

Immanuel Lutheran School

“Excelling in Christian Education”



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Eighth 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.

Eighth 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

In the eighth grade year, students prepare to be confirmed as communicant members of the congregation and to publically profess their faith. During the time spent in the confirmation class, students work their way through Luther's Small Catechism studying what Luther found to be important for families and people to know. In this process students grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Lutheran Doctrine and teachings. The commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the sacraments, and confession and absolution are all closely examined. These classes are taught by the Pastoral staff which includes the Pastors, Vicar, and the Director of Christian Education here at Immanuel. In September there is a retreat where leaders and students gather to help put in place the building blocks, the foundation of all that will be learned in the coming year. As the year progresses, there will be another retreat to begin the planning process for the worship service where students will be confirmed.

The Eighth Grade students acolyte, usher for, and attend chapel weekly; they also present chapel to the student body once a 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, iPads 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. They will experience reading independently and also aloud in class, responding to many forms of written and spoken text including novels, magazines, newspapers, poetry, references, television, internet site material with Christian discernment. Students will identify and use literary terms in prose and poetry, and distinguish between various genres of literature. This learning takes place as students independently read and answer guided questions, work on journal responses, study vocabulary words, use collaboration along with 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 including essay and research paper writing, journal writings, self-evaluation, teacher and peer conferences. The text used 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 reviews. The spelling series use is *Spelling Connections*, by Zaner-Bloser.

Mathematics

Problem solving will be used to help students develop an understanding of important concepts, skills, procedures, and ways of thinking and reasoning in number and operations, geometry, measurement, algebra, and data analysis and probability. Some of the topics covered are factors, multiples, prime factorization, graphs, measures of data, fractions, decimals, percents, polygons, area, perimeter, and probability of outcomes.

Science

Science in Grade Eight investigates the intricacies, complexities, and wonder of life. The focus of the study is the cell, taxonomy, and the kingdoms of living things (bacteria, protists, fungi, plants, and animals). Students will learn about the major groups within each kingdom as preparation for high school biology and to gain appreciation for the awesome power of their Creating God.

Social Studies

United States History from the Civil War to the present day is the focus for Eighth Grade Social Studies curriculum. Students also study the history and government of Missouri. 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.

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.

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.

Eighth 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.

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.

Art Elective

Art Elective is a study offered to Eighth Grade students based on different artists and their styles. We use *Scholastic Art* magazine to learn about artists. Students will then fashion a project to fit that particular style. Every attempt is made to allow students to experience a wide variety of media.

Physical Education & Recesses

The final year of physical education at Immanuel switches focus to lifetime leisure sports and activities in an effort to encourage the student to find his/her niche in the fitness world. The human body is a gift from God and must be cared for throughout the child's life. The year starts out with an intense unit on health and skill-related fitness. The student will discover his/her strengths and weaknesses and design a program to improve one specific area. There is little testing on skills and cognitive knowledge. The grade is based more on attitude and effort toward exercise and doing group and individual projects. After working out each class period, the student will gain some knowledge and experience in a wide variety of games and activities (Frisbee, volleyball, racket ball, golf, 16-inch softball, whiffle ball, ping pong, broomball, washers, etc.). There is a wrestling unit for the boys while the girls create a fitness video. The students will be fitness tested four times throughout the year. The students will also invent, teach, and administer their own created game.

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.

Eighth Grade students may also participate in the following:

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