

# CURRICULUM - GRADE 8

MARTIN LUTHER ACADEMY

7112 N. OVERLAND DRIVE

KANSAS CITY, MO 64151

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## RELIGION

TEACHER: Mr. Maas

TEXT: *One in Christ (Concordia Publishing House, 2012); NIV/ESV Bible; Luther's Small Catechism (CPH)*

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will learn about God's plan for salvation, God's unending faithfulness towards his people, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Students will explore the challenges they face of living and sharing their faith with others in an adversarial world.

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## MATHEMATICS

TEACHER: *Course 1* – Mrs. Haase

*Course 2* – Mr. Maas

*Course 3* – Mr. Maas

*Algebra* –

TEXT: *Course 1, Course 2, Course 3 (Saxon, 2007), Algebra (Saxon, 1990)*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

*Course 1* – Students in this level will study problem solving, fraction, geometry, high level addition/subtraction and multiplication/division, as well as the mathematical disciplines that branch off of these main parts of math. Tests occur after every 5 lessons and daily assignments and tests are graded.

*Course 2* – Saxon Math works on an incremental approach to mathematics instruction. New concepts are introduced in each lesson and then are practiced a few times along with reviewing previously learned skills and concepts. Students have daily practice and will display mastery of basic skills, mental math, and problem solving, all of which are distributed across the strands of mathematics. Course 2 addresses skills in six mathematical strands: Number and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Data Analysis and Probability, and Problem Solving. There will be daily homework. Tests will take place after every fifth lesson; the first test will come after Lesson 10. Homework and tests will be graded.

*Course 3* – This course is a pre-algebra type course. Higher level math skills are explored. Each student is required to have a good grasp of foundational math concepts to succeed in this course. Daily work is given with test given after every five lessons. Investigations are done to apply what is learned in the various math lessons.

Students may opt out of high school algebra if he/she is very successful in completing this course. This is a high level math class with high expectations. All students need to be committed to working hard throughout the year.

*Algebra* – Saxon Algebra I is a high school level course. All concepts of algebra will be taught in preparation for students to take geometry as a freshman in high school. This is a strong foundational course that will prepare middle school students for high school level college-preparatory math. Students must be self-motivated and committed to putting in time outside of the classroom to be prepared for homework, quizzes and tests.

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## ENGLISH

TEACHER: Mr. Maas

TEXT: *Shurley English (Shurley, 1997)*

**COURSE\_DESCRIPTION:** *The Shurley Method; English Made Easy* integrates daily grammatical practice with instruction in writing. Considerable time is spent with the 8 parts of speech and identifying them within example sentences. Sentence patterns are studied and identified. 6 + 1 Trait Writing will also be utilized to help students improve their skills. Stress will be placed on presentation of written materials, both in visual and oral forms. Writing traits are taught and practiced throughout each unit and are applied to each genre of writing: narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive. Students will practice the skills needed to prepare and present research reports using the MLA format.

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## ART

TEACHER: Mrs. Meier

TEXT: *None*

**COURSE\_DESCRIPTION:** Art lessons are based upon the seven elements of art: line, shape, form, value, texture, color, and space. Each lesson uses one or more of these elements. The students are also introduced to different media and techniques for using the seven elements.

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## LITERATURE

TEACHER: Mr. Maas

TEXT: (*Various Novels*)

**COURSE\_DESCRIPTION:** Students participate in reading various novels and using these novels to study making predictions, descriptive writing, character analysis, vocabulary development, making inferences, using poetry, and analyzing information. Students will review other genres of literature including drama, poetry, and short story. The students will be involved in discussion of the text and linking it to important historical or life events. Students complete four book reports and projects throughout the year. Students will participate in the Accelerated Reader program. Each student will set a goal for the number of points to be achieved for each quarter in discussion with the teacher. Progress toward / achievement of the goal will be reflected in the student's literature grade.

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## SPELLING AND VOCABULARY

TEACHER: Mr. Maas

TEXT: (*Wordly Wise 3000: Book 7, Third Edition, Educators Publishing Service, 2012*)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The *Wordly Wise 3000* series focuses on improving students' vocabulary by furthering their understanding of new words and concepts. Each lesson includes a word list with definitions and sections to: use the words in sentences correctly, apply the word's meaning in new contexts, study the words using synonyms, antonyms, prefixes, suffixes, Latin and Greek word roots, analogies, and homophones, and read a passage including the words in order to answer questions related to both the passage and the meaning of the words.

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## SCIENCE

TEACHER: Mr. Maas

TEXT: *Life Science (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2007)*

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will learn various topics of life science including: the study of living things, cells, heredity, history of life on earth, simple organisms, fungi, plants, animals, ecology, human body systems, human health. Classroom learning and hands on lab experiences will facilitate student learning.

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## HEALTH

TEACHER: Mrs. Engle

TEXT: *Let's Be Healthy (A Beka Book, 1992)*

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 8<sup>th</sup> grade students learn about God's miraculous creation – people. Different systems of the body and diseases/drugs that can affect them negatively are explored. Ways to live and maintain a healthy life (nutrition and exercise) are learned. The goal is for students to know more about their bodies and how to treat them like God's temple.

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## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

TEACHER: Mrs. Engle

TEXT: none

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will stretch, run, and exercise each class period, in order to maintain and/or improve strength, flexibility, and endurance. They will learn various group games, sports, and activities including bocce / ladder ball, soccer, volleyball / badminton, team building / dance, floor hockey, ultimate Frisbee, basketball / footbag, physical fitness, team handball, jump rope/kickball. They will display this knowledge physically and academically. Students will also participate in testing for the Presidential Youth Fitness Program.

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## SOCIAL STUDIES

TEACHER: Mrs. Haase

TEXT: *The Earth and Its People* (McGraw Hill, ©2005)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Students have an opportunity to use the themes of social studies to explore the world in spatial terms, explore places and regions, discover interactions between physical and human systems, as well as understanding the connections between the environment and society. Students will use maps and other geographic tools as well as gaining information about past and present cultures as they relate to the world and our interdependence as a human society. The cultures and places of the world will be explored using the elements of the world in spatial terms, places and regions, physical systems, human systems, environment and society, and the uses of geography.

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## MUSIC / CHOIR

TEACHER: Mr. Olson

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Perform and sing in group settings. Identify music notation and symbols. Identify composers and different styles of music. Use instruments in performance and accompaniment. Use variety of instruments to perform music. Use singing voice in many musical styles. Listen to music of many styles and identify composers and their music.

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## COMPUTER

TEACHER: Mrs. Meier

TEXT: none

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Students will learn how to use the various programs in Microsoft Office 2007 through step-by-step lessons and cumulative projects for each program including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and more. They will also explore ways to collaborate and communicate using Web 2.0 tools to prepare them for High School and beyond.

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## SPANISH

TEACHER: Mrs. Engle

TEXT: *educacion espanola (Northern Arizona University, 2005)*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** DVDs and corresponding activity sheets are used to teach Spanish vocabulary and sentences for the following topics: Spanish speaking countries and their capitals, language families for English and Spanish, dialogues, common phrases and sounds, syllables, Spanish/English cognates, understanding nouns, their gender, and their plural forms, articles- definite and indefinite, the numbers to 1,000,000,000, addition and subtraction, subject pronouns and forms of address, conjugating verbs, verb agreement, irregular and stem-changing verbs, adjectives, possessive adjectives, direct and indirect pronouns, reflexive verbs and pronouns, special verbs with indirect object pronouns, demonstrative and possessive pronouns and adjectives, questions words, negative sentences, Aztec calendar, prepositions, cardinal directions, shapes, colors, time, weather, informal commands, comparisons of equality and inequality and superlatives. (This class is not part of the weekly schedule; it will be fit into the schedule during the year. Spanish will not have a letter grade reflected on the report card.)