

The VOICE

May 2022

Missouri District Newsletter

Why is a Lutheran education important? In this crazy world? Are you kidding?! There's sanity, there's stability, and there's truth—and the truth has set us free. You don't get that in the public sector.

Dr. Cary Stelmachowicz, The Lutheran High School of Kansas City



In This Issue: Lutheran High Schools Across Missouri
Pictured: The Lutheran High School of Kansas City

From the President's Desk

Lutheran High Schools Prepare Servants for Service Across Missouri and Even Across the World

This issue of the Missouri District VOICE focuses on our nine Lutheran high schools located throughout the state. Families across Missouri are blessed to be able to have their children receive a Christ-centered education. With combined enrollment of nearly 2000 students, these schools have the opportunity to make disciples of young people through worship and study, co-curricular activities and relationship building. We hope that you will be encouraged and blessed to learn more about these schools.

It is good for us to be reminded why we operate Lutheran schools. There are many differences between our Lutheran schools and public schools. The primary difference always comes down to the goal of our teaching is always that students are brought to and kept in saving faith in Christ and are therefore heirs of eternal life. Additionally, teaching a Christian worldview in our schools prepares young people for lives of service in Christ's name, both within the Church and out into the world. The Lutheran understanding of vocation helps young people to see how God uses them and the gifts and abilities that they have received from Him to serve God and their neighbor.

While public schools are often enslaved to cultural agendas, our schools teach that children have value based upon God creating them in His own image and that they are all children for whom Christ died. Our schools help students understand service, marriage, family, citizenship, and work from a Christian worldview. Our schools provide a place of refuge where teachers help them to see God's design for the world and their own lives.

We need Lutheran schools now more than ever before. Our students are well prepared for college and life. Lutheran high school graduates end up being led by God across the globe in countless forms of service. And the lessons that they learn at those Lutheran high schools will last throughout their respective lifetimes as they serve.

In 2004, an international student began her studies at Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia. During the course of the year, after sitting through religion classes and school chapels, she requested to be baptized. The Holy Spirit continued to be at work through the Word of God and she decided to attend college at one of our Concordia Universities. Today, she serves in Asia at one of our International schools. We thank God for all of the students and families that He continues to touch across Missouri and even around the world through our Lutheran high schools. Please support their vital work with your prayers and your gifts. Lastly, encourage families to send their children to one of these schools. It is one of the most important investments that they can make in their children's lives.

Fraternally in Christ,



President Lee Hagan



Missouri District College Fair – Coming Fall 2022 –

The Missouri District will be hosting a college fair this fall for youth and their parents to learn more about the colleges of the Concordia University System. Representatives from the Concordias will be present so that families can learn more about their respective programs and financial aid and scholarships. This also provides a great opportunity for pastors, teachers, D.C.E.'s, and other church leaders to encourage young people to consider church work vocations. Watch The VOICE and Missouri District social media for more information on the college fair and begin thinking of young people to encourage to attend.



The Lutheran High School of Kansas City

Location: Kansas City

Enrollment: 105



Located on the southern side of Kansas City, The Lutheran High School of Kansas City likes to set an atmosphere of grace. "We try and be role models to show to demonstrate Christ's love and forgiveness," says Executive Director Cary Stelmachowicz. "That's how we treat our students, that's how we treat each other, and that's what we want for them to do." LHSKC offers a winter interim program which gives students hands on experience in their area of interest(s). Designed similarly to a college class, everyone takes one class in the first part of January. It can be on or off campus with a wide subject variety. Past experiences have included things like motorcycling, film, and a marine biology class that travels to California. LHSKC continues to grow, welcoming their largest incoming class next fall.





Our Savior Christian Academy

Location: Platte City & Smithville **Enrollment:** 28

On the north side of Kansas City there is a unique and growing school: Our Savior Christian Academy. OSCA has two campuses, both with a focus on students having ownership of their learning and environment. Though they are a smaller high school, that doesn't stop them from engaging in extracurricular activities like theater and sports. They have also offered gun and hunter safety classes and an outdoor education program thanks to grants from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the National Rifle Association.

But it's more than academics and fun activities. "Our mission hasn't changed over the past fifteen years in offering excellence in faith-based education," says Julie Kurtz of OSCA, "We care deeply about sharing the Gospel and providing an outstanding school experience. Our Savior Christian Academy is not only educating children in reading, writing, and arithmetic, but we are building up disciples in Jesus Christ. We pray our efforts give children the confidence to go out into the world to show the light of Jesus to others."



St. Paul Lutheran High School

Location: Farmington **Enrollment:** 64

St. Paul's in Farmington is the only Christian high school in their county, which means their students come from a variety of background. And, according to principal Andy Sherrill, for many students at St. Paul it's the only place students get to hear about Jesus. Service is an important aspect to the fabric of St. Paul's. So for two days a year, the entire school goes out and serves in the community. In the last few years, the school has helped when tornadoes came through the area.



"Lutheran High school education is so important," explains Principal Andy Sherrill. "It's important because kids definitely need to see the light of Christ in an increasingly dark world. And the freedom to do that exists in a Lutheran high school."





Lutheran High School

Location: St. Charles County **Enrollment:** 436

LHS is perceived as a College Prep school, but they are much more than that—LHS is Life Prep. During the semester, students are enrolled in four courses that meet daily. Courses once taught over the entire school year are now taught in one semester, similar to colleges and universities nationwide. LHS has the distinct honor of being one of the few high schools in the State of Missouri endorsed by the Missouri Department of Education to award the Seal of Biliteracy to its students. Athletics are also a core component of Personal Growth and Life Prep, with many teams winning state championships. LHS also offers over 20 clubs and emphasizes community service throughout the school year.

"The core of LHS goes beyond academics and technology," notes Glenn Mahnken of LHS, "...Our students are our finest spokespersons; recently, students were asked what they liked about Lutheran High, and one student captured why Lutheran education is important far better than I can. The student responded, 'The teachers have helped me seek a better relationship with God.' That is why Lutheran high school education is important!"



Saxony Lutheran High

Location: Jackson

Enrollment: 214



Saxony is a high school that is very engaged with its community. Not only is there a focus on service, but they host many events to bring in community members, like their veterans appreciation day. Saxony has a strong academic pursuit—they have the highest ACT score of any school in Southeast MO. But

for being a smaller high school, they have a wide variety of extracurricular programs: theater, sports, scholar bowl, esports, and they also have a very active Future Farmers of America program.



We can share God's truth as students are ready to go out into the world and make an impact for themselves. They're not just learning information; they're learning how to use it to share God's love to others.

— Judy Fuchs, Counselor



Calvary Lutheran High School

Location: Jefferson City

Enrollment: 97

In the heart of central Missouri lies Calvary Lutheran High School. With a focus on forgiveness—and therefore acceptance—they find that their students don't feel the need to prove their worth. They are very intentional about nurturing a relationally-driven approach, which includes hosting new student retreats and game nights in the summer. But academics and extracurricular activities are also important at Calvary. In archery and scholar bowl, for example, Calvary students compete and place well against schools of all sizes.

"In a world of high winds (of change) and crashing waves, it is crucial that all Christians are anchored in the truth and grace of Jesus Christ," says Executive Director John Christman, "We can intentionally teach this in all subjects to Christian young adults at Calvary Lutheran High School. Our graduates are prepared to engage the world. 'Wise as serpents, but innocent as doves.'"



Saint Paul Lutheran High School

Location: Concordia

Enrollment: 198



Saint Paul is the oldest Lutheran high school in the LCMS, and it's a residential high school, so there are domestic and international students living on campus. Sometimes their international students come from countries where learning about Jesus is illegal! In addition to strong athletics, Saint Paul also has many extra-curricular outlets. Their choir has gone on tour for the last 50 years and has sung at places like Carnegie Hall and in Europe. While Covid slightly decreased the number of international students, Saint Paul has seen an increase of families who are concerned about public school policies. "Lutheran education has a long history of being high quality education that starts young students out on the road to success in life," notes Clint Colwell, Director of Admissions, "Our commitment to our mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all of our students has a global impact from our little town of Concordia, MO. The Lutheran School commitment of doing what's right in the face of what is or is not socially acceptable sets Lutheran schools apart. Come for the education, stay for the truth."





Lutheran High School South

Location: St. Louis

Enrollment: 450

Lutheran South is the largest Lutheran high school in our District, but their size doesn't detract from the focus being on the education of future Christians. "We believe students need community more than ever," says Kippin Schelp, Communications and Marketing Director for Lutheran High North and Lutheran High South. "The isolation that Covid brought to some reinforced those beliefs. Teenagers get so caught up in their image, their ACT score, their place on a team, or chair in band. Our mission is to remind students every day that their true identity is in Christ, that they are saved and loved by their Creator, and that no test grade, date to prom, or finish in a race, will ever change that." Lutheran South also converted a classroom into a courtroom last year so they can practice mock trial easier. Over 40 students participate and they made it to state quarterfinals last year.



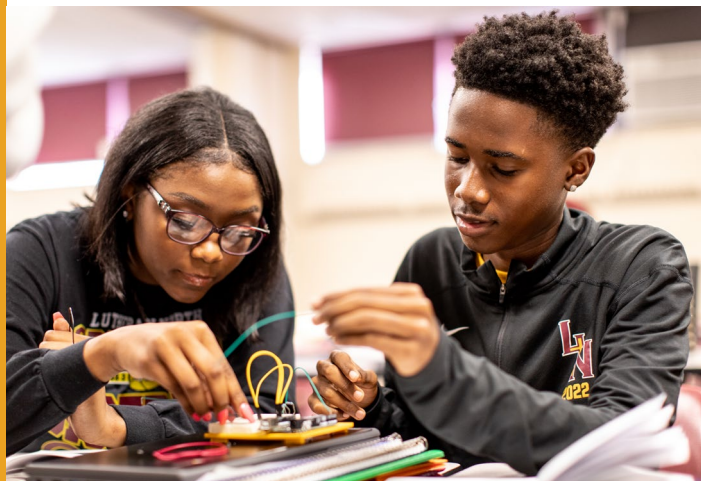
Lutheran North Middle & High School

Location: St. Louis

Enrollment: 325



Lutheran North has been a pillar in their community for 75 years. More than half of their 325 students are not Lutheran, making it a beautiful opportunity for sharing the gospel. In addition to the 14 state championships and 120+ district championships in athletics, Lutheran North added an esports team this year to give students the opportunity to collaborate and offer more scholarship opportunities outside of sports. The equipment for the team was funded through partnerships with other organizations.



Lutheran North was the first school in the St. Louis metro area to have virtual learning. They began using it in 2014, well ahead of Covid. This offered them a great head start when they moved into extended virtual learning in 2020. When they brought students back to campus, they installed an air-purification system and set many protocols in place to ensure the safety of the students. They even had a few students transfer into the school due to public schools not offering these options.



A student at Lutheran North.

Upcoming Events

Visit mo.lcms.org/upcoming-events for more information on these events.



District Convention

June 12 – 14

Check out the Convention workbook, now online.



Missouri District NYG Event in Houston

July 9

The National Youth Gathering is July 9-13, 2022.



College Fair

Fall 2022

Learn about the Concordia Universities in one place!



2022 Pastors Conference

October 23 – 25

Featuring speakers Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann & Rev. Dr. Richard Serina.

For more news from the District office, sign up for email communications at mo.lcms.org and follow us on social media.



Missouri District

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