



## **First Lutheran Classical School**

### **Curriculum Guide**

We believe that God is the author of all knowledge and wisdom, therefore all that we teach is taught from a Christian worldview acknowledging God's goodness, truth, and beauty in His revelation. The purpose of this document is to give guidance to the selection of subjects and the choice of materials that comprise our curriculum. We look to our mission statement, our motto, and our vision to inform these choices.

#### **OUR MISSION**

*"They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor." Isaiah 61:3b*

It is the mission of First Lutheran Classical School first and foremost to assure its students and their families that they are redeemed by Christ, have value in His sight and are loved by Him. Since they are of value to God it is their duty to fully develop their God-given faculties to glorify God and serve their fellow man. To effect this end, FLCS will provide an excellent academic program founded on the Word of God to facilitate the emergence of the new person in mind, body, spirit, and character.

#### **OUR MOTTO**

*Crescentes In Fide Et Sapientia*

Growing in Faith and Wisdom

#### **OUR VISION**

*"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*  
*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

We acknowledge that each student is uniquely made with individual value and self-worth. Preparing them for a vocation and helping them discover what the Lord has planned for their lives will facilitate the emergence of the new person – one who exemplifies:

- ❖ Confidence
- ❖ Scriptural Literacy
- ❖ Truth & Discernment
- ❖ Empathy
- ❖ Critical Thinking
- ❖ Life-long Learning

- ❖ Effective Communication
- ❖ Servant Leadership
- ❖ Worship Life
- ❖ Joyfulness
- ❖ A Sense of Wonder

## **OUR METHODOLOGY**

Classical education is a developmental method of teaching children mastery of all subjects that begins with the fundamentals, builds to integration of knowledge, and culminates in eloquent and creative expression.

## **OUR CURRICULUM**

### **Bible**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16*

It is the desire of FLCS for children to know God, to know themselves in relation to God, and to know the history of salvation God has provided through his Son. Furthermore, it is our desire that children would learn to love their neighbors and serve them because they themselves have been loved and served by God. Because the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God in which he reveals Himself to us, because God the Holy Spirit increases our faith in Christ through this Word, and because the love of neighbor flows from this faith, FLCS will provide a rich curriculum that focuses on the study of scripture highlighting its major themes and reinforcing parts every Christian should know. The study of Scripture and discussion of our salvation in Christ does not end with formal study but is integrated throughout our students’ day.

The Bible curriculum seeks to have a student:

- ❖ Know who God is.
- ❖ Know that we are all sinners who fall short of God’s expectations.
- ❖ Know that we cannot merit God’s favor by our own efforts.
- ❖ Know that God bestows His grace and favor on repentant sinners through the work of Jesus.
- ❖ Know that we receive that grace and favor through faith in Jesus.
- ❖ Be Biblically literate.
- ❖ Be familiar with Biblical accounts.
- ❖ Understand Bible structure.
- ❖ Understand that human reason must conform to God’s revelation.

## Language Arts

*“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion that it may give grace to those who hear.” Ephesians 4:29*

Language Arts has always held a pivotal role in classical Christian education and encompasses far more than just learning to read, write, and spell. Language Arts is a broad term that includes learning the sounds of letters and words (i.e., phonetics), how to group words together to form complete sentences, how to diagram or dissect a sentence to understand importance of structure, how to listen for comprehension, and how to ultimately construct a logical argument or persuasive debate. Being able to read and understand the meaning of words allows students to accurately comprehend what they are reading as well as to communicate effectively with others.

A comprehensive Language Arts curriculum seeks to:

- ❖ Recognize that written words provide valuable information for the understanding of God’s Word.
- ❖ Encourage students to acquire knowledge about God’s creation through reading.
- ❖ Equip students with the fundamentals of decoding words for early success in reading words and spelling.
- ❖ Teach students to understand and comprehend the written word using Bible stories and various other reading materials.
- ❖ Prepare students to express themselves verbally and in written form.
- ❖ Provide student instruction in the correct formation of letters and numbers, both manuscript and cursive, in expressing themselves.
- ❖ Teach students to communicate information clearly and effectively through writing using proper sentence, paragraph, and essay structure.
- ❖ Develop student opportunities for creating different types of writing: poetry, prose, friendly letters, book reports, fiction and nonfiction stories, and argumentative, expository, narrative, and descriptive essays.
- ❖ Introduce students to a wide range of classical literature including short stories, novels, and epic poems.

## Latin

*Veritas vos Liberabit “The Truth will make you free.” John 8:30*

Traditionally Latin has been the language of science, medicine, law, philosophy, and theology. It is the basis of many of the western languages and many English words are derived from the Latin. Perhaps most significantly, Latin is an inflected language and for that reason the nature and grammatical structure of the language are very precise. Thus, it requires careful reasoning to convey one’s exact meaning in a sentence. The exercise of reason necessary to achieve clear communication within this structure produces critical thinking. Consequently, Latin magnifies learning in all other subjects. As salt is to food, so Latin is to learning.

The Latin curriculum seeks to:

- ❖ Improve communication skills.
- ❖ Develop critical thinking.
- ❖ Improve vocabulary.
- ❖ Introduce a foreign language.
- ❖ Encourage deeper understanding of Western Civilization.

## Formal Logic

*“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. Isaiah 1:18a*

The teaching of formal logic is an important component of the classical Christian framework that trains students to recognize truth from falsehood and helps them to become effective communicators. Additionally, the study of logic teaches students critical thinking skills, builds good character, and gives students a better understanding of the universe God created – a cosmos of order, structure, and form. In learning how to become a discerning thinker, students gain confidence in their own abilities and begin to apply logic in other situations. Teachers in a classical education learning environment encourage students to think about why someone makes the decisions they make and analyze the consequences of those decisions. The tenets of formal logic will be a guide to students as they continue their education and throughout their lives.

The Formal Logic curriculum seeks to:

- ❖ Teach foundational knowledge including logic vocabulary that students commit to memory. (e.g. *argument, syllogism, premise, conclusion, fallacy, proposition*)
- ❖ Teach the rules of clear thinking and reasoning.
- ❖ Demonstrate the usefulness of logic by encouraging students to use logical reasoning in their other subjects.
- ❖ Develop students’ ability to make compelling arguments in oral and written communication.
- ❖ Help students detect faulty reasoning in other’s speech and writing.

## Mathematics

*“The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed upon it by God and which He revealed to us in the language of mathematics... Just as the eye was made to see color and the ear to hear sounds, so the human mind was made to understand quantity.” Johannes Kepler*

Mathematics reflects God's divine order, the reliability of his design, and serves as a tool for understanding His creation. Like language, mathematics communicates both the concrete and the abstract and therefore is fundamental to education. Classical Christian Education develops a well-ordered mind, promoting problem solving skills while fostering intellectual disciplines, critical thinking, and appreciation for the beauty of logical reasoning. Our teaching of mathematics provides the student with the means of ciphering through the practicalities of life as well as inspiring a means of wonder leading to the appreciation of God's wisdom and majesty in the order of creation, in music, and in the sciences.

The Mathematics curriculum seeks to have a student:

- ❖ Master their math facts.
- ❖ Understand concepts of measurement, quantity, and dimension.
- ❖ Apply math concepts to problem solving.
- ❖ Understand sequence, series, and symmetry.
- ❖ Appreciate math as a tool with broad application in multiple disciplines as well as being a discipline in itself.
- ❖ Recognize and communicate God's design in His creation and our lives.

## Science

*“Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without understanding? Brace yourself like a man: I will question you, and you will answer me. Where were you when I laid the Earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand.” Job 38:2-4*

Science is comprised of many disciplines but can be summarized by defining it as the quest for knowledge of the physical universe. Often, a false conflict is set up between faith and science. Science can only address the *What* and *the How* of the universe. It cannot address the *Who* of the universe. There should be no conflict between understanding the nature of the universe and the Creator of it. While science seeks knowledge of the *What* and *How* through the process of hypothesis and experimentation, faith seeks knowledge of *Who* through the process of revelation. Those processes should not be confused.

The Science curriculum seeks to:

- ❖ Provide students with an understanding of the scientific method with its scope and limitations.
- ❖ Expose students to the array of scientific disciplines.
- ❖ Have students understand that the world is a creation of God and not a random accident.
- ❖ Help students experience the wonder of God's creation and understand the order and beauty of it.
- ❖ Reveal that scientific inquiry leads to technological innovation and that it can be the servant of human welfare.
- ❖ Introduce ethics into scientific application, i.e. just because it can be done, does not mean it should be done.

## History

*“That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 1:9*

Our history begins with Genesis 1:1. From that point on it is a record of past events that have shaped our today and will influence our tomorrow. Throughout history we see, in many eras and cultures, that human behavior does not change, only the technological context and place in which it is played out. That realization brings into focus the need to understand *His Story*, and helps us find our place in it. The nature of place is an integral element in the study of history and knowledge of geography plays a key role in its understanding.

The History curriculum seeks to help a student:

- ❖ Understand the nature of place.
- ❖ Understand world geography and its influence on world events.
- ❖ See Biblical history in the context of world history.
- ❖ Understand that human behavior does not change.
- ❖ See God's mercy and providence in preserving the Church throughout the ages.
- ❖ Understand the concepts of cultures, peoples, religions, and nationalities.
- ❖ Understand political systems and their influence on human events.
- ❖ Be familiar with United States history and the principles on which it was founded.
- ❖ Understand citizenship.

## Fine Arts

### Music Education

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16*

Within the context of a Classical Christian school, music holds profound significance, deeply rooted in its biblical foundation and intrinsic value in nurturing the whole person. Music, viewed from a biblical perspective, serves as a sacred tool for worship, communication with God, and spreading the message of the Gospel, as exemplified by figures like David and Mary.

Furthermore, music education within a Christ-centered environment serves as a powerful instrument for spiritual growth and character development, shaping emotions, fostering relational skills, and conveying moral truths. Through the cultivation of virtues such as responsibility, confidence, and precision, students are equipped to fulfill their divine calling and impact the world for good. Music education not only enhances cognitive development and cultural appreciation but also instills a deep appreciation for excellence, discernment, and spiritual edification, reflecting the classical tradition of nurturing the intellectual, moral, and aesthetic dimensions of individuals. Thus, within a Classical Christian framework, music becomes a transformative experience, enriching the educational journey and preparing students to be well-rounded individuals who glorify God in all aspects of life.

The Music Education curriculum seeks to:

- ❖ Provide students opportunities to create, perform and respond to music of various types in a variety of ways.
- ❖ Prepare students for a lifetime of active, satisfying involvement with music in a variety of forms.
- ❖ Develop student opportunities to read, interpret and perform a wide range of music literature, including music created by others and their own works.
- ❖ Develop student abilities to respond with understanding to others’ musical works and others’ performance.
- ❖ Empower students to create, refine and notate their own original music.
- ❖ Study and gain insight into the enormous body of music that has been created throughout the centuries from early history to the present.
- ❖ Emphasize spirituality being the inspiration for the creation of music and music creating the desired atmosphere for a spiritual occasion.
- ❖ Shape students’ affections for God by providing them a musical language for the expression of the right affections to God.

## Art Education

*“And Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17*

A Christian philosophy of art education recognizes art as a process of making and interpreting visual reminders of God's creation. Rooted in the understanding that God created humanity in His own image as aesthetic beings capable of appreciating the beauty of the world, a Christian art education emphasizes the sovereignty of God and the infallible truth of His word. It acknowledges the Holy Spirit's role in the artistic process and highlights the calling that God has for Christian artists to glorify Him through their creative endeavors. By integrating scriptural truths into the art curriculum, we foster an atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth and creative expression, guiding students to discern and appreciate beauty while nurturing their artistic talents. Moreover, a Christian perspective on art underscores the importance of aligning artistic endeavors with biblical principles, inviting the Holy Spirit to inspire and guide the creative process. By grounding art education in the principles of Philippians 4:8, students are encouraged to meditate on what is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and praiseworthy. Ultimately, through a biblical lens, art becomes a vehicle for magnifying God's glory, and reflecting His character, as student artists endeavor to create works that point others towards the goodness and beauty of God.

The Art Education curriculum seeks to:

- ❖ Recognize every young Christian artist as an image-bearer of their Creator.
- ❖ Establish the truth of God's Word as the standard for artwork in the classroom.
- ❖ Encourage students to appreciate and imitate the beauty of creation in their own works.
- ❖ Teach all students the basic fundamentals of drawing to enable them to create adequate renderings.
- ❖ Introduce students to the works of the masters in Western culture.
- ❖ Equip students to knowledgeably use a variety of art media.



## Physical Education

*“ . . . do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19–20*

Physical education holds a pivotal role in the classical Christian educational framework, rooted in the understanding that God's creation mandates stewardship over our bodies. As articulated in 1 Corinthians 6, our bodies are not our own; they are bought at a price, calling us to honor God with them. The four pillars of Classical PE - Control, Challenge, Virtue, and Service - underscore this commitment. Through gaining control over their bodies, students learn discipline and self-mastery, essential for a life lived in service to God and others. Challenges faced in physical education foster confidence and resilience, while virtues like humility and self-control are nurtured amidst competition and teamwork. Service, the ultimate goal, is achieved as students learn to use their bodies to serve others effectively. Moreover, physical education in a Christian context acknowledges the body as integral to one's spiritual journey, emphasizing the importance of caring for it as a temple of the Holy Spirit. By instilling values of stewardship, discipline, and service, physical education equips students to lead healthy, God-honoring lives, embodying the holistic vision of classical Christian education.

The Physical Education curriculum seeks to:

- ❖ Emphasize intrinsic learning by prioritizing foundational movements that are inherent to the body's natural design.
- ❖ Recognize that children have differing abilities, offering scaled options for every skill and movement, ensuring that each child is appropriately challenged.
- ❖ Equip children with foundational physical tools that can be applied to any future physical endeavor.
- ❖ Promote lifelong physical fitness and well-being so as to empower students to lead active, healthy lifestyles beyond the classroom.
- ❖ Provide a fun and engaging learning environment, where students are motivated to challenge themselves and experience tangible success.
- ❖ Develop the understanding that caring for our physical bodies is part of their service to God so that we can serve Him.

