

Section V: Curriculum

Although in its broad sense, curriculum includes instructional materials, in this section it is narrowed to mean the planned process and expectations of student beliefs learning and skills.

RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING:

- A. How is the curriculum affected by the needs of your community?

Our Christian foundation shapes our curriculum. Our community has strong, Christian morals and they are reflected in the studies taught to the students. The school also makes an effort to accommodate the transition period to high school by preparing students for achievement at that level. Study skills as well as the level of studies taught, prepare students to continue at an optimal level. Our students also have access to a Lutheran Special Education Ministries program. This accommodates students in our community that require special needs.

- B. Indicate resources used in the construction of your curriculum (e.g. state mandates, local public school curriculum, "Integrating the Faith," achievement test objectives).

The internet has become an extremely valuable source for compiling curriculum and offering enrichment for all areas. With the addition of Smartboards and projectors we are able to access several different resources. The computer is also useful to emphasize the classroom lessons. Programs such as Accelerated Reader have helped students advance their skills. Curriculum guides are excellent resources including samples received by publishers, public school curriculum guides, and "Integrating the Faith." Also, the Iowa Test of Basic Skills are set in place to gauge the students' success levels. Finally, we consult with other professionals in the Lutheran and public educational system provides further insight for the curriculum.

- C. Describe any curriculum changes made in the past three years and indicate the impact of these changes on student achievement.

A new religion curriculum is being implemented in grades 1-6. This is due to a curriculum change from Concordia Publishing House. This will help the students understand the Word of God with new activities. In grades 7-8 the Saxon math series provides a wide base of knowledge with a spiral review concept. We also have a new and updated Minnesota History series. The new curriculum provides new updates and other resources.

- D. What percent of each school week is allotted each subject (activity) at each level? Compare this with state recommendations.
- E. List any standardized tests given, an analysis of the results for each grade (level) for the past three years, and how this information is used to evaluate and improve student achievement.

Test given:

Iowa Test of Basic Skills to grades kindergarten through eighth

Teachers identify areas where all students are low and evaluate ways that improve students' comprehension of these subjects. This may involve review of the current curriculum and or more class time.

Scores are also evaluated to measure improvement and assure that the students are making improvements.

ATTACHMENTS:

- * A set of learner outcomes (objectives) for one of the following subjects: religion, mathematics, science, social studies, or reading. Make available to the team on-site all learning outcomes (objectives) in a curriculum guide or separately for each subject (religion, mathematics, science, reading, language arts, social studies, art, music, physical education, and technology education). Early childhood centers need not segment learner outcomes into subjects
- * A current schedule for each classroom, indicating clearly which subjects (activities) are taught at which times.

Standard 5:

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

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:

General Indicators of Success help the school quantify its compliance with the Required Standard. Evaluate your school's compliance with each General Indicator of Success using the criterion defined below. In the "Comments" section related to that indicator, specify how your school falls short of full compliance for any indicator marked less than "**Met in Full.**"

Met in Full—The indicator of success has been completely accomplished by the school. It is verifiable through evidence and documentation.

Mostly Met—The indicator of success has been partially accomplished by the school. Documentation and evidence regularly indicate that the school is well on the way toward full accomplishment of the indicator.

Rarely Met—Infrequent implementation of an indicator of success. This indicator rarely occurs in the school and evidence and documentation for compliance are minimally present.

Not Presently Met—There has been no progress by the school toward the accomplishment of this indicator of success.

5:03 Curriculum is used as an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel.
__3__ Met in Full (3) ___ Mostly Met (2) ___ Rarely Met (1) ___ Not Presently Met (0) ___3__

5:04 All state-mandated programs are implemented unless they conflict with the school philosophy.

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

5:05 Learner outcomes (objectives) are written with concern evident for measurability, expected levels of achievement, scope, sequence, correlation, state mandates, and cultural diversity.
 3 **Met in Full (3)** **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** 3

5:06 Time allotted to each curricular area is age appropriate and meets or exceeds any state standards.
 3 **Met in Full (3)** **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** 3

5:07 Learning experiences are built upon previous learning and prepare students to succeed at the next level of education and in life.
 3 **Met in Full (3)** **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** 3

5:08 Parents are informed about the curriculum and participate in its evaluation.
 3 **Met in Full (3)** **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** 3

5:09 Curricular materials are selected by the faculty and administrator. Board policy is followed for the approval and purchase of these materials.
 3 **Met in Full (3)** **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** 3

5:10 Individual student growth equals or exceeds expectations based on ability assessment.
 3 **Met in Full (3)** **Mostly Met (2)** **Rarely Met (1)** **Not Presently Met (0)** 3

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

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

Total 30

COMMENT ON THE WHOLE SUBSECTION ON CURRICULUM:

- A. Are the required indicators of success met? **YES**
- B. Is the total for the indicators of success a minimum of 20 points? **YES**
- C. Based on this portion of the self-study, what are the strengths of your school?

Our curriculum has strong attributes from kindergarten through eighth grade. Our new religion series produced by C.P.A. "Voyages is used throughout our school. It meets the needs of each student at their ability level while introducing and reinforcing materials taught at an age appropriate level focusing on our Lord and Savior. Due to constantly striving for excellence we believe that our students will be fully prepared for the next level of Christian Education.

D. Based on the concerns identified in your self-study, you will develop future plans to improve your school. Identify every item marked as less than "Met in Full" with specific plans for action to be taken by the school over the next cycle of accreditation. Any areas identified as needing improvement in the "Respond to:" component must also be included in the proposed school action plan and addressed in the cumulative annual report.

Please comment on your religion curriculum:

- A. Strengths of your religion curriculum.

Pastor plays an important role in the seventh and eight grade confirmation class by incorporating critical instruction along with Voyages curriculum. This series is used kindergarten through eighth grade and provides a correlated memory work section for each grade level. Students also participate in classroom devotions and weekly chapel service. The activities provided with the lesson enhance the student's retention of material.

- B. What needs improvement?

Our students need more practice in putting their faith into action. Being ready to give a witness to what they believe.

- C. Plans for improvement.

Provide practical opportunities for students to show their faith. Teach an evangelism method such as discussion started by evangelism cube.

Please comment on your mathematics curriculum:

- A. Strengths of your mathematics curriculum.

Lower grades have use of many manipulations. Real life math with an emphasis on thinking, not guessing. Students are introduced to a wide variety of mathematical instructions. The upper grades offers general math including a pre-algebra and algebra for students who are ready for a greater mathematical challenge. There is a strong emphasis on a spiral curriculum. While the use of a calculator is taught, most computations are done without the aid.

- B. What needs improvement?

Students need to show the steps that get them the correct answers. More practice with basic math facts. Consistent practice of math skills after introduction.

- C. Plans for improvement.

Work on daily accountability in showing the steps. Incorporate a math fact program in the daily routine. Strengthen retention of materials introduced through repetition.

Please comment on your language arts curriculum:

A. Strengths of your language arts curriculum.

Our current Language Arts Curriculum is tied to our reading series and provides students with an early introduction to parts of speech. There is constant practice and review. While work is directly related to the daily reading stories, our current curriculum is very thorough. The basics of grammar are well covered.

B. What needs improvement?

Our students need more oral practice of skills. Several grade levels express concern over this creative writing area. In certain areas of grammar, there are low numbers of practice items. Upper grades writing often overlaps with topics from their reading curriculum.

C. Plans for improvement.

Put Priority on oral practice as part of language lesson. Make allowances for the teaching of creative writing on all grade levels. Supplement low practice areas of grammar with practical practice items and use additional resources. Develop a cohesive plan of writing for upper grades

Please comment on your reading curriculum:

A. Strengths of your reading curriculum.

The lower grade series (K-6) has great continuity between reading, grammar and spelling. Skills are introduced, reinforced and mastered throughout the program. In the upper grades (7-8) a wide variety of genres are explored; ie, poetry, mythology, and novels

B. What needs improvement?

More opportunities for challenging accelerated readers and review for special needs students. Increase ability to sound out words for first and second grades as well as more phonic review. More exposure to poetry.

C. Plans for improvement.

Challenge accelerated readers with chapter books and activities. Seek out opportunities for review and extra oral reading to volunteers. Incorporate additional phonic sequencing in the reading curriculum. Develop a poetry unit where appropriate.

Please comment on your social studies curriculum:

A. Strengths of your social studies curriculum.

Introduces students to age appropriate facts and information. We currently use the Minnesota State History textbook. Upper grades are history oriented with the story told from a Christian perspective both U.S. and world history. The role of religion in history is highlighted. Geography of the world and civics are also incorporated with this in mind.

B. What needs improvement?

There are areas of social studies which need supplementing. There is a need for more relevant activities and additional information.

C. Plans for improvement.

Review current test results to determine areas which need to be reinforced. Develop a unit plan to highlight these areas. Investigate a social studies fair to spotlight student learning.

Please comment on your science curriculum:

A. Strengths of your science curriculum.

Age appropriate materials are used. Many activities require readily available materials to teach concepts. Spiral curriculum builds a knowledge from previous years. There is a continuity of subject areas: life science, physical science, earth science, and the human body.

B. What needs improvement?

More hand on experiments, and a possible updated textbooks.

C. Plans for improvement.

Science is the area in which we are doing a adoption this year. Make hands-on experiments an important feature of a new series.

Please comment on your music curriculum:

A. Strengths of your music curriculum.

We have a variety of music styles as well as a wide range of topics such as rhythm and syncopation. There is a good mix between listening to music content. Note values are taught early in the series.

B. What needs improvement?

The depth of our music program could improve. Non-musical students need to feel comfortable with concepts taught. Consistency in including a time slot for music each week. Students need to differentiate types of musical instruments.

C. Plans for improvement.

Plans for improvement are to look into more modern and student active music curriculum. We believe a new updated curriculum will increase the interest and energy levels in this subject area.

Please comment on your art curriculum:

A. Strengths of your art curriculum.

Strong emphasis on the elements of art with art history. Continuity of the program. Students are also introduced to many forms of crafts, activities, drawing and painting. We also use many types of media.

B. What needs improvement?

More emphasis on the teaching of lives, values, and perspective in drawing. Art history also needs improvement.

C. Plans for improvement.

Add more direct instruction in life values and perspective. Find materials and websites to assist. Looking into the Art Adventure program from the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Please comment on your physical education curriculum:

A. Strengths of your physical education curriculum.

Students improve in endurance and cardiovascular rates. The curriculum is fun and game based. Students learn loco-motor skills and work on fitness and flexibility.

B. What needs improvement?

A greater variety of games that are not necessarily related to sports. Students need to learn good sportsmanship and fair play.

C. Plans for improvement.

Teachers will research and adapt new age appropriate games. Teachers will find a style of testing that they feel is age appropriate. Teach sportsmanship and fair play with each game/activity taught.

Please comment on your technology education curriculum:

A. Strengths of your technology education curriculum.

We cover all the major aspects of Microsoft Office extensively in all grades

B. What needs improvement?

Continue to advance as technology advances, and basic typing skills

C. Plans for improvement.

Continue to advance as technology advances