

# Subject Philosophies

## **Philosophy of Word of God Curriculum**

Word of God is included in the curriculum at St Mark to bring the students into a closer relationship with their Savior. It provides the means whereby the children are assured of their eternal salvation and motivates the children to live a Christian life here on earth. All classes are taught in the light of God's Word.

## **Philosophy of Language Arts**

Language Arts is included in the curriculum at St. Mark so students are able to read, study, and share God's Word with others.

Language Arts encompasses reading, writing, grammar, spelling, and handwriting used throughout the curriculum. The foundation of language arts is built upon listening to Bible stories and other literature read aloud and then building language skills as students develop.

Reading begins by hearing the words and connecting them to the written text. As students develop as readers, they become more independent and can appreciate a variety of literature. The skill of reading is applied to all subjects at school.

Writing is taking an idea and turning it into words. Students will develop their ideas into sentences, paragraphs, and written works. Students demonstrate an understanding of various types of writing through their own written work.

In writing students will demonstrate correct use of English grammar. Grammar is taught to enhance students' writing. Writing is the application of grammar mechanics.

Spelling is learned through reading and writing. Good spelling enhances student writing and reading comprehension.

Handwriting skills are used in all subject areas. The basics of printing are practiced and mastered to enable writing and communication.

## **Philosophy of Social Studies**

The purpose of the social studies curriculum at St. Mark Lutheran School is to develop active and engaged members of society and gain a Christian worldview that reflects God's divine providence over the course of history and current events. Through Christ-centered study of geography, history, political science, economics and behavioral sciences, students will develop the foundational skills and concepts necessary to inquire about and understand the world in which they live as they share the Gospel with others.

### **Philosophy of Science/Health**

Science is included in the curriculum of St. Mark Lutheran School to better understand the created world of our God, recognizing that the Lord reveals himself in nature and works through it. Although the world may promote its philosophies of humanism and evolution, we teach our students how to discern the differences between the world's teachings and biblical truth, always asserting that God's Word is Truth.

Science teaches us how to be good stewards of the world the Lord has given us. These basic fundamentals and principles will be taught in light of God's Word in these content areas:

- Life Science
- Physical Science
- Earth and Space Science
- Engineering, Technology, and Society
- Science and Engineering Practices
- Crosscutting Concepts

### **Philosophy of Math**

Mathematics is included in the curriculum of St. Mark Lutheran School because it is really a study of God's creation. As God created the world with order, so we use mathematics to put aspects of his creation in order. Every concept reveals more about that order he used at creation. At St. Mark, math instruction focuses on problem-solving, higher-order thinking, and preparing students for everyday life.

### **Philosophy of Physical Education**

Through this physical education program, it is important that students learn a variety of important life skills which include movement skills, knowledge, and behavior/social skills, over the course of each school year. Some of these include: locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills, team-building, social interaction skills, and cognitive concepts linked to fitness, wellness, skill development, and social skills appropriate to each grade/development level. We want all students to be competent in a variety of fundamental motor skills, because these skills enhance everyday living. The acquisition of fundamental motor skills are essential to improving one's overall fitness and key in leading an enjoyable active lifestyle. Moreover, we want all students to develop an understanding of the importance of lifelong fitness and skill building concepts. It is important we instill healthy living and activity knowledge, skills and disposition at a young age in an attempt to impact positive lifestyle choices and patterns for the long term. Overall, we promote physical fitness, knowing that God has blessed us with wonderful bodies that we use to honor him. *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.* (Psalm 139:14)

### **Music Philosophy**

Music is included in the curriculum at St Mark so students gain an appreciation of praising God through music.

#### **Psalm 92:1 “It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High”**

Music education improves learning in other subjects. It develops aesthetic awareness and sensitivity. It provides a life skill and source of enjoyment which enhances the quality of life from early childhood through adulthood. It provides a means for creativity and self-expression. It gives a sense of cultural history and church heritage. Through music class, students learn the necessary skills to participate in worship and are given opportunities to do so.

### **Philosophy of Technology**

Technology is included in the curriculum at St. Mark to ensure that high quality Christian Educational learning through the use of technology is available in every classroom. Technology is used to support the teachers and administration of St. Mark as they educate their students in a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom.

### **Philosophy of Spanish**

Spanish is included in the curriculum at St. Mark to give students an introduction in a foreign language. Through this foreign language class, students will learn how to learn another language and practice various forms of communication in a foreign language. Since we live in a world with a variety of cultures and a variety of languages, it is important for students to be introduced to a foreign language. Christ’s command in the Great Commission includes people of all languages, and in order to reach them with the gospel, foreign language study is important.