

SECTION VI:

Instruction

STANDARD 6:

Christian School Personnel Facilitate Student Learning to Achieve the Planned Outcomes of the School's Curriculum.

OVERVIEW:

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

- The bell system was installed and coordinated in the spring of 2012.
- The computer lab was updated in 2009 with 27 new computers.
- The staff discussed ways that every teacher could have designated planning periods each week. All full time teachers have at least 120 minutes of planning time during the week unless we have indoor recess. Then it might be as low as 90 minutes per week. However, some teachers choose to use this planning time to work with individual students instead of using it as a planning period. Our staff attendance policy also states that teachers are to be in the building 30 minutes prior to the beginning of school and 30 minutes after the school day ends. This hour each day is also considered to be planning time for each teacher.
- A Book Club was started in 2011 for students in grades 2-8 for interested students.
- A standard assignment book has been adopted for all students in grades 4-8 and was implemented during the 2011-2012 school year.
- Three discipline books were added to the professional library; all were written by Madelyn Swift: Teach Your Children Well, Getting it Right with Teens, and Discipline for Life: Getting it Right with Children
- Monthly periodicals are used by teachers and placed in the professional library. These periodicals include *Arts and Instruction*, *Technology for Education*, and *The Reading Teacher*.
- A new all-day Pre-kindergarten program was implemented during the 2012-2013 school year.
- All-day, every-day kindergarten began in 2009-2010.
- An Extended School Program was initiated in 2007-2008 and has grown each year. It includes extra after-school programs like Spanish club, art classes, guitar lessons, and piano lessons.
- Orchestra lessons were introduced during the 2011-2012 school year.
- Special school days were implemented such as Serendipity day and Small Business day to promote school community.

- Extended sports activities were added: golf club, girls volleyball, 3-4th grade basketball
- Online grading system/report system was implemented in 2008.
- We upgraded our AR system to AR Universal which gives students access to all the AR tests. Parents can find the books for which there are tests online.

REQUIRED INDICATOR OF SUCCESS:

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

YES **NO** *6:01 All curricular areas are taught from the perspective of Lutheran theology. Personal witness and Holy Scripture are integrated throughout the day.

GENERAL INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

Evaluate your level of implementation for each of the REQUIRED Indicators of Success. Tally and record your point total at the end of this section.

6:02 Instruction is based upon age-appropriate planned learner outcomes.

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

COMMENTS:

Teachers guide their instruction based on age-appropriate developmental expectations.

6:03 A variety of teaching methods/learning experiences is used to meet the individual needs of students.

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

COMMENTS:

A variety of methods are used to accommodate various learning styles. Students work with one-on-one tutoring by peers, classroom aides, parents, church member volunteers, or teachers during and after school. Teachers allow their students to work in small groups or with partners. Field trips, outdoor education, and special assemblies are offered to supplement classroom instruction. Independent studies are also available for advanced learners. Other teaching methods that have been expanded upon are: hands-on materials, computer research, technology based instruction, role-playing, and simulations. All math teachers attended a four-day math camp in the summer of 2012. Many of the math teaching methods and learning experiences for children have now been implemented. Many teachers are using the brain research from Eric Jensen regarding music and how it helps students learn various concepts, especially in math. Our special education teacher through LSEM, became a full-time LSEM teacher in 2012-2013. She helps with differential learning. Our LSEM teacher works with students in both push-in and pull-out situations to meet the needs of individual students. The LSEM teacher also works with the public school system in assessing students, identifying students that need to have an IEP, and making sure that the IEP is implemented. Students that do not qualify for an IEP through the public school system, but still need help from the LSEM teacher, have an IEP written through LSEM.

6:04 Teachers prepare written weekly and daily lesson plans.

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

COMMENTS:

Teachers are supplied with lesson plan books and are expected to have lessons plans available on a weekly and daily basis. These plans are reviewed by the principal on a weekly basis.

6:05 Students with special needs have education programs designed to meet their needs.
 X Met in Full (3) ___ Mostly Met (2) ___ Rarely Met (1) ___ Not Presently Met (0) ___ 3 ___

COMMENTS:

Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) contracts with St. John's to employ a special education consultant who instructs students and consults with teachers. She provides students with individualized and/or small group instruction. The school families and parents benefit from the instruction and guidance of the St. John's special education consultant. We also work with the public schools' (namely Rush Creek Elementary and Maple Grove Jr. High) special education staff to evaluate and create IEPs for some students. The public school may also provide services for some students. Additional enrichment programs are scheduled throughout the year such as art adventure, art/science fair, Festival of Nations, outdoor education, etc.

6:06 Frequent reports of each student's progress are made to parents or legal caregivers in conferences and in written form.
 X Met in Full (3) ___ Mostly Met (2) ___ Rarely Met (1) ___ Not Presently Met (0) ___ 3 ___

COMMENTS:

Written progress reports are issued at mid-term and at the end of each trimester. Conferences are set up for all students in the fall and upon request of the parent. Gradelink, an online grading/report system, is available to parents to access their child's grades at all times.

6:07 Materials are available and used for children with special needs such as remediation, enrichment, and extension of learning.
 X Met in Full (3) ___ Mostly Met (2) ___ Rarely Met (1) ___ Not Presently Met (0) ___ 3 ___

COMMENTS:

A licensed special education consultant through Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) has been hired to instruct students with learning issues. Special Educational resources are also available through the public school district and LSEM. Enrichment materials are included in curriculum resources. Extension of learning opportunities includes study skills and bullying courses conducted by the school counselor, classroom teacher, and the LSEM teacher. Additional resources include Accelerated Reader, computer instruction, advanced math for 8th grade students, individual materials that are developed by staff members, and library resources.

6:08 A variety of instructional/learning materials and equipment is readily available and used by teachers and learners.
 X Met in Full (3) ___ Mostly Met (2) ___ Rarely Met (1) ___ Not Presently Met (0) ___ 3 ___

COMMENTS:

Manipulatives, science, art, math, reading, and technology materials are continually being reviewed, researched, and acquired. Each classroom teacher is given money each year to purchase new instructional/learning materials at their discretion.

6:09 Instructional/learning materials do not conflict with Lutheran theology and are selected with consideration for Christian standards.
 X Met in Full (3) ___ Mostly Met (2) ___ Rarely Met (1) ___ Not Presently Met (0) ___ 3 ___

COMMENTS:

Materials are reviewed if concerns are expressed. Students are instructed to identify certain philosophies and positions that are in conflict with Lutheran doctrine. The policy for library

materials states that books are sent for staff review if subject matter or language is thought to be questionable. Questionable AR books are not located in the library; however, AR tests are still available for those books. Pastors are consulted when doctrinal issues arrive. Other world religions and Christian denominations are discussed in 5-8th grade Social Studies. This gives students a time to compare and contrast various religions in light of Lutheran theology. When conflicting information in regards to Lutheran doctrine arises, teachers and pastors discuss these issues with the students so that students understand why some people believe one way of thought and why Lutherans believe differently. Teachers discuss conflicting ideas with students in light of our Lutheran theology when conflicts, concerns, or ideas arise.

6:10 The professional library of books and periodicals is adequate and current.

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

COMMENTS:

The teachers have access to the pastors' personal theological libraries. Teachers also have internet access in their classrooms to utilize online instructional resources including The Lutheran School Portal. We have a growing collection of books and periodicals in the professional library. Money is available to purchase resources as needs are identified.

6:11 Reliable equipment for the reproduction of paper materials is available.

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

COMMENTS:

The photocopy machine is adequate for daily use needs of the school and church. A new copy machine was installed in 2011.

6:12 Current reference materials are available (e.g. encyclopedias, dictionaries, current events materials).

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

COMMENTS:

All classrooms use current events periodicals. Dictionaries, encyclopedias, and maps are mostly available online. However, some print reference materials and maps are still available in classrooms. Additional resources used online include dictionaries, encyclopedias, and search engines. Online maps, charts, pictures, and illustrations are projected on the wall for classroom instruction in the upper grades. There over 2,000 non-fiction books available in our school library.

6:13 All media and other library materials are classified and catalogued according to an accepted system.

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

COMMENTS:

All fiction books are arranged in the library by reading level and by author. Non-fiction books are arranged by a simplified version of the Dewey Decimal system. The entire library is cataloged in our Alexandria Library Software, a searchable database with all publication information, accelerated reader levels, summaries, call numbers and key words.

6:14 The media center holds a balanced collection of print materials, non-print materials, and teaching/learning equipment which is sufficient in quantity and quality to meet the educational needs of the students.

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

COMMENTS:

We consider the library, science/art room and computer lab as a combined media center although they are located in two different places. The library purchases books on a consistent basis. Other resources are located in various places throughout the building. This works well for our needs at this time. Individual classrooms have non-print materials that are used on a consistent basis. Our science room has a great inventory of non-print material for science lessons. The science/art room also has many print charts of art and science concepts.

6:15 The media center is easily accessible by all children and staff throughout each school day.

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

COMMENTS:

The library is organized and staffed by volunteers. The library is open to students one day a week. Faculty may open the library at their discretion. Students have daily access to the Internet either in the classroom or computer lab. The computer lab and individual classroom computers are available to students on a daily basis. The art/science room and the media that it provides is also accessible to students on a daily basis.

6:16 The school has adopted and put in place a comprehensive technology plan. The plan includes, but is not limited to: staff development; budget; hardware and software inventories; designated technology leadership; accessibility of technology to students, staff, and school communities; integration into the curriculum; acceptable and ethical use policy; and a time line for the process of informing and involving the school's communities in the decision making process. The technology plan is reviewed periodically, and when appropriate, revised.

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

COMMENTS:

A technology board has been developed and meets on a monthly basis. The technology board will be developing a technology plan during the summer of 2012.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- A. Is the REQUIRED Indicator of Success complete and available for review? Yes
- B. What is your GENERAL Indicators of Success point total for Standard 6? 45
- C. Is the total for the GENERAL Indicators of Success a minimum of 30 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? All are fully met.