

SECTION V: Curriculum

STANDARD 5:

The School Has a Written Curriculum
That Integrates the Faith and Is Supported
By Appropriate Materials and Resources.

OVERVIEW:

List significant changes that have been made by your school in this area during its previous accreditation cycle.

- A new reading curriculum was adopted in 2011-2012. Part of this curriculum included rubrics for writing. Grades K-5 follow the reading curriculum rubrics for writing and grades 6-8 follow the writing rubrics found in their language/reading curriculum.
- Teachers continue to obtain supplemental materials and revise the current math program to help students have more practice with math computation. A new math curriculum is up for adoption in for the 2013-2014 school year. Instructional websites are also used to enhance math skills.
- PTL paid for teachers to attend a Kim Sutton Math Camp in the fall of 2012. This was an intensive four day workshop to show teachers simple ways to improve math computation understanding. Books, dice, and other supplemental materials were given to all teachers in grades K-8.
- Teachers in grades K through 5 did a video training for a new '10 Block' program during the summer of 2012. Materials and CDs are in each classroom. The '10 Block' program is used by teachers in K-5 one to five days a week (10 minutes each day). This program is used to specifically to improve math computational skills.
- New CPH religion curriculum has been implemented in grades K-6 in 2011-2012. This new curriculum has a strong focus on Missouri Synod doctrine. It is grounded in the rich biblical teaching and faithful doctrine that forms Christian faith in students and prepares them for life in this world. It also guides them forward to eternal life in heaven with their Lord Jesus Christ.
- Since 2001 the Board of Education has signed contracts with Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) for an onsite special education teacher. Presently, St. John's has agreed to a yearly contract with LSEM for a full time onsite special education teacher.
- We continue to subscribe to the Arts and Activities publication, which arrives monthly. The magazine is made accessible to all teachers in the Art and Science room. Teachers are also given opportunities to attend conference workshops to obtain new art ideas. To enhance the students' appreciation for art, we have a program called Art Adventure

whereby parent volunteers are trained by the Minneapolis Art Institute to lead discussions with students about specific pieces of famous art. This occurs in November about three times per grade.

- The staff continues to obtain supplementary materials for the Social Studies curriculum at all levels. Books, posters, and technology supplements were obtained in 2008-2009. In addition a box full of teacher resources is made available to teachers for use during the year of the Social Studies Fair, as well as any other times they wish to use it.
- With the completion of the school's phase II building project in 2008, St. John's was able to provide the students with an Art and Science room. With additional funds provided by the Walk-a-thon fundraiser in the spring of 2012, the room was completed with a multi-colored tile floor, cabinets, sinks, additional electrical outlets, and the removal of extra doors. The room is scheduled daily for art lessons, science labs, book clubs, and volunteer use.
- With the completion of the school's phase II building project in 2008, St. John's was given a sound-proof room for band and choir use. The room is also used for piano lessons, the extended school program, assemblies, meetings, and occasionally as a cafeteria when the school cafeteria is being used for funerals.
- Both guitar and piano lessons are offered after school in connection with our extended after-school program. These music programs focus on learning techniques, reading notes, and basic music concepts.
- Spanish instruction is offered three times per year through our ESP program. The program focuses on learning Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and usage. The program also includes aspects of Spanish culture, music, and traditions.
- With the completion of the school's phase II building project in 2008, St. John's was able to provide the students with a computer lab. With additional funds provided by the Walk-a-thon fundraiser in the spring of 2009, the room was furnished with computers, desks, a projection unit, two teacher computers, and printers. The room is scheduled daily for computer instruction, typing, and AR assessment.
- A number of new technology items are being introduced into the school. The new technologies include: student response system, flip cameras, tablets, an interactive smart board in the 6th grade room and Mobi Views(which are interactive whiteboards) in all the other classrooms, projection units, document cameras, and updated monitors for the teacher computers.
- A free monthly technology magazine titled "Tech & Learning" is available for teachers to use as an information source. The magazine is available in the computer room.
- Two teachers belong to professional reading organizations. They are sharing their periodicals with the staff. One is entitled "Reading Teacher" and the other is "Reading Research". These periodicals are published quarterly and are available to all teachers.
- Teachers continue to modify Religion lessons to an appropriate time and level. Our Deaconess and Pastors increased their role in assisting teachers in the classroom. Pastors lead chapel each Friday and many times include Bible history in their chapel lesson. Pastors also lead a staff Bible study each week, where teachers learn more about Bible history so they can implement various topics into their classroom.
- An automated check-in/check-out system was purchased for the library in 2008. It is up and running. The library is staffed by volunteers one day a week. The library is now

located in a larger space and the books have been re-labeled. The Pre-K aide is also available to assist in the check-in/check-out process with the Pre-Kindergarten students.

- A new orchestra program began in the 2011-2012 school year. It is available for children in 2nd – 8th grade. Lessons are offered one day a week.
- The gymnasium was completed in 2008 as part of the Phase 11 building plan. The gymnasium is used for P.E. classes, sporting events and assemblies.

REQUIRED INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

Indicate whether or not the school meets the required indicators of success by circling **Yes** or **No**.

YES NO *5:01 The teaching of the Christian faith is recognized as the major purpose of the school, is allotted appropriate time in the daily schedule, and is integrated intentionally throughout the curriculum.

YES NO *5:02 A written curriculum has been developed and is being used for every subject area taught at the school.

GENERAL INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

Evaluate the level of implementation for each of the other indicators of success. Tally and record your point total at the end of this section.

5:03 The curriculum is used as an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel.

X Met in Full (3) ___ Mostly Met (2) ___ Rarely Met (1) ___ Not Presently Met (0) ___

COMMENTS:

The Gospel is integrated into all curricular areas. Even though secular published materials are used, when controversial issues arise (i.e., evolution, etc.), teachers use this as an opportunity to discuss the issues to reflect Law and Gospel.

5:04 All state-mandated programs are implemented unless they conflict with the school's mission and core values.

X Met in Full (3) ___ Mostly Met (2) ___ Rarely Met (1) ___ Not Presently Met (0) ___

COMMENTS:

Teachers comply with state mandates as understood. The administrator meets with the local school district to learn about mandates and how the monies are allocated for the use of various title programs. Safety mandates from the police and fire chiefs are followed with the latest application being numbers on all entrance doors. Curriculum mandates are followed such as the bus safety lessons and assessments that are required from our public school for bussing to be provided to our students. The administrator speaks with various public high school counselors to ensure we are meeting the new math mandate for the 8th grade students. As each curriculum area is reviewed and updated, Minnesota State Standards are implemented into the curriculum as long as they do not conflict with the school's mission and core values.

5:05 Learner outcomes (objectives) are written for each grade level and subject area with concern evident for measurability, expected levels of achievement, scope, sequence, correlation, state mandates, and cultural diversity.

Met in Full (3) **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** _____

COMMENTS:

All learner outcomes and expectations are written for each grade level and reviewed by faculty regularly. Measurability, expected levels of achievement, scope, sequence, correlation, state mandates and standards, and cultural diversity were taken into consideration as each of the learner outcomes was written.

5:06 Time allotted to each curricular area is age appropriate and meets or exceeds any state standards.

Met in Full (3) **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** _____

COMMENTS:

The State of Minnesota eliminated all state mandates concerning time allotments. Class schedules are written to accommodate all subject areas appropriate for age and ability.

5:07 Learning experiences are built upon previous learning and prepare students to succeed at the next level of education and in life.

Met in Full (3) **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** _____

COMMENTS:

Teachers continuously communicate with each other, making sure that the curriculum builds upon the previous years' learning experiences. As each curriculum area is reviewed, teachers communicate learning experiences in their classroom and student concerns from the previous grade. Teachers at the 8th grade level communicate with high schools and receive input from former students and parents. Teachers pre-assess what students know and build upon previous learning experiences. Taking into consideration parent input, teachers work with individual students and the LSEM teacher to accommodate students with special needs to help prepare them for the next level of education.

5:08 Parents are informed about the curriculum and participate in its evaluation.

Met in Full (3) **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** _____

COMMENTS:

Parents are informed when new curriculum is to be adopted and are given opportunity to provide input. Parent comments are accepted for consideration.

5:09 Curricular materials are selected by the faculty and administrator. Policy is established and followed for the approval and purchase of these materials.

Met in Full (3) **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** _____

COMMENTS:

Annually, the faculty and the administrator evaluate and select curriculum. The recommendations are brought to the Board of Education for final approval. Registration funds and state text book funds are used to make purchases once they are approved.

5:10 Individual student growth equals or exceeds expectations based on ability assessment.

Met in Full (3) **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** _____

COMMENTS:

Each student is evaluated by the classroom teacher. Expectations are discussed with parents and students at home visits, parent/teacher conferences and as needed during the year. Information gathered from Iowa Basic Skills and DIBELS assessments show that the majority of the students at St. John's score above national averages and benchmarks.

5:11 Learning materials are selected to assist the achievement of the desired learner outcomes (objectives).
 Met in Full (3) **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** _____

COMMENTS:

Learning materials are selected and updated on a rotation basis to assist the achievement of the desired learner objectives. Supplemental materials are added as needed throughout the rotation cycle.

5:12 The written curriculum is evaluated regularly and appropriate changes are made to ensure student growth.
 Met in Full (3) **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** _____

COMMENTS:

Faculty annually reviews one curriculum area on a designated rotation system. They also evaluate special events such as Art Adventure, Sex Education, Small Business Day, Educational Assemblies, Art Fair, Science Fair, and Social Studies Fair - all of which have curriculum connections. Evaluations are made and filed to be used for planning purposes in the future.

Total 30

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- A. Are all REQUIRED Indicators of Success complete and available for review? Yes
- B. What is your GENERAL Indicators of Success point total for Standard 5? 30
- C. Is the total for the General Indicators of Success a minimum of 22 points? Yes
- D. Have you provided comments or explanation for proposed actions to meet any of the GENERAL Indicators of Success that have not been fully met? Yes