



## Curriculum and Instruction at Salem Lutheran School

Curriculum includes everything that goes into the content of teaching a subject to students. The core curriculum at Salem includes Religion and Scripture Memory, Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts (reading, writing, listening, speaking), and Foreign Language, Physical Education, Art and Music. Technology is integrated into the curriculum at many levels and fifth through eighth graders are issued their own mobile learning devices.

In the fifth through eighth grades students may choose their music course: choir, band, hand bells, or another fine arts selection such as photojournalism, or drama. Occasionally options such as a fitness class, entomology or classroom teachers' aide positions are offered as well.

Curricula is reviewed in five year cycles by the team of teachers teaching that particular subject so that it can be properly aligned from one grade level to the next and across the grade level if more than one teacher is teaching the same subject. The subject matter is then aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as well as the Integrating the Faith requirements from the National Lutheran School Accreditation standards. Various resources are reviewed carefully to best meet the student needs in terms of learning styles and abilities. Curriculum adoption occurs in the fifth year and the implementation takes place in the following year.

See below by example:

<b>Curriculum</b>	<b>Adoption Year</b>	<b>Implementation Year</b>
Social Studies K-8	2012-13	2013-14
Technology Applications	2013-14	2014-15
Language Arts	2013-14	2014-15
Science, PE, Health	2014-15	2015-16
Music K-8	2014-15	2015-16
Math	2015-16	2016-17
Religion & Memory	2016-17	2017-18
Spanish	2016-17	2017-18
Social Studies	2017-18	2018-19
Technology Applications	2018-19	2019-20

**Curriculum is assessed in the classroom by the outcomes of student work, quarterly benchmarks and annual national standardized testing. Students are benchmarked three times a year using Aimsweb to monitor individual and classroom progress in math and language arts. Based on the results of testing, adjustments to the standard curriculum are made as needed, sometimes within the five year cycle to best meet the needs of the students.**

**The standard curriculum is differentiated for those students needing more challenging programs through academic coaching competitions and supplemental materials. Middle school math courses are determined by individual math placement testing and include pre algebra, algebra and geometry. In addition, high school credit can be earned for Spanish 1, Art 1, Computer 1 and Music 1. An Honors Endorsement can also be earned for specific classes in grades seven and eight for those students whose grade point average and test scores meet the prerequisite requirements. These courses offer more depth and breadth of curriculum and require more intense study.**

**The standard curriculum is also differentiated and modified for those students with professional diagnoses necessitating IEP's. Tier programs are provided at an additional cost to parents. The dyslexia therapy program is approved by some insurance providers to parents whose individual policies provide coverage.**

**The instruction of the curriculum includes research-based strategies that are proven to be successful. Understanding each child's learning style and their motivational factors involves students in their own learning process. Teachers are trained extensively in the successful delivery of the curriculum material. They are encouraged to be creative and use their unique abilities to meet student needs and interests. Integrating technology into the learning environment is perhaps the single most successful strategy to motivate students and to keep learning relevant.**

**Twenty-first century instructional strategies include collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, project learning, focus and writing. As our world becomes more isolated and independent, soft skills such as conversation, responsive listening, handshakes and eye contact have to be taught. Multitasking sometimes robs us of focus. Correct grammar, spelling and sentence structure are still necessary for successful entry into the working world. Some schools have even removed handwriting instruction only to realize late that students are unable to read historical documents such as The Declaration of Independence and original land titles and deeds.**

**Salem's goal is to develop independent, successful, life-long learners. Students will be well grounded in Christ to make strong, godly decisions and well rounded to meet life's challenges. Serving God with their unique gifts and abilities develops self worth and confidence. A safe and healthy learning environment stimulates the willingness to take risks and fosters life-long learning!**

**Attached are kindergarten outcomes and curricula overviews by grade level. These are living documents as they are continually reviewed, updated and improved. Additional and more detailed information, such as upper grade novels and literature choices, can also be viewed on the website under classroom supply lists by grade level.**

## Expected Kindergarten Outcomes

### Religion and Scripture Memory

- develop a personal relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior
- grow in faith through weekly chapels, memory verses, study and prayer

*Concordia Publishing House*

### Language Arts

- understand concepts of print
- develop basic reading skills and reading comprehension strategies
- demonstrate an understanding of correspondence between oral and written language
- develop a basic sight word vocabulary
- demonstrate a mastery of instant letter recognition and letter sounds
- demonstrate the ability to blend and segment words
- recognize parts of speech
- learn to read and write sentences using spacing and punctuation
- become introduced to a wide variety of literature

*Reading Street by Scott Foresman and Neuhaus Education.*

### Math

- develop basic number skills
- rote counting to 100
- recognition of numbers in mixed order
- one to one correspondence
- place value
- demonstrate recognition of shapes
- demonstrate recognition of coins and their value
- positional words
- measurement using standard and non-standard units
- ability to compare and group objects
- demonstrate simple addition and subtraction

*Saxon*

### Fine Motor Skills

- demonstrate correct pencil grasp
- appropriate scissor grip and ability to cut along lines
- ability to color within the lines
- correct letter and number formation

- appropriate spacing and letter size
- ability to write first and last name correctly with a model to follow

*Zaner-Bloser Handwriting*

**Social Studies and Science**

- introduction to topics of natural science, physical science health and safety
- introduction to units through thematic study such as home, community history, economics and government

*Scott Foresman and Scholastic Weekly Reader*

## **First Grade Curriculum Overview**

### **Religion and Scripture Memory**

- explore Bible truths in the Old and New Testament stories
- apply the truths to life situations
- participate in weekly chapels
- memorize weekly Scripture verses
- develop Christian friendships

*Concordia Publishing House*

### **Math**

- compare and order numbers
- problem solve
- identify solid and plane figures
- master basic addition and subtraction facts to 20
- use data to create picture graphs and bar graphs
- draw and name fractions: halves, thirds and fourths
- measure to the nearest inch, centimeter, and foot
- identify place value: ones, tens and hundreds
- identify and count pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters
- tell time to the hour and half-hour
- recognize repeating patterns and identifying pattern units
- identify the month, day of the week and date using a calendar
- skip count by 2's, 5's and 10's
- identify odd and even numbers

*Saxon*

### **Language Arts**

- recognize and produce rhyming words and beginning sounds
- understand that print conveys meaning
- understand how print is organized and read
- recognize use of capital letters and ending punctuation
- apply the use of letter-sound correspondence
- recognize and read high-frequency words
- utilize different comprehension skills while reading: compare/contrast, fantasy/realism, categorize/classify, note details, predict outcomes, story structure, cause and effect
- practice decoding skills by use of strategies
- read grade-level appropriate material
- retell the story
- identify story elements: characters, setting, problem, solution

- learn phonemes and strategies to decode words
  - analyze spelling words and learn rules for phonetic spelling
- Scott Foresman Reading Street and Neuhaus Education Center*

### **Writing**

- use correct punctuation and capitalization
- write complete sentences and identify types of sentences
- identify nouns, verbs and adjectives
- engage in modeled and shared writing
- understand the purposes of writing: entertain, inform, persuade motion

*Zaner-Bloser*

### **Social Studies**

- describe qualities of good citizenship and follow rules and laws at home, school and in the community
- interpret and use maps
- explore patriotic symbols, pledges, customs, celebrations, holidays
- understand purpose and roles of government officials
- identify needs and wants
- understand how communities rely on goods and services
- identify physical features such as landforms
- study inventors and their contributions to society
- explore how technology has changed the way we live

*Scott Foresman*

### **Science**

- understand the importance of good health and dental habits
- classify living and non-living things
- explore the properties of matter: solid, liquid, gas
- work with force and motion by exploring simple machines
- investigate weather patterns and seasonal weather changes
- describe how we rely on natural resources such as weather, oil, gas, trees and soil
- identify the five senses and explain how they are useful
- Explain the life cycle of plants and animals

*Scott Foresman*

## Second Grade Curriculum Overview

### Religion and Scripture Memory

- weekly devotions
- weekly chapel
- chapel leadership once a year
- weekly memorizing of Scripture verse
- Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments and life application
- service opportunities/projects addressing needs in local and global areas

*Concordia Publishing House*

### Math

- addition and subtraction facts/strategies 1 -20
- place value to 100
- number concepts and patterns
- 2 and 3 digit addition and subtraction
- data and graphs
- probability
- money identification and use
- time in hours, minutes, half hours, quarter hours and 5 minute intervals
- solid and plane figures
- patterns
- length, perimeter, area
- weight, mass, temperature
- capacity
- fractions
- multiplication and division
- weekly math homework
- quarterly Aimsweb benchmark

*Saxon*

### Language Arts

- oral reading in groups –small, large, partners
- independent, silent reading
- weekly library time
- accelerated reader program
- nightly reading log
- 1 book report
- weekly/bi-weekly assessments of fluency
- quarterly Aimseb assessment
- make and confirm predictions



- recognize text structure/writer's purpose
- summarize text by retelling stories in own words. main idea
- connect text to real life experiences
- cause and effect
- compare and contrast
- draw conclusions
- main idea and supporting details
- realism/fantasy
- sequencing
- story elements: characters, plot, setting, theme, problem, solution
- decoding strategies: base words, inflected endings, contractions, compound words, suffixes, prefixes, multisyllabic words, short and long vowels, consonants, consonant blends, vowel patterns, word families, phonograms

*Reading Street by Scott Foresman and Neuhaus Education Center*

### **Writing**

- creative writing
- skills, styles, formats
- modeled, shared, interactive
- use correct punctuation and capitalization
- complete sentences and identify different types of sentences
- identify subject and predicate
- develop independent writing skills
- work on developing a main idea and add detail to sentences in a paragraph

*Reading Street and Neuhaus*

### **Spelling**

- weekly spelling words and tests
- weekly sentences
- phonetic instruction –decoding strategies
- quarterly Aimsweb benchmark

*Neuhaus Education Center Scientific Spelling*

### **Handwriting**

- review and reinforcement of letter formation in printing
- introduction of letter formation in cursive – lower case

*Zaner-Bloser*

### **Social Studies** *Scott Foresman*

- communities where we live: town/city, state, country, world

- landforms
- natural resources
- producers/consumers
- goods/services
- simple trade and economics
- government: local, state, federal
- American symbols and landmarks, map skills
- U S History: native Americans, early American history, family projects

### **Science**

- Life science: animals, plants and habitats
- Earth science: earth, natural resources, geology, weather, space
- Physical science: matter, energy, force, motion
- Recycling project- November

*HSP Science Harcourt School Publishers*

## Third Grade Curriculum Overview

### Religion and Scripture Memory

- encouraged to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior
- recognize sin and Jesus' sacrifice for our sins
- grow in knowledge for their faith through Bible stories and activities
- trace the lineage of David by studying Old Testament stories
- Jesus' birth as God's fulfillment of the Promise
- The adult life and ministry of Jesus
- Jesus' death and resurrection
- Introduction to the "church" as established here on earth by following the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul

*Concordia Publishing House*

### Math

- place value to 6 digits
- comparing, ordering and rounding numbers to nearest thousand
- addition and subtraction up to 3 digits
- counting money, making change, adding and subtracting money
- telling time, sequencing, elapsed time
- collecting data, pictographs, bar graphs, line plots, ordered pairs
- probability and combinations
- multiplication facts and multiplying up to 3 digits by 1 digit
- missing factors
- division facts and dividing up to 3 digits by 1 digit
- plane figures: line segments, angles, line types, triangle, quadrangle, quadrilateral, circles
- congruence, symmetry, similar figures, slides, flips and turns
- solid figures: spheres, cones, triangular prisms, triangular pyramids, cubes, rectangular prisms
- geometric and number patterns
- fractions: equivalent fractions, comparing and ordering, mixed numbers, adding and subtracting fractions
- decimals up to hundredths, greater than one, comparing and ordering
- customary measurement: length (inches, feet, yards), capacity (cups, pints, quarts, gallons). Weight (pounds and ounces), estimating and measuring, Fahrenheit temperature
- metric measurement: length (millimeters, centimeters, decimeters, meters, kilometers), capacity (liters, milliliters), mass (grams, kilograms)
- perimeter, area, and volume

*HSP Math*

## **Reading**

- previewing texts
- purpose of reading and writing
- predictions, graphic organizers, recognizing text structures
- retelling stories, main idea and supporting details
- imagery
- making connections, author's purpose, cause and effect, compare and contrast
- drawing conclusions, fact and opinion, following directions, generalizing
- fact and opinion, realism and fantasy, sequencing
- character, plot, setting and theme

## **Grammar**

- sentences: statements, questions, commands, exclamations
- subjects and predicates
- compound sentences
- common and Proper nouns, singular and plural nouns, irregular plural nouns, singular and plural possessive nouns
- action and linking verbs
- main and helping verbs
- subject-verb agreement
- present, past and future tenses
- irregular verbs
- singular and plural pronouns, subject and object pronouns, possessive pronouns
- contractions
- prepositions
- adjectives and articles
- adjectives that compare
- adverbs and adverbs that compare
- conjunctions
- Capital letters and abbreviations
- combining sentences
- commas and quotations

## **Spelling**

- short vowels VCCV
- plurals: s, es
- adding -ed, -ing, -er, -est
- long vowel digraphs
- vowel sounds in out and toy

- syllable pattern V/CV, VC/V, VCCCV, CVVC, CVV
- words ending in ie
- compound words
- words with spl, thr, squ, str
- digraphs sh, th, ph, ch, tch
- contractions
- prefixes un, re, mis, dis,pre, mid, over, out
- consonant sounds j and k
- suffixes ly, ful, ness, less, er,or, ess, ist, y, ish, hood, ment
- words with wr, kn, mb, gn
- irregular plurals
- vowels with r
- homophones
- vowel sound in ball
- vowel sounds in tooth and cook
- schwa
- words with tion, sion, ture
- multisyllabic words

*Reading Street Scott Foresman and Neuhaus Education Center  
Multisensory Grammar and Scientific Spelling*

### **Handwriting Zaner-Bloser**

- review of printed letters
- introduction and use of cursive letters, upper and lower case
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### **Social Studies**

- communities: U S and world
- rural, suburban and urban communities
- moving to new communities
- customs, immigration and new ways of life
- celebrating cultures and a community's past
- national celebrations
- community environments and living in different climates
- mountain, water and crossroads communities
- exploration by the Spanish, French, and English
- transportation, communication, medicine, and inventions over time
- earning, spending, saving and wise choices
- resources and trade
- governments in the past
- U S government
- Community services and leaders

- People change communities
- Scott Foresman Communities*

### **Science**

- types of living things- plants and animals
- habitats
- living things depend on each other
- minerals and rocks
- forces that shape the land
- conserving resources
- water cycle
- properties of matter
- energy
- electricity and magnets
- heat, light and sound

*HSP Science*

## Fourth Grade Curriculum Overview

### Religion and Scripture Memory

- begin an understanding of the Trinity
- begin an understanding of salvation
- forgiveness of sins
- reading from the Bible, mainly New Testament
- memorize weekly Bible verses for equipping them to serve God
- memorize the books of the Bible, the 10 Commandments and the Apostles Creed

*Concordia Publishing House*

### Math

- place value
- addition and subtraction of large numbers
- algebra concepts
- multiplication of numbers by 1 digit and 2 digit SP
- interpreting graphs and data
- division with 3 digit numbers and 2 digit divisors
- number theory, patterns
- fractions and mixed numbers
- decimals
- expand knowledge of geometric terminology
- learn to take math notes and use interactive notebooks for support
- timed multiplication quizzes to strengthen math facts

*HSP Math*

### Language Arts

- learning to read and reading for enjoyment
- exposure to higher level literary techniques
- wide variety of genre
- vocabulary expansion
- connecting, comparing, contrasting ideas
- library weekly
- opportunities for reference and research
- strengthening spelling, grammar skills through practice
- writing skills include creating strong sentence structures
- topic sentences, supporting paragraphs
- writing personal narratives
- various forms of poetry
- handwriting practice in cursive for most assignments

*Reading Street Scott Foresman and Neuhaus Education Center*  
*Scientific Spelling and Multisensory Grammar*  
*Zaner-Bloser Handwriting*

### **Science**

- How plants and animals develop. The life cycle of plants and animals.
- Life science: skeletal, muscular, respiratory systems
- Importance of good nutrition to aid these systems
- Physical science: mixtures, solutions, and matter
- Earth science: study of the planets and NASA exploration

*HSP Science and Abeka Health*

### **Social Studies**

- **regions of the United States - maps for each region**
- **history and present day study of each region and the culture of those who live there**
- **last quarter a study of Texas History**
- **map of early Texas, Texas independence and Republic of Texas**
- **Geography daily**

*Scott Foresman*



## **Fifth Grade Curriculum Overview**

### **Religion and Scripture Memory**

- God's Word is in the Bible
- God's Word in the life of Martin Luther
- God's Word is a message of salvation for us
- Old Testament leaders
- God's Prophecies
- Israel's captivity and return
- God's prophecies fulfilled in Jesus
- Memorizing weekly Scripture verses to equip students for God's service

*Concordia Publishing House*

### **Math**

- place value, addition, subtraction (through billions)
- multiply whole numbers by multi-digit numbers
- divide by 1 and 2 digit divisors
- algebra: write and evaluate expressions, functions and inequalities
- decimals: through thousandths, equivalent decimals, compare decimals
- add and subtract decimals through thousandths
- multiply decimals by whole numbers
- data and statistics: compare analyze graphs
- make graphs: bar graphs, line graphs, circle graphs
- number theory: multiples, LCM, factors, exponents, square number
- fractions: simplest form, mixed numbers, compare fractions
- add and subtract fractions: like and unlike
- add and subtract mixed numbers
- multiply and divide fractions
- ratios and percents and perimeter
- probability
- geometric figures: points, lines, angles, polygons, congruent figures
- plane and solid figures
- patterns and integers and coordinate plane
- area and volume

*HSP Math*

### **Science**

- lab safety and tools
- physical science: atoms, molecules, forces, energy and electricity
- earth science: rocks and the rock cycle
- health: circulatory and digestive systems, good nutrition and exercise

- life science: expands 4<sup>th</sup> grade with growth and development of plants and animals
- how living organisms live and interact in an environment

*HSP Science and Abeka Health*

### **Social Studies**

- U S History
- Early life and Colonial Life in North America
- Connections across continents
- American Revolution
- Life in a new Nation
- A growing nation
- War divides a nation
- 1 geography lesson per week
- Field trips to the Liendo Plantation- Civil War Reenactment and Salem Cemetery

*US History Scott Foresman*

### **Language Arts**

#### **Reading**

- various types for expression- oral, silent, groups, partners
- various genre- science fiction, personal narratives, poems, magazine articles, short stories, plays
- 1 grade-level appropriate novel supported by Accelerated Reader and test passed per quarter
- Skills: summarizing, main idea, predicting, literary elements, fact/opinion, cause/effect
- Deliver speeches, including impromptu and prepared
- Vocabulary development supplemented with weekly quizzes
- Practice listening skills and oral communication with different audiences for various purposes

#### **Spelling**

- words derived from textbook and Scientific Spelling
- Spelling City website
- Weekly tests

#### **Grammar and Writing**

- skills: proper composition of sentences, paragraphs
- writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, publishing
- 6 + 1 writing traits instruction
- Composition: narrative, expository, descriptive, persuasive, poetry

- Creative writing, journal entries, writing workshops
- Parts of speech, types of sentences
- Writing mechanics instruction

*Reading Street by Scott Foresman*

*Write Source*

*Neuhaus Education Center Scientific Spelling multisensory Grammar*

## **Physical Education Art Music and Foreign Language Outcomes Grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade**

### **Physical Education**

By the end of the fifth grade, students are able to understand the value of rules, strategies and regulations in these sports and activities:  
volleyball, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, floor hockey, kickball and bowling.  
Students are also able to demonstrate safety skills and healthy habits for later participation in physical education activities.

### **Art**

By the end of the fifth grade, students will have experienced the art process and learned elements and techniques that make art successful and proved a historical perspective, based on the study of period artists.

By the end of fifth grade, students will have developed the foundation of elements: line, space, color, light, value, form and texture. They will have learned to apply the fundamental elements of design, harmony and balance contrast, movement and composition when creating assigned projects.

### **Foreign Language**

#### **Spanish**

By the end of fifth grade students will have developed a basic understanding of the culture and usage of the language. Basic vocabulary, sentence structure, word endings and pronunciation are built. Translation becomes important as students become immersed in the language. Speaking reading and writing in the foreign language begins to be common.

*Spanish is Fun and Easy*

*Hola!*

*Paso a Paso*

#### **Latin**

Specifically for third graders, the content covers vocabulary acquisition and verb conjugation. Vocabulary units are consistent with the interests of third graders and with what's going on in the regular classroom. English derivatives "connections" are stressed as connections between the Latin root word and the English word. Students practice listening, reading, speaking and writing Latin words and phrases. By grasping the concept of how word endings indicate grammatical placement, students learn to translate well. They will be able to translate two stories from Latin to English by the end of the class.

*Logos Latin by Logos Press*

The content for fourth graders shifts to Roman culture – an introduction to Ancient Rome, its heroes, gods, monuments, and language, along with stories and plays that involve students in the Forum Romanum and special visits to the homes of Roman families, guided by Roman children themselves. Our students will take part in plays and further experience the Roman culture as it relates to not only our language but our culture, too. Students are exposed to the times, history and Scripture surrounding the birth and life of Jesus, the rich vocabulary with Latin roots, and Roman numerals and customs. Latin is alive in the many ways our culture has adopted – laws, roads, architecture, theater, and the language of science and law.

*First Latin Scott Foresman*

## **Middle School Curriculum Overview**

Each teacher will offer a specific syllabus for the class he or she teaches on their teacher website. This is especially helpful for specialized classes such as Spanish 1, Computer 1, Art 1 and Music 1, and the Honors Endorsed classes.

### **The following provides a very general overview of the core curriculum: Religion and Scripture Memory**

Middle School Memory verses include the 10 Commandments, the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer, along with others deemed critical to the life of a Christian in training.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> grade**

The course surveys the Bible from Genesis through Acts.

The 9 focused units are:

Beginnings and Patriarchs

To the Promised Land

Prophets and Kings

Collapse and Captivity

The Promised One is Here!

Ministry of Jesus

Jesus Completes our Salvation

Spread of the Gospel

The Christian Church Grows

#### **7<sup>th</sup> grade**

The course surveys the Old Testament.

The 9 focused units are:

One True God

Holy Spirit

Maker of Heaven and Earth

True God True Man

God Blesses His Disciples

Sing to the Lord

Means of Grace

We Love

Go Therefore

#### **8<sup>th</sup> grade**

The course surveys the New Testament

The 9 focused units are:

God is

God Remains

God Gives

Prophecies  
Follow Me  
The Great Value  
Jesus Teaches  
His Only Son  
Proclaiming the Gospel

*ESV Bible Translation*  
*Voyages by Concordia Publishing House*

Students are invited and encouraged take part in Salem Lutheran Church's Confirmation Program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The commitment involves Sunday morning class attendance and several weekend camp settings over a two year time frame. Families need not be members of Salem to take part.

Parent participation is part of this successful life- changing program.

The outcome is to become sold out for serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be baptized, and live out one's life in obedience as a witness to the One who provided us with eternal life through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead.

## **Math**

**6<sup>th</sup> grade math** reviews basic math concepts as well as preparation for pre algebra and algebra.

Students are tested prior to their placement into 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math courses.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade math** includes a 7<sup>th</sup> grade general course, pre algebra, algebra

**8<sup>th</sup> grade math** includes an 8<sup>th</sup> grade general math course, pre algebra, algebra and geometry.

## **Science**

### **6<sup>th</sup> grade**

General science focus

Physical science units include:

force and motion

light

sound

chemical science

heat and electricity

Earth science units include:  
natural cycles  
conservation of resources

Life science units include:  
Study of cells and how they work together  
classifying organisms  
ecology  
biomes of the world

This class balances teacher instruction, lab work and student projects.

*Harcourt Science*

### **7<sup>th</sup> grade**

First quarter focuses on Science Process Skills – lab skills and problem solving skills using physical science and life science topics.

Life science focus

Human body's organization from cells and genetics to its systems

Application to current life events or experiences

Research current science topics

Class balances teacher instruction, lab work and student projects.

*Prentiss Hall Life Science*

### **8<sup>th</sup> grade**

First quarter focuses on Science Process Skills – lab skills and problem

Solving skills using physical and life science topics.

Earth science focus

Maps, Plate Tectonics, the physically changing earth, earth's atmosphere, weather and climate

Research current science topics

Class balances teacher instruction, lab work, and student projects.

*Prentice Hall Earth Science*

## **Social Studies**

### **6<sup>th</sup> grade**

World History

USA and Canada, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Southern Asia and North Africa and southwest Asia.

Students learn geographic locations and the history, government, economy and culture of the people.

*McDougal Littell's World Cultures and Geography*

### **7<sup>th</sup> grade**



Fall semester- World Geography

Spring Semester – Texas History from Genesis to statehood closing of the frontier.

*Pearson, Prentice Hall myWorld Geography*

### **8<sup>th</sup> grade**

U S History

From Genesis to the Civil War and Reconstruction

*America: History of Our Nation, Prentice Hall*

### **Language Arts**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Literature:** history and author research regarding the novels and topics

Depict themes and conflicts that are common in the world today

Analyze plots and understand literary devices

Variety of genre

**Grammar/Writing Composition:** master the ability to develop and incorporate brainstorming outlines and maps to organize their thoughts before writing.

Learn to incorporate independent and dependent clauses to enrich their writing and help sentences to flow.

Build upon their foundation of correct paragraph writing and then incorporate that knowledge into the writing of various composition pieces.

Dissect sentences to understand the grammatical components and parts of speech that form enriched sentences.

*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Write Source*

#### **7<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Literature:** emphasized independent thinking and embracing reading as a lifelong pursuit. Classic and modern fiction, myths, short stories, poems, plays and nonfiction articles.

Spark student interest and inspire students to connect the messages and themes of literature to their own lives.

Emphasizes reading strategies: close reading, annotating, literature circles, debate, and student-centered inquiry.

Required to read 1 grade-level appropriate book outside of class.

**Grammar/Writing Composition: critical and creative writing.**

5 step writing assignments: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.

Practice in descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive and creative writing.

letters and journals. Products include paragraphs, essays, poems, short stories, editorials.

Research writing skills are enhanced through cross-curricular assignments.

Grammar instruction focuses on writing mechanics.

Spelling is derived from Scientific Spelling by Neuhaus Education Center.

Vocabulary is enhanced through the use of Classical Greek and Latin Roots. Use this knowledge to enhance both their formal and conversational vocabularies.

*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Write Source*

*Classical Roots Vocabulary*

*Neuhaus Educational Center*

## **8<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Language arts facilitates students' reflection on their growing understanding of the world around them as well as preparing for high school.**

**Literature: examine the roles of individuals in society by studying characters considered to be outsiders by their communities.**

Students contemplate what it means to be judged superficially instead of by what is in their heart. Novels such as *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Miracle Worker* provide reference points for discussion on social morality, freedom, equality, and justice. Literature selections also include short stories, poems, plays and nonfiction articles. Close reading and literature circles help student develop as critical thinkers as they evaluate texts.

Writing focuses on critical writing. Students build the writing skills they will need for higher education. Creative writing projects include short stories and poems.

Grammar focuses on writing mechanics. Online access allows students to access writing and grammar instruction resources. Vocabulary is also drawn from this source to build word formations using new and existing vocabulary knowledge.

*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Write Source*

*Neuhaus Education Center*