

Bethany Lutheran School &
Early Learning Center
CURRICULUM GUIDE



EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Bethany Lutheran Early Learning Center uses a curriculum that provides each child with developmentally appropriate activities and experiences. These activities and experiences contribute to the development of the whole child: spiritually, physically, intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

We implement the HighScope Curriculum into both of our classrooms, largely based on the Key Developmental Indicators listed below as bullet points. To learn more about this process and how it was developed visit the HighScope website at highscope.org.

BIBLE STORY:

Each week we learn about and celebrate God's love for us through Bible stories and songs. Our Bible stories are selected from the Arch Books story set.

MUSIC:

Each week we learn and practice a variety of music theory, follow the direction songs, musical instruments, or silly songs.

Creative Arts:

- Music: Children express and represent what they observe, think, imagine, and feel through music.

MOVEMENT:

Each week we learn and practice a large motor skill through a variety of games and activities.

Physical Development and Health

- Gross-motor skills: Children demonstrate strength, flexibility, balance, and timing in using their large muscles.
- Fine-motor skills: Children demonstrate dexterity and hand-eye coordination in using their small muscles.
- Body awareness: Children know about their bodies and how to navigate them in space.
- Personal care: Children carry out personal care routines on their own.
- Healthy behavior: Children engage in healthy practices.

Creative Arts:

- Movement: Children express and represent what they observe, think, imagine, and feel through movement.

- Drawing conclusions: Children draw conclusions based on their experiences and observations.
- Communicating ideas: Children communicate their ideas about the characteristics of things and how they work.
- Natural and physical world: Children gather knowledge about the natural and physical world.
- Tools and technology: Children explore and use tools and technology.

Social Studies

- Diversity: Children understand that people have diverse characteristics, interests, and abilities.
- Community roles: Children recognize that people have different roles and functions in the community.
- Decision making: Children participate in making classroom decisions.
- Geography: Children recognize and interpret features and locations in their environment.
- History: Children understand past, present, and future.
- Ecology: Children understand the importance of taking care of their environment.

WORK TIME:

Plan-Do-Review:

This three-part sequence is unique to the HighScope Curriculum. It includes a period during which children plan what they want to do during work time (the area to visit, materials to use, and friends to play with); a work time for children to carry out their plans (or shift to new activities that interest them); and another period for reviewing and recalling with an adult or other children what they've done and learned.

Creative Arts:

- Pretend play: Children express and represent what they observe, think, imagine, and feel through pretend play.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

Approaches to Learning

- Initiative: Children demonstrate initiative as they explore their world.
- Planning: Children make plans and follow through on their intentions.
- Engagement: Children focus on activities that interest them.
- Problem Solving: Children solve problems encountered in play.
- Use of resources: Children gather information and formulate ideas about their world.
- Reflection: Children reflect on their experiences.

Social and Emotional Development

- Self-identity: Children have a positive self-identity.
- Sense of competence: Children feel they are competent.
- Emotions: Children recognize, label, and regulate their feelings.

KINDERGARTEN

Bible History: Voyages Concordia

Bible History is the study of God's plan of salvation in both the Old and New Testament. Every lesson is Christ-centered and focused on the fact that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Voyages is a religion curriculum used during our Bible time. But God is integral in all that we do, Jesus touches every part of our day. The children are taught to apply the truth of God's Word to their daily lives. In addition, students learn and recite various Bible passages, participate in weekly chapel, and sing in various church services.

Language Arts: Superkids by Zaner Bloser

A total integration of Language Arts Skills

Reading & Phonics

- Recognition of name and short sounds of letters
- Sounding of blends, one and two vowel words
- Beginning of basic phonics rules

Handwriting

- Writing words
- Sentences and name

Grammar

- Recognition of sentences by capital letters, periods, and question marks

Writing

- Constructing and writing simple sentences

Math: Saxon

Math K is a success-oriented program. It allows each child to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of all areas of mathematics. The Saxon philosophy is to build on prior learning. Learning is presented in increments, with time provided between increments for practice.

GRADES 1 – 2

Bible History: Northwestern Publishing House

Bible History is the study of God’s plan of salvation in both the Old and New Testament. Every lesson is Christ-centered and focuses on the fact that “God so loved the world that he gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) Along with the study of Bible stories students learn Bible verses, the chief parts of Luther’s Catechism, and a variety of hymns.

Reading & Phonics: Superkids by Zaner Bloser

Children are taught phonetic skills as well as how to deal with language as a whole. Lessons are structured and skills are taught systematically through phonetics and sight words.

- Children start to read the first day of school.
- Phonetic skills are taught early and explicitly.
- Children are expected to read for meaning immediately.
- Children learn to spell specified sight words.
- Students use letter sound discrimination to spell phonetic words.
- Students learn to express themselves in writing.
- Every child is expected to learn to read fluently.
- Parents are involved in the reading instruction of their children.

Spelling: Superkids by Zaner Bloser

Our spelling program targets the words kids use and misspell in everyday writing.

- Weekly phonics-based word list
- Weekly test
- Reinforcement Activities

Handwriting: Superkids by Zaner Bloser

Bethany Lutheran is committed to providing students with a quality education in handwriting. Students in these grades acquire important attitudes, necessary knowledge, and skills related to proper handwriting. This includes the correct formation of manuscript letters (both upper and lower case) and using them to form words in first grade and the correct formation of the cursive letters (both upper and lower case) and using them to form words in the second grade.

GRADES 3-4

Bible History: Northwestern Publishing House

Bible History is the study of God's plan of salvation in both the Old and New Testament. Every lesson is Christ-centered and focuses on the fact that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

The curriculum includes various Bible passages to every lesson. The parts of Luther's Small Catechism that are covered include the Ten Commandments with explanations, the three articles of the Apostle's Creed with explanations, and the Lord's Prayer.

The study of hymns is also an important part of our memory work curriculum. The scheduled list of hymns is based on the church year.

Reading

Bethany employs a unit-based approach to the instructional delivery of literature selections. Oral reading of the books allows for continued assessment of student reading and comprehension abilities as well as class discussion, literary terms, and vocabulary. In addition, students receive web based differentiated instruction through freckle.com.

- Island of the Blue Dolphins (Scott O'Dell)
- I Survived the Eruption of Mt. St. Helens (Lauren Tarshis)
- Charlotte's Web (E.B. White)
- Little House in the Big Woods (Laura Ingalls Wilder)
- Wayside School is Falling Down (Louis Sachar)
- Muggie Maggie (Beverly Clearly)
- James and the Giant Peach (Roald Dahl)
- Shiloh (Phyllis Reynolds Naylor)

Spelling: Scott Foresman

- Weekly phonics-based word list
- Weekly test
- Reinforcement Activities
-

English: Scholastic

Bethany employs an incremental approach that distributes content throughout the year. This integrated approach provides deep, long-term mastery of both grammar and writing skills.

Our Country and Its Regions: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

- Our National Story
 - The First Americans
 - Three Worlds Meet
 - A Nation is Born
 - The Nation Grows
 - War and Changes
 - A Changing World
 - A Modern World
- The United States: Its Land and People
 - From Sea to Sea
 - Our Country's Regions
 - Our Country's Climate
 - Running a Business
 - Our Economy
 - State and Local Governments
 - Our Nation's Government
 - Our Democratic Values
- The Geography, Economy, and People of the Northeast
- The Geography, Economy, and People of the Southeast
- The Geography, Economy, and People of the Midwest
- The Geography, Economy, and People of the Southwest
- The Geography, Economy, and People of the West
- Locate the 50 states on a map of the United States
- Memorize the 50 states and their capitals

Science: Mystery Science

Bethany employs a creation-based approach to teaching science. The areas of study include four main units: Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science, and The Human Body.

- Waves of Sound
- Energizing Everything
- Spaceship Earth
- Human Machine

Art

Students will learn about famous artists and complete a project using similar methods and/or materials as the artist.

Through various art projects students will learn about:

GRADES 5-6

Bible History: Northwestern Publishing House

Bible History is the study of God's plan of salvation in both the Old and New Testament. Every lesson is Christ-centered and focuses on the fact that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

The curriculum includes various Bible passages to every lesson. The parts of Luther's Small Catechism that are covered include the Ten Commandments with explanations, the three articles of the Apostle's Creed with explanations, and the Lord's Prayer.

The study of hymns is also an important part of our memory work curriculum. The scheduled list of hymns is based on the church year.

Reading

Bethany employs a unit-based approach to the instructional delivery of literature selections. Oral reading of the books allows for continued assessment of student reading and comprehension abilities as well as class discussion, literary terms, and vocabulary. In addition, students receive web based differentiated instruction through freckle.com and getepic.com.

- Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew (C.S. Lewis)
- Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH (Robert C. O'Brien)
- Hatchet (Gary Paulsen)
- From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler (E.L. Konigsburg)
- Bud, Not Buddy (Christopher Paul Curtis)
- Holes (Louis Sachar)

Spelling: Scott Foresman

- Weekly phonics-based word list
- Weekly test
- Reinforcement activities

English: Saxon

Bethany employs an incremental approach that distributes content throughout the year. This integrated approach provides deep, long-term mastery of both grammar and writing skills.

- Sentences and sentence parts
- Punctuation, capitalization, and quotations
- Synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms

- Colonial Government
- The French in Louisiana
- The French in Indian War
- Colonist Protest British Rule
- The Revolution Begins
- The Declaration of Independence
- Fighting the War
- American Victories
- The War Ends

United State History Volume 2: MacMillan / McGraw-Hill

- Planning a New Government
- United States Constitution
- The Louisiana Purchase
- The War of 1812
- The Industrial Revolution
- The Age of Andrew Jackson
- Texas and the War with Mexico
- King Cotton and Spread of Slavery
- Heading Toward War
- The Nation Divided by War
- The Union Moves Toward Victory
- The War Ends
- Reconstruction and After
- Settling the West
- The Plains Wars
- Big Business
- Growing Cities
- New Territories and States
- A New Century
- Good Times, Hard Times
- Word War II
- The Cold War
- A Time of Change
- Present-Day Challenges

People, Places, and Cultures

GRADES 7-8

Religion: Concordia Publishing House

Bible History is the study of God's plan of salvation in both the Old and New Testament. Every lesson is Christ-centered and focuses on the fact that "God so love the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Religion in these grades focuses on how God's Word is applied in the lives of our students and how they can defend their faith.

The study of hymns is also an important part of our memory work curriculum. The scheduled list of hymns is based on the church year.

Catechism

Catechism is the study of the truths of God's Word as summarized by *Luther's Small Catechism*.

The topics covered are the following six chief parts:

- The Ten Commandments
- The Apostle's Creed
- The Lord's Prayer
- Baptism
- The Confession of Sins and Absolution
- The Lord's Supper

Reading

Bethany employs a unit-based approach to the instructional delivery of literature selections. Oral reading of the books allows for continued assessment of student reading and comprehension abilities as well as class discussion, literary terms, and vocabulary. In addition, students receive web based differentiated instruction through freckle.com and getepic.com.

- The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle (AVI)
- Nine, Ten, a September 11 Story (Nora Raleigh Baskin)
- The Westing Game (Ellen Raskin)
- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (Mildred D. Taylor)
- One-Eyed Cat (Paula Fox)
- The Outsiders (S. E. Hinton)

Spelling: Scott Foresman

- Weekly phonics-based word list
- Weekly test

- Rome: Republic to Empire
- Roman Civilization
- The Rise of Christianity
- Islamic Civilization
- African Civilizations
- The Americas
- Imperial China
- Civilizations of Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia
- Medieval Europe
- Renaissance and Reformation
- Age of Exploration and Trade
- The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment
- Political and Industrial Revolutions
- Imperialism and World War I
- World War II and the Cold War
- Building Today's World

Washington State History: Gibbs Smith

- Geography of Washington
- Native People
- Explorers and Fur Traders
- Early Immigration and Settlement
- Territories and Treaties
- State Government
- Working in Washington

Science: God's Design / Project Lead the Way (STEM)

- Machines & Motion
- Heat & Energy
- Technology, Coding, & Robotics
- Plants
- Animals
- The Human Body
- Weather & Water
- The Universe
- The Planet Earth

Computers and Technology

The goal of the computer technology program at Bethany is to have students be proficient in keyboard skills, use of the internet, and two Google programs (Google Docs and Google Slides). Students in grades 1-2 learn computer skills through web-based learning in math and reading. Students in grades 3-8 learn typing skills along with Google programs for papers and projects.

Music

Grades 1-2

- Songs to sing in church
- Learn quarter, half, and whole notes and rests, and their values

Grades 3-4

- Songs to sing in church
- Review quarter, half, and whole notes and rests, and their values

Learn notes of the grand staff (bass and treble clefs)

Grades 5 – 8

- Songs to sing in church
- Part singing
- Notes, rests, values
- Introduction to hand chimes
- Composers

Physical Education

Students learn about motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform physical activities, understanding of movement concepts, perform physical activities, and tactics. Students learn to participate regularly in physical activity and learn to maintain a healthy enhancing level of physical fitness. Students will also exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in a physical activity setting, and value physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction.

Grades 1-2

The emphasis in grades 1-2 is to introduce and practice skills.

- Locomotor movements
- Fitness principles
- Striking with hands and feet

