

# Immanuel Lutheran School

“Excelling in Christian Education”



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## Seventh Grade

*Immanuel Lutheran School, empowered by the Holy Spirit, leads children to know God as their Heavenly Father through the redeeming love of Jesus Christ, provides them with a quality education, and prepares and nurtures them to serve the church and community in Christian love.*

### Seventh Grade Curriculum

The curriculum of Immanuel Lutheran School, at all grade levels, meets or exceeds Missouri State Standards in all areas. Maximum class size is 25 students per classroom.

The purpose of Immanuel’s Middle School Program is to help students become responsible Christian adults who serve and lead in the world in which they live. To that purpose, and most importantly, we teach Christ crucified. God tells us that we should not be of this world, but rather follow His will. Paul, in Romans, tells us not to conform to this world but rather be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit. As students serve in this world as ambassadors of Christ until He returns, this change by the Holy Spirit should be evidenced in their decision-making, their care and concern for others, and their willingness to forgive. In addition, students are exposed to some of the experiences of high school such as multiple teachers and expectations, higher levels of responsibilities, study skills and strategies to help students be successful in their high school years and their careers in the work world.

Teachers offer an open house during Registration Days so that students and parents may meet teachers, visit homeroom, and preview some of the books and curricula used. There is also a “Back-to-School” night offered a few weeks after school has begun for parents so they may learn first hand from the teachers about the grading system, the curricula, and the responsibilities of students at each grade level and in each class.

### Religion

The teaching of the faith in Grade 7 centers on a chronological study of the Old Testament. Major themes and Biblical personalities of the Old Testament are discussed in light of their ultimate fulfillment in Christ. The chief parts of Luther’s Small Catechism are reviewed and major doctrines of the faith are applied. Lessons from these ancient heroes of the faith are shown to be relevant to the struggles of disciples today. Important passages and sections of the Catechism are committed to memory to add to the young disciple’s armor.

The students attend chapel Friday mornings, and also present chapel to the student body once each year.

Additionally, each student is a member of a “Faith Family”. These are multi-age, student-led groups that come together every other month for devotional activities. On alternating months, these groupings will sit together for chapel. It is in Seventh and Eighth Grades that the students lead these groups.

### Technology

PCs and SMARTboards are used in the classroom on a regular basis. Students work in the computer lab twice a week. They use Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel and Power Point to create a number of projects which include stories, poems, reports, charts, and posters.

### Language Arts

#### Literature

Students will be able to pull meaning from literature and apply connections to his/her life, read independently but also aloud in class, respond to many forms of written and spoken text with Christian discernment, identify and use literary terms in prose and poetry, distinguish between various genres of literature. This learning takes place as students independently read an answer guided questions, work on book reports, study vocabulary words, use collaboration, differentiated assignments and note taking to help distinguish elements of a story in the Basal reader (*Prentice-Hall-Penguin Edition*) and the novels read.

#### English

Students will better understand the nature of language and how to express themselves through language in society and in their own lives. They will utilize basic and refined skills in grammar, explore various genres through the writing process, and implement vocabulary words in daily language. Learning will take place through practice exercises and techniques, reviewing grammatical rules and writing styles, journal writings, self-evaluation, teacher and peer conferences. The text is *Prentice-Hall Writing and Grammar*.

#### Spelling

Students will recognize spelling rules, be able to spell and use common words, understand homophones, synonyms, antonyms, and analogy relationships. The learning will expand their speaking, writing, and reading language through the use of the thesaurus and dictionary, class discussions and skill review. The series used is *Spelling Connections*, published by Zaner-Bloser.

## Mathematics

Seventh grade math uses books in the Connected Mathematics Series. This is application-based curriculum covers content in depth to help students develop understanding of key mathematical concepts. These books provide many opportunities to use these concepts to solve everyday type of problems. Topics can include number theory and operation, algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability.

## Science

Students in Grade 7 science investigate the “earth sciences”—astronomy, oceanography, meteorology, and geology. Principles for designing and conducting science experiments are practiced. The vastness of space, volcanoes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and all the natural laws give opportunity to marvel at the power of the Force that holds the universe together.

## Social Studies

The early settlers in North America to Westward Expansion is the focus of the Seventh Grade Social Studies curriculum. Students also study the United States Constitution and write a research paper. They improve content area reading skills and learn to analyze history, use maps, graphs and charts. Students develop critical thinking skills and problem solving skills as they move toward higher-order thinking skills. Students have opportunities to discuss ways God has worked in the lives of historical figures and the history of our country. The text used is *America: History of our Nation* from Prentice-Hall.

## Music & Chorus

School Chorus is an elective for Seventh and Eighth Graders. The Chorus meets twice a week with rehearsals focusing on vocal technique and performance. The study of these areas is cumulative and sequential from earlier grades. School Chorus sings for worship services once a month, Immanuel’s Boar’s Head Festival, the biennial Lutheran Elementary Festival, and the biennial spring musical. The Chorus also participates in a biennial choral workshop at Lutheran High School.

Advanced Band is an instrumental elective for Seventh and Eighth Graders. The Band rehearses once a week in sectionals and once each week as a full band. The group performs in Winter and Spring Concerts, the biennial Lutheran Elementary Schools Festival, pep assemblies, at a Lutheran High School football game and Immanuel’s Church and School Parade. Advanced Band also participates in a biennial band clinic at Lutheran High School.

Seventh Grade students may also: play in a handbell choir; have an acting role in Immanuel’s Boar’s Head Festival and/or the biennial spring musical production; participate in the Strings Program, taking weekly private or semi-private lessons and playing with the Gloria Dei Strings; participate in Joyful Sound, a select choir of School Chorus members.

## Foreign Language

Spanish and French are offered as an elective for Seventh and Eight Graders. They meet twice a week. Lessons have a cross-curricular purpose that both provide a foundation as well as build on knowledge in a variety of subject areas.

## Art

These art classes meet for one semester of the school year. During that time a variety of media is used to create seven to nine different projects. Projects are designed to teach the elements of art along with an appreciation of how art affects our lives each and every day.

## Physical Education & Recesses

At this grade level you will see a continued trend from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The grading system will continue the same and the students will again dress into and out of their PE uniforms. The evaluation is based on dressing out, skill, written tests, behavior, cooperation, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The student’s attitude and effort toward “working out” and working toward fitness goals is closely monitored and will be evaluated using the standards from the AAHPERD National Test. Learning basic skills, rules, and strategies of games will be repeated. The major difference will be in the non-traditional sports that are covered. The student will learn about the team sports of speedball, korfbal, team handball, field hockey, and lacrosse. Two racket sports are taught, pickle ball and badminton, to give the student experience in an individual and/or dual sport. There is also a concentrated unit on the basics of self-defense.

## Wellness Program

Immanuel Lutheran School nurtures a student’s social and emotional development through the counseling program. A full-time counselor visits with students in the classroom for guidance lessons at least once a month, conducts small group sessions, and works with individual students by referral.

Middle school students participate in a counseling curriculum that focuses on building character, resolving conflict, and making positive choices. Students are also encouraged to develop self-awareness and critical thinking skills. Community resources and programs are brought into the school to provide additional opportunities for students to learn.

## Seventh Grade Students may also participate in the following:

- Immanuel’s Before- and After-care programs
- Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts
- A1 or A2 Soccer (boys); Cross Country (boys & girls); A1 or A2 Girls Volleyball, A1 or A2 Boys Basketball; A1 or A2 Girls Basketball; Cheerleading (girls); and Track
- DARE Program
- Student Council
- Academic Bowl
- Geography Bee
- Spelling Bee
- Jr. High Ministry Events