

Lutheran Academic Standards

Fine Arts

Knowing that we are clay in the Potter’s hand (Isaiah 64:8), that each of us has been given gifts that “differ according to the grace given to us” (Romans 12:6), that we are “his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works” (Ephesians 2:10), and that whatever is lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise is to be our focus (Philippians 4:8), Lutheran schools are blessed to embrace and use the fine arts to share Jesus Christ and His Word and to flourish in our various vocations.

The Creator made all of creation out of nothing and called all that He had made “good” (e.g., Genesis 1:24). The last thing that God created was a man and woman who were “created . . . in his own image,” and He called that part of His creation “very good” (Genesis 1:27, 31). Being created in God’s image gave humans the ability not only to appreciate His beautiful creation but also to use the good things of His creation to make beautiful things of their own design.

The fine arts nurture students’ God-given creativity by fostering artistic skills, encouraging meaningful expression, and sharing biblical truths. Through exploration, reflection, and creation, students develop an admiration and gratitude for the arts as a gift from God and a means to serve, inspire, and communicate His love to the world.

These standards are not divided by grade levels; the Lutheran Academic Anchor Standards will serve as the Portrait of a Graduate of any Lutheran School.

| General Content Standard | National Anchor Standard | Lutheran Academic Anchor Standard | Scripture Connections |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| FA1 | NCAS 1 | Students will identify themselves as children of the Creator and recognize that they are created in God’s image. | <p>“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion.’ . . . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:26–27)</p> <p>“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31)</p> <p>“But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8)</p> |

Lutheran Academic Standards

| | | | |
|-----|--------|---|--|
| FA2 | NCAS 7 | Students will examine the breadth and depth of the Creator and His creation. | <p>“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11)</p> <p>“Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!” (Psalm 103:22)</p> <p>“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)</p> <p>“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.” (1 Timothy 4:4–5)</p> |
| FA3 | NCAS 2 | Students will explore and discuss how God has equipped them as image-bearers for artistic creation. | <p>“He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer.” (Exodus 35:35)</p> <p>“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)</p> |
| FA4 | NCAS 6 | Students will apply and utilize their God-given artistic gifts and talents, in concert with their biblical worldview, while serving in their vocations. | <p>“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” (Genesis 2:15)</p> |

Lutheran Academic Standards

| | | | |
|-----|--------|--|--|
| | | | <p>“You have an abundance of workmen: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and all kinds of craftsmen without number, skilled in working gold, silver, bronze, and iron. Arise and work! The LORD be with you!” (1 Chronicles 22:15–16)</p> <p>“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:6–8)</p> |
| FA5 | NCAS 5 | Students will demonstrate good stewardship of their God-given gifts and talents to develop and make use of their artistic and creative mindsets, habits, skills, dispositions, and imaginations. | <p>“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)</p> <p>“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)</p> |
| FA6 | NCAS 9 | Students will analyze and evaluate the arts from a biblical perspective and how they convey meaning and purpose for individuals and communities (i.e., answering life’s big questions). | <p>“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.” (Psalm 139:14)</p> <p>“But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.” (Matthew 10:30)</p> <p>“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)</p> |

Lutheran Academic Standards

| | | | |
|-----|---------|---|--|
| FA7 | NCAS 10 | Students will recognize and identify their God-given artistic gifts and talents and offer them in worship, church work, service to others, and sharing the Gospel throughout the world. | <p>“David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brothers as the singers who should play loudly on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise sounds of joy.” (1 Chronicles 15:16)</p> <p>“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.” (Psalm 95:1–3)</p> <p>“I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.” (Psalm 104:33)</p> |
| FA8 | NCAS 11 | Students will foster and inspire participation, collaboration, and communication in community and ministry settings through the arts and artistic expression. | |
| FA9 | NCAS 6 | Students will grow in their understanding and appreciation of how the arts can be used to witness, inspire, and connect people to Jesus Christ and His Word. | <p>“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)</p> <p>“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!” (Psalm 118:1)</p> |

NCAS=National Core Art Standards