

WELS Theology Curriculum Guiding Principles (Infancy – 5K) & Standards (1st – 12th Grades): THANKFUL CHILDREN

Picture of a Graduate Statement: THANKFUL CHILDREN of God who delight in communing with God through public worship as well as personal devotion and prayer.															
	Infants	Toddlers	3K	4K	5K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	MS Grade 6	MS Grade 7	MS Grade 8	HS (9 – 10)	HS (11 – 12)
	Guiding Principles					Standards									
	Continuum for Developmentally Appropriate Practices					Standards									
Acquisition: Christian Gratitude as a Response	Witness expressions of gratitude as children of God.	Listen to or participate in simple expressions of gratitude as children of God.	Participate in simple expressions of gratitude as children of God.	Participate in expressions of gratitude as children of God.	Express gratitude as children of God by participating in simple forms of worship.	Identify the reasons for and characteristics of being a thankful child of God, drawing from biblical accounts.	Identify the reasons for and characteristics of being a thankful child of God, drawing from biblical accounts, worship settings, and everyday life.	Describe the reasons for and characteristics of being a thankful child of God, drawing from biblical accounts, worship settings, and everyday life.	Explain the reasons for and meaning of being a thankful child of God, connecting the explanation to biblical accounts.	Explain the reasons for and the meaning of being a thankful child of God, connecting the explanation to biblical accounts and to reflections on worship settings and everyday life.	Reflect on personal experiences and blessings, connecting them to God's provision and grace and living worship-filled lives in all settings.	Reflect on personal experiences and blessings, connecting them to God's provision and grace, and connect gratitude to identity and purpose in Christ.	Demonstrate in multiple settings gratitude for their new identity and purpose that is found through God's grace in Christ.	Demonstrate in multiple settings gratitude for their new identity and purpose that is found through God's grace in Christ by further developing personal skills.	Demonstrate in multiple settings gratitude for their new identity and purpose that is found through God's grace in Christ by further developing personal skills and by encouraging others to do the same.
Understanding: Importance of Public Worship	Witness worship, singing songs and listening to God's Word.	Listen to or participate in forms of worship, such as singing songs and listening to God's Word.	Participate in forms of worship, such as singing songs and listening to God's Word.	Participate in forms of worship, such as singing songs and listening to God's Word.	Participate in worship activities.	Identify simple elements of active worship (for example: listening to God's Word, remembering their baptism, or singing hymns).	Describe simple elements of active worship (for example: listening to God's Word, remembering their baptism, or singing hymns).	Identify increasingly complex elements of public worship (for example: the liturgy or the seasons of the church).	Describe the purpose of increasingly complex elements of public worship (for example: the liturgy or the seasons of the church).	Recognize and explain how each element of public worship and Bible study deepens a relationship with God and strengthens faith.	Recognize and explain how each element of public worship and Bible study deepens a relationship with God and strengthens faith.	Analyze the importance of the Means of Grace (Gospel, Baptism, and Lord's Supper) as a vital part and blessing of public worship and as a means to deepen a relationship with God and strengthen faith.	Analyze the importance of the Means of Grace (Gospel, Baptism, and Lord's Supper) as a vital part and blessing of public worship and as a means to deepen a relationship with God and strengthen faith.	Articulate the importance of the Means of Grace as a vital blessing of public worship to deepen a relationship with God and strengthen faith.	Articulate the importance of the Means of Grace as a vital blessing of public worship to deepen a relationship with God and strengthen faith.
Integration: Personal Spiritual Growth Opportunities	Witness prayer and devotions.	Listen to prayer and devotions.	Participate in prayer and devotions.	Recite prayers and participate in devotions.	(with teacher guidance) Participate in personal devotion activities, such as prayer and meditating on God's Word.	(with teacher guidance) Participate in opportunities for personal spiritual growth including prayer, devotions, and meditating on God's Word.	(with teacher guidance) Participate in opportunities for personal spiritual growth including prayer, devotions, and meditating on God's Word.	Discuss and practice opportunities for personal spiritual growth including prayer, devotions, and meditating on God's Word.	Discuss and practice opportunities for personal spiritual growth including prayer, devotions, and meditating on God's Word.	Demonstrate a variety of personal spiritual growth practices, including prayer, devotions, and meditating on God's Word.	Demonstrate a variety of personal spiritual growth practices.	Demonstrate a variety of personal spiritual growth practices.	Demonstrate a variety of personal spiritual growth practices.	Demonstrate a variety of personal spiritual growth practices.	Demonstrate a variety of personal spiritual growth practices.