

Language Arts Philosophy

Lutheran Schools believe God created us with the ability to communicate. Language Arts enhances and nurtures the communication process through the integration of reading, writing, speaking and listening/viewing. Language Arts provides a means of communicating and thinking critically in the world around us. Through His spoken and written Word, the Holy Spirit sustains and increases faith, and enables us to share His love with others.

Language Arts Vision

Literacy growth begins before children enter school as they experience and experiment with literacy activities – listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing. Recognizing this fact, Lutheran schools encourage the development of curriculum and instruction that make productive use of the emerging literacy abilities that children bring to school. As Lutheran schools provide the opportunities and resources for students to extend their literacy knowledge and skills, the students develop the language skills they need to pursue life's goals and to become more responsible and productive members of God's family.

Resources

- Michigan Benchmarks
- Michigan GLCEs (Grade Level Content Expectations)
- Integrating the Faith, Concordia Publishing House, 1997
- Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten (ECSQ), 2005 (Preschool)
- Head Start Child Outcomes Framework (HSCOF), 2000 (Preschool)

Glossary of common definitions:

- Benchmark/Standard – Michigan's content standards are a set of learning expectations developed by parents, educators, business leaders and university professors to assist schools in the development of local district curricula. These standards and more detailed learning objectives called benchmarks are contained within the Michigan Curriculum Framework
- Curricular Supplemental/Web Resources – a form for teachers to record resources for particular lessons.
- Curricular Teaching Ideas – a form for teachers to record ideas that have helped in teaching a particular lesson.
- GLCE – Grade Level Content Expectations are written by the State of Michigan to define what students in each grade are expected to know and be able to do
- Outcome – state or national curriculum standards such as the Grade Level Content Expectations
- Teacher Accountability Record – a form for teachers to record the dates when they have taught the items in the Scope and Sequence. Objectives listed for Kindergarten through Grade 8 are the GLCE's for each grade; Objectives listed for Preschool are objectives from the Virginia Department of Education (2005), indicators from Arizona Early Learning Standards (2005), and strategies from the Early Literacy Teacher's Guide, Missouri Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education: Early Childhood Section (Feb. 2002)
- Teaching the Faith Activities – activities taken from *Integrating the Faith* (copyright 1997) that have been aligned with the GLCEs and Benchmark/Standards (Kindergarten through Grade 8); activities taken from *Integrating the Faith* (copyright 1997) that have been aligned with Preschool Standards (Preschool)

Suggested Instructional Time Allocations Grades 1-8

Grades 1-2

Core Subject	Percentage of day/week	Core Subject	Percentage of day/week
Religion	8%	Religion	11%
Language Arts *Reading/Phonics *English/Writing *Spelling *Handwriting	25% 10% 7% 7%	Language Arts *Reading *English/Grammar *Spelling *Handwriting	16% 11% 5% 5%
Mathematics	10%	Mathematics	14%
Social Studies	10%	Social Studies	14%
Science	10%	Science	14%
Electives (Music, Art, P.E., Comp., Other)	13%	Electives (Music, Art, P.E., Comp., Other)	10%

Grades 3-5

Grades 6-8 (Self-Contained Classroom)

Core Subject	Percentage of day/week	Core Subject	Percentage of day/week
Religion	11%	Religion	12%
Language Arts *Reading/Literature *English/Writing /Grammar *Spelling/Vocabulary	15% 12% 5%	Language Arts (Literature, Writing, English/Grammar)	25%
Mathematics	14%	Mathematics	12%
Social Studies	14%	Social Studies	12%
Science	14%	Science	12%
Electives (Music, Art, P.E., Comp., Other)	15%	Electives (Music, Art, P.E., Comp., Other)	27%

Grades 6-8