

The Curriculum at Lansing Christian School

What do you mean by curriculum?

Curriculum is defined as planned learning experiences over which teachers have some influence. Essentially, the curriculum is both what we teach and the materials and resources we use with students.

Who is responsible for the curriculum at LCS?

The curriculum is planned and articulated at the school level through subject-area departments with review and approval by educational leadership. It is also part of a teacher's craft and expertise to design how they implement the curriculum and integrate faith formation. LCS teachers have the responsibility and flexibility to plan specific learning activities and integrate faith formation in all subjects.

What is the role of textbooks in the curriculum?

Our curriculum is necessarily broader than and not synonymous with *textbooks*. Some, but not all, grades and courses use textbooks. They are a teaching resource that can provide a scope and sequence and consistency for teachers and help align with state standards.

How is the curriculum determined and designed?

Our role is to equip students to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ. Foundational knowledge is a primary tool with which we equip students. To support our commitment to honoring God through academic excellence, foundational knowledge starts with faithfulness with established external standards (e.g., state or national standards). Decisions to modify or to not address one or more standards are made at the subject-area department level in line with a biblical worldview and LCS's mission and vision. Departments should clearly identify such standards for school administration.

From there, teachers determine both short-term learning targets and formational long-term learning targets along with their departments. We consider all learning to be sacred. Each subject incorporates formational learning experiences that situate learning in God's story of Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration. Teachers design opportunities for students to practice their faith through their content learning across grades and subjects.

How are textbooks and other materials selected?

Textbooks and other primary teaching resources are selected at the department level through a five-year curriculum review cycle and are approved by the Educational Leadership team. Factors considered include faithfulness to standards, additional materials offered, rigor and appropriateness of activities, age-appropriateness and the authenticity of student resources, etc.

Since LCS is an interdenominational school, we recognize Christian families hold different perspectives on a variety of topics, including complex topics (e.g. creation and evolution). Thus, we select curriculum materials from a variety of publishers and ensure that materials shared with students are consistent with the school's mission and vision.