

3rd-4th Grade Curriculum

Immanuel Lutheran School
Salem, OR 97302

Word of God

Christ Light, published by Northwestern Publishing House, is a chronological study of Bible stories from the Old Testament one year and the New Testament in the following year. Students learn of God's love and forgiveness and discuss ways to respond to that love and forgiveness. They memorize selected Bible verses, the Ten Commandments, the Articles of the Apostles Creed and Petitions of the Lord's Prayer as found in Luther's Small Catechism. Each Wednesday students attend our school chapel service. Devotions are held each morning and afternoon. God's Word is intertwined throughout the day.

Reading

The *Open Court Reading* series emphasizes reading for understanding with literature, comprehension, inquiry, and practical reading applications. Through this series students read a variety of stories and are introduced to a variety of different genres: historical fiction, realistic fiction, fables, folktales, fantasy, plays, expository nonfiction, biographies, and poetry. Comprehension and reading strategies, as well as vocabulary are reinforced. Reading A-Z I used to provide each student with reading practice at his or her own level. Independent reading is encouraged through monthly goal setting and an in-class reading time.

Penmanship

Students use *Cursive Handwriting* to develop skills in cursive writing. This series begins with basic letter construction and progresses to writing full paragraphs in cursive. By the end of the second quarter fourth graders are completing all assignments in cursive.

Spelling

Students use Zaner-Bloser's *Spelling Connections* to progress their spelling and word skills. Spelling words focus on specific phonograms for the week. Fourth graders have 20 words to master each week, while third graders have 15. Students practice working with the weekly phonogram through various practice activities including differentiated word sorts to promote higher-level skill development in thinking.

English

The Shurley Method is used to teach students grammar skills such as punctuation, capitalization, usage and parts of speech. Students are introduced to an organized writing structure through expository and persuasive paragraphs. Journals are written in several times a week to encourage creative writing. Several projects are completed using the writing process: prewrite, write, revise, edit and publish.

Mathematics

Fourth graders use *Saxon Math* curriculum. Lessons focus on computations and problem solving. Students learn to work with whole numbers (up to one million), fractions, mixed numbers, place value, time, graphing, geometry, data, measurement, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, and estimation.

Third graders use *Saxon Math* curriculum. Lessons focus on computations and problem solving. Students learn to work with whole numbers (up to one million), fractions, mixed numbers, place value, time, money, graphing, geometry, data, measurement, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, and estimation.

Science

The Harcourt *Science* series is used to teach students science. Topics are taught using a Christian perspective of the world around us. Science is taught on a two year cycle: year one-A World of Living Things, Looking at Ecosystems, Earth's Surface and year two-Patterns on Earth and In Space, Matter and Energy, Forces and Motion.

Social Studies

Social studies is also taught on a two-year cycle. During year one the students use the text Harcourt Brace *Social Studies: States and Regions* to learn more about our country's desert, plains, mountains, forests and coastal regions. In year two students use Harcourt Brace *Social Studies: Communities* to learn more about our country's early history of communities as well as how these communities grow, change, work and live together.

Art

Art is occasionally integrated into various subjects in the classroom giving students an opportunity to creatively demonstrate what they have learned. During our weekly art classes students learn the basic principles of art as well as how to work with a variety of media.

Physical Education

Students participate in physical education classes twice a week to develop strength, endurance and flexibility. They develop basic skills in individual and team sports. Emphasis is placed on cooperation as a team and showing good sportsmanship.

Computers

Throughout the year, students work through the *Mavis Beacon* typing program. The main emphasis is on typing skills with home positioning of the hands and practice drills for touching-typing. Students also play games that reinforce the keyboard positions and improve their typing accuracy.