



St. Paul's Lutheran School

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER



St. Paul's Teaching Staff:

Dave Hall, Headmaster, 6-8 Teacher

Rev. Kevin Koester, Pastor, Religion and Catechesis Teacher

Holly Klotz, Secretary, Art Teacher

Scott Gercken, Kantor, Teacher

Vicky Greco, 3-5 Teacher, Athletic Coordinator

LaDonna Hoffman, K-2 Teacher

Rebekah Koester, Math Teacher

Anne Clark, Teacher Assistant

Past Event Photos

Below are a few pictures from our Open House/Art show/Book sale!



Headmaster's Message

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over! Thank you St. Paul's staff for making this such a successful school year! Although we are saddened that the Koesters will not be part of our team next year, we pray God will continue to guide them in their new endeavors. We also look forward to having two new teachers: Sarah Duffy for grades 1st-2nd, and Cathy Kreuger for math, grades 3rd-8th.

Sarah is the wife of Pastor Duffy of St. Paul's, Melrose Park, and Cathy Krueger is a life-long member of St. Paul's and frequently subs for our school. We look forward to having both of them next year!

- Dave Hall, Headmaster -

What Really is Classical Lutheran Education?

Many people get taken aback by the word "classical", and sometimes have the wrong idea when they hear it. So, first off, let's state what Classical Lutheran Education is not:

- It's NOT elitist
- It's NOT snobbish
- It's NOT overly difficult
- It's NOT exclusive

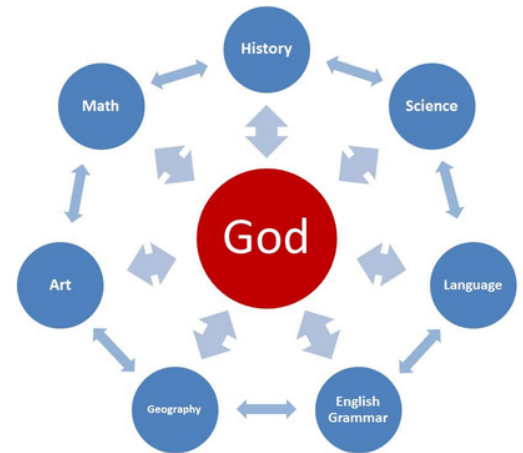
1) Fundamentally, it is a type of education that allows and encourages students to develop and strengthen their Christian beliefs. Our chief goal is to educate children to prepare them to be good Christians to serve their neighbors and fulfill their vocation and live as servants under God.

2) It is firmly based in the learning and understanding of Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Martin Luther viewed the catechism as a means by which God revealed his eternal wisdom that had been made manifest in Christ Jesus. Catechetical training plays a critical role at our school because it teaches students the correct doctrine of our Christian Lutheran faith and its devotional nature is of great value to the students. Our school is not just a school of learning, but a place of prayer, and the catechism is an integral part of this. Hence, it is an essential component of our curriculum.

3) It is a type of education that encourages students to truly learn HOW to think. Public schools today should not be called schools, because a school is a place of true learning (this is another reason why we use the term classical, to set us apart from the progressive "schools"). Sadly, they should be called programming centers, because they are only teaching students what to think nowadays. This is not real education.

4) It is learning that is rooted in the classics, and this is one of the reasons we use the term classical. Classics are books that have stood the test of time, and are filled with great ideas that promote positive and moral behavior, and many times also Christian based, but not always (we also explore Greek and Roman classical literature).

5) And lastly, Classical Lutheran Education teaches students to be inclined towards truth, goodness, and beauty: strong Christian **virtues**. (Public schools focus on values, which are subjective to each student). Education is not just about learning math, science or reading at our school, it is the "entire package". As Greek philosopher Plato put it, "Education is teaching our children to desire the right things". Unfortunately, public schools teach students to desire and explore their own sinful nature which will ultimately move them away from God and a truly virtuous life.



School Happenings...

2023 Chess Club!



Chicago Symphony Orchestra - Sounds of Chicago!! May 5th!



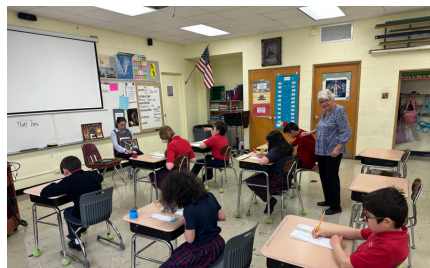
3-5th Grade Geography

On Thursday, 5/4, Mrs. Greco's geographers took a cumulative test over the countries and special geographical features of the entire continent of Africa! The graded tests were sent home in their graded paper folder today. Additionally, I plan on giving the students a cumulative test over all the geography they have learned this entire year. They will show me all that they have learned this year: NA, SA, CA, Caribbean, Africa, 7 continents, and oceans, too!



6-8th Grade Composition and Grammar

Last week, the students took all of their ELA computer tests. I hope that results come back and you see individual and personal growth from each student. Also, the students took a comprehensive vocabulary test over lesson 9 of our Wordly Wise book. Speeches for my combined catechism class project were completed as well and grades from me were handed out as well as put in my gradebook.



6-8th Grade Logic

Fridays in history class has also been known as "Philosophy Friday", and this time has been spent teaching students how to think logically and identify logical fallacies. What is a logical fallacy? It is a false argument not based in facts, but instead uses a manipulative tactic to persuade someone. For example, the most basic fallacy is "Ad Hominem" which is verbal abuse or name calling. When our news media labels people they do not like, they always use this tactic. For example, Donald Trump is a right wing extremist. Is there any evidence shown? No. For the media, that is their argument. Sadly, most fall for this because they do not know how to identify logical fallacies like these. In our class, students will be equipped to identify logical fallacies so they will not be so easily manipulated.

6-8th Grade History

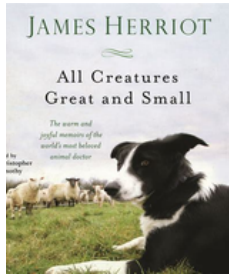
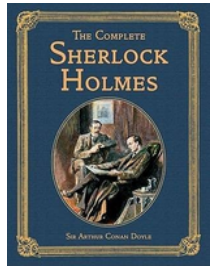


After we finished world history, we started U.S. History, and students are now exploring the United States Constitution. What a remarkable document that has stood the test of time. It is the oldest constitution that is still legally in effect. We have also learned that many of the writers of the constitution were devout Christians, and believed that they were in fact, doing God's work by creating this great document.



Should Christians Send Their Children to Public Schools? Part 2

Students are falling in love with reading!



*I believe that education is the fundamental method of social progress and reform.... the plasticity of the child shall not be artificially and prematurely hardened into a philosophy of life, but that **experimental naturalistic aptitudes** shall constitute the true education."*

- John Dewey -

Anti-Christian lies and logical fallacies taught in science class

Evolution is taught in science, which blatantly denies the existence of God, and claims all life is random. This can cause many to believe that there is no purpose in living, which is extremely dangerous. Children who are brought up in a Christian household and taught that God is real, and the Creator of all things, will then rebel against this fundamental truth because they will learn the opposite from their science teacher who they "love". Parents will not even know what is going on when their children gradually rebel and turn away from God and Christianity, falsely believing they were lied to by their parents. Public schools only teach the theory of evolution and do not teach Creationism or even Intelligent Design theory. This demonstrates that they are NOT at all neutral like most believe but hostile to God's word and truth. They teach evolution as if it is true even though it is only a theory, and based on many different logical fallacies, including appeal to the mob and authority. There is NO evidence that one species has or can evolve into another, yet that doesn't concern progressive teachers. Why? Because the belief in evolution is a full frontal assault on the existence of God, and the progressives like it that way, because most are atheists. In fact, the most violent and destructive branch of the God hating left is of course Communism. Did you know that the bogus theory of the "primordial soup" (the theory that life somehow spontaneously generated from non-living components) came from the Soviet Union under Stalin's regime? A regime that was responsible for murdering well over 20 million Russian Christians? Now why, you may ask, would hardcore Communists be interested in evolution? Because that is how much they hate God: they are willing to manufacture fake scientific theories to undermine our Creator at great costs to Christians, and scientists as well. The term "primordial soup" was coined by a Soviet Communist by the name of Alexander Oparin in 1924. He must have done extensive research and conducted many experiments to prove this theory, right? Unfortunately no, it is all just speculation.

An experiment was conducted in the 1950's to try and prove this theory, 30 years after Oparin, but all the scientists ended up creating were some basic proteins. To these theoretical scientists, this was enough, because, well, proteins are the building blocks of life, so therefore they theorized that life would "logically" be the next step. You may be asking why something which originated in the Soviet Union, a country responsible for the greatest amount of death and destruction in the 20th century, and is based in scientific speculation and not the scientific method, is so universally accepted and promoted as THE truth in millions of public schools in the United States? Great question, unfortunately this brief essay does not allow for a proper explanation, maybe some other time perhaps. Teaching only evolution to students, when it is based on theory and speculation and not solid experimentation is a problem, because if science teachers truly cared about "critical thinking" skills they would also teach Intelligent Design and Creationism. However, they conveniently leave both out because of their hatred towards the Creator. This is the greatest logical fallacy that they engage in: lying by omission.

Students are just cogs in the machinery and not divine creations

Sadly, public schools focus more on indoctrination than real learning. Today, it seems that they only desire to teach students WHAT to think, not HOW to think. It has been this way since the very origins of the public school system. It was designed to undermine student individuality and expression, in favor of turning students into virtueless "factory workers". The quality of student curriculum and learning has gradually eroded and a "dumbing down" has occurred in many public schools. Instead of teaching to the best, public school teachers teach to the lowest. It is "politically incorrect" and "white supremacy" to promote the best in a school at the expense of the lowest, so the bar is lowered. This is a very dangerous progressive mindset. Children are divine creations that should be nurtured, not insignificant "machines" on an assembly line of learning. Sadly, students in public schools are looked at as a number, a potential problem, and not valued. Because God has been taken out of education and learning, the divine has been removed from his creations, the students. Their value is then only in terms of how they can be "functioning members of society", and not unique, God-created individuals who should be carefully guided to learn the truth of their God and Creator and all His creations.

To be continued....

Amazing Art!



End of the Year Field Trips!!

The Children's Farm!!



Cantigny and the 1st Division Museum!



Cantigny Visitor Center



Tank Tech Presentation

