

# ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ACADEMY

The Global Leader in Christian Education



## Course Catalog 2021-2022 Middle School



1200 Oakdale Avenue, West St. Paul, MN 55118



# 2021-2022 COURSE CATALOG

## Grades 6-8

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## WELCOME

Welcome to St. Croix Lutheran Academy!

We are glad you are considering middle school at St. Croix Lutheran Academy. As you prepare for this next step in your education, you probably have a lot of questions. What is SCLA like? Will it be easy to make friends? How big are the classes? What kinds of activities are offered?

This catalog answers these and many other questions. Take a few minutes to find out about the Christian education SCLA offers and why we're such an excellent choice.

To learn more about becoming a part of our community, please contact me at (651) 455-1521 x1105 or [NKallies@StCroixLutheran.org](mailto:NKallies@StCroixLutheran.org).

Blessings,



Mr. Nate Kallies  
Principal

## PROFILE

St. Croix Lutheran Middle School is a private Christian middle school that welcomes students in grades 6 through 8 from all backgrounds. The student body draws from the greater metropolitan Twin Cities area and western Wisconsin. International students provide cultural diversity beyond that of our local students.

St. Croix Lutheran Middle School is part of St. Croix Lutheran Academy and shares its facilities with the high school in West St. Paul. The middle school is proud to work hand-in-hand with the high school. SCLA is fully accredited in grades 6-12 by MNSAA (Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association).

The faculty to student ratio is 1 to 18; average class size is 20.

SCLA was founded in 1958 and is located on a beautiful 30-acre campus in the heart of West St. Paul, overlooking Thompson Lake. Our facilities include a complete athletic complex, gymnasium, media center, award-winning chapel, interactive technology classrooms, and a four-story dormitory opened in 2015.

## **MISSION**

St. Croix Lutheran Academy exists to:

- Educate the total student – spiritually, intellectually, and physically – in a caring, Christian family community
- Teach and disciple students

Our small average class size provides a healthy learning environment in which students feel valued.

SCLA also offers students a Christian education, as witnessed in our chapel services, religion classes, and the Christian values we integrate in all aspects of school life.

## **VISION**

As SCLA plans for the future, we will measure our own success and the success of our students in three ways:

1. Our mission – to educate the total student – is as relevant and appropriate today as ever and remains central to how the school operates, how programs are developed to complement each student's needs, and how Christian values are reinforced every day.
2. Our classes provide students with a comprehensive education that will prepare them for high school and beyond.
3. Our recruitment efforts will focus on reaching out to a student population that reflects the changing demographics in our neighborhood and the Twin Cities community.

## PURPOSE

St. Croix Lutheran Academy is a Christ-centered educational ministry sharing God's love with all students. This is accomplished by pointing students to the truths of God's word in the Bible, by helping students strengthen their relationship with their Savior Jesus, and by sharing the good news of his love for all with those who do not yet know him as their personal Savior.

## CORE VALUES

- Biblical World View** We believe that the Bible is God's unchanging truth, the foundation for all learning and life, and the message of God's saving grace for all.
- College Preparation** We challenge and support students and staff to develop and utilize their God-given gifts in order to become productive leaders in the school, church, and local/international community.
- Excellence** We pursue excellence in all aspects of Christian education - academics, athletics, and the arts - to the glory of God.
- Global** We embrace the culturally diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and gifts of individuals to enrich excellence and to enable one's personal ministry.
- Student Focused** We recognize all students are unique and strive to put their needs first, as we help them develop spiritually, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.



## **ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF**

The SCLA team shares a commitment to value each student, to assist them in planning their education, to support them in their work, to be responsive to their needs, and to celebrate with them the successes they will have.

### **Administration**

Dr. Todd Russ, President  
Richard Gibson, HS Principal  
Nate Kallies, MS Principal  
Dr. Ryan Rathje, Academic Dean  
Paul Weihing, Dean of Students

### **Activities**

Drew Kock, Assistant Director  
Cheryl Bloomer, Athletics Assistant

### **Admissions**

Anna Biedenbender, Domestic  
Admissions Coordinator  
Amanda Tess, Domestic Admissions  
Assistant  
Hannah Schmiege, Director of Intl.  
Admissions and Programs  
Christine Wolfrath, Intl. Assistant  
Kristin Lehmann, Intl. Counselor

### **Building and Grounds**

Curt Montgomery, Director  
Jim Fox, Maintenance  
Penny Frenz, Maintenance  
Steve Frenz, Maintenance  
Craig Raddatz, Maintenance

### **Communications**

Kristina Lewerenz, Director

### **Dormitory**

Grey Davis, Director  
Bev Abel, Supervisor  
John Fenske, Supervisor  
Jonah Kroll, Supervisor

### **Finance**

Glenn Will, Business Manager  
Vicki Werner, Finance Manager

### **Food Service**

Brittney Sawyer, Director, Chef

### **Guidance**

Rev. David Huebner, Director  
Rev. Dustin Sievert, Ministry  
John Brennan, ISD #197, Naviance  
Amanda Tess, Assistant/Records  
Kaitlin Rupprecht, Attendance

### **International Affairs**

Tamara Julian, Intl. Advisor

### **Mission Advancement**

Brian Shult, Director  
John Dvorak, Assistant Director  
Lisa Streckert, Administrative Asst.

### **Office Support**

Chris Tollefson, Manager  
Lisa Streckert, MS Admin. Assistant

### **Registrar**

Amanda Tess, International

### **Technology**

Brad Holum, Specialist

## TEACHING FACULTY



**Tony Drkula** (2014)

B.S. Education; M.S. Educational Leadership

Classes: MS P.E.

Responsibilities: Youth in Government, Football, Baseball Coach



**John Fenske** (2013)

B.S. Music Education

Classes: Instrumental Music

Responsibilities: Dorm Supervisor, Boys Basketball Coach



**Pastor Dave Huebner** (1988)

B.A.; M. Div.

Classes: German 2,

Responsibilities: Girls Soccer Coach



**Mark Kaiser** (2017)

B.S. Education

Classes: World Literature

Responsibilities: Assistant Football Coach



**Nate Kallies** (2017)

B.S. Education; M. Ed. Educational Leadership

Classes: Religion

Responsibilities: Middle School Principal



**Lorna Kapanke** (2012)

B.S. Education; M.Ed., Special Education

Classes: Developmental Reading, LRC

Responsibilities: LRC Director, New Friends Coordinator



**Drew Kock** (2015)

B.S. Education

Classes: U.S. History, World Cultures

Responsibilities: Middle School Athletic Director



**Kristin Lehmann** (2017)

B.S. Psychology; M.A. Chinese Studies

Classes: Mandarin 1/2/3

Responsibilities: Intl. Admissions Counselor, Intl. Activities



## TEACHING FACULTY



**Rebecca Maki** (2013)  
B.A. Education  
Classes: Language Arts 3  
Responsibilities: Speech Coach



**April Marquardt** (2017)  
B.S. Elementary Education  
Classes: MS ESL, MS Spanish  
Responsibilities: Speech Coach



**Mike Marquardt** (2017)  
B.S. Elementary Education  
Classes: Vocal Music, Religion



**Cory Olson** (2013)  
B.S. Education; Secondary Ed Certification  
Classes: German 1, Spanish I  
Responsibilities: Wrestling Coach



**Abby Plocher** (2021)  
B.S. Education  
Classes: Art, Language Arts, Pre-Algebra, P.E.



**Ryan Rathje** (2017)  
B.S. Education; M.A. Professional Development;  
Ed.D. in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Classes: Geometry  
Responsibilities: Academic Dean



**Sarah Sauer** (2010)  
B.S. Education; M.A. Teaching of Languages  
Classes: Spanish 2, ESL 1 and 2  
Responsibilities: Girls Soccer Coach



**Karen Scislow** (2019)  
A.A.; B.A. Art Education  
Classes: Art

## TEACHING FACULTY



**Pastor Dustin Sievert** (2016)

B.A.; M.Div.

Classes: Religion

Responsibilities: Director of Ministry Recruitment,  
Boys Basketball Coach



**Cate Strehlow** (2009)

B.S. Education; M.Ed. Teaching & Learning

Classes: Math 1, Science, STEM, Intro to Middle School

Responsibilities: Experiential Trip Director

## **ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION**

St. Croix Lutheran Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in its administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Students interested in attending St. Croix Lutheran Middle School should call the school office (651-455-1521) to make an appointment with the principal, Nate Kallies. To apply, students will need to provide:

- A transcript of grades which includes a full year of grades and any IEPs or other pertinent information
- Two recommendation forms from current teachers
- Latest year's attendance record
- A non-refundable application fee

## **TWO SEMESTER SYSTEM**

The St. Croix Lutheran school year runs from late August to June and is divided into two semesters.

## **GRADING**

Final grades are assigned for all courses at the end of each semester, and report cards are distributed.

## **HONOR ROLL**

The honor roll recognizes students at the end of each semester. Students holding a grade point average (GPA) of 3.67 to 4.00 for a given semester are named to the A Honor Roll for that semester. Those with a GPA of 2.67 to 3.66 for a given semester are named to the B Honor Roll for that semester.

## COURSES

### **U.S. History**

Students learn the history of the U.S. from the colonization of America through the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, the Civil War, and to present-day America. The curriculum emphasizes a multi-perspective look at history.

### **World Cultures & Geography**

Students learn the physical and political geography of the world. The course introduces students to the five themes of geography: location, place, region, human environment interaction, and movement. Students learn by connecting ancient civilization to present day cultures. The curriculum emphasizes a multi-perspective look at history and the impact of cultures on historical events.

### **World History**

Students survey events of history around the world and make deeper connections to topics that relate to current world affairs.

### **Science 1:**

#### **Diversity of Life, Chemical Interactions, Planetary Science**

In Life Science, the structures and functions of living organisms are explored. The study progresses from organisms, their behaviors, cells, and adaptive structures and strategies. By exploring matter in Chemistry, students conduct experiments to observe phase change, dissolution, and reaction. This course helps students construct a solid basic understanding of the composition of their world and the energy interactions that maintain and transform the world. In Planetary Science, students study the Earth as a celestial object, the moon, and other bodies in the solar system. Students explore the celestial motions, Moon phases, lunar geology, cratering processes, imaging technologies, scaling and space exploration.

#### **Design & Modeling**

This STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) course introduces students to the design process. Students use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students maintain an engineering notebook and use CAD software to create drawings of designs.

**Science 2 :****Human Brain and Senses, Earth History, Force and Motion**

In Life Science, students study the human body systems, memory, diseases, and conditions. In Earth Science, students investigate sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks. In Physical Science, students investigate laws of motion, describe movement using graphs, and relate force, acceleration, mass, time, and momentum in common formulas.

**Automation & Robotics**

The purpose of this STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) course is to introduce students to mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. Students use a robotics platform to design, build, and program solutions to existing problems.

**Science 3 :****Populations and Ecosystems, Weather and Water, Electronics**

In Life Science, students explore organisms and their environments, roles every organism plays in its ecosystem, and structures and behaviors that allow organisms to survive. In Physical Science, students discover how the electric force provides structure to everyday objects, and build and understand simple and complex circuits while measuring and monitoring electric properties. In Earth Science, students investigate how atoms and molecules, changes of state, and heat transfer affect weather.

**Green Architecture**

In this STEM course, students learn how to apply sustainability to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.

## **Math 1**

This course provides foundational support for the development of major mathematical, statistical, algebraic, and geometric concepts.

## **Pre-Algebra**

Pre-Algebra is a study of the language of mathematics. Students in Pre-Algebra will grow in their understanding of the greatness of God in ordering our universe mathematically. Pre-Algebra reinforces fundamental math skills that are vital for future success in math. We are building the foundation for your mathematical future with the goal that you will have a positive mathematical experience to encourage you moving forward into Algebra I.

## **Algebra I**

Algebra is a study of the language of mathematics. Students in Algebra I will grow in their understanding of the greatness of God in ordering our universe mathematically. Students will think critically. Students will make mistakes which is part of learning! Students will explain their process and answers. Completion of Algebra I prepares students to continue their study of mathematics in Algebra II.

## **Algebra II (High school level class)**

This course advances topics taught in Algebra I. Additional study of polynomials, exponents, radicals, systems of equations and quadratics is included. Right triangle trigonometry, Law of Sines and Law of Cosines are studied.

## **Accelerated Algebra II and Trigonometry (High school level)**

Advances topics taught in Algebra 1, but topics are taught in an analytic geometry setting where possible. The course contains the same topics as the regular Algebra 2 but advances the depth of coverage. This course is intended to meet the needs of students needing higher mathematics for college. Middle school students are placed in this class based on placement testing.

## **Geometry (High school level class)**

This course develops deductive thinking and teaches fundamentals of plane and solid geometry. Geometric shapes and their properties and measurements are studied as well as right triangle trigonometry. It is intended for college bound students. Applications to everyday life are included where possible.

## **Developmental Reading**

This literacy intervention course reinforces fundamental reading skills. Emphasis is on sentence writing proficiency, comprehension, and fluency. Students will grow in confidence while being accelerated toward grade-level proficiency. This course is typically taken concurrent with a student's grade level language arts course. Prerequisite: Recommendation of middle school principal; standardized test scores.

## **Language Arts 1**

Students develop the ability to construct and convey meaning through writing, listening, spelling, editing, speaking, and reading. Students will learn a variety of reading genres and elements of literature. They will explore different writing styles in a variety of essays and formal writing assignments. They will analyze the basics of English grammar through daily exercises and activities.

## **Language Arts 2**

Students develop the ability to construct and convey meaning through writing, listening, spelling, editing, speaking, and reading. Students will review the basic grammar principles while exploring new grammar rules and tendencies. Students will explore different genres in literature with a primary focus on poetry. Students will develop a wide range of writing strategies through essays and other formal writing techniques.

## **Language Arts 3**

Students develop the ability to construct and convey meaning through writing, listening, editing, speaking, and reading. Students will review the basic grammar principles while exploring new grammar rules and tendencies. Students will explore different genres in literature through the use of novels and story excerpts. A focus on writing and public speaking projects will be a key principle.

## **World Literature and Intermediate Grammar**

(High school level class)

Students delve into the elements of literature and their incorporation into a variety of genre from across the globe. Students learn ways to expand their sentences through the use of complex sentence structures and modifiers. Students will be expected to write essays and a term paper complete with in-text citations and a Works Cited.

**ESL 1: Reading and Writing**

The purpose of this course is to provide international students, whose primary language is not English, with a variety of reading and writing experiences in English to further the development of each student's fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, English grammar and general writing skills in American English.

**ESL 2: Speaking and Listening**

The purpose of this course is to provide international students, whose primary language is not English, with a variety of listening and speaking experiences in English to further the development of each student's pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, listening comprehension, English grammar and general speaking skills in American English.

**ESL 2: Grammar and Composition**

The purpose of this course is to provide international students, whose primary language is not English, with grammar, composition, and speaking support while concurrently enrolled in World Literature.

**Middle School Spanish 1A**

Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading/listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices that reinforce vocabulary and grammar. The instructor will use Spanish and English while teaching. Much of the learning is accomplished during the class period itself. Spanish 1A is the equivalent of one semester of high school Spanish 1.

**Middle School Spanish 1B**

Students continue their language learning adventure by progressing to the next level of middle school Spanish. Throughout the course students focus on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar



patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. Spanish 1B is the equivalent of semester 2 of high school Spanish 1.

**Spanish I** (High school level class)

Students develop a working vocabulary for a variety of life situations. Students learn speech patterns through speaking dialogues, composition, reading, and completing several listening labs in which students hear native speakers from many different Spanish-speaking countries.

**Spanish II** (High school level class)

Students continue to strengthen their skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking in Spanish. They will also gain a deeper appreciation for the different Spanish-speaking cultures. Emphasis is placed on applying grammar concepts and enhancing oral proficiency through a variety of activities.

**German I** (High school level class)

Students learn written and spoken German. Students gain confidence in speaking German through memorizing vocabulary and idioms, studying grammar and syntax, and learning about German culture through videos and CDs.

**German II** (High school level class)

Students expand knowledge of German vocabulary, idioms, forms, and syntax; and develop conversations in various social settings, such as school, at home, in restaurants, and other leisure-time activities.

**Mandarin Chinese I** (High school level class)

Students are introduced to the sounds, basic grammar, and vocabulary of Mandarin, along with the Chinese writing system. They participate in basic and practical conversation and character recognition.

**Mandarin Chinese II** (High school level class)

Students continue to develop a working vocabulary in speaking and writing Mandarin by being involved in real life situations.

**Bible A:** This course is an introduction to Christianity. The class will explore the meaning and purpose of God’s Word for our daily life. Students will examine Scripture and seek to apply God’s word to their own heart as well as to situations within the home, their church and culture.

**Bible B:** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to God’s great exchange—how he sent his Son, Jesus, to take our place of punishment for sin. This course also takes students from creation to Moses, with a very brief introduction to the 10 Commandments. The second semester takes the student through the Gospels/Life of Jesus.

**Bible C:** The purpose of this course is to give the students a basic knowledge of the Bible, who God is, the 10 Commandments, the fulfillment of prophecies of the Old Testament, and the New Testament Church. Most importantly, the students will hear throughout this course the saving message of Christ crucified, died, and raised for all of the world throughout all eternity.

### **Art**

Students will learn about many artists and art periods. Students will create works using a variety of techniques, mediums and tools, allowing them to express themselves through their work.

### **Vocal Music**

This course seeks to provide foundations in vocal technique, choral singing, music theory, and music appreciation. Students participate in written, oral, and online activities and perform in required Christmas Concert, Twin Cities Fine Arts Festival and Spring Musical.

### **Instrumental Music**

This course will combine instrumental playing, music theory, and music appreciation. Students will play individually and in a group. The students will have regular assignments in their specific instrument, in which a theory book and technology will be used.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

This course provides students with opportunities to engage in physical activity, both through team and individual sports and through personal fitness. The goal is to provide students with countless examples of ways you can be physically active throughout their lifetime. In 6th grade PE, students participate

together in sports and activities together throughout the semester. In 7-8th grade, students are split into two groups in which they rotate between two instructors on sports and physical fitness activities. Groups are split depending on class size and scheduling.

## **LEARNING PROGRAMS**

### **Intro to Middle School** (grade 6 only)

This course is designed to help ease the transition from elementary school to middle school. Students will learn skills and characteristics for success. There will be a rotation of modules as students work on organization, technology in the classroom, typing, writing, and leadership. Their final project (Genius Hour) for the year will be a compilation of the skills and strategies they have worked on throughout the year.

### **HOMEROOM**

Three times a week, students will focus on an area of life preparation in their homerooms. The purpose of the homeroom course is to assist students in acquiring basic life skills. Some of the topics for this include:

- Conflict resolution
- Peer pressure
- Etiquette and manners
- Christian leadership
- Christian decision-making
- Goal setting
- Study Skills

### **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

Throughout the school year, students participate in experiential learning opportunities, including two overnight trips, as well as local day trips. The goal of these activities is for students to see that learning takes place beyond the classroom walls.

### **LEARNING RESOURCE PROGRAM**

The Learning Resource Program seeks to better meet the learning needs of students and their families who desire a Christian education at St. Croix. This formal program aids students with learning needs to experience success at school, as well as provide much needed support for their families and teachers. A Learning Resource Center is used with the program to conduct specialized study halls before, during, and after the school day.

## **COURSES SAMPLE**

This is what an average class schedule could look like per grade. Because of ability grouping, mainly for math and language arts, students from all middle school grades may be in the same courses. U.S. History, World Cultures, and World History are on a three year rotation with all grades combined in one course each year.

\* Placement tests will determine the course for math and language arts.

### **Grade 6 Courses**

World Cultures  
Science  
STEM  
Math 1 or 2\*  
Language Arts 1 or 2\*  
Religion A, B, or C  
Physical Education  
Art  
Music (Vocal or Instrumental)  
Intro to Middle School

### **Grade 7 Courses**

U.S. History  
Science  
STEM  
Math 1 or 2, Algebra 1\*  
Language Arts 2 or 3\*  
Religion A, B, or C  
Physical Education  
Art  
Music (Vocal or Instrumental)  
World Language

### **Grade 8 Courses**

World History  
Science  
STEM  
Math 2, Algebra 1, Algebra 2  
Language Arts 2 or 3, World Lit. and Intermediate Grammar\*  
Religion A, B, or C  
Physical Education  
Art  
Music (Vocal or Instrumental)  
World Language

## **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **Athletics**

St. Croix Middle School competes in volleyball, football, basketball, baseball, and track. In addition, students in grades 7 and 8 may join the following high school teams: soccer, cross country, girls swimming, bowling, dance, wrestling, hockey, girls tennis, track, golf, softball, and lacrosse.

### **Fine Arts**

Fine arts activities include a drama production in the spring, a public speaking festival, and several concerts during the school year. Students in grades 7 and 8 are invited to join the high school speech team.

### **Clubs**

- Speech
- Math
- Robotics
- Introduction to the Weight Room
- Video Recording Arts
- Youth in Government
- International Mentors

## Quality Christian Education

- 470 students in grades 6-12, average of 60 in grades 6-8
- Diverse student body – 17 countries and 5 states represented
- 95% of grads go on to post-secondary education
- 38 instructors – 70% with master's degrees
- 18:1 student to teacher ratio
- Average class size is 20
- Chapel worship and Bible classes a part of student schedules
- Learning Resource Center
- 88% of classrooms equipped with interactive whiteboard or smart TV technology
- 100% of campus equipped with wireless internet access

To schedule a personal visit, contact:  
Nate Kallies, Middle School Principal  
NKallies@StCroixLutheran.org  
651-455-1521 x1105



St. Croix Lutheran Academy  
1200 Oakdale Avenue  
West St. Paul, MN 55118  
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