

# Our Shepherd

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**Academic Year 2013-2014**

# Our Shepherd

An Accredited Lutheran School

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## 2013-2014 School Profile

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Our Shepherd Lutheran School is a coeducational Christian day school for children from preschool through eighth grade. At Our Shepherd, we know that every child is a precious gift from God, and we strive to make a positive difference in the life of every student.

For more than 50 years we have provided a safe, nurturing, loving environment where a child feels secure. Our Shepherd Lutheran School is located on 8 acres in a quiet neighborhood in Birmingham, Michigan.

Our full time faculty is composed of teachers whose experience ranges from 14 to 50 years. Over 81% of the full time faculty members have advanced degrees. Professional growth is a requirement and is included in the annual budget. Advanced degrees and continued training in education are highly encouraged.

Our Shepherd believes that small classes are more engaging places for students because they're able to have a more personal connection with the teacher. Small classroom sizes allow for personal attention, in-depth projects, field trips, leadership opportunities, and community service. Our average class size is 20 students.

**Sixth through Eighth Grade** The main skills and objectives center around using the Internet to research a project and basic operations and concepts of word processing and desktop publishing. Students will be introduced to the usefulness of database and spreadsheet programs. Students learn how and when to use multimedia programs such as PowerPoint and Publisher instead of Word. They will begin programming using Pivot Stick Figure Animation and Scratch. They will follow the curriculum designed by REMC, "21 Things 4 Students".

## Core Goals—Technology

Technology has been thought of as a tool, yet it is a foundation to this generation; it underlies everything they do. In the digital age, technology is key to thinking about and knowing about the world. We have increasingly put technology in to the hands of students and must trust them with more progressive technology use.

To support this environment, OSLS has 30 i-pad minis for preschool-4th grade (5 per classroom) and 10 Chrome books for middle school students. Our middle school students (5th-8th) may bring their own device (BYOD) from home.

They will use the computer as a productivity tool, communication tool, research tool, and problem-solving and decision-making tool. The computer skills practiced correlate with the Michigan Education Technology Standards/

**Kindergarten through Second Grade** Skills and objectives center around computer awareness, keyboarding, and word processing. Software used includes but is not limited to Kid Keys, Kid Pix, Reading Blaster, Storybook Weaver, Reader Rabbit Math, MS Word, and the internet.

**Third through Fifth Grade** Keyboarding and word processing skills continue to be taught with an emphasis on learning how to edit. Desktop publishing is introduced. Software used includes but is not limited to: Select programs listed above in K-2, Print Artist, Microsoft Publisher, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint. They also begin researching on the internet and learning internet safety.

## Accreditation & Standardized Testing

### Accreditation

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Our Shepherd Lutheran School is accredited at both state and national levels. We are recognized by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools, the Michigan District of Lutheran Schools and the National Lutheran School Accreditation.

### Standardized Testing

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Students at Our Shepherd are given the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills). Testing results are calculated for the entire grade and also by subject within the grade. The three-year average composite National Percentile Ranking for all grades combined at Our Shepherd has been at least 75%. This means that Our Shepherd students have scored higher than 75% of other students who have taken the test, nationally.

Our Shepherd scores are ranked in the top three compared to other Lutheran Schools in the Michigan District.

## Core Goals—Chapel Worship

Our Shepherd Lutheran School exists to share the love of Christ, expressing a commitment to reach out to others. Each week, we as a school have the opportunity to grow in the Grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by participating in Chapel on Wednesdays for half an hour. Each child belongs to a Chapel family and sits with their Chapel family during the Worship service. The Chapel Family relationship encourages the older students to mentor and encourage the younger students. Each week, our 8th grade teacher, Mr. Gerds, leads us in Worship. A special guest speaker gives the message designed specifically for the ears and heart of a student. The 8th grade students serve as ushers.

All are welcome to join us in our weekly Worship service.

## Special days and events in Kindergarten

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Students enjoy learning to count with “Zero the Hero” who comes every ten days. Zero also joins them as they celebrate “100 day” with projects, special centers and a parade.

Kindergarteners enjoy visits to a nature center, firehouse, bakery, and a church.

The children celebrate special holidays with drama and song. Events include the Thanksgiving Feast, Christmas pageant, Maypole dance and the end of year Kindergarten luau.

*It warmed my heart when my Kindergartener came home from school early last year singing “God Bless America!” How many children learn that in school these days?  
Nancy Eshelby  
Parent of two students*

*Students entering Northwest from Our Shepherd possess a solid Biblical foundation that allows them to take the next step in their appreciation for how God works in their lives.  
Rev. Aaron Rickert  
Family Theology/English Instructor  
LHNW/Pastor St. John Lutheran-Fraser*

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## Core Curriculum —Kindergarten

**Religion** The curriculum moves chronologically through the Old and New Testaments, covering a different Bible story each week.

**One in Christ (2011), Concordia Publishing House**

**Memory** Students learn a memory verse per week. The Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and certain prayers are sometimes substituted for the weekly Bible verse.

**Language Arts** Instruction emphasizes word recognition skills, comprehension, and identifying long and short vowels. Phonics, context, word structure, and word meaning skills are developed together. Language Arts is taught throughout the curriculum through guided reading, whole group reading, writing, phonemic awareness and spelling. Students learn at their level using sight words, blended sounds, and picture & context clues.

**Houghton Mifflin Journeys (2011), Houghton Mifflin**

**Math** The children participate in hands-on activities that involve number concepts, counting skills, patterning, graphing, sorting, recognizing and writing numerals, money and time.

**Math K (2007), Saxon**

**Science** Children learn scientific concepts through real experiences. Themes in life, earth, and physical science are covered through Big Books activities, science center activities, and theme activities.

**A Closer Look (2008), MacMillan McGraw-Hill**

**Social Studies** Students learn about themselves, their families, the past, and the world around them. Specific topics are studied in correlation with curriculum themes and holiday celebrations.

**My World Kindergarten (2008), Houghton Mifflin**

**Handwriting** At this grade level, the goal in handwriting is to teach the letter shape and formation of each letter using the **D'Nealian Handwriting Method**.

## Core Curriculum —Spanish

The objective of a foreign language program is to provide an opportunity to discover a new language and to experience other cultures through the study of the language.

**Kindergarten and First grade** Students are exposed to many Spanish words, songs, and rhymes. The student with little or no previous Spanish will experience the thrill of success with a second language.

**Second through Eighth Grade** Students are exposed to new vocabulary through games, songs and a variety of activities to acquire Spanish. Students will learn to form complete sentences in Spanish, incorporating the four areas of language development; speaking, listening, reading and writing. As students become more proficient in Spanish, more and more of the class will be conducted in Spanish.

Second through Eighth grade curriculum coincides with the World Language Standards; Communication, Comparison, Culture, Connections and Communities. A variety of learning experiences are created to meet the World language Standards.

## Special days and events in 1st Grade

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First graders enjoy a full day field trip to the “One Room School House” in Greenfield Village.

The children enjoy a field trip to a local Children’s Theatre to watch a live performance.

The joy of learning to read is evident every day in 1st grade!

*Our Shepherd Lutheran School is the best kept Secret in Birmingham. The learning environment is nurturing and caring. It has been my pleasure to work with the staff and teachers who are well prepared and know their students well. It is a great place to work and learn.*

*Cindy Longhway*

*Speech and language Pathologist*

## Core Curriculum —Art

**Kindergarten through Second Grade** Children are encouraged to create their own unique works of art while exploring the elements of design: line, shape, color, value, form, texture, and space.

**Third through Fifth Grade** Students explore their creativity through experimentation a wide range of media and techniques. Along with further investigation of the elements of art, students begin to examine the principles of design: balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, and unity. Multicultural art lessons allow students to examine the customs and traditions celebrated by different communities. Visual thinking strategy exercises in art viewing encourage the development of critical thinking, communication, and visual literacy skills.

**Sixth through Eighth Grade** Art production at this level is focused on individual expression. Students exhibit the elements and principles of design in all assignments. Producing work that demonstrates quality craftsmanship and technique is of great importance. Students are exposed to a variety of two and three dimensional assignments, including printmaking, one and two point perspective, subtractive sculpture, and still life drawing and painting. Students learn to evaluate art, as well as compare and contrast important art historical works while building an artistic vocabulary. Interdisciplinary lessons are designed to support mutual learning concepts with home room teachers and special classes.

*I visited five area public and three private elementary schools while deciding on where to send our daughter for Kindergarten. We chose Our Shepherd Lutheran for both the strong academics and the Christian education as well as the warm & friendly staff. We are so happy with our decision.*

*Nancy Eshelby*

## Core Curriculum —1st Grade

**Religion** Instructional units include Bible stories that share the message of God's love and salvation for His people during Old and New Testament times.  
**One in Christ, (2011) Concordia Publishing House**

**Memory** Students learn scripture verses, hymns and portions of the Catechism. Memory verses are built upon each year.

**Language Arts, Spelling and Reading** Instruction emphasizes word recognition skills and comprehension, and identifying long and short vowels.. Language arts is taught throughout the curriculum through guided reading, whole group reading, writing, phonemic awareness and spelling. Students learn rules and spelling patterns.

**Houghton Mifflin Journeys (2011), Houghton Mifflin Phonics & Spelling (2003), Saxon Spelling and Vocabulary (2004), Houghton Mifflin**

**Math** Students are taught about odd and even numbers, skip counting by twos, fives and tens, addition and subtraction facts through 18, place value through 100, time, money, geometry, fractions, and measurement.

**Math 1 (2003 2nd edition), Saxon**

**Science** This subject is divided up into three content areas: life science, physical science and earth science. Students use books and hands on learning experiences to develop science skills and an understanding of God's creation.

**A Closer Look (2008), MacMillan McGraw-Hill**

**Social Studies** The ever expanding world of a first grade student is nurtured through the following topics: school community, family community, geography, history, sociology/culture, government and economics. Map skills are developed.

**Houghton Mifflin School & Family (2008), Houghton Mifflin**

**Handwriting** First graders practice the **D'Nealian Handwriting Method** through air-writing, individual writing boards, and model tracing.

## Core Curriculum — Music

The music program at Our Shepherd enables students to explore themselves musically, as well as help them become independent musical thinkers and creators.

**Kindergarten** The children explore music with a variety of listening, singing, performance, instrumental and movement activities. They learn steady beat, rhythm, melody, form, style and simple music notation while experiencing a wide variety of music from around the world.

**First and Second Grade** Using authentic musical examples, children will listen to, discuss, sing, perform on instruments, improvise, compose, play games and move to music. Through this process, students will explore how the elements of music (pitch, rhythm, melody, form, timbre, dynamics, meter, texture and harmony) help humans express themselves using the language of music.

**Third through Fifth Grade** Using authentic musical examples, children will continue to listen to, discuss, sing, perform on instruments, improvise, compose, represent with iconic notation, play games and move to music. Through this process, students will continue to explore how the elements of music help humans express themselves using the language of music. Work in class will focus on cooperative small group problems solving and learning, and there will be an increased opportunity for composition and original student creations inspired by authentic musical examples.

**Sixth through Eighth Grade** Using authentic musical examples, children will continue to listen to, discuss, sing, perform on instruments, improvise, compose, represent with iconic notation, play games and move to music. Through this process, students will continue to explore how the elements of music help humans express themselves using the language of music. Work in class will focus on cooperative small group problems solving and learning, and there will be an increased opportunity for composition and original student creations inspired by authentic musical examples. In addition, there will be opportunities for students to compose individually. Students will also begin to explore how musicians use music notation and musical terms to communicate to performers.

**Band & Strings Program** Students in grades four through eight may participate in our band program. The band director from Lutheran High Northwest visits our school weekly. Students are placed in a group that best matches their ability. Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced.

Students in grades four through eight may also participate in our string program. In this program, students receive weekly violin lessons. Both private

*I transferred my daughter from a public school to Our Shepherd in the 2nd grade. The moment I walked in the door, I was greeted with warmth and kindness. I knew that this was the place for us! This has been the best decision I have made for my children.*  
*Catherine Siebert*

## Special days and events in 2nd Grade

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Students in 2nd grade look forward to the sights and sounds of Upland Hills Farm.

Each year the class travels to a local youth theatre to watch a live performance.

Community Project for Lutheran Child & Family Services—Birthday Boxes

## Core Curriculum —Phys Ed

Our Shepherd recognizes the importance of developing the students' physical skills and supporting a healthy lifestyle. As a result, Our Shepherd Lutheran School offers extensive Physical Education for each student beginning in Kindergarten.

**Kindergarten through Second Grade** During the early elementary years, Our Shepherd's physical education classes focus on refining gross motor skills and begin to develop fine motor skills. Students will learn and reinforce movements such as skipping, galloping, running, leaping and hopping. They will also begin basic forms of non-locomotor movements such as throwing, catching and kicking.

**Third through Fifth Grade** During these three years the students begin to work on more sport-specific skills as well as an increased level of physical fitness. They are given opportunities to build strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance. Teamwork, fair play, constructive competition and leadership are also a focus. The President's Physical Fitness Challenge program is introduced in Fourth Grade.

**Sixth through Eight Grade** Students in these grades learn strategies, rules, and skills for various sports, which allows the students to develop a sense of teamwork. The education course of instruction allows the student to develop social and personal skills, practice leadership, and demonstrate integrity, respect, fair play, responsibility, effort, and self-discipline.

Our Shepherd also provides additional opportunities for those who are highly interested and/or highly skilled through its athletic programs such as soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, track, and cheerleading squads. Through these experiences, the Christian child will develop a mature, wholesome, physical body that is capable of meeting its God-given potential.

## Core Curriculum —2nd Grade

**Religion** Students are nurtured in their understanding and living of the Christian faith. They learn key concepts of faith such as Law and Gospel, confession and repentance, forgiveness and grace.

**One in Christ (2011), Concordia Publishing House**

**Memory** Students progress through a planned memory program. Children will review verses that have been memorized in previous grades and continue to learn new verses.

**Language Arts, Spelling and Reading** Students are taught sentence structure and parts of speech like nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. They are given opportunities to practice these skills in daily and special writing assignments.

**Houghton Mifflin Journeys (2011), Houghton Mifflin**

**Math** Addition and subtraction facts through 20 are reviewed extensively. Two-digit addition and subtraction, place value to 100, time, money, 2-D and 3D geometric figures, beginning fractions, and measurement in English and metric systems are all introduced.

Beginning multiplication is also introduced.

**Math 2 (2003 2nd edition), Saxon**

**Science** The second grade science program offers students a chance to use text and experimentation to better understand the world around them. The topics taught are: Living Things, Habitats, Earth, Space and Weather, Matter and Energy.

**A Closer Look (2008), MacMillan McGraw-Hill**

**Social Studies** Students learn how communities and the world around them work. Students will learn about the Earth, our country's history, and its government. They will also learn about work & their communities.

**Houghton Mifflin Communities Book (2008), Houghton Mifflin**

**Handwriting** Students spend the first part of the year reviewing their manuscript letters using the **D'Nealian Handwriting**

**Method.** After Thanksgiving, students begin learning cursive.

## Core Curriculum —8th Grade

### Special days and events in 3rd Grade

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“Flat Stanley” makes an appearance in 3rd Grade. Children create this fun paper character and then send “him” to people they know and then learn all about the amazing things and places he has been. So far our “Stanleys” have visited places like Germany, England, France, Australia, Japan and many more.

In Art and Writing, students study about other cultures, especially China. The Chinese language in both the written and spoken word is introduced. Later in the year, the parents and children enjoy a visit to a Chinese market and restaurant.

*Even though my family is of the Catholic faith, I feel that Our Shepherd has the best to offer my child with their challenging Christian and academic curriculum, warm and loving staff and dedicated families.  
Karole Mills, Preschool aide and parent*

**Religion** Students focus on Christian doctrine as presented in *Luther’s Small Catechism*. By the time students have completed 8th grade, they should have a solid understanding of who God is, what He has done for us, and how they are to live as God’s people in the 21st century.

**Curriculum taught by Our Shepherd staff or faculty**  
*Luther’s Small Catechism w/explanation rev. 10/31/05 CPH*

**Language Arts** The student’s understanding of literary genres is increased through the reading and analysis of various published works. Four novels are read each year. The English component covers parts of speech, usage, mechanics, and writing. A process approach to writing is instructed through the practice of the following writing forms: persuasive essay, comparison/contrast, personal narrative, poetry, and a formal research paper.

***The Language of Literature (2002), McDougal Littell***  
***Houghton Mifflin English (2004), Houghton Mifflin***

**Math** Students are placed in either Algebra 1, Algebra 1/2, or Math Course 3 of the Saxon Math curriculum. The classes are taught using an integrated approach that connects National Council of Teachers of Mathematics learning strands over the year.

***Saxon Math Course 3 (2007) Saxon***  
***Algebra 1 (2003 3rd edition) Saxon***  
***Algebra 1/2 (2004 3rd edition) Saxon***

**Science** Students use a physical science text. They learn to appreciate matter and energy. They are given a variety of laboratory experiences and projects to help them learn and develop problem-solving techniques.

***Introduction to Physical Science (2008), Glencoe***

**United States History** Students study the history of our nation from the first explorers to the 20th century.

***US History (2009), Holt McDougal***

## Core Curriculum —3rd Grade

**Religion** Students are nurtured in their understanding and living of the Christian faith. They learn key concepts of faith such as Law and Gospel, confession and repentance, forgiveness and grace.

**One in Christ (2011), Concordia Publishing House**

**Memory** The memory program includes learning the names of the books of the Bible, the 10 Commandments with the meanings, and selected hymns and Bible passages, as well as the Apostles' Creed.

**Language Arts, Spelling and Reading** Our focus is on language as a necessary communication tool. Third grade students will be focusing on the grammar skills of sentence structure, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, punctuation and capitalization. Students are introduced to many new reading skills. They learn to analyze stories to determine setting, main characters, problem and steps leading to resolution and conclusion of the story.

**Scott Foresman Reading Street (MI edition) 2008**

**Math** The children continue to work on addition and subtraction of higher numbers, with regrouping. A great deal of emphasis is placed on learning the multiplication and division facts. Children also begin learning to multiply two and three digit numbers by one digit numbers.

**Saxon Math 3 (2003 2nd edition), Saxon**

**Science** Students investigate science questions and problems. Program units include: Plants & Animals, Cycles on Earth and in Space, Investigating Matter, and Exploring Energy & Forces.

**A Closer Look (2008), MacMillan McGraw-Hill**

**Social Studies** Map skills learned in previous years are reviewed and reinforced. More advanced skills are also developed. Students learn about different types and sizes of communities both in the U.S. and also in foreign countries. They learn how the national government works and makes decisions that affect their lives.

**Michigan (2006), Houghton Mifflin**

**Handwriting**—Students will practice **D'Nealian Handwriting Method** in manuscript and cursive.

## Special days and events in 8th Grade

Students anxiously await the eighth grade class trip.

Curriculum highlights include a national poetry contest, the formal research paper, and the United States relief map.

Students enjoy a variety of field trips during the year including: “Crusader Day” at Lutheran High Northwest the STEM field trip and Meadowbrook Theatre for “A Christmas Carol”

*The students coming from Our Shepherd have always demonstrated a strong desire for learning and participation. Our Shepherd truly prepares students for high school spiritually, academically, and socially. Many of the OS students are some of the most positive leaders in our Northwest family.*

*Mr. Paul Looker, Principal, LHNW*

### Special days and events in 4th Grade

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Students in fourth grade take a trip to Lansing, Michigan. While there they visit the Michigan Historical Museum, the State Capitol, and the Vietnam Memorial.

The children and chaperones enjoy this adventure.

The children in 4th grade collaborate with students from Lutheran High Northwest to create a book. Our students write the story, while the high school students illustrate and “publish” the book. The experience concludes when our children meet their counterparts and have refreshments at Lutheran High Northwest.

*We receive daily blessings from our family's involvement with the Christian education at Our Shepherd. It is one of the best decisions we have made for our entire family. Robert Louis-Ferdinand*

**Religion** Students focus on beginning preparation for formalized Confirmation instruction.

***One in Christ (2012) Concordia Publishing***

**Memory** Students progress through a planned memory program. Children will review verses that have been memorized in previous grades including the six chief parts of Christian doctrine, selected Bible verses and prayers.

**Language Arts** Student's understanding of literary genres is increased through the reading and analysis of various published works. The English component covers parts of speech, usage, mechanics and writing. A process approach to writing is instructed through the practice of the following writing forms: persuasive essay, comparison/contrast, personal narration, poetry, short story and anecdote.

***The Language of Literature (2002), McDougal Littell  
Houghton Mifflin English (2004), Houghton Mifflin  
Various novels for middle school ages***

**Math** Students are placed in either Algebra 1/2 or Math Course 2 of the Saxon Math Curriculum. Both classes are taught using an integrated approach that connects National Council of Teachers of Mathematics learning strands over the year.

***Saxon Math Course 2 (2006) Saxon  
1/2 Algebra (2004) Saxon***

**Science** Students study life science and learn to appreciate the smallest unicellular organisms of their own complex body. Students have laboratory experiences to help them learn and develop problem-solving techniques.

***Life Science, Glencoe***

**Social Studies** Students are familiarized with the Eastern hemisphere. Each region is presented through the area of people, economy, arts and recreation, and government.

***Eastern World (2009), Hold Social Studies***

## Core Curriculum —4th Grade

*We are positive that every day our three boys go to a place where they learn about Jesus through the actions, words, and attitudes of the Our Shepherd faculty and staff.*

*Don & Amy Justice*

## Special days and events in 7th Grade

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The Holocaust Memorial Center field trip supports the study of Holocaust literature and World War II studies.

Students are encouraged to take a leadership role in planning Student Council events. Children look forward to the upper grade dances that are planned and sponsored by the Student Council.

Complex themes of justice, equality, and independence are emphasized across curricular areas with primary focus in Literature and Social Studies.

**Religion** Students are nurtured in their understanding and living of the Christian faith. They learn key concepts of faith such as Law and Gospel, confession and repentance, forgiveness and grace.

**One in Christ (2011), Concordia Publishing House**

**Memory** Students progress through a planned memory program. Children will review verses that have been memorized in previous grades and learn new verses including portions of Luther's Small Catechism and selected hymns.

**Language Arts, Spelling and Reading** Students are taught sentence structure and parts of speech like nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. They are given opportunities to practice these skills in daily and special writing assignments.

**Pearson/Scott Foresman (2008)**

**Math** Students review previously learned skills through daily practice. Students also study challenging new concepts in the areas of multiplication, division, fractions, organizing data, measurement, and geometry.

**Math 5/4 (2004 3rd edition), Saxon**

**Science** Students focus on life sciences, earth science, and physical science.  
**A Closer Look (2008), MacMillan McGraw-Hill**

**Social Studies** Curriculum focuses on two areas: Michigan history and the regions of the United States. Students continue to develop map skills, study skills and data interpreting skills.

**States & Regions (2008), Houghton Mifflin**

**Handwriting** The focus is on improving the legibility of cursive writing. The students also practice correctly joining letters.

## Core Curriculum —6th Grade

*My favorite grade has to be fifth. The students' excitement for Camp Wolverine is amazing. The change in their growth from fifth to sixth grade is influenced greatly by this experience.*

*Dave Leone  
Parent of three alumni*

### Special days and events in 5th Grade

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Children anxiously await the week spent in Wolverine, Michigan. The Outdoor Education Program has been a staple for Our Shepherd students for over 25 years.

Each year the 5th grade students perform the Passion Play before Easter. The whole school looks forward to this annual performance.

The 5th graders experience a half day of school in an 1800's colonial schoolhouse, complete with lessons from the 1800's. To make the experience authentic, they dress up in colonial period clothing.

**Religion** Students concentrate their study on the New Testament and the history of the Christian church from the 1st century to the present.

***One in Christ (2012), Concordia Publishing House***

**Memory** Students progress through a planned memory program. Children will review verses that have been memorized in previous grades including the six chief parts of Christian doctrine, selected Bible verses and prayers.

**Language Arts, Spelling and Reading** Learning the parts of speech and practicing the English language develops sixth grade language skills. The students practice these skills by presenting speeches, reports, and literary works. Students read high-quality classic and contemporary literature selections that are supported by skills instruction, with practice in grammar and writing skills.

***The Language of Literature (2002), McDougal Littell  
Houghton Mifflin English (2004), Houghton Mifflin***

**Math** Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division in whole numbers, decimals, fractions, ratios, proportions, integers, and percents are practiced. In addition, standard metric measurements, geometry, statistics, and probability are presented.

***Saxon Math Course 1 (2007), Harcourt Achieve***

**Science** the topics of study include ecosystems, weather cycles in Earth and space, cells, genetics, plants and animal growth, matter, energy, forces, and machines. .

***A Closer Look (2008), MacMillan McGraw-Hill***

**Social Studies** Using both historical and geographical concepts, students are introduced to the cultures of North America, South America and Europe from the ancient through modern times. There is a strong emphasis on geographical and mapping skills as well as in introduction to writing across the curriculum.

***World Regions Western World (2009), Holt Rinehart & Winston***

## Core Curriculum —5th Grade

### Special days and events in 6th Grade

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The week at Camp Wolverine is a highlight of 6th grade. Advanced survival skills and teamwork play an important part of this week.

Students enjoy a variety of field trips during the year including the STEM event at as well as a trip to Meadowbrook Theatre to see a Christmas Carol.

Dissection instruction begins this year in Science class.

*We are so very blessed to have the staff of teachers that we do at Our Shepherd. Each teacher brings a unique and God given quality to each grade.  
Ross & Laura Anderson*

**Religion** Instruction focuses on developing the students' relationship with God, others and the world in the light of God's Word.

**One in Christ (2011), Concordia Publishing House**

**Memory** Students progress through a planned memory program. Children will review verses that have been memorized in previous grades and learn new verses including portions of Luther's Small Catechism and selected hymns.

**Language Arts, Spelling and Reading** Students study sentences, parts of speech, and capitalization/punctuation through a variety of writing experiences. Vowels, consonants, word structure, word meanings, dictionary skills and proof-reading skills are all covered.

**Reading Street (2008) Pearson-Scott Foresman**

**Math** New concepts and algorithms that involve decimals, fractions, ratios, and percents are introduced and expanded.

**Math 6/5 (2004) Saxon**

**Science** Through text and lab experiences, the students study life, earth and physical aspects of science. Topics include plants, diversity of life, ecosystems, earth and resources, weather/space, matter and forces/energy.

**A Closer Look (2008), MacMillan McGraw-Hill**

**Social Studies** Instruction focuses on North America, specifically the exploration, colonization, conflicts, independence, expansion, slavery, immigration, peace and prosperity of the United States.

**United States History (2008), Houghton Mifflin**