



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FOR ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

Religion

Religious instruction begins in Pre-K with Bible stories and related activities and continues through each grade level to encourage integrity and ethical decision making as students apply scriptural teaching to everyday life. Welcoming students from all faith backgrounds, our program is grounded in a Lutheran tradition that emphasizes the Grace and Love of God that empowers students to grow in their faith. Through participation in weekly chapel services and various Christian service projects, students also develop a sense of connection with the family of faith and the means by which they can share the Love of Jesus by addressing the needs of others.

Reading

Pre-K students engage in pre-reading activities, such as letter recognition and early writing skills. Each grade level builds on the established skills of the year before so that by sixth grade students are engaged in not only advanced reading skills but also higher-level thinking skills as they explore literary genres by reading challenging novels and other forms of literature. The basic reading text is the Harcourt Reading series which is supplemented with various materials to develop phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension skills, such as materials from Modern Curriculum Press and Accelerated Reading. To ensure that their needs are adequately addressed, students are ability-grouped for reading.

Spelling

Students at Rockford Lutheran begin to develop spelling skills by identifying and writing the letters of the alphabet, practicing their sounds. This introduction to spelling leads to the spelling of words which appear in the primary reading materials and become progressively more challenging as the students advance into the upper grades. Spelling instruction is based on the reading/language arts curriculum and emphasizes various related skills such as vocabulary development.

English/Language Arts/Writing

From the moment students enter RLA they are developing written and oral language skills. Writing begins in the pre-school with the basics—how to hold a pencil correctly, creating class books. Even before they become readers, students produce drawings about the stories they hear and dictate sentences about those stories, as well as their own experiences and creative ideas. A little later they collaborate to write “class books” and then daily journals. As the students progress, more and more attention is directed toward specific skills and structures, including grammar and other writing conventions, including research papers which follow accepted style models. Students develop the ability to express their own ideas clearly through various writing models such as the Four-Square Method and Six Traits of Effective Writing. By the time students have completed their years of writing instruction at RLA, they have had many opportunities to produce and refine examples of narrative, expository, and persuasive writing, as well as various forms of creative writing.



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Math

Math instruction at RLA begins with the basics: counting, tracing numbers, and recognizing patterns. Students rapidly move into all the areas of mathematics appropriate to their grade levels. In kindergarten students sort, classify, do basic addition and subtraction, and explore activities with money and shapes. From first grade through sixth students work with basic facts, computation, comprehension problems, geometry, probability, algebraic statements, and measurement, applying those concepts to “real world” activities and problems. Various texts are used across the grade levels and are supplemented by additional materials such as Accelerated Math. Some ability grouping occurs. For instance, the advanced math students in sixth grade follow a course of study designed to prepare them for the Pre-Algebra classes at Rockford Lutheran Junior High School.

Science

“Messy things”—making Play-Doh, cooking, color-mixing—occupy some of the science explorations in the first years at RLA. Observations during nature walks, gardening, and the use of scientific tools such as magnets, prisms, and magnifying glasses also occur. As the students advance, they engage in activities which capture the excitement and increase the understanding of life, earth, and physical science. The science curriculum is based on *Discovery Works*, a Concordia Press publication. Field trips related to the curriculum allow students to build on the concepts covered in the text.

Social Studies

Students first explore working with partners and small groups, including practice in sharing, good manners, and basic personal skills, such as how to care for property. The social studies curriculum is based on Harcourt *Social Studies* and is supplemented with many other materials and web-based activities and research. Many activities and simulations of government, economics, and life in other times and/or places enhance the students’ experiences, allowing them to develop advanced concepts about how other eras, locations, and cultures relate to their lives now.

Special Education

Academic support is given to students with special education eligibility (IEP) and also to students who require accommodations due to a medically diagnosed condition (504). Each eligible student receives sixty minutes of instruction from the resource teacher each week. This resource time outside the classroom is adapted to the individual needs of each student receiving services. Activities and assignments in resource include the reinforcement, review, and practice of academic skills that each student needs help with. Ongoing communication between the resource teacher and the classroom teacher encourages consistency in reaching the goals and objectives set for each student.

Foreign Language

Spanish is introduced at the pre-K level where students work on simple phrases and polite expressions. This introduction is followed up with additional opportunities at each succeeding grade through vocabulary study, experiences related to customs and holidays of Spanish-speaking countries, studies of Spanish fine arts, and the development of reading and writing skills in Spanish. Second grade students present an all-Spanish musical each spring.



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Drama

Drama activities are scheduled for all grades from pre-K through sixth grades. Students experience various dramatic opportunities such as action songs, puppetry, pantomime, tableau, monologue, musical productions, skit and script writing, and a favorite among the upper grades, the Human Video. The students frequently perform some of their productions, including worship services created each year by sixth grade students, in various venues throughout the Rockford community.

Art

Art instruction begins with exploration of the media. Beginning projects are simple but rapidly move to activities with multiple steps. Even in the early grades students are introduced to artists in correlation with their art projects, but students are encouraged to develop and expand their own personal styles. As students progress, they are able to work with an increased array of media and design. Older students display their mastery of art elements and principles as they produce art work which incorporates what they have studied. Cross-curricular projects occur at all levels.

RLA Orchestra and Chimes Program

Both Orchestra and Chimes are elective subjects which offer an opportunity for personal growth and enrichment through the study of a stringed instrument or hand chime. These programs are structured to provide young people with motivation, positive attitudes, and commitment to success in an atmosphere of discovery and encouragement. Students who participate in these programs will have the opportunity to perform a number of times during the year, including RLA chapels and performances at RLHS.

General Music

General music classes are based on the belief that music is a God-given talent and a key part of a child's education. Through singing, playing, moving, reading, and improvising, the student will learn the elements of music and develop a lifelong appreciation and understanding of music.

Physical Education

The Physical Education program is movement based in the younger grade levels working on both hand-eye and foot-eye coordination through games and other activities. As they get older it moves to more team sports starting with skill development and gradually working towards teamwork and strategy. In all areas, the program is based on every student getting as much practice as possible with individual equipment and small sided games to ensure the most touches possible during a class period.

Technology

Rockford Lutheran School teaches technology to enhance the success of the academic education of their students. Technology instruction will begin in the lower levels to complement classroom goals and activities. As students progress through the system they will learn proper typing techniques, navigation of the internet, internet safety, computer components and how they work, and will advance to mastering the skills needed for Microsoft Office, Excel, Word, Publisher, and PowerPoint. Students will also learn computer programming by working in Logo and computer animation.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Pre-K 3

Philosophical statement: To provide an exceptional education in a loving and caring Christian environment.

The curriculum addresses development in these areas: Social/Emotional Development; Physical Development; Cognitive Development; and Language Development.

Religion

Each week we focus on a new Bible story. Throughout the year the children learn five Bible verses and several new prayers. Each year the children make a prayer pocket to take home.

Reading

Each morning during circle time the children are read a story. It is usually based on the theme of the week. We also have children in the library during work time looking at books. [The teacher] sits with them and reads at this time. We also focus on letter recognition and name recognition.

Spelling

We work on letter recognition. Twice a week we get out our dry erase marker boards and write out the letters for the week.

Math

Our math is very basic. We focus on number recognition, counting, number tracing, shape recognition, and patterns.

Science

We use our sensory table for lots of science experiments. We make different messy things, such as play dough. We also explore different items, such as rocks, worms and different foods.

Spanish

The Pre-K Spanish curriculum coordinates with the pre-school theme chosen for the week. Sight words in Spanish, simple phrases and polite expressions are practiced each class time. Spanish is taught through repetition, art, music, drama, culture, games, listening to heritage speakers and literature.

Technology/Computer Skills

In the computer lab Pre-K 3 students receive instruction which supports the lessons done in the classroom working on recognizing letters, colors, shapes, and beginning phonics and counting. They also work on developing mouse control and hand-eye coordination.

Art

The focus of Pre-K 3 art is very basic. We work a lot with basic media, such as glue, scissors, markers, and paint. We focus on how to use these items appropriately and how to respect the art utensils. Most of the projects done with this age of students are based on manipulation of media and expression.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW
Pre-K 3

Music

Music is a God-given talent and is a basic key to a child's education. Each student will attain a positive attitude to music and work toward a better understanding of music. Through singing, playing, moving, reading, and improvising, the student will learn about the elements of music, which include melody, rhythm, texture, form, and tone color.

Physical Education

Physical education includes spatial awareness, large motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and foot-eye coordination, along with partner activities and simple games. A wide variety of equipment is used in working in these areas.

Drama

In Pre-K drama we work on learning new songs that will be sung in chapel, in class programs, and just for fun. Students practice following directions through finger play stories and action songs. The process of imagination is exercised by listening to stories telling of the adventures of Pre-K friends, such as Teddy, Doggy, Bunny, and Kitty, and then acting out parts of the stories.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Pre-K 4

Philosophical statement: The Pre-Elementary program at Rockford Lutheran Academy addresses the needs of the whole child by correlating activities in Religion, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, Art, Music, Drama, Computers, Spanish, and Physical Education. Through these programs students are prepared for the academic and social expectations of school life. They learn honesty, fairness, and the art of sharing. They learn to reason and to solve problems.

Religion

Pre-K 4 students listen to Old and New Testament Bible stories. The children learn to recognize that plants, animals, and human beings are God's creations. They recognize that God created families to love and take care of one another. They hear stories of the life of Jesus Christ and learn of the teachings of Jesus to love God and love others.

Language Arts

Pre-K 4 students have regular exposure to the alphabet: letter, names, and sounds. They learn to recognize, spell, and write their first names and learn to hold a pencil, marker, and crayon correctly. They retell familiar stories, draw pictures, and dictate sentences about the stories and their experiences as well as repeat simple nursery rhymes and finger plays. They learn concepts related to printed materials, such as left to right direction and holding a book right-side-up. They build new vocabulary and listening skills, strengthen visual discrimination and sequencing, and develop fine motor skills through play dough, scissors, writing utensils, and Legos.

Math

Pre-K 4 students learn the numerals 1-20 and are taught to count objects to 10. Math skills include one-to-one correspondence of objects; sorting by various attributes: color and shapes; patterns; sizes (small, medium, and large); shapes; matching of symbols, shapes, and patterns; same and different; more and less. Students also explore concepts of time and money and practice all these skills and concepts through games, songs, and pretend.

Science

Pre-K 4 students learn about science in a variety of ways, such as using scientific tools like magnets, prisms, and magnifying glasses. They also experience the world through nature walks, gardening, and other exploration. Students observe insect life, plant growth, and weather through all the different seasons. They learn how to mix and measure through cooking activities and the sensory table. The children identify basic colors and explore color mixing through various hands-on activities. They explore the world with the five senses and investigate animals by learning about the homes they live in and the food they eat.

Spanish

The Pre-K Spanish curriculum coordinates with the pre-school theme chosen for the week. Sight words in Spanish, simple phrases and polite expressions are practiced each class time. Spanish is taught through repetition, art, music, drama, culture, games, listening to heritage speakers and literature.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Pre-K 4

Social Studies and Skills

Pre-K 4 students practice problem-solving in social situations by working in groups or with a partner in a variety of projects. They learn to share classroom materials with the group and practice using manners such as remembering to say *please*, *thank you*, and *excuse me* and practicing good table manners. Students develop skill in communicating and taking care of his/her basic needs, such as cleaning up, putting away materials, fastening clothing, etc. They are able to state personal information such as name and address. They will explore types of work and workers as well as modes of transportation. They also participate in projects to help others in need.

Technology/Computer Skills

In the computer lab Pre-K 4 students receive instruction which supports the lessons done in the classroom; working on recognizing letters in order, letter sounds, patterns, and counting to twenty. They also work on developing mouse control and hand-eye coordination.

Art

In Pre-K 4 art we work a lot with basic media, such as glue, scissors, markers, and paint. We focus on how to use these items appropriately and how to respect the art utensils. Most of the projects done with this age of students are based on manipulation of media and expression.

Music

Music is a God-given talent and is a basic key to a child's education. Each student will attain a positive attitude to music and work toward a better understanding of music. Through singing, playing, moving, reading, and improvising, the student will learn about the elements of music, which include melody, rhythm, texture, form, and tone color.

Physical Education

Physical education includes spatial awareness, large motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and foot-eye coordination, along with partner activities and simple games. A wide variety of equipment is used in working in these areas.

Drama

In Pre-K drama we work on learning new songs that will be sung in chapel, in class programs, and just for fun. Students practice following directions through finger play stories and action songs. The process of imagination is exercised by listening to stories telling of the adventures of Pre-K friends, such as Teddy, Doggy, Bunny, and Kitty, and then acting out parts of the stories.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY CURRICULUM OVERVIEW KINDERGARTEN

Religion:

The kindergarten curriculum is based on Voyages: Exploring God's World. Our monthly virtues are Respect and Self Discipline, Responsibility, Integrity, Compassion and Giving, Reverence, Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, and Holiness. Students discover what each of these virtues mean by reading the Bible. Some of the stories are Creation, Old Testament stories, the Life of Jesus, and many New Testament Stories.

Language/Writing:

In the kindergarten language program students share experiences and express thoughts. They learn to recognize the relationship between spoken and written language. The students create a book weekly and learn how to express themselves through journaling. Once a month the class makes a big book to share with each other and their families.

Math

The kindergarten curriculum is based on Scott Foresman Addison Wesley Mathematics: Diamond Edition. Units include sorting, classifying, reading and recognizing numbers 0-100, exploring patterns, time (hour and half-hour), and exploring addition and subtraction. The students play Bingo weekly for number recognition.

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum is based on Harcourt Social Studies, Our World, Now and Long Ago. Units include Being a Good Citizen, My Country, Workers, Where We Live, Time Goes By, and Stories of the Past. Kindergarteners love to become people of the past: Johnny Appleseed, the Pilgrims, the Native Americans that helped the Pilgrims, and Community Helpers. We read Time for Kids magazine weekly. Students explore the states through the alphabet.

Science

The science curriculum is based on the Illinois State Standards for Science. The units include: The Senses, Seasons, Dinosaurs, Space, Animals, Insects, Plants, and the Human Body. Students do many experiments showing how the senses work, how the body is made, and how things grow. Students also become astronauts and fly to the moon.

Spanish

The kindergarten Spanish curriculum involves small units of vocabulary study (usually 5 - 7 words) with coordinating Spanish phrases. Special attention is given to units learned in their classroom, holidays, and customs. The Spanish alphabet is taught along with the letter-of-the-week. The Spanish Calendar is done in each class. Fine arts related to Spanish culture are also emphasized.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY CURRICULUM OVERVIEW KINDERGARTEN

Technology/Computer Skills

In the computer lab kindergarten students play games that enhance the lessons learned in the classroom, including counting to one hundred, working on letter sounds, and ordering both letters and numbers. They begin working on simple publishing and drawing projects and also work on becoming familiar with the keyboard and general parts of the computer.

Art

The focus on kindergarten art is responsibility and exploration. The kindergarteners are in charge of passing out, collecting, and organizing their own materials. In every class period there is a set of “Captains” that are “in charge” of certain materials for everyone. Along with responsibility, the Kindergarteners will be exposed to a variety of media. In art it is essential to expose the students to as many different kinds of media and responsibility as possible at this sensitive age.

Music

Music is a God-given talent and is a basic key to a child’s education. Each student will attain a positive attitude to music and work toward a better understanding of music. Through singing, playing, moving, reading, and improvising, the student will learn about the elements of music, which include melody, rhythm, texture, form, and tone color.

Physical Education

Physical education includes spatial awareness, large motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and foot-eye coordination, along with partner activities and simple games. A wide variety of equipment is used in working in these areas.

Drama

In kindergarten drama students learn many, many songs. Some of the songs are sung in chapel, some are learned for programs, and some songs help tell the stories learned in class. The students learn many Bible stories and how to tell them with actions and puppets. They also learn about taking good care of the puppets. Students play creative games that exercise their ability to follow directions and cooperate with one another.

Resource Room

Academic support is given to students with special education eligibility (IEP) or students who require accommodations due to a medically diagnosed condition (504). Resource time of a minimum of 60 minutes outside of the classroom is offered to eligible students. The teaching approach in resource is adapted to the individual needs of each student serviced, using/modifying the grade level curriculum and lesson plans. Activities and assignments in resource include the reinforcement, review, and practice of academic skills in areas where students need help. Ongoing communication between the resource teacher and the classroom teacher takes place to encourage consistence in reaching the goals and objectives set for each student.



FOR ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FIRST GRADE

Religion:

The first grade curriculum includes the following topics: Creation, the first sin, Noah, Abraham, Moses, the Ten Commandments, Building of the Tabernacle, Rahab and the Spies, Battle of Jericho, Promised Land, Twelve Spies, Samuel, David, Saul, Jonathan, Solomon, Daniel, Elijah, and Jonah. They learn more about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the miracles of Jesus, the parables of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan, baptism, and the Lord's Prayer. They are introduced to Martin Luther and the Reformation. Every year first graders participate in service projects.

Reading

First grade reading instruction includes the study of short and long vowel sounds, letter sounds, vowel digraphs, and consonant blends/digraph; rhyming words, genre, poetry, sequence, cause/effect; compound words, contractions, synonyms/antonyms, possessive nouns, classification; main idea/details, oral reading skills, drawing conclusions, character traits, character analysis, ABC order, multiple meanings, spelling changes.

Language/Writing:

First graders keep daily journals, and whole class books or individual booklets are done weekly. The boys and girls communicate with pen pals in other schools. Students study sentences, types of sentences, parts of a sentence, sentence recognition, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, nouns, verbs, adjectives, word order, spelling, handwriting, and paragraph structure.

Math

First grade math skills include exploring numbers and patterns, addition, subtraction, basic fact strategies, geometry, fractions, patterns of numbers to 100, money, relating addition and subtraction to 18, two digit addition and subtraction without regrouping. Students test their skills with timed addition and subtraction tests.

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum for first graders includes units on the reason and significance of our national holidays throughout the school year; friends; fire safety; Martin Luther King, Jr.; U. S. presidents; health; nutrition; dental health; and maps.

Science

First graders study soil/rocks, apples, leaves, pumpkins, changing seasons, animals and their habitats, shadows/groundhogs, penguins, owls, weather, environment, plants, magnets, and insects.



FOR ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FIRST GRADE

Spanish

The first grade Spanish curriculum involves medium-sized units of vocabulary study (usually 6-10 words) with coordinating Spanish phrases. Special attention is given to customs and holidays relevant to Spanish-speaking countries. Spanish is learned through songs, repetitions, music art, drama, games, and literature. The calendar is done in Spanish during each class period.

Technology/Computer Skills

In the computer lab first graders work on simple publishing projects, learn to take Accelerated Reading tests, and play games to practice skills learned in the classroom. Students begin to learn the keys for typing and learn the functions of more keys and parts of the computer.

Art

The first grade art class consists of multi-stepped art projects. These students are at the age where they can handle just a little more instruction than in previous years. The art projects in first grade are more in depth than in Kindergarten or Pre-K. Artists are introduced in correlation with the art projects.

Music

Music is a God-given talent and is a basic key to a child's education. Each student will attain a positive attitude to music and work toward a better understanding of music. Through singing, playing, moving, reading, and improvising, the student will learn about the elements of music, which include melody, rhythm, texture, form, and tone color.

Instrumental Music

First graders receive instruction in the First Grade Hand Chime Choir.

Physical Education

Physical education includes spatial awareness, large motor skills, hand-eye coordination, foot-eye coordination while working with partner activities and simple games. A wide variety of equipment is used in working in these areas.

Drama

In first grade drama students continue to learn new songs for chapel as well as for the grade level program. Students learn how to tell stories through the dramatic art form called Pantomime. They begin to exercise and understand that they can create scenes from stories and by stringing many of these scenes together while adding a few songs and a few steps of choreography, they can create their own simple musical play.

Resource Room

Academic support is given to students with special education eligibility (IEP) or students who require accommodations due to a medically diagnosed condition (504). Resource time of a minimum of 60 minutes outside of the classroom is offered to eligible students. The teaching approach in resource is adapted to the individual needs of each student serviced, using/modifying the grade level curriculum and lesson plans. Activities and assignments in resource include the reinforcement, review, and practice of academic skills in areas where students need help. Ongoing communication between the resource teacher and the classroom teacher takes place to encourage consistence in reaching the goals and objectives set for each student.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SECOND GRADE

Religion:

The second grade religion curriculum is based on *Voyages: Exploring God's World* by Concordia Publishing. The first semester begins with units from the Old Testament, such as The Lord Is Faithful, The Lord Has a Plan, Led by the Lord, and also the unit Jesus Is Coming. The second semester includes units from the New Testament, including Jesus Teaches Us God's Grace, Miracles of Jesus, Jesus Saves Us, Jesus Is the Way, and Go Tell About Jesus. Other units and activities are the weekly memory verse, weekly chapel service, and beginning Bible skills.

Reading

The reading curriculum is based on the second grade Harcourt Reading series. The series is supplemented with a phonics curriculum from Modern Curriculum Press. Students are ability-grouped to assure that their instructional needs are being adequately met. Several novel units are included, based on the specific reading ability of the group. Novels could include, but are not limited to, *Amelia Bedelia*, *Frog and Toad*, *Muggie Maggie*, and *Encyclopedia Brown*. Students participate in the Accelerated Reading curriculum as well. Spelling and handwriting are incorporated weekly into the reading curriculum through the Scott Foresman spelling program and the D'Nealian handwriting program.

Language/Writing:

The language program is based on *World of Language*, published by Silver Burdett and Ginn. Language units include studies of sentences, sentence structure, and parts of speech. Students also work on writing with an emphasis on writing in complete sentences, developing a main idea and details, and correct paragraph structure. During the months of April and May second graders write their first research paper on a famous person and present it to the class.

Math

The math curriculum is based on *Mathematics*, the second grade edition of Addison Wesley Mathematics, Diamond Edition. Students are ability-grouped to provide the appropriate level of instruction for each student. Units include addition, subtraction, place value, money, time, measurement, geometry, and exploration of multiplication and division. There is a strong focus this year on adding and subtracting two-digit numbers. *Otter Creek Institute's Mastering Math Facts* for addition and subtraction is also wrapped into the curriculum.

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum for second graders is based on the book *People We Know* and includes units on Me, Consumers and Producers, Government, People of Long Ago, Maps, Cultures, and Natural Resources. In addition to classroom work, students complete several projects. They create a community in association with the Producers and Consumers unit, interview relatives about school days of long ago, and investigate symbols of our country on appropriate internet sites.

Science

The second grade science curriculum is based on the book *Discovery Works* by Concordia Publishing. Science units include light and color, deserts, matter, dinosaurs, and life cycles. In addition to classroom work and experiments, there are projects and field trips related to the units. Possible activities include trips to the Burpee Museum, the Discovery Center, researching and creating dinosaurs, measuring shadows, and observing caterpillars as they change to butterflies.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SECOND GRADE

Spanish

The second grade Spanish curriculum involves larger units of vocabulary study (usually 10+ words) which include more phrases, expressions, beginning grammar, role-playing, and dialogue with real-life situations. The fine arts are used to compliment the curriculum and practice Spanish. The second graders present an all-Spanish musical in the spring.

Technology/Computer Skills

In the computer lab second graders work on beginning typing, as well as drawing. Students learn to navigate the internet as they work on *mapquest.com* when learning maps in the classroom, and researching national symbols when they study them in the classroom. They learn to open a computer and learn its major parts and how they connect.

Art

The second grade is perfectly set up for a year of innovative and expressive art. They have learned how to use the art utensils correctly and how to handle multi-stepped instruction. The projects in this class have general instructions, but the majority of the time is studio. The students are allowed to take the instruction a step further to begin developing their own style.

Music

Music is a God-given talent and is a basic key to a child's education. Each student will attain a positive attitude to music and work toward a better understanding of music. Through singing, playing, moving, reading, and improvising, the student will learn about the elements of music, which include melody, rhythm, texture, form, and tone color.

Physical Education

Physical education includes spatial awareness, large motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and foot-eye coordination, along with partner activities and simple games. A wide variety of equipment is used in working in these areas. There is also emphasis on fitness throughout the program.

Drama

In second grade drama students continue work on chapel songs. They continue working on telling stories through creative scenes and songs. After Christmas students spend a great deal of time telling stories with puppets. In the spring the second grade presents an original musical with all of the songs performed in Spanish.

Resource Room

Academic support is given to students with special education eligibility (IEP) or students who require accommodations due to a medically diagnosed condition (504). Resource time of a minimum of 60 minutes outside of the classroom is offered to eligible students. The teaching approach in resource is adapted to the individual needs of each student serviced, using/modifying the grade level curriculum and lesson plans. Activities and assignments in resource include the reinforcement, review, and practice of academic skills in areas where students need help. Ongoing communication between the resource teacher and the classroom teacher takes place to encourage consistency in reaching the goals and objectives set for each student.



**ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW
THIRD GRADE**

Religion:

The third grade religion curriculum is based on the Concordia Publishing series and supplemental materials. The topics include Martin Luther as well as studies in the New and Old Testaments. Study will range from the book of Genesis through the life of Paul.

Reading

The third grade uses both the Harcourt basal reader and novels to teach the reading components. There is an emphasis on increasing a student's vocabulary development and comprehension through the use of both reading books. Third grade reading focuses on improving a student's decoding skills, identification of genres and literary elements. The instruction focuses on improving the fluency of the student's reading aloud accurately with appropriate intonation, expression, and pacing.

Language/Writing:

Third grade language instruction based on the Harcourt Language series works to improve the written language of students. All areas of grammar including subjects, predicates, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns are a part of the curriculum. Students work on persuasive types of writing as well as expository writing. The Daily Oral Language program and daily journaling are wrapped into the language experience.

Math

Third grade math uses both the Silver Burdett Ginn textbook as well as the Accelerated Math program. Students work on these math skills: place value, addition, subtraction, fractions, introduction to decimals, money, time, customary and metric weight and length, perimeter, area, and geometric shapes.

Social Studies

The third grade social studies program is based around the Harcourt *Social Studies* textbook as well as other materials that enhance the program. Social studies topics include: Communities Around Us, Communities and Geography, Communities Over Time, Citizens and Government, People in Communities, and Working in Communities.

Science

The third grade science program is based around the *Discovery Works* series published by Concordia and is supplemented with other materials. The program covers five basic themes: Life Cycles and Roles of Living Things; the Sun, Moon, and Earth; Forms of Energy; Earth's Water; and Simple Machines.

Spanish

The Spanish language study in third grade is complemented with the use of a Spanish book to refine skills previously learned. In-depth units of vocabulary study, greetings, phrases, adjectives, culture, history, geography plus more is taught with each unit. Students speak Spanish through role-playing, games, fine arts, and responding to questions.

Technology/Computer Skills

Third graders continue to build on skills already learned. Students have opportunities to practice new skills related to ongoing classroom activities.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY CURRICULUM OVERVIEW THIRD GRADE

Art

Third grade art is a challenging year. Students learn a lot about the principles and elements of art. For example, third graders will be introduced to face proportion, body proportion, and one point perspective. Art history is connected to these standards-based projects.

Instrumental Music

Third grade students have the option of participating in Orchestra or Chimes, electives which offer an opportunity for personal growth and enrichment through the study of a stringed instrument or hand chime. These programs are structured to provide young people with motivation, positive attitudes, and commitment to success in an atmosphere of discovery and encouragement. Students do not have to be “talented” to succeed in these programs, and anyone who is willing to learn and put time into it will find success. Both programs emphasize dedication, a good work ethic, perseverance, cooperation, music appreciation, and the enjoyment of playing an instrument. Students who participate in these programs will have the opportunity to perform a number of times during the year, including RLA chapels and performances at RLHS.

Physical Education

Physical education at the third grade level adds more sport-related activities and games at a beginning level, both team and individual sports. Students practice and use these skills in small-sided activities. Physical fitness continues to be emphasized.

Drama

Third graders begin their year in drama by studying the dramatic storytelling method known as Tableau and move on to tell stories through created scenes, original songs, and narrative interludes. A considerable amount of time is devoted to telling stories from American history with puppets. Throughout the year students continue to practice chapel songs while learning new ones for the grade level program. The third grade program usually takes place fairly early in the school year.

Resource Room

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ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FOURTH GRADE

Religion:

Fourth grade religion is based on *Voyages: Exploring God's Word*, from Concordia Publishing and includes additional reading from the Bible. Children learn about stories from both the New and the Old Testament. There is a memory verse every week. All fourth graders have chapel on Tuesday morning each week with an all-school chapel once a month.

Reading

Reading is a part of the Language Arts block where classes are ability grouped. Novels are used in class. Children are exposed to many literary devices, as well as vocabulary and comprehension. All children participate in the Accelerated Reading Program.

Language/Writing:

All students journal from a prompt for ten minutes daily. One month of the year is spent writing and editing Project Author books. The Four Square Method is used to teach paragraph writing. Writing is integrated across the curriculum in all subjects. Scott Foresman Everyday Spelling is used by all students in fourth grade with weekly spelling tests. Word stress skills and vocabulary are taught in English and reading. Harcourt *Language* is the English text and forms the basis for writing and grammar skills which are applied to all subject writing. Daily Oral Language is also included in the language experience.

Math

The fourth grade uses the Silver Burdett Ginn math text. The Accelerated Math program is used to review skills taught in class. Students explore math concepts such as double digit multiplying, long division, fractions, and measurement.

Social Studies

The fourth grade social studies curriculum is based on Harcourt's *Social Studies*. Children learn regions of the United States along with states and capitals. Studies of regions include history, geography, government, and resources. The state of Illinois receives special emphasis and that study is highlighted with a Camp Winnebago field trip which teaches students about plants that are native to Illinois. Map skills are a continuing study throughout the year.

Science

Discovery Works from Concordia is the fourth grade science text. Science is taught from the Christian point of view. Units covered during the year include: Animals, Earth's Resources, Magnetism and Electricity, Properties of Matter, and Weather and Climate. Writing is integrated into the science curriculum as students record the observations they make during these varied units.

Spanish

The Spanish language study in fourth grade is complemented with the use of a Spanish book to refine skills previously learned. In-depth units of vocabulary study, greetings, phrases, adjectives, culture, history, geography plus more is taught and becomes more intensified with each unit. Students speak Spanish through role-playing, games, fine arts, and responding to questions.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FOURTH GRADE

Technology/Computer Skills

Students begin to work in PowerPoint in fourth grade and do more projects in Word and Publisher. Students start learning about programming by working in Logo. Publishing projects such as a cookbook and a flier teach students about formatting and continuity when creating a document. Digital photography, internet addresses, and computer terminology round out the fourth grade technology curriculum.

Art

In fourth grade art the students will be working with challenging media. Mosaics, abstract art, clay, and other art activities and elements are added to the curriculum. Students study various kinds of art representation and begin to adjust and develop their visual expectations of what art “should be.”

Instrumental Music

Fourth grade students can choose to participate in either winds or strings classes. Both are electives which offer an opportunity for personal growth and enrichment through the study of a stringed or wind instrument. These instrumental classes are structured to provide young people with motivation, positive attitudes, and commitment to success in an atmosphere of discovery and encouragement. Students do not have to be “talented” to succeed in these programs and anyone who is willing to learn and put time into practice will find success. Instrumental programs emphasize dedication, a good work ethic, perseverance, cooperation, music appreciation, and the enjoyment of playing an instrument. Students who participate in these programs will have the opportunity to perform a number of times during the year, including RLA chapels and performances at RLHS.

Physical Education

Physical education at the fourth grade level continues to work toward skill development in various sport activities. Lead-up games and small sided games are used to improve skills and start developing game strategies. Fitness continues to be a part of the physical education experience.

Drama

Fourth graders continue singing chapel songs and work on understanding the concepts of Skits and Scripts with extensive practice. Midway through the year work begins on the original musical which the fourth grade performs in the spring at Maddox Theater at Rockford College.

Resource Room

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FOR ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FIFTH GRADE

Religion:

The focus of Bible class in fifth grade is living the faith everyday—walking the Christian walk. When studying Bible stories and lessons, the students make connections about how the stories apply to their everyday lives. In the unit The Basics of the Christian Faith, the students learn the importance of living out their faith, more about who God is, their relationship with God, and the Bible. In the Martin Luther unit the students learn about the reforms Martin Luther made to the early Christian church. The focus in this Bible unit is the importance of reading the Bible firsthand and determining beliefs based on the Scriptures, rather than human words. In the next Bible unit, Message of Deliverance, the students learn about when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and to the Promised Land. The students learn the importance of trusting and obeying God. In Old Testament Leaders and Israel's Kings, the students learn about judges and kings who ruled over Israel once they settled in the Promised Land, focusing on while these people were far from perfect, they were able to do great things because God worked through them. In the last Bible unit, The Life of Jesus, students learn about the birth, teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection of Jesus. By studying the life and actions of Jesus, the students better understand how awesome Jesus is and how fortunate they are to be able to have a personal relationship with him. They also better understand how they can walk the Christian walk.

Reading

Reading class focuses on building comprehension, vocabulary, and understanding of how authors use literary skills, such as foreshadowing and symbolism. To build these skills, the students answer questions, complete literature response journals, and participate in literature circles while reading class novels.

Writing:

The first writing unit in fifth grade gives students a strong writing foundation by teaching them the writing process and six traits of effective writing. After the students finish the first unit, they complete a variety of assignments, in which they work through the writing process and practice using the Six Traits of Effective Writing. Writing assignments include both fictional and non-fictional writing. Prior to each writing assignment, the students receive guidelines and the rubric that will be used to grade them.

Grammar/ Spelling

In grammar class the students learn the rules and patterns of the English language in order to improve their writing. The students study the parts of speech, phrases and clauses, usage, and mechanics. Every week in spelling the students learn twenty words centered on a theme, such as compound words. The daily procedures for the weekly spelling assignments are consistent from week to week and include daily reviews of the words leading up to the test given the last day of the school week.

Math

In math class the students learn math skills for everyday life, problem-solving skills, and an understanding of the following concepts: place value (whole numbers and decimals), adding and subtracting whole numbers and decimals, using data and statistics, multiplying whole numbers, dividing by one and two digit divisors, geometry, multiplying and dividing decimals, fractions, measurement, ratios, percent, and probability.



FOR ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FIFTH GRADE

Social Studies

In fifth grade social studies the students study the geography and history of the United States from the early explorers through the Civil War. While learning the history of the United States, the students make connections between how the decisions and events of the past affect actions and events of today. They also begin thinking about how the decisions we make today will affect the future. The students also learn and practice map skills throughout the year. The students learn through reading from their text *The United States*, taking class notes, completing Web Quests, participating in simulations, and completing writing activities.

Science

The students explore life, earth, and physical science to better understand the world they live in. In the Plant unit the students learn about how plants look inside and out, how they make their own food, how they recycle matter, and how they react to light and gravity. Students also learn how plants reproduce, grow and develop, and are classified. In the Ecosystem unit they learn what an ecosystem is, what the kinds of ecosystems are, and how living things in an ecosystem relate to each other as well as to non-living things. In the Solar System unit students discover what the solar system is and the characteristics of each planet. They also learn about stars, galaxies, and other objects in space, as well as what it is like for humans to travel in space. In the Light and Sound unit students learn about the properties of light and how light and color are related. They also learn about the properties of sound, how people hear, and how sound is transmitted and recorded. The students learn through reading lessons from the textbook *Discovery Works*, taking class notes, completing experiments, watching and discussing demonstrations, and completing investigations.

Spanish

The fifth grade Spanish curriculum has an extended focus on vocabulary through unit studies. Simple sentence patterns, role-playing, questioning and responding, basic commands, verb usage, grammar, speaking, culture, geography, influential heritage speakers, history, holidays, customs, fine arts, games, and much more guide fifth graders in learning Spanish.

Technology/Computer Skills

In the computer lab students continue to work in PowerPoint, learning to animate, and to set up their own shows. Students learn Excel through working on a ledger, developing a budget for a trip around the world, and creating tables. Fifth graders practice typing in Word as well as the tutorial typing program. Successful completion occurs when a speed of twenty words per minute is reached with 95 percent accuracy. Students study networks, web addresses and their parts. Dialogue also begins about Internet safety.

Art

The fifth grade art class focuses primarily on the elements and principles of art. In every project the students are assigned at least one element and principle applied to it, and the students are required to know the element or principle. The elements and principles of the art are important because they are the basis for a good and successful design.

Physical Education

Physical education at the fifth grade level continues to work toward skill development in various sport activities. Lead-up games and small sided games are used to improve skills and start developing game strategies. Fitness continues to be a part of the physical education experience.



FOR ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FIFTH GRADE

Instrumental Music

Fifth grade students can choose to participate in either winds or strings classes. Both are electives which offer an opportunity for personal growth and enrichment through the study of a stringed or wind instrument. These instrumental classes are structured to provide young people with motivation, positive attitudes, and commitment to success in an atmosphere of discovery and encouragement. Students do not have to be “talented” to succeed in these programs and anyone who is willing to learn and put time into practice will find success. Instrumental programs emphasize dedication, a good work ethic, perseverance, cooperation, music appreciation, and the enjoyment of playing an instrument. Students who participate in these programs will have the opportunity to perform a number of times during the year, including RLA chapels and performances at RLHS.

Drama

Fifth graders continue singing chapel songs and begin to work on the performing art form known as Human Videos. They create a human video to share in their grade level program. They learn about shared monologue as a means to tell a story. They also work on writing and performing puppet plays.

Resource Room

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ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SIXTH GRADE

Philosophical Statement

Our goal for the sixth grade is to equip the students for the challenges of junior high by having them become more independent learners, thinkers, and workers.

Religion:

Voyages, by Concordia Publishing, is the basis for the sixth grade Bible curriculum. The topics covered are Christian basics, the early life and teachings of Jesus, Jesus as Savior, and the early church. These topics are covered with an in-depth study of the books of Matthew and Acts. Included in the Bible class are scripture memorization, small group activities, role-playing, Bible reading, discussion, and applications of the Bible to everyday life. The class also addresses bullying and conflict resolution.

Reading

Sixth grade students engage in novel studies to continue the development of skills in vocabulary, comprehension, and higher level thinking. Book reports and other outside reading supplement the novels used in class. Ability grouping allows the teaching of the same skills to all, but on varying levels appropriate for each group.

Language Arts

Sixth grade students continue to develop their skills in written and oral language through grammar study, weekly spelling lists, daily journal writing, and on going writing topics. The text *Elements of Language* (Holt) and other supplemental materials provide the basic curriculum.

Math

Math at the sixth grade level is ability-grouped into two groups with one group using an eighth grade text and the other using a grade level text. Both groups cover these topics at a speed and depth appropriate to their ability: number sense and algebraic thinking, decimals, fractions, geometric figures, geometry and measurement, integers, variables and equations, inequalities, exponents, graphs, ratios, proportions, percents, and probability and statistics.

Social Studies

Sixth grade social studies focuses on the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece, Rome, and China. Students engage in a hands-on curriculum that includes various projects, texts, and research, as well as individual and group work. Students will get a chance to experience what it was like to live in these ancient times and how it relates to their lives today. To develop team-building skills and build self-confidence, the sixth grade class takes an overnight field trip in early May to Covenant Harbor Camp in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

Science

Students in sixth grade science classes will engage in a hands-on curriculum that encompasses vital skills such as note taking, research in several forms of media, as well as individual and group work. Experiments and projects enhance the study of units such as: The Changing Earth, The Nature of Matter, Forces and Motion, and Oceanography.

Physical Education

Physical education at the sixth grade level still stresses skill work, more strategy and teamwork, and developing good sportsmanship. Games and activities are small sided for more practice and time in participation. Fitness and flexibility continue to be emphasized and tested.



ROCKFORD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SIXTH GRADE

Spanish

The sixth grade Spanish curriculum offers a more intensified study of vocabulary through units. Simple sentence patterns, listening and speaking through role-playing, questioning and responding, basic commands, verb usage and sentence construction, grammar, speaking, culture, geography, influential heritage speakers, history, holidays, customs, fine arts, games and much more guide sixth graders in learning Spanish. Reading, speaking, and writing translations are also used to increase understanding of the Spanish language.

Technology/Computer Skills

In sixth grade students begin the year by creating an animated PowerPoint, and end the year creating an animated cartoon. In between they learn to draw freehand in Publisher, making a self portrait, build a stock portfolio in Excel and follow it all year, and learn mail merging in Word. Students learn about things that can harm a computer, continue talking about Internet safety, and explore tools used in networking.

Art

Grade six is the year when it all comes together. In sixth grade the students are exposed to a large variety of media. The sixth grade students will also be required to apply all elements and principles learned in previous years. Each project is related to a specific artist, and at the end of the year the students are required to do a short research project on their favorite artist. Cross curricular projects are also a focus for this grade level.

Drama

Sixth graders continue singing chapel songs. They develop more skill and understanding of Human Video and create one or two of them to share in performance. They learn about components of a worship service and after creating a service share it in the Rockford community.

Instrumental Music

Sixth grade students can choose to participate in either winds or strings classes. Both are electives which offer an opportunity for personal growth and enrichment through the study of a stringed or wind instrument. These instrumental classes are structured to provide young people with motivation, positive attitudes, and commitment to success in an atmosphere of discovery and encouragement. Students do not have to be “talented” to succeed in these programs. Anyone who is willing to learn and put time into practice will find success. Instrumental programs emphasize dedication, a good work ethic, perseverance, cooperation, music appreciation, and the enjoyment of playing an instrument. Students who participate in these programs will have the opportunity to perform a number of times during the year, including RLA chapels and performances at RLHS.

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