

21st Century Skills

Curriculum Supplement

**St. John's Lutheran
Church and School**



Connecting People with Jesus

Table of Contents

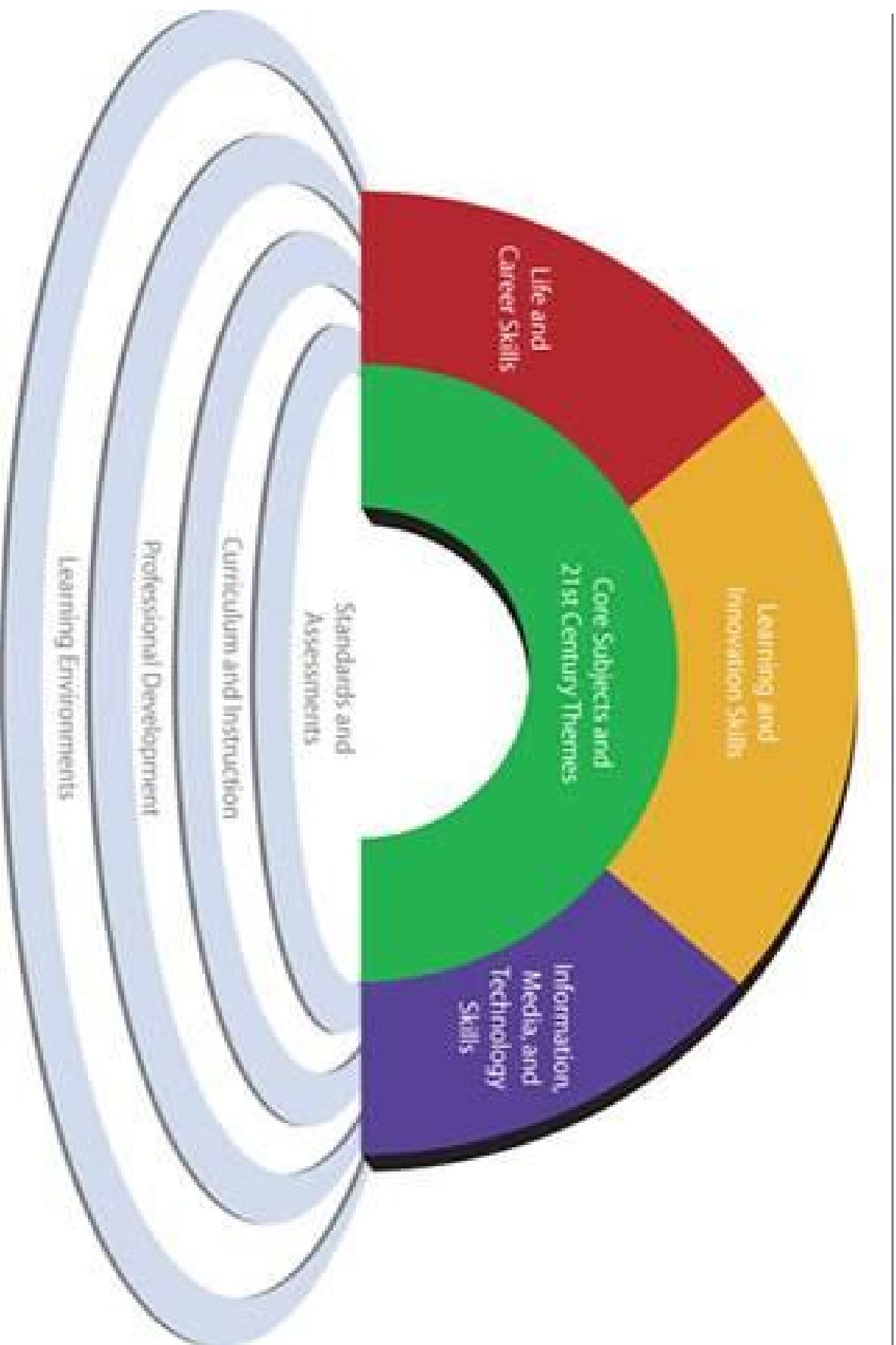
	<u>Pg #</u>
1) Purpose Statement for our 21st Century Skills Inclusion	3
2) 21st Century Skills Framework	4
3) List of 21st Century Skills	5
4) Explanation of Skills	6 - 8

The Purpose of Including 21st Century Skills in St. John's Lutheran School Curriculum

At St. John's Lutheran School we are making an intentional push to include the 21st Century Skills movement into our curriculum. We want parents to know that we care so much about our students' futures that we are intentionally integrating these skills into our core curriculum so that we can best prepare them for THEIR future. Our goal is to help each student build practical 21st Century Skills for THEIR future that are connected to the core school curriculum. This of course will include more integration of technology into our curriculum. God has blessed us with these technological tools and we want to use them to both enhance our curriculum, and to further the ministry that God has called us to do. These skills though are aptitudes and abilities developed with our students that are not tied to specific hardware or software tools.

These skills were adapted from the 21st century skills framework (see a picture of the framework on the next page) that was created by the Partnership For 21st Century Skills (see <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org> for more information). This partnership is a coming together of the educational and business community to best prepare our students of today to be successful when they enter the work force (an ever changing and developing work force) of tomorrow.

We at St. John's want our students to be good stewards of the gifts and talents that God has given them, and we feel that a very important way in which we can do this is to try and provide our students with these skills sets so they can go out and be successful and productive members of the work force, of society, and of course the church.



St. John's Lutheran School List of 21st Century Skills

1. The ability to use technology in God-pleasing ways for ministry and personal productivity, and in keeping with good digital citizenship practices
2. The ability to analyze information and sources critically for accuracy and relevancy
3. The ability to communicate effectively through the spoken word
4. The ability to communicate effectively through the written word
5. The ability to collaborate effectively with others -- even with those whom you may not personally know
6. The ability to be self-motivated to be a life-long learner
7. The ability to create, innovate, and problem solve independently and collaboratively
8. The ability to act and think globally

Explanation of the 21st Century Skills

- The ability to use technology in God-pleasing ways for ministry and personal productivity, and in keeping with good digital citizenship practices

Explanation: This first skill or aptitude is a unique role or skill for the Lutheran School. Here we get to teach students productive, God-pleasing use of the technology tools that He has provided for us. We place a classroom emphasis on God-pleasing technology use. We see this play out in discussions and activities about our school wide Acceptable Use Policy, digital citizenships practices, file and music sharing/downloading, copyright and plagiarism rules, and cyberbullying.

- The ability to analyze information and sources critically for accuracy and relevancy

Explanation: This next skill is becoming so very important in today world. Students are bombarded with so much information, from so many sources today that it is overwhelming for them to process it all. The ability to analyze needed information for accuracy, bias, etc. is becoming more and more important. As a matter of fact many are calling this skill, "the new literacy", and that it will have to be adept at this to be successful learners. Students also need to know what are the best sources for the information they are seeking (using search engines, archives, etc.), and to detect what sources are best for their use (identifying hoax sites and the like).

- The ability to communicate effectively through the spoken word

Explanation: This skill of course is not a new skill; it has been important all along. The traditional speech or oral report are still important, but in today's society there are so many more ways and opportunities for students to communicate orally, Collaborating with conference calls, presentations by computer with the presenter in another state or country, online learning or podcasting; these are just some of the new forms of oral communication used today. In these instances the communications are done face to face, where the speaker or presenter can see the

faces and reactions of their audience. Students need to become skilled in this type of communication.

- The ability to communicate effectively through the written word

Explanation: This is another skill that is not new, and that has always been important. Today though there are so many more tools and avenues for one to communicate through written word. Blogging has become an ever more important and popular way for people to communicate their thoughts and knowledge. Technical writing has become much more abundant and important. Also students will be taking many more online classes in the future, and they will need to know how to effectively interact in online forums and such (to disagree agreeably, to effectively communicate ideas and perspectives, to collaborate to accomplish a goal, etc.).

- The ability to collaborate effectively with others -- even with those whom you may not personally know

Explanation: In the world of work today it is becoming so much more important for people to effectively work in teams or groups to accomplish a project. One's "grades" in the work place are more often group or team "grades" based on work and accomplishment. You might be working with people on a project who are in another office, across town, or even in another country. So being able to collaborate effectively with others is becoming more and more important.

- The ability to be self-motivated to be a life-long learner

Explanation: Statistics show that the average high school students will have had 7 different jobs (let alone careers) by the time they are 35. With the ever changing workforce (and the ever changing demands of the workforce) students are going to need to know where to go to find and learn the skills they need in order to be successful. Workers will more often than not be responsible for their own professional development and we need to start working with the students to help develop this skill to assist them with this development in the future. This is a tough skill to provide tangible experiences with the students to help them develop this skill so this skill is continually a work in progress.

- The ability to create, innovate, and problem solve independently and collaboratively

Explanation: In talking with many business leaders in our community it became apparent to me that those who are most successful in the business world are not those necessarily with certain specific degrees or skills, but more often than not it is those who are able to problem solve most effectively and find solutions either independently or getting a group together and leading them to a solution (often in a new or innovative manner). We will be working on this skill by working on problem solving activities, working with simulations and other programs that allow students to create and innovate (i.e. Scratch or Alice).

- The ability to act and think globally

Explanation: As the recent book title states today the "World is Flat", meaning that because of new developments and technologies our world is closer than ever. We need to teach our students to see this, and to think about how what happens locally can affect things world-wide, and vice-versa. We also need to teach students to see different global issues from different cultural perspectives. Our students also need to know what resources they can go to learn about cultures and issue perspectives from around the globe.

- These 21st century skills are a work in progress and how we approach them will be evolving as the needs of the students evolve.