

Ethos

We believe

- the Bible is the supreme authority for Christian faith and life
- the Holy Spirit works through the teaching of God's word in our schools to lead people to know and trust in God as Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier
- all people are sinful and saved by grace through faith in Christ
- because Christians live in grace, all they do is for God's glory not theirs
- each person is a unique creation of God and a person loved by God
- all useful knowledge and learning is God's gift to people for their wellbeing
- service to others through actions and relationships is a reflection of and response to God's love for all

And because of this we value as core

- the Bible as the authority informing what we do and teach
- the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of each person
- forgiveness, being forgiven and reconciliation
- that God, by grace shown through Jesus loves, accepts and values each person
- the uniqueness and worth of each person
- God's gifts of knowledge and learning
- a spirit of service reflecting God's action in our lives

Value-based learning is further developed by contextual values particular to individual school communities

Therefore, in Lutheran schools we see

- everything we are and do in relation to God
 - each member of our school community as someone in relation to God
- This understanding of the identity of each person before God motivates us to:
- develop the whole person
 - strive for the best
 - care for each person
 - help each student grow in the assurance of their God-given worth and purpose
 - accept the need of discipline for the well-being of the individual living in community
 - reflect characteristics of God
 - create learning contexts incorporating values that reflect God's relationship with God's world

Lutheran schools aim to encourage and support students, informed and sustained by the Word of God, to develop their God-given talents so that they may shape and enrich their world

Meet educational authorities' requirements and state / territory, federal requirements

LIFELONG QUALITIES FOR LEARNERS

As central to their mission and ministry, Lutheran schools seek to nurture **individuals**, who are aware of their humanity, open to the influence of the Holy Spirit, and growing in and living according to a cohesive worldview

while

Living in community and reflecting characteristics of God through core values, especially love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, service, humility, courage, hope, quality and appreciation

and

Contributing to communities by being

- self-directed, insightful investigators and learners
- discerning, resourceful problem solvers and implementers
- adept, creative producers and contributors
- open, responsive communicators and facilitators
- principled, resilient leaders and collaborators
- caring, steadfast supporters and advocates

Paradigms

Beliefs about learners

- All learners are valued for who they are and whose they are
- All learners need encouragement and deserve respect
- Learners learn in different ways and at different rates
- All learners have the ability to learn and learn best when
 - > They experience success
 - > They take responsibility for their own learning
 - > They can work both independently and collaboratively
 - > Subject matter is meaningful
 - > High, explicit learning expectations are present
 - > They are authentically assessed and appropriately challenged
- Learners need to learn how to learn and think
- Collaborative partnerships between parents / caregivers and schools support learners and learning

Beliefs about learning

- Learning goes beyond the academic: it includes the spiritual, physical, emotional and social and has a transforming role
- Learning has affective and volitional dimensions as well as cognitive
- Learning is lifelong
- Learning involves learners progressing through developmental cycles
- Learning is facilitated when individual needs of the student are met
- Learning occurs in a context and is driven by curiosity, need and inquiry
- Learning builds on previous knowledge, experiences and understanding

Beliefs about learning communities

- All people are learners
- Safe and supportive learning environments facilitate active learning
- Effective learning communities respect diversity and encourage reflective practice and productive feedback
- Learning communities are strengthened by having a shared vision and common core beliefs
- Learning communities reflect upon and respond to the world of today in ways that enable their members to face the future with confidence
- Learning cultures need to be intentionally developed