

Grades 1-4 Curriculum Notes and Information

Word of God—Two Bible lessons will be studied each week during 4 class periods. (We will alternate between the Old Testament and the New Testament each year.) A variety of teaching methods, assignments, activities, songs, and art projects will be used to reinforce the lessons. Students will keep a journal of their Bible lessons. Lesson leaflets will be brought home each Monday and Wednesday so the new lesson can be read at home, signed by a parent or older family member, and returned to school. The leaflets will be collected in a binder which will go home at the end of the school year.

Chapel--Preschool through grade eight will join together in the church for a worship service led by Pastor Matthies or Mr. Fillner. Parents, friends, and family are encouraged to join us Wednesday mornings at 8:30. **Offerings** are collected each week and are given to a different mission each quarter. This year our missions are Palabra De Vida (Detroit's Hispanic mission), WELS Mission for the Visually Impaired, Malawi, and Cross of Glory outreach.

Hymn Study—A hymn or Christian song is studied at school each Friday morning. The same hymn will be recited the next Friday morning. Take time to review the hymn regularly throughout the week. Make it a part of your daily routine—part of your family devotion, after a meal, in the morning, or before bed—rather than learning it all on Thursday evening.

Math—Classes will be held daily (plus extra practice most days.) Review, board work, manipulatives, fact practice, and games are a regular part of math work.

Reading—Reading textbooks, workbooks and worksheets are used to ensure that basic skills are covered. Children are introduced to many types of literature and forms of creative writing to encourage a lifelong love of reading whether for spiritual growth and encouragement, for information, or for enjoyment. Grades 1 and 2 will use the Superkids curriculum, which incorporates phonics, spelling, language and handwriting into the reading curriculum. Grades 3 and 4 will use *Wonders* from McGraw Hill which incorporates reading, writing, vocabulary, spelling, phonics, and grammar.

Reading at home is encouraged through the Book It program and monthly reading goals. Our at-home reading program this year is called “Be a Bookworm!”

Spelling—First grade will not begin taking tests until early October and will have 20 unit tests during the school year. One spelling unit will be studied each week in grades 2-4. Tests for these grades will be weekly. Lists and test dates for the year for grades 1 and 2 will be given to parents at orientation. 3rd and 4th grades will take a pre-test each Monday. They will bring home the spelling list for the week on Monday and take their final tests on Fridays. **A practice test should be given at home on the day before the test, corrected and signed by the parent, and turned in on test day.**

Handwriting -All students learn and practice handwriting skills. Cursive instruction begins during the 3rd quarter of 2nd grade and continues through 4th grade.

Science—Science classes will be taught using *Studies Weekly* throughout the year. Science class is a wonderful opportunity to study the blessings of God’s amazing creation. We will also learn about science in field trips and as we care for chicken eggs in an incubator and then care for the chicks!

Social Studies— Social Studies classes will be taught using *Studies Weekly* and *Scholastic News* throughout the year (and a variety of field trips!)

Music—Hymns, Christian music and fun songs are learned and enjoyed. Each week the class will listen to a piece of classical music and learn about the composer. Piano and organ lessons are available during the school day. 4th grade students who are not taking piano or other music lessons will take recorder lessons each week.

Art— Art projects will focus on an aspect of art, a famous artist, a season, a gift, experimentation, or activities that are just for fun. A variety of mediums will be used.