

About the Teacher



Christina Swartwood, B.A., M.Ed

Mrs. Swartwood was raised in Bremerton and graduated from Olympic High School in 1990. She received her undergraduate degree from Western Washington University and her Masters in Education from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. Christina spent three years teaching for the Tacoma Public School system in the Special Education department. She then moved to the Central Kitsap School District where she taught four years in a sixth grade classroom. **Additionally, she has volunteered in her sons' pre-schools teaching sign language.** Christina and her husband, Michael, have two sons, Iain and Nathan. She is an active member of Central Kitsap Presbyterian Church teaching Sunday School and participating in the Praise and Worship group by signing the songs in American Sign Language. Christina has been with Peace Lutheran since 2007 and loves being part of the family, not only as a teacher, but as a parent too!

Developmental Characteristics

- Physically active and need movement activities
- Need to know how things work and want to experiment with how things work
- Demonstrate enthusiasm with interactions and activities when self-motivated
- Tend to have difficulty with large projects and need to have things broken down into smaller parts
- Shift concern from adult influences to peer group standards
- Demonstrate a growing interest in moneymaking activities
- Show confusion over their self-awareness and what they will become
- Tend to have a stronger understanding of their close relationship with God
- Want to be involved in more important roles in the life of the church

8th Grade Goals

1. Students work independently as well as in groups.
2. Students use higher-level thinking to solve problems.
3. Students read and comprehend material in textbooks independently.
4. Students develop proficient writing skills.
5. Students are responsible to organize time and work to complete required tasks.

Behavioral Expectations

1. Be prepared for class
2. Participate in class
3. Follow directions
4. Listen attentively
5. Respect the rights and property of others
6. Use time wisely
7. Complete work carefully and neatly
8. Work with others cooperatively
9. Engage in proper behavior inside and outside of the classroom

Discipline is the process of becoming a follower. It should not be confused with punishment, although at times the discipline process may not seem pleasant. The goal is to teach Christ-pleasing behavior, and this is done as gently as possible while still remaining firm and consistent. Students are expected to treat classmates and all adults with respect, be helpful to others, and learn to encourage one another, appreciating the differences among their classmates.

Peace Lutheran School



8th Grade

1234 Riddell Road, Bremerton, WA 98310 Phone: 360-373-2116

8th Grade Curriculum Overview

Bible

Instruction consists of Old and New Testament lessons, as well as Lutheran Confirmation preparation. This consists of instruction in the Lutheran faith and an open discussion of the differences in our Christian denominations.

Language Arts

Grammar, literature, vocabulary, spelling and writing are combined as one cohesive unit of study. Literature includes short stories, poetry, plays, and novels. Writing helps develop creative thinking skills, imagination, and collaborative efforts among classmates.

Math

Three levels of math are covered based on placement: 8th grade math, Pre-Algebra, and Algebra 1. The program builds spirally, repeating concepts throughout the year to allow for retention of data. Math is taught at individual learning levels rather than grade levels. Students should feel math 'literate', and be able to incorporate math skills into practical applications.

Science

Instruction alternates between life science and earth science. Students are taught the building blocks of life and explore simple organisms, plant and animal life and human studies. Evolutionary topics are discussed in light of our Biblical worldview and Christian faith. The study the earth and outer space includes geology and structure of the universe.

Social Studies

World history and geography are taught during the seventh and eighth grade years. World history explores civilizations from the earliest until the present. Significant historical figures from various backgrounds are studied. World geography covers the geographic divisions of our world, climates, and cultures, as well as, the diversity within our own country.

Music

This program allows for options: vocal choir, handbell choir, guitar, band, or classroom music. Each option covers basic instruction in the fundamentals of music and reading music.

Art

Art lessons are designed to help students gain an appreciation for a wide variety of art, reinforcing and expanding knowledge and experience in art history, aesthetics, criticism, and production. Art is also integrated in other subject areas.

Physical Education

This program concentrates on applying skills to practical physical activities helping give students a knowledge and experience base for future physical activity and lifetime health choices.

Foreign Language

We provide Spanish instruction wherein students are encouraged to speak, listen, write and read in Spanish. Students learn formal sentence structure, Latin American geography, culture, and history.

Study Skills

Students are encouraged to keep a written record of all assignments, and they are taught note-taking skills, outlining, and various ways to organize information. Students are responsible for keeping track of homework assignments and turning them in on time.

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