

# Classroom Handbook

2023-2024



OUR  
SAVIOR'S

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Grades 5-8

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## Biography

Hello students, caregivers, and friends of Our Savior's Lutheran School. My name is Mr. Nathan Lemke and I am blessed to serve all of you here in Wausau.

A little about me....

I am blessed to have come from a whole family of teachers. I am blessed to have parents and siblings who are teachers and have taught various levels from pre-k- Seniors in high school. I was born in St. Cloud MN and lived in Sauk Rapids, MN until I was 3 and we moved to Elkhorn, WI. I went to First Lutheran for grade school, and started my high school education at Shoreland for my first two years. We then moved to Jefferson, WI and I finished my high school and graduated from Lakeside Lutheran. I then started attending Martin Luther College (MLC) in New Ulm, MN. While at MLC I was blessed to play four years of soccer, and go on multiple mission trips in the United States. I learned from many teachers in classrooms during my field experiences, clinical, student teaching, and more. I was blessed to graduate from MLC in May 2020 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. I was blessed to receive my assignment to Our Savior's. I am looking forward to beginning my fourth year of ministry at Our Savior's.

A Few of my Favorite things...

- Sports- Almost everything I do includes some kind of sport.
- Minnesota Sports- I bleed purple and gold during football season.
- Family Vacations- Long car rides with my family are the best.
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Traveling- I have been to 48-50 States.
- National Parks- I love to go to them with my family when I have free time.
- MTN Dew- Tastes better than water.

May the Lord continue to bless Our Savior's efforts in training the next generation and providing an avenue for us to reach out into our community with the Gospel message.

# “Hebrews 11 Heroes of Faith”

## Class Schedule for 2023-2024

### *Mr. Lemke's 5-8 Grade Classroom Schedule*

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:45 – 7:55	Opening/ Devotion	Opening/ Devotion	Opening	Opening/ Devotion	Opening/ Devotion
7:55-8:00	Christ Light	Spelling	Chapel	Spelling	Christ Light
8:00-8:15		Math 5		Math 5	
8:15-8:30		Math 6		Math 6	
8:30-8:45		Math 7		Math 7	
8:45-9:00	Spelling	Math 8	Hymnology	Math 8	
9:00-9:15	Math 5	Grammar/Writing 5 & 6	Spelling Pretest	Math 8	Spelling Test
9:15-9:30	Math 6	Grammar/Writing 5 & 6	Math 5	Grammar/Writing 5 & 6	Math 5
9:30-9:45	Math 7	Snack/Break	Math 6	Snack/Break	Math 6
9:45-10:00	Math 8	Faith Foundations 5 & 6 Catechism 7 & 8	Math 7	Faith Foundations 5 & 6 Catechism 7 & 8	Math 7
10:00-10:05	Snack/Break		Math 8		Math 8
10:05-10:30	Grammar/Writing 5 & 6		Snack/Break		Snack/Break
10:30-10:50	Grammar/Writing 7 & 8	Grammar/Writing 5 & 6	Grammar/Writing 7 & 8	Grammar/Writing 5 & 6	Grammar/Writing 7 & 8
10:50-11:15	Reading 5 & 6	Grammar/Writing 7 & 8	Reading 5 & 6	Grammar/Writing 7 & 8	Reading 5 & 6
11:15-11:40	Reading 7 & 8	Reading 5 & 6	Reading 7 & 8	Reading 5 & 6	Reading 7 & 8
11:40-12:00	Lunch	Reading 7 & 8	Lunch	Reading 7 & 8	Lunch
12:00-12:35	Recess	Lunch	Recess	Lunch	Recess
12:35-12:45	Devotion	Recess	Devotion	Recess	Devotion
12:45-1:00	Read Aloud/ Silent Reading	Devotion	Read Aloud/ Silent Reading	Devotion	Read Aloud/ Silent Reading
1:00-1:30	Science 5-8	Read Aloud/ Silent Reading	Read Aloud/ Silent Reading	Read Aloud/ Silent Reading	Read Aloud/ Silent Reading
1:30-2:00		History 5 & 6	Science 5-8	History 5 & 6	Art
2:00-2:40	Phy-Ed	History 7 & 8	Phy-Ed	History 7 & 8	Phy-Ed or
		Computer/Typing		Computer/Typing	

## **Assessments**

Both formal and summative assessments will be used with the children. There are many opportunities for students to show their understanding of the material that is learned and presented. In addition to the classroom assessments, Our Savior's will be using Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) as an assessment tool to best meet the needs of each child. MAP testing will be done three times throughout the school year-fall, winter, and spring.

## **Assignment Notebooks**

Each child will have an assignment notebook to use throughout the school year. The usage of this notebook is required so that each child can acquire proper organizational and time management skills. Assignments are posted on the board throughout the day. Mr. Lemke will check the assignment books before the end of the school day.

## **Attendance**

The school day begins promptly at 7:45 a.m. I would appreciate it if students could arrive by 7:35 a.m. Arriving at this time will help students accomplish the following tasks:

- Reciting Memory Treasures
- Organizing and putting materials in their proper location.
- Sharpening pencils.
- Making sure they have everything ready for the school day. That way they do not need to go back and forth to their hooks.
- Working on school work from the previous day.
- Studying/reviewing previous lessons.
- Working on future projects.
- Getting assistance from the teacher.
- Using the restrooms.

Exterior school doors open at 7:15 a.m. All students should go directly to their classrooms.

Students who are not ready to start the school day and are not in their seat by 7:45 a.m. will be considered tardy. Students not in the classroom by 8:15 a.m. will be considered absent.

Please make sure you notify the teacher before 7:45 a.m. if your child will be tardy or absent. This is out of concern for your child's safety. The teachers are responsible for your children when school begins.

## **Birthdays**

Our classroom celebrates birthdays. A birthday treat is welcomed. Please make sure you check with the teacher for any food allergies in the class prior to bringing in treats. Please refrain from celebrating your child's birthday

party during the school day. You may distribute invitations at school only if you intend to invite the whole class, otherwise, please send them through the mail.

### **Book Orders**

Each month, book orders will be made available for the students in 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I will list an order due date in my newsletters. If you wish to order books, please order books online. Check the order form for more information on this process.

### **Computers/Technology**

Each student in grades K-8 will have access to a Chromebook to use during the school year. Each student will be assigned a personal Gmail account ending in @oursaviorswausau.org.

Chromebooks will be sent home with students only if necessary. Please make sure you read and sign the computer network acceptable use policy. Your child will not be able to use the computers in class unless told to.

### **Discipline**

There are two main Biblical rules that complement our classroom rules and procedures. They are: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind," and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The following set of rules is to ensure that we will have a safe and orderly classroom:

- 1) Stay in your seat unless you have permission to do otherwise.
- 2) Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.
- 3) One person may speak at a time. (At the appropriate voice level)
- 4) Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

If the student is dismissed from the classroom due to disruptive or disrespectful behavior, the parents will be notified.

### **Due Process**

It is hoped that an open relationship will exist between parents, teachers, students, principal, and pastor at all times so that they may mutually assist each other in understanding and in assisting students to meet their spiritual, educational, and social needs.

Some positive ways for parents to build strong home and school cooperation are showing interest in their child's school work and school activities, assisting their child in understanding and using the abilities God has given them, setting a Christian example to support Biblical instruction, and worshiping at home and in church.

If problems arise, parents should make contact in the following order, seeking the direction of God's Word and especially using Matthew 18: 15-18 as a guide:

- 1) Contact the teacher first and discuss the matter.

2) If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved, contact the principal.

3) If the matter is not resolved or being adequately addressed, contact the School Board chairman.

The above procedure assumes parents will address needs which their children bring to them. If students themselves find the need to address matters to others beyond their parents and teacher, they would follow the same order as above.

### **Field Trips**

Periodically, our class will go on field trips. These trips may require the usage of chaperones and drivers.

### **Grades**

I will utilize an online grading system. I will periodically give the students grade reports and a list of missing work if applicable. As of now parents will not have access to this online grading system, but can receive grades anytime if they contact me. Report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter for all students at Our Savior's Lutheran. If you have any questions about grades do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Graded Papers**

Students receive immediate feedback on their school work. School work is returned either the same day or the next school day after it has been handed in. Please make sure you read and review graded papers on a weekly basis. This will greatly assist your child's educational experience! If you see an error, please immediately bring it to the teacher's attention.

### **Grading Scale**

A: 100-94

B: 93-86

C: 85-77

D: 76-70

F: Below 70

### **Homework**

The amount of homework your child takes home is dependent upon how appropriately they use their work time during the school day. If your child responds that they do not have any homework to accomplish, ask to review their daily planner to check for that day's assignments. They should also be proactively working on upcoming projects, reports, studying prior lessons, or reading a novel. Please notify the teacher if homework times exceed the suggested amount.



**Hours**

School begins at 7:45 a.m. Students will be dismissed from school at 2:45 p.m. The classroom teachers will bring the students outside. Students must be picked up by 3:00 p.m. by a parent or authorized individual. Please be prompt in picking your child up from school.

**Illness**

If your child is sick (vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever of 100° or more), they must stay home. Students have one day for each day missed to complete missing work. If your child is out for an extended period of time, please meet with the teacher to devise a plan to make up the missing work.

**Recess**

The teachers will monitor the recess activities of the students. I will encourage all students to actively play group games. I believe a lot can be learned socially at recess when students cooperatively participate in large group activities.

**Incomplete/Missing Work**

It is our hope that nobody in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade will need to stay after school or come early to school to complete homework. If a child is not finished with their work, they will finish it at recess. Any late work will be counted as incomplete until the work has been turned in. This can be very devastating to a class grade. Students are encouraged to never have an incomplete assignment. Late assignments must be completed, but may be given a grading reduction. Incomplete work may also need to be completed at home and returned the next school day. If late work becomes a consistent problem, parents will be contacted, and a plan will be put in place to have missing work completed and returned to the teacher. The student may need to stay after school to accomplish this task. Missing homework may also affect a student's ability to participate in extracurricular activities. Please make every effort to assist your child to faithfully complete the work on time. Working together will greatly benefit the child's education.

Each quarter every student will start with a clean slate. By following this process, we hope to teach the students that late and unacceptable work has consequences we want to avoid. We also want to motivate our students to improve their work ethic by using the gifts and abilities God has given to them.

**Non School Vacations**

A vacation other than during school breaks is discouraged. It is truly hard to make up time that originally would be spent in the classroom with the teacher and other students. Each school day is approximately 6 ½ hours of instruction and work time. It is understood that a non-school vacation may need to occur because of work or family schedules. If this occurs, please notify the teacher in advance. Encourage your child to complete work prior to the vacation. If work is given prior to a vacation, then it is expected to be done when they return to school. Teachers are not responsible for instructing units or lessons that are missed.

## **Projects**

Throughout the school year, projects and reports may be a required aspect of the learning experience. Usually a time line with specific due dates will be given. Please assist your child in working on items according to the time schedule and in advance of the due dates. This will assist your child in proper time management skills and will help them avoid procrastination.

## **Questions**

If you have questions regarding your child's education, please contact me. During the school day, the best way to contact me would be to leave a message for me in the office or through a voicemail message. Outside of school hours, you may contact me through email, text, or phone. Please make evening calls prior to 9:00 p.m. If your child is having difficulty with an assignment, notify me and bring it to my attention the next school morning.

## **Subjects**

### **Memory Work**

Each child will be given a memory work at the end of each Christ Light lesson. Christ Light memory work will be recited on Mondays and Fridays. Hymns will also be assigned each week for memory work. Hymns will be recited on Wednesdays. A memory work schedule will be available on the newsletter on our school website. Please regularly check this for upcoming memory work due dates. Memory work is required to be learned prior to the day of recitation. In cases where there is a lot to memorize, such as commandments, articles or hymns, it is a good idea to start learning them several days in advance to allow enough time for memorization.

Memory work should be memorized starting out with the Bible reference, such as: John 3:16, or with the title, such as: The Sixth Petition.

On the passages the student should not need any helps.

On the articles the child should receive no more than 2-3 helps.

On the hymn verses the child should receive no more than 1 help per stanza.

If the memory work is not satisfactory the first time, the student will be asked to recite it again. (This will result in the reduction of the student's grade)

### **Bible History**

Our students receive their Bible History lessons through the use of Northwestern Publishing House's Christ-Light curriculum. Students will receive training in the Old Testament one year and the New Testament the following year. (For the 2023-2024 school year we will be working with the Old Testament lessons.)

### **Catechism**

Catechism class is taught to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, this will be taught by Mr. Lemke. We use the Faith Foundations series published by Northwestern Publishing House for grades 5-6. Grades 7-8 will also have catechism twice a week, and will be taught by pastor.

## **Grammar & Writing**

Our class will alternate between grammar and writing units throughout the school year. Please assist your child during the writing units by checking their work for proofreading and revising errors. This process will not only help your child as a writer, it will also help you know what your child is writing. Throughout the year, our class will conduct reports on various topics. Please assist your child at these times by acquiring the proper resource materials from your local library.

## **Math**

Our Savior's Lutheran School uses the Saxon Math series. The Saxon Math curriculum is the only major math program on the market today that systematically distributes instruction, practice, and assessment throughout the academic year as opposed to concentrating, or massing, related concepts into a short period of time--usually within a unit or chapter. With Saxon math books, learning pieces of information in small amounts, and then continually repeating concepts keeps information fresh and active in one's mind, preventing once-learned information from slipping away.

## **Reading**

The 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will be using novel units for their reading class. During the class period the teacher reads aloud, the students read silently, and then we continue with our reading instruction for the day. Students will also be asked to read aloud at various times. There are a variety of activities that strengthen reading skills such as pronunciation, vocabulary, and comprehension that are connected with the novel they are reading.

## **Social Studies/Science**

For grades 5-6 Social studies will be covering geography in many different countries. Grades 7-8 will cover US history from the start of the country to the civil war. Science will be taught together for grades 5-8. Students will study various units on Physical Science. They will do multiple hands-on labs when available. If at any time you have questions or concerns about how your child is doing in class, please do not hesitate to contact her.

## **Physical Education**

Physical education is scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays, and sometimes Fridays each week. I believe being active is very beneficial to students and through Physical Education class important life skills can be taught and being active helps encourage better brain activity. We will utilize some equipment we have from SPARK which is a curriculum that includes, increased academic achievement, increased moderate to vigorous physical activity in students, fitness achievement, sport skills development, enjoyment of PE. It is our goal that every student will realize the value of wholesome physical activity and will remain physically active throughout life! Please make sure your child has the proper clothing and gym shoes for physical education. It would also be a good idea to bring or keep at school proper clothing for physical education. Since regular physical activity is important, students are expected to be prepared for class in order that they may participate. If there are any health concerns that would affect your child's participating in physical education, please speak to me.

## **Spelling**

Our school utilizes *Spelling Connections* for our curriculum in 5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will be assigned a spelling unit to complete each week. Spelling tests will be given on Wednesdays and Fridays each week.

## **Computer/Typing**

Students will learn the basics of computer programs, as well as do typing throughout the school year. Typing is a skill that is beneficial to all students no matter what field they plan to go into in the future.

## **Piano**

There is a piano teacher available to instruct piano lessons during the school day. This is another great way for our students to explore their musical talents in service for their LORD. Any lessons or work time that is utilized for a piano lesson will be required to be made up by the student.

## **Band**

There are band lessons available for the students to participate in during the school day. This is one of the many ways that students can learn musical instruments to the glory of God. Once again, any lessons or work time that is utilized for a band lesson will be required to be made up by the student.

## **Art**

This class is held on Fridays of most weeks. We will use art from Deep Space Sparkle and other teacher resources. The students will learn different medians, line, shape, design, etc

## **Website**

Our School Website is [Oursaviorswausau.org](http://Oursaviorswausau.org) You will find useful information pertaining to events at Our Savior's Lutheran School.

## **Conclusion**

It is my hope that we can work together to have an enjoyable year. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year, please feel free to contact me at school or at home. (You may also e-mail me at: [nathan.lemke@oursaviorswausau.org](mailto:nathan.lemke@oursaviorswausau.org) )

The Lord has given us the wonderful opportunity to teach and care for His lambs while we are here on this earth. It is my prayer that we will work together in carrying out this great and blessed privilege.

In Christ's Service,  
Mr. Nathan Lemke

***Luke 18:15- "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."***

***Proverbs 22:6- "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it."***