as a world power. Special attention is given to the Great Depression and the two world wars. Their study ends with a discussion of the Cold War and the Vietnam era.