

Introduction

The St. Louis Lutheran Elementary School Association, a consortium of Lutheran elementary schools, Lutheran high schools, and other Lutheran related educational agencies in the metro St. Louis area, has produced this computer curriculum guide for teachers. LESA exists to foster cooperation among the St. Louis area Lutheran schools, to provide the impetus to continue improving the educational programs offered at our Lutheran schools, and to provide opportunities for teachers to grow professionally. We express our thanks to the Lutheran Foundation, to our local congregations and schools, and to the *No Child Left Behind* federal act for providing the encouragement and funding to undertake these projects. As teachers are better equipped to teach, and children are better prepared for the world in which they live and function, God's Kingdom can flourish and His gospel can be more effectively spread to all. May this be our goal so that He may be glorified.

Rationale

Computers have become accepted as an integral part of education in the world today. While some teachers are still reluctant to utilize them in the educational process, students are not served well if the computer is not an important tool in their education. It is our responsibility to equip our students to live, learn, and work successfully in an increasingly complex and information-rich society.

We believe that God has created these marvels of technology for our good. It is our challenge to enable our students to utilize these gifts to his glory and to the welfare of themselves and the world in which they live.

It is our premise that students are best served when the computer is viewed as a tool for research, for communicating, for publishing, for problem solving, and for multi-media presentations. It is our responsibility to enable our students to become effective information technology users, problem solvers and decision-makers, critical analyzers and evaluators of information, and responsible users of technology. It is our contention that students are best served when technology is integrated into the curriculum and computer skills are not taught in isolation.

The committee relied heavily on the International Society for Technology in Education and their Standards for Students as they designed this curriculum guide. The committee has also included parts of the Standards for Teachers as a resource for teachers in our Lutheran schools.

It has been the goal of the committee to make this guide as easy to read and “user friendly” as possible. We hope that each faculty will devote time to the study of this guide, adapt it for local conditions as needed, and then implement it.

Directions for Using this Guide

Standards or objectives for students are listed for three levels, preschool through grade 2, grades 3 through 5, and grades 6 through 8. Standards for teachers are also included.

The bulk of this document consists of activities for students. Committee members attempted to include activities of varying complexity. Standards that are being addressed by that activity, the technology needed, specific objectives for students to accomplish and a description of the activity are included.

Committee members also included best web sites of which they were aware. Users should realize that these addresses may change or disappear. Thus, it is important for teachers to continually update their list of best web sites.

Recommended software and some print resources are also included. Finally a basic glossary is included.

Each school will receive a CD which has the curriculum formatted in a PDF file and in Microsoft Word. This will be especially helpful for faculties as they revise the guide for their school and for easily accessing websites. The curriculum may also be downloaded directly from the LESA website; www.lesanet.org.

Committee Members

Computer Curriculum Committee, PS—8 2002

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