

ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN SCHOOL
BROOKFIELD, ILLINOIS



PROSPECTUS
2026-2027

CONTENTS

Welcome from the Principal	3
Academic Programs	4
Extracurricular Activities	8
Teaching Staff	11
Admissions	14
Tuition and Financial Assistance	14
School Calendar 2026-2027	15
Testimonials	16

Veritas, Traditio, Virtus

*ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL USES
TRADITIONAL METHODS OF
EDUCATION (TRADITIO) TO TEACH THE
TRUTH (VERITAS), SO THAT CHILDREN
MAY GROW IN FAITH AND VIRTUE
(VIRTUS).*

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Prov. 22:6) So the proverb goes, but how exactly do we train up our children in the way of the Lord?

Here at St. Paul’s, we have an answer rooted in a tradition that dates back centuries. Our goals and methods do not follow the latest trends and fashions, but remain the same as they always have been.

Our foundation is simple: the Word of God.

We begin each day with the Lord’s Prayer and the Apostles’ Creed, and recitations of the Scripture verse for the week and a portion of Luther’s *Small Catechism*, which the children memorize. Then at 8.30 am, we have our daily chapel service, which includes a Scripture reading, a Psalm, a hymn, a short sermon, and prayers. This sets the tone (and the best beginning) for the rest of the school day, as we go about the work of teaching and learning.

We are blessed to have a very talented and dedicated teaching staff, who are all members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and self-evidently put their faith into practice in their classrooms, as they show such great professionalism and care for our young scholars.

We have the privilege of offering an outstanding education at St. Paul’s. In an age of plummeting standards of literacy, reason, and morality in the world around us, our traditional standards and methods, and the Christian ethos and values that we cultivate, have never been more needed.

WHY A CLASSICAL LUTHERAN EDUCATION?

Our philosophy is distinctly classical AND Lutheran. What does this mean?

It means our teaching is founded on the TRUTH that God has revealed to us first through the Bible, which is entirely true, and then through creation and human intellect.

It means we use TRADITION. Our model of education places a strong emphasis on languages and literature to challenge students to reach their fullest potential.

It means our goal is to help students grow in VIRTUE. We encourage and foster growth in faith, hope, and love; in peace and joy, humility and piety, justice and mercy, courage and character, kindness and gentleness, moderation and self-control.

At the same time, we strive for academic excellence, and the test results of our students reflect the outstanding quality of the education we provide, even from a secular perspective.

Thank you for considering St. Paul’s Lutheran School for your child.

MRS. KATE THOELKE

PRINCIPAL



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

St. Paul's Lutheran School offers a comprehensive education from Kindergarten through High School, preparing children well to be upstanding citizens of the Kingdom of God and of the United States.

DAILY CHAPEL

The entire school attends Daily Chapel at 8.30 am. We use the Lutheran Hymnal, and the children learn to pay attention and participate, so that they may grow in faith and knowledge of God's Word and marvelous works. Chapel services include a Psalm, a Scripture reading, a short sermon, the Apostles' Creed, a canticle, the Lord's Prayer, and other prayers. On Wednesdays, we use the service of Matins. See for yourself by viewing the recordings on our Facebook page.

KINDERGARTEN

Students are well prepared for first grade by the end of kindergarten, and are expected to continue into First Grade at St. Paul's.

Academically, students are formed with a solid foundation in numeracy and letter recognition, with plenty of opportunity for early reading, as well as social skills, playing, tidying up, listening, and following instructions. Students are also prepared socially by participating in many of the activities alongside older students, including morning chapel and field trips throughout the year.



FIRST TO EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION:

Biblical literacy is the very foundation of a classical Lutheran education. Weekly memorization of a Bible verse and a passage from Luther's *Small Catechism* is required for all students, using *The Holy Bible* (NKJV) and Luther's *Small Catechism*. Additional catechism lessons for grades 6-8 are taught by Pastor Naumann.

MUSIC:

Music education is one of our school's greatest strengths. Students in every grade learn to sing sacred liturgical music in a choir and perform periodically during church services. All students learn music history through the lunchtime 'Composer of the Week'.

ENGLISH:

Age-appropriate grammar and composition lessons are offered every year, and reading books are selected from pre-approved reading lists. Reading at home is part of the expectation to enrich learning and skills, instill a habit and a love for reading, and develop fluency.

MATHEMATICS:

Students build their knowledge through an integrated curriculum that has been proven highly effective on standardized tests, up to and including advanced algebra.

SPANISH:

We identify Spanish as one of the most useful and important living languages of our time, enabling students to love and serve their closest neighbors. By the end of eighth grade, students have covered all topics of Spanish 1 at the high school level.

LATIN:

Latin provides an indispensable foundation for students' understanding of grammar and spelling, and for their mastery of the logic of language. The study of Latin invariably improves students' performance in all other subject areas.

SCIENCE:

Science is studied in every grade, using textbooks that affirm the biblical account of creation. Students learn through observing the world and its many fascinating features of intelligent design.

ART:

All students participate in art lessons, where they create and express themselves using a variety of tactile media and styles, develop drawing skills and techniques, and learn about art history and the great masters.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

All students participate in gym class, where they learn about the functions and health needs of the human body and develop team and individual skills while playing a variety of sports, including volleyball, dodgeball, basketball, pickleball, and more.

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

1. Biblical Studies (Professor Sorensen, 3 lessons per week)

Students will learn the content and context of the books of the Bible through this ongoing course.

2. Greek (Professor Sorensen, 3 lessons per week):

Students will learn the fundamentals of biblical Greek over two years, enabling them to read the New Testament writings in the original Greek by their third year.

3. Latin (Pastor Naumann, 3 lessons per week):

Students will make rapid progress in learning Latin grammar and vocabulary in an intensive course available to beginners that will also challenge students who have previously studied Latin.

4. Spanish 2 (Professor Sorensen, 3 lessons per week):

Students start at the Spanish 2 level, with the goal of becoming fluent in Spanish. For details on the vocabulary and grammar to be covered before the start of this course, please contact the school office.

5. English Literature, Language, and Composition (Pastor Michael Duffy, 3 lessons per week)

The literature will include Classic English and American works, as well as classical Greek and Latin works in English translation, according to the pre-approved reading list. Students will read at least one play by Shakespeare, two prose novels, a section of poetry, and a work from another genre (e.g., biography, satire, comedy, allegory, short stories, science fiction). Classics in translation will include an epic poem, a Greek tragedy, a comedy, a philosophical dialogue by Plato, and works by other authors as time permits.

‘Language and Composition’ includes the study of genre, poetic meter, tropes, argument, and the art of persuasion (rhetoric).

6. Public Speaking and Elocution

This may be students’ favorite class, where they read aloud to one another and receive coaching to speak fluently, eloquently, and with varied tone, tempo, and volume, building confidence in the essential skill of public speaking.

7. History (Pastor Christopher Antonetti, 3 lessons per week)

Students will study two units of history each year, focusing on primary texts and the analysis of source reliability. History units will include: Early Church History, European History, United States History, British History, Latin American History, History of the Lutheran Reformation, Greek History, and Roman History.

8. Music History, Theory, and Composition (Kantor Gercken, 3 lessons per week):

Thanks to Kantor Gercken’s expertise in this area, we are able to offer this course of instruction, which is rarely found in other schools. Students will build their talents, leading up to the AP examination.

9. Mathematics: Algebra (4 lessons per week):

Students in grade 9 will study algebra or advanced algebra. Students who have already completed Algebra should contact the school office to see if we can offer another course this year.

10. Science (3 lessons per week):

Biology, Chemistry, and Physics will be taught from a Christian perspective, affirming the biblical account of creation and training students to think intelligently and to dive more deeply into the material world.

SCHEDULE FOR HIGH SCHOOL (DRAFT)

	08.30	09.00	09.40	10.20	11	11.20	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.15
Monday	Chapel	Biblical - RS	Spanish - RS	Greek - RS	Q U A R T E R	Science - DH	Math-CK	LUNCH H O U R	Latin - EN	
Tuesday		English - MD	English - MD	English - MD		Speaking and Elocution - DW	Latin - EN			
Wednesday		Biblical - RS	Spanish - RS	Greek - RS		Science - DH	Math-CK		Music - SG	
Thursday		History - CA	History - CA	History - CA		<i>Silent Reading</i>	Math-CK		Latin - EN	
Friday		Biblical - RS	Spanish - RS	Greek - RS		Science - TBD	Math-CK		Music - SG	

EN-EDWARD NAUMANN
CK-CATHY KRUEGER

SG-SCOTT GERCKEN
DW-DEBBIE WANDERER

RS-ROBERT SORENSEN
MD-MICHAEL DUFFY

CA-CHRISTOPHER ANTONETTI
TBD-'TO BE DETERMINED'

High School Features

- ‘Quarter’ recess in the morning.
- A flexible hour-long lunch break, to give students more ‘downtime’ for refreshment, social interaction, organization, play, music practice, art, reading, etc.
- No cellphones permitted during school hours.
- No computer homework. Reading, writing, and memorization only.
- Heavy emphasis on languages and great literature.
- Time to finish math homework at school.
- Average 30 pages of reading per day.
- 3.15 pm finish time, allowing for sports and clubs after school.

ACCREDITATION

St. Paul’s has never previously sought accreditation. To reassure parents of the high quality of the education offered here, we are applying for accreditation through the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education (CCLE) and the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA). Our goal is to be a fully accredited and recognized institution at the beginning of the 2026-2027 academic year.

We are also in conversation with Concordia University Chicago to become a partner high school, so that some of our courses will receive dual credit. Other universities may also recognize certain courses for college credit.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

VOLLEYBALL

Our volleyball players (grades 5-8) receive high-level coaching after school during the Fall quarter. The St. Paul's team competes against teams from other schools, both home and away. The volleyball season finishes with a tournament, bringing a lot of noise and excitement to the entire school!

Volleyball camp is also offered during the summer.



FIELD TRIPS

All students have the opportunity to go on field trips. Taking advantage of our close proximity to Chicago, students visit art galleries, the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum, the Museum of Science and Industry, Medieval Times, theatre productions, the Brookfield Zoo, and others.

Parents are often invited to help with transportation and chaperoning.

EVENTS WITH ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

As members of the St. Paul's Lutheran community, all our students are warmly invited to participate in events that are organized by the Church, including an annual Youth Lock-in (grades 6-high school), Sunday School, Oktoberfest, Organ Recitals, Christmas Tree Sale, and Caroling.

During Sunday services at St. Paul's, students sing the pieces that they have rehearsed in music classes.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church welcomes students to provide a pancake breakfast and a spaghetti dinner to raise support for school projects.



SPELLING BEE

One of the most anticipated (and competitive) events of the year (for grades 1-8). St. Paul's Lutheran School offers a spelling club leading up to this event. The Spelling Bee winner has the opportunity to compete in the West 40 District Spelling Bee, which is a qualifier for the Scripps National Spelling Bee.



CHESS CLUB

The chess club provides our St. Paul's students with the opportunity to win the title of Grand Master! All ages are welcome to participate in these after-school lessons in strategy and game improvement, and our young scholars learn how to keep track of their own scores.

DRAMA

St. Paul's students perform Christmas skits for our annual Christmas program. In the fourth quarter of the school year, our students present an operetta, building confidence and public speaking skills while employing the memory skills they have been developing since as early as Kindergarten.



BOOK CLUB

One of our most popular clubs is our Book Club, where participants discuss a book they have read from outside of the assigned curriculum. Our students also love that snacks are provided!

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

An action-packed week in January, with special events or speakers every day.



OUTSIDE CLUBS

Students are permitted and encouraged to participate in clubs and activities (e.g., Civil Air Patrol, sports clubs) outside of school, provided they do not adversely affect or impede the students' studies or church attendance on Sunday mornings.

TEACHING STAFF



MRS. THOELKE, PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Thielke received her BA from Concordia University in River Forest in elementary education with a Director of Parish Music certification, and completed a master's degree in educational administration from Concordia University, Chicago, where she is also a doctoral candidate. Mrs. Thielke has served as a school principal at classical Lutheran schools in southern Illinois and Houston. Mrs. Thielke is a frequent speaker on classical Lutheran education, serves as a consultant for the LCMS Genesis Project, supporting churches seeking to open Lutheran schools, and is a member of the Board of Directors of Wittenberg Academy.

MR. GERCKEN, MUSIC, LATIN, AND RELIGION

Mr. Gercken is a professional musician and Kantor for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, and teaches music, religion, and Latin. Our Kantor holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Illinois and two master's degrees in music and religion from Concordia University Chicago. He is prolific in musical composition and regularly presents conference papers on music in classical Lutheran education.



MRS. KRUEGER, 5TH AND 6TH GRADES, MATHEMATICS

Mrs. Krueger teaches 5th and 6th grades through High School Math, as well as middle school art. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Northern Illinois University, with an emphasis in political analysis and mathematics. She is a member of St. Paul's with her husband and four daughters.

MRS. GRECO, 7TH AND 8TH GRADES, SPANISH

Mrs. Greco teaches grades 3rd-8th literature, English, grammar, and Spanish. She attended Eastern Illinois University and has degrees in education, Spanish, and health science. She has taught all levels and many different subjects, most of which involve language, grammar, and writing. She was a teacher at Bourbonnais High School, Walther Lutheran, St. Paul's, St. Edmund's, Riverside-Brookfield, and now here again at St. Paul's.





MRS. DUFFY , FIRST AND SECOND GRADE

Mrs. Duffy teaches first and second grades. She has degrees in Elementary Education and Music Education from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. She has taught in both general and music classrooms. She is a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Melrose Park.

MRS. ANTONETTI, FIRST AND SECOND GRADE

Mrs. Antonetti teaches Kindergarten, first, and second grades at St. Paul’s. She graduated from Concordia University Chicago in 2011 with a degree in Special Education. She has previously taught in Lutheran schools in Illinois and Indiana. She is a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Lockport, IN.



REV. DR. NAUMANN, CATECHISM AND LATIN TEACHER

Pastor Edward Naumann provides daily chapel services at St. Paul’s, teaches Catechism to 6th-8th grades, and teaches Latin. Pastor Naumann has an MA in Classics from the University of Edinburgh, a PhD in Greek and Latin from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, and an MDiv from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. He served as a pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakmont, PA, and as a missionary in Sri Lanka before coming to St. Paul’s in 2023.

REV. DR. SORENSEN, GREEK, SPANISH, AND RELIGION

Professor Sorensen is well known in the Chicago area and comes to St. Paul’s after teaching at Concordia University Chicago as a tenured professor of Theology and Foreign Languages from 2006 to 2025. He earned a PhD in New Testament and Early Christianity from Loyola University, an MDiv from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and an MFA in Spanish Language and Culture from the Instituto de Filología, Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico. He has served as pastor at Good Shepherd in Berwyn, IL; Nuestro Salvador in Corpus Christi, TX; and Grace Lutheran Church in Central Islip, NY.





REV. DUFFY, ENGLISH LITERATURE

Pastor Duffy majored in English literature while studying for his Bachelor of Arts at Concordia University, Nebraska, where he also completed the pre-seminary program, before earning his MDiv from Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, MO. He serves as the Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Melrose Park, IL.

REV. ANTONETTI, HISTORY

Pastor Antonetti is known at St. Paul's for presenting at our youth Lock-ins. He has an avid interest in history, and we look forward to welcoming him as a high school history teacher. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College, Chicago, IL, and a Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. He currently serves St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lockport, IL.

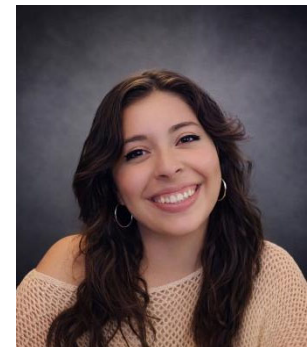


MRS. WANDERER, PUBLIC SPEAKING AND ELOCUTION

Mrs. Wanderer, a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Brookfield, joins the teaching staff this year. She attended Christ Lutheran School in Oak Park and Walther Lutheran High School before an executive career in the health insurance industry. Her own children also attended St. Paul's Lutheran School. Reading and writing are lifelong skills, which she is overjoyed to share with the students of St. Paul's.

ISABEL GUTIERREZ, VOLLEYBALL COACH

Isabel is a proud alumna of St. Paul's and serves as the Athletic Director for our volleyball program. With over 10 years of playing experience and extensive coaching experience, she leads multiple travel volleyball teams and oversees their training curriculum. Isabel is passionate about coaching and helping athletes develop both skill and a love for the game.



OTHER VISITING TEACHING STAFF:

REV. DR. LEONARD PAYTON, MUSIC

REV. MATTHEW ZICKLER, PHILOSOPHY

CONTACT US

If you are interested in touring the school or meeting the headmaster, if you have any questions, or if you are ready to request an application form for admission of your child, please contact us:

Principal Kate Thaelke: kthaelke@spbrookfield.org

School Secretary: stpaulbrookfield@comcast.net

Pastor Edward Naumann: naumann@spbrookfield.org

Church and School Office: 708-485-6987

ADMISSIONS

Upon completion of the application form and submission of the admissions and book fee of \$475, the school will contact you to offer your child a place to study at St. Paul's. If we cannot offer your student a place, the admission fee will be returned to you.

TUITION

Tuition fees are set by St. Paul's Board of Christian Education to make the school as affordable as possible. The generosity of the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church helps to keep these fees low. For the year 2026-2027, the tuition fee is \$4,200 per student. \$7,350 for two students. \$10,500 for three students. A 10% discount is offered for payment in full before the end of August.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School offers assistance to families that are able to demonstrate financial need. Please inquire at the school office for more information.





ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL * 2026-2027 School Calendar
 9035 Grant Ave (708) 485-6987
 Brookfield, IL 60519 stpaulbrookfield@comcast.net

AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					Total Days: 3/3

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	[25]	26
27	28	29	30			
						Total Days: 21/24

OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	P/T	30	31
						Total Days: 20/44

NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	[20]	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
						Total Days: 18/62

DECEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
						Total Days: 14/76

*P/T	Parent/Teacher Conference (Half Day)
[]	Denotes Midterm
[Grey]	No School
[Yellow]	1st Quarter
[Light Blue]	2nd Quarter
[Purple]	Early Dismissal
[Light Orange]	3rd Quarter
[Light Green]	4th Quarter

AUGUST

- 26 Faculty In-Service Day
- 27 First day of School

SEPTEMBER

- 7 No School - Labor Day

OCTOBER

- 9 No School - Faculty In-Service Day
- 12 No School - Columbus Day
- 29 Parent Teacher Conferences (1/2 day)

NOVEMBER

- 25-27 No School - Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

- 21-1 Christmas Break

JANUARY

- 4 Classes Resume
- 25-29 National Lutheran Schools Week

FEBRUARY

- 12 No School-Faculty In-Service Day
- 15 No School- Presidents Day

MARCH

- 18 Parent Teacher Conferences (1/2 day)
- 26 Good Friday (early dismissal)
- 29-2 Spring Break

APRIL

MAY

- 27 Awards / Graduation
- 28 Last Day of School/Picnic

JANUARY 2027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						Total Days: 20/96

FEBRUARY 2027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	[5]	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
						Total Days: 18/114

MARCH 2027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	P/T	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			Total Days: 20/134

APRIL 2027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	[23]	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
						Total Days: 20/154

MAY 2027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
						Total Days: 20/174

TESTIMONIALS

“I’m glad St. Paul’s has taught me about the truth so well and has shown me what it really means to be a follower of Christ. I intend to go through the rest of my life continuing to show the love of Jesus and not being afraid to speak about my beliefs and morals and knowing what is true.”

JENNA CLARK, CLASS OF 2023.

“Thanks to St. Paul’s, I can continue my journey through high school, and my path with God. I’m very thankful for the amazing friends and teachers I have that make me a better person today as a Christian.”

LAYLA MARTINEZ, CLASS OF 2023.

Sending our two daughters to St. Paul’s was one of the best decisions our family ever made. From the very beginning, St. Paul’s offered something we couldn’t find anywhere else—a Classical Lutheran education. Faith wasn’t treated as a separate subject; it was part of everything they learned. Through daily chapel and Christ-centered instruction in every classroom, our daughters didn’t just gain knowledge—they grew in their faith and knowledge of Christ.

Having a low student-to-teacher ratio enabled the staff to truly know our girls. Instruction was tailored to each child’s skill level, which allowed both of our daughters to be challenged and supported in exactly the ways they needed. The teachers invested in our children not only academically, but spiritually and emotionally as well. That care made a lasting impact.

When our daughters transitioned to high school, the results were clear. They were well prepared, confident, and capable. They excelled academically, were strong critical thinkers, and had the discipline and study skills needed to succeed. Just as importantly, they carried with them a solid moral compass and a faith that grounded them through new challenges.

St. Paul’s didn’t just educate our daughters—it shaped who they are today. We are incredibly grateful for the foundation they received and for the role St. Paul’s played in preparing them not just for high school, but for life.

We would choose St. Paul’s again without hesitation.

HOLLY AND JOSEPH KLOTZ, PARENTS.