



6th-8th GRADE
INFORMATION
PACKET

Mrs Hoffman
Mr. Rynes
Mr. Hoffman

6TH-8TH GRADE INFORMATION PACKET

Daily Schedule

Block I(Academic)

Period 1 8:40- 9:10

Period 2 9:10 – 9:50

Period 3 9:50-10:30

Break 10:30 – 10:35

Block II (Academic)

Period 4 10:35 – 11:20

Period 5 11:20 – 12:00

Period 6 12:00-12:40

Lunch 12:40-1:10

Block III(Exploratory)

Study Hall Group

Period 7 1:10-2:00

Elective Periods 8 & 9

Period 8 2:00-2:40

Period 9 2:40-3:20

Dismissal 3:30

Grading

Grades reflect each student's effort and achievement and are based upon quizzes, tests, classroom participation, homework, comprehensive exams and any other performance standards that a teacher considers relevant. Grades can be checked daily on our internet provided grading system. Parent conferences are scheduled during the first and third quarters.

Homework

Students will be subject to daily review work. The faculty strives to be sensitive to added extracurricular demands placed on the students at certain times in the school year because of athletic contests or special school activities. In advocacies and in class, teachers discuss time management strategies, organizational skills, and monitor how students are doing with their homework load.

Academic Honor Roll

At the end of the first and second semester, students with an exemplary grade point average in their academic courses are acknowledged. Students earning a GPA of a 3.33 or higher are awarded an Honors Certificate. Students with a GPA of 3.67 or higher are awarded High Honors. *The chart below is used to calculate grade point averages.*

A.....	4.0	C.....	2.00
A-.....	3.67	C-.....	1.67
B+.....	3.33	D+.....	1.33
B.....	3.00	D.....	1.00
B-.....	2.67	D-.....	.67
C+.....	2.33	F.....	0

SCHOOL STANDARDS

Regular Hours

School hours are from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The campus will be supervised from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm. Parents should pick up their children at the end of the school day, unless their child is participating in a school-sponsored activity or in extended daycare.

Homework Policy

Other than for illness, injury, or unusual family circumstance, student assignments, which are not turned in on time, will result in a zero. Late papers will not be accepted for any credit. Students will be sent to study hall per the teacher's request to get a head start on the current assignment for that day.

Absences

Being in class and on time is very important for school success. If appointments cannot be made out side of school hours, or if your child will be missing school because of a trip, please send a note with your child to let the teacher know ahead of time. This will allow me ample to time to prepare their make-up work for them. Students have one day for every day they are absent to turn homework in.

Dress Code

Students should dress for school in pre-approved dress by the school board. Parents should address Gethsemane's dress code with their children at home before coming to school in the morning and also while shopping for school clothes. Students who are not suitably dressed for school will have their parents contacted for a change of clothes to be brought to school or to be sent home to change.

Cell Phones , I-Pods, & Personal Gaming Systems

To minimize classroom distractions and protect students' belongings, all personal electronics including cell phones, I-Pods and personal gaming systems should remain at home. Cell phone use or similar technology is not allowed during school hours, while on campus, or during school functions. If phone is confiscated it may be retrieved by parent from front office of the school.

Bullying and Teasing

Bullying and teasing are forms of aggression that may be physical (hitting or kicking); verbal (name-calling, insults, racist comments and constant teasing); relational (gossip or ostracism); or reactive (taunting which invites retaliation). Bullying and teasing of any kind, in or out of the classroom, are violations of Gethsemane Lutheran School's Christian Values and will not be tolerated.

ACADEMIC COURSES

Religion/Memory/Character Education

The *Voyages* curriculum is designed to primarily help teach children about key concepts of faith such as Law, Gospel, confession, repentance, forgiveness, and grace while focusing specifically on the person, attributes, and work of Jesus Christ.

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The lessons confront us with the Law, showing us our sin and need for a Savior leading us to see God's grace in sending Jesus to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. It encourages us as we daily live in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Each lesson is grounded in the Word of God, through which the Holy Spirit works to create, strengthen, and sustain saving faith.

Saxon Math 7/6 includes the following types of concepts: Word problems, Functions and coordinate graphing, Integers, Exponential expressions, Divisibility concepts, Prime factorization, Ratios and proportions, Statistics and probability, Radius, and Circumference. These new concepts are presented in small increments and distributed across the year so no concepts or skills get dropped.

Saxon Math 8/7 includes the following types of concepts: Metric System, Compound Probability, Proportions, Distributive Property, Scientific Notation, Rates, Algebraic Addition, Balanced Equations, Area of a Circle, Graphing Inequalities, Percent of Change, Scale & Scale Factor, Mixed Numbers Coefficients, Pythagorean Theorem, Estimating Square Roots, Slope, and Slope Intercept. Daily cumulative written practice supported by rich mathematical conversations build the depth of understanding.

Algebra ½ covers all topics normally taught in pre-algebra, as well as additional topics from geometry and discrete mathematics (used in engineering and computer sciences).

With Algebra ½, students can deepen their understanding of pre-algebraic topics.

Algebra ½ includes: instruction and enrichment on such topics as compressions, approximating roots, polynomials, advanced graphing, basic trigonometry, and more.

Algebra 1 & 2 Algebra 1 covers all topics in a first-year algebra course, from proofs, statistics and probability to algebra-based real-world problems. With Algebra 1, students begin developing the more complex and understanding required for advanced mathematics.

Algebra 2 covers all topics that are traditionally covered in second-year algebra as well as a considerable amount of geometry. In fact, students completing Algebra 2 will have studied the equivalent of one semester of informal geometry. Ample time is spent developing geometric concepts and writing proof outlines. Real-world problems are included along with applications to other subjects such as physics and chemistry.

Math Placement

All sixth through eighth graders take the same placement test at the beginning of the school year in August.

We offer five levels 7/6, 8/7(pre-algebra), Algebra 1/2, Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 .

Literature

The 6th-8th grade curriculum is designed to help students master specific reading skills by focusing on improving: decoding, fluency, main ideas, vocabulary, fact/opinion, inference, and comprehension. Using both contemporary and classic literature as examples, students learn to use and analyze basic components of literature: conflict, plot, character, setting, and theme. In addition, they learn various techniques for developing essays in nonfiction, determining a culture's values in classical myths, and observing foreshadowing in a novel.

A.R.

Accelerated Reading is also a requirement for the 6th-8th grade curriculum. Students will need to reach a pre-determined amount of points every quarter to receive a 100% OR A+.

Portfolio

The portfolio is an extension of the 6th-8th grade literature classes. For the portfolio students are given a outline of information that they must include in their portfolio. The Portfolio includes best work showing growth over time, illustrates experiences as a learner, shows evidence of reflective- writing: thoughts and ideas, helps students find depth and gain new perspectives, and it represents the uniqueness of the individual student.

English

6th-8th grade students supplement their knowledge of the parts of speech, capitalization, and punctuation by studying writing, usage, grammar, mechanics, and academic work place skills.

Spelling

This curriculum focuses on helping students learn the major principles and patterns in English spelling. Students will learn reliable spelling strategies that they can apply to both familiar and unfamiliar words. Various lesson plans help students to become aware of the rich network of spelling-meaning relationships that can significantly expand their vocabulary.

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Science

The 6th- 8th grade curriculum for science covers Earth, Physical and Life Sciences by Prentice Hall. Dynamic presentations of lessons and integrated classroom resources develop critical thinking, reading, and study skills. Throughout the year students will participate in labs that are fun and challenging activities that connect science concepts to the real world. Students learn to think through a problem presented by a scenario or reading selection and use the scientific method and other strategies to find a solution.

American History/World History/Geography

The 6th-8th curriculum focuses on the different eras and regions throughout history and the world. 6th graders will focus on geography; both physical and cultural studying aspects of politics and history of each country. 7th graders will focus on World History; students will study great civilizations and the history of western civilization. 8th graders will focus on the history of the United States from the earliest peoples to the twenty-first century.

Exploratory Electives

The exploratory classes are designed in such a way that students from different grade levels are grouped together, further enriching their academic experience.

Performing ARTS

Through the music program there are many opportunities for students to think creatively and to solve problems by imagining various solutions, rejecting outdated rules and assumptions. Questions about the arts do not have only one right answer. Through music study, students learn the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence and the concrete rewards of hard work. Music study also enhances teamwork skills and discipline. In order for an orchestra to sound good, all players must work together harmoniously towards a single goal, the performance, and must commit to learning music, and scripts, attending rehearsals, and practicing outside of school.

Gradelink

Gethsemane offers a website that allows parents to check their students grades on a daily basis. This allows for more teacher parent communication. Passwords for parent login will be given out at the beginning of school year or if lost by Ann at anytime.

Core Electives (Morning Academic Schedule)

Drama~ Mr. & Mrs. Hoffman

Hand Bells~ Mrs. Einspahr

Select Chorale~ Mrs. Sievers

Mr. Rynes will help where needed.

Exploratory Electives (Afternoon Schedule)

To increase the accessibility of a variety of exploratory electives while increasing the intensity of each course to keep students on task and interested. *Possible electives include:*

Art

Art Appreciation

2-D Design Studio

3-D Design Studio

Rocketry

Media Club/ Photography (digital)

Image Editing (Computers)

Art of Service

Required

Fitness

Health

CPU Intro & Keyboarding

Study Skills

Speech/Debate

[Creative] Writing

Advanced Participation

Lit: Books of Adventure

Lit: Intro to Shakespeare

Sci: Forensic Science

Other Electives

Geography of Asia/Africa

AR- Advanced Reading Group

Home Economics/Intro to Cooking

Forensic Science

Activities and Clubs

A variety of athletics and clubs exist to provide students with opportunities to develop their talents and interests and to explore new ones. A wide variety of clubs are offered, such as, concert band, chess, and helping hearts, among others. Students are encouraged to participate in clubs when they do not need to attend help sessions.

Athletics and Physical Education

Athletics are an integral part of every student’s education at Gethsemane. Each Middle School student is required to participate in Physical Education (PE) classes and given the opportunity to be a member of an athletic team. The program aims to reach students of different levels by providing a range of teams, physical education classes and an intramural program. The goals of the athletic program are that every student develop an appreciation for physical activity and its role in promoting health and well-being, learn to take a life-long pleasure in athletics, become skilled in a number of sports, and experience the camaraderie of successful teamwork.

Positive Coaching Alliance

Gethsemane takes great pride in the coaching partnership that is shared between parents and teachers. The goal of all coaches is to help foster healthier participation in sports by athletes.

The Role of Parents

Parents play a key role in the athletic program. They are encouraged to attend games and provide positive and appropriate support to the team from the bleachers. Each team is assigned a team parent, who plays a vital role in guaranteeing a smooth and enjoyable season. These parents help organize snacks for home and away games, and when necessary, recruit parent drivers for away games. In the event of a last-minute change in the schedule, team parents are responsible for contacting the parents of all students who are on the team.

Athletic Team Transportation

Gethsemane provides up to 28 seats on our air-conditioned buses to all athletic games.

Parent drivers may be called upon if the sports team is higher in numbers than seats on both Gethsemane buses.

Athlete and Spectator Expectations

Gethsemane emphasizes good sportsmanship, develops skills, and teach students to work as a team. Athletes, parents and other spectators are expected to respect the integrity and judgment of officials and coaches, to show courtesy to others at all times, to provide positive support to players on the field or court, and to keep athletic contests in perspective. Gethsemane makes every effort to offer enough teams to accommodate all students who wish to participate in a sport without fielding teams that are too large to provide athletes with a rewarding experience.

In all sports, Gethsemane offers B “JV” and A “Varsity” teams. The emphasis of the program varies from level to level according to the age and maturity of the players.

B “JV” Teams

The emphasis of the varsity “B” team is on developing skills and team camaraderie which are essential to providing a solid athletic program. Athletes play against other teams of comparable ability.

A “Varsity” Teams

In this program, more emphasis is placed on developing successful teams. Teaching sportsmanship and fair play is still important, as is honing the skills and teamwork of all players. On varsity teams, coaches may award more playing time to the players who are the most skilled and to those who give outstanding effort.

Fall (August – Early December)

B “JV”, and A “Varsity Teams

Boys’ and Girls’ Softball

Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball

Coed Cross Country

Spri (January – April)

B “JV”, and A “Varsity Teams

Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball

Coed Track & Field

Girls Spring Volleyball (non-league)

Boys Flag Football 7th & 8th (non-league)

Athletic League

All Gethsemane teams compete in Black Canyon Athletic League, which consists of schools from Mesa to Glendale with similar enrollments and academic requirements.

Schools in our League:

Pilgrim Lutheran, Christ’s Greenfield Lutheran, Emmanuel Lutheran, Emmaus Lutheran, Grace Lutheran, Martin Luther, Joy Community, Good Shepard, and Shepard of the Desert Lutheran.