

# We love being at SMLS!

MIDDLE  
SCHOOL  
PROGRAM



at St. Michael  
Lutheran  
School



*Education with Christ at the Heart*

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Portage, MI 49024

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# English Language

## Arts

### In Grammar, the middle school students will:

- Identify and correctly use nouns, knowing their functions
- Identify and correctly use adjectives, knowing their functions
- Identify and correctly use pronouns knowing their functions
- Identify and correctly use verbs knowing their functions
- Identify and correctly use verbals knowing their functions
- Identify and correctly use prepositions know their functions
- Identify conjunctions and interjections

### In Literature, the middle school students will:

- Read a variety of grade level novels
- Study different genres in literature
- Use reading response journals
- Identify how authors use literary devices

### In Writing the middle school students will write the following:

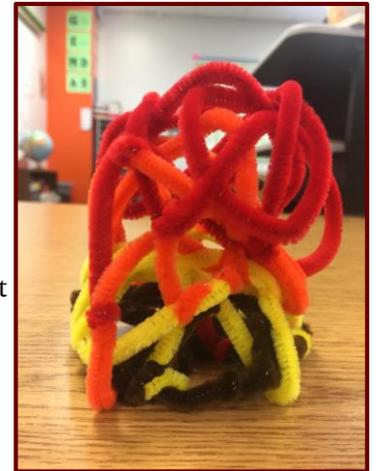
- Personal Narrative
- Business Letters
- How-to Articles
- Descriptions
- Book Reviews
- Creative Writing-Fantasy Fiction
- Expository Writing
- Research Reports

The students will prepare and present information, finding and supporting details on certain topics to the class.



# Art

In art class, students will be introduced to 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional art forms along with art history. Students will learn some of the basic concepts in art while presented with a variety of art media to use in the creative process. While making art, students will also explore the principles of design, elements of art, color theory and problem solving to develop critical thinking skills. Towards the end of the art course, students will research an art media and create their own art project based on information they have learned throughout the course. This final art project allows the students to think as an artist and research and embrace the art process along with developing artistic abilities in their own unique art styles.



“Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working” Pablo Picasso



# Gym

The importance of keeping our students and your children active cannot be stressed enough. Their future health is in our hands right now and we can be a large influence!

Our middle school students use IHT (Interactive Health Technology) heart rate monitors thanks to CMS. These heart rate monitors go around the chest and read their heart rate during the class. Each monitor is assigned to a specific student. The students BMI measurements were taken in the beginning of the school year to get an accurate reading of each child.

After class, an email is sent out to either them or their parents with their performance level in class. The email indicates the percent of time they were in the low, moderate, and high zones. Each zone burns a different percent of carbs and fat. Using this program shows increase in effort and performance in class. Students work harder to keep their heart rates up and have shown a genuine interest in how they did for that class.



# Mathematics

Our Middle School Math courses are self-paced at SMLS. What this means is that your students have the opportunity to learn at a pace that is optimal for them to gain a deeper understanding of the concepts we are learning in class. This method of instruction has had a proven record of success in our classrooms. It takes pressure off students since they do not need to keep pace with their classmates or continue to a new concept before understanding the previous one. Students may also move through the text at a faster rate if they quickly grasp Math concepts. This method allows teachers to give more focused, one-on-one help to students than traditional whole-group instruction.

What does self-paced Math look like? It is a mix of teacher-led instruction, reading, videos, notes, lots and lots of practice, and lots and lots of help. Students watch teacher-created instructional videos for each lesson and work individually or in small groups with the teacher to develop understanding of Math concepts.

- 6th Grade
  - Prentice Hall Course 2
- 7th Grade
  - Prentice Hall Course 3
- 8th Grade
  - Algebra I



# Science

Our objective in Middle School Science is to develop skills of scientific inquiry, having the students design and carry out scientific investigations, learning to evaluate evidence and draw conclusions. Also, for the student to inquire knowledge, skill and conceptual understanding to solve problems and make informed decisions

## 6th Grade - Earth Science (Glencoe)

- Earth Materials
- The Changing Surface of the Earth
- Earth's Internal Processes
- Change and Earth's History
- Earth's Air and Water
- You and the Environment
- Astronomy

## 7th and 8th Grades Physical and Life Science (Glencoe)

### **Physical Science:**

- Chemistry
- Waves, Sound, and Light
- Electricity and Magnetism
- The Nature of Matter

### **Life Science:**

- Life Structure and Function
- From Bacteria to Plants
- Animal Diversity
- Human Body System



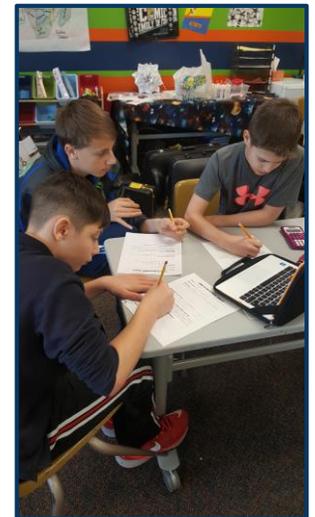
# Spanish

Our Middle School Spanish program focuses on growing in confidence with the skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking in the language. Reading has a crucial role in acquiring fluency and improving grammar and vocabulary. Every middle school student completes at least one novel study (in Spanish). Reading for understanding is developed throughout the year, as well.

We also use Chromebooks to work with sites that help reinforce vocabulary along with speaking and listening skills such as: Quizlet, Quizizz, Kahoot, Flipgrid, EdPuzzle, and Señor Wooly.

Learning another language is an incredibly rewarding skill. It can open up the world to your child. Scientific research has shown time and time again the cognitive benefits of second language learning, like improved memory and increased attention span to name a few. Their brains are working on overtime when they are in class using and decoding language. While most of our students are at the novice/beginning level of language learning, these early years are an important step as they continue with language learning in high school and hopefully beyond.

*One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.” – Frank Smith*



# Band

Our program at SMLS is different than band programs in the public schools. We can play and sing hymns, freely celebrate Christmas, and consider the reason why God has given His creation music. Music has traditionally been used to glorify individuals, but we try our best to redirect that glory to God. Students work to memorize our purpose: "We are an inclusive group, focused on worship. We do not compete against each other but use our gifts to glorify God."

Because we are inclusive, we do not have chair placements, and we work to make sure that each member's participation is valued. Being a small band, we can hear everybody! We need to help each other sound good. God has gifted each of us with certain talents, and He has not given us all the same gifts, but when we work together we can glorify Him with our expressions of our gifts.

Whether or not students continue their band experiences in high school, they will have been part of something wonderful at SMLS and will be able to enjoy music and worship for a lifetime.



# History and Social Studies

Our objective in History and Social Studies in Middle School is to develop higher order thinking skills while stimulating interest in the topics studied.

6th Grade - Regions of the Eastern Hemisphere

Map skills

Asia

Africa

Oceania, Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica

7th and 8th Grades - American History

Colonial America

The Early Republic

Reconstruction

Industrial Age

American Revolution

Civil War

Westward Expansion

Progressive

Era



# Bible

Students' lives are full of responsibilities inside and outside the classroom, along with increasing amounts of digital connection and media consumption. Day-to-day spiritual life can feel fragmented, as many young people struggle to see how Christian faith connects with their various interests and passions. In the midst of life's demands and distractions, Christian teenagers are taught to keep God first. *But how?*

To emerge as passionate followers of Jesus in this present age, students need to learn how to live a holistic, integrated spiritual life. This includes a deep understanding of how Christianity shapes their view of humanity and the world (worldview), how following Jesus impacts their personal life (identity), and how a biblical vision guides their vocational pursuits (calling).

Our Bible course integrates all of these concentrations: worldview, identity, and calling. Students will learn how Christian faith impacts every area of life and human culture. As a result of the course, students will have gained confidence and clarity to live

as the "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" in this complex, changing world.



# Computers

Computers are incredible tools! But just like any other tool you have to learn how to use them correctly. Computers will not think for us, but have been designed to help us think faster.

The objective of the Computers Class is to expand your student's knowledge of computers in a way that is useful, fun, and exciting! The absolute core goal is that students experience new ways to use computers to increase their own learning potential. My hope is that many of the skills explored in this class will translate into greater engagement in students' core subject areas, too. Greater focus will revolve around personal productivity, understanding computer technology, and digital citizenship.

At any point during the year, your students might learn about topics such as Internet Safety (Digital Citizenship), Internet Research, Software/Programming, Graphic Design, Video Editing and Spreadsheets.

