

## St. Mark Subject Philosophies

### Word of God

The 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.

### 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.

### Social Studies

Social studies is included in the curriculum of St. Mark Lutheran School with emphasis on history and geography taught in light of God's Word:

**History** is the telling of "*His story*" learning how our heavenly Father created the world and all that is in it, how he sustains the world and has preserved it to the present day. History teaches how God establishes government for his purpose. In a study of American and world history, our students learn how they, as children of God, fit into the world and their community. They will also see the opportunities that exist in spreading the story of God's love to all people.

**Geography** includes the wide variety of climates, landforms, and cultures of people the Lord has created. Here we learn of the factors that affect history and shape the world in which we live. Geography helps us understand our place in the vast number of different cultures that exist and reminds us of our calling to preach the gospel to all nations.

### Science

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 as the truth, we assert that God's Word is Truth.

Science teaches us how to be good stewards of the world the Lord has given us. Basic fundamentals and principles of physical, earth and life science will be taught in light of God's Word.

### 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. Our mathematics curriculum at St. Mark focuses on three areas. First, our school will teach the procedures in mathematics that involve the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Second, our school will teach problem solving strategies that allow students the ability to solve higher level word problems. Third, our school will cover the concepts that teach geometry.

### Physical Education

Physical Education is included in the curriculum at St. Mark so students learn to take care of their bodies which are temples of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:19)

Physical Education is a sequential and differentiated program to foster students health, fitness, and safety. Through an exposure to a wide variety of activities, students will gain the necessary knowledge to understand the importance of a healthy mind and body throughout their life.

### Music

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.