



JOY HOFMEISTER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Joy Hofmeister
DATE: August 15, 2016
SUBJECT: Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship

The First Lutheran Church & School requests approval to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry (LNH) Scholarship for Student with Disabilities program. First Lutheran Church & School is a state and nationally accredited private school since 2004. It was re-accredited this year by the Lutheran School Accreditation Commission, an Oklahoma approved accrediting agency.

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First Lutheran Church & School

1104 N. 4th St—Ponca City, OK 74601

GROW at FIRST



Pastor Jeremy May
580 - 762 - 1111
Principal David Birnbaum
580 - 762 - 9950
School Fax 580-762-4243

July 22, 2016

Oklahoma State Board of Education:

Concerning: Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships

First Lutheran School is interested in becoming eligible to participate in educating a student with disabilities and receiving scholarship assistance.

First Lutheran School has been established since December 31, 1953. Our school teaches Kindergarten to Eighth Grade students with all teachers holding Bachelor Degrees in Education and several with Master Degrees. We have been State and Nationally Accredited since 2004 and were just State re-accredited this year by the Oklahoma approved accrediting agency of the Lutheran School Accreditation Commission. First Lutheran maintains best practices and state and local health and safety laws and codes. We have an antidiscrimination and disciplinary procedure policies that are published, incorporated, and followed. We work closely with the parents/legal guardians to determine best services for meeting the educational needs of the students.

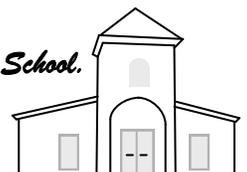
We maintain 15 to 20 students in our Kindergarten and First grade program, 18 to 24 in in our Second to Fifth grade program, and 20 to 28 in our Sixth thru Eighth grade Middle School classrooms. We also have three aides that are assigned to float among three classes each daily. We have hired individuals who come to our campus twice a week for Speech and also for Special Services for students in Kindergarten to Fifth grade. We do STARR Reading and Math computer tests in our First to Eighth program three times a year to monitor growth and we use Iowa Test of Basic Skills in Second to Eighth grade to compare our students Nationally. We also have a free tutoring program after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for students in Second to Eighth grade which is provided by the Parent-Teacher League and supervised by our teachers.

Thank you for considering us as recipients of the Lindsey Nicole Henry funding for students.

David Birnbaum

Principal—David Birnbaum

Growing up, Reaching Out, and Walking together with Jesus at First Lutheran Church & School.



OVERVIEW

FOREWORD

First Lutheran Church & School (established on December 31, 1953) believe that wholeness of life springs from faith and belief in the caring Christ. Therefore, FLS teaches the "whole" child, spiritually, academically, socially, physically, emotionally, and creatively.

The staff, the teachers, the pastor and the congregation pledge to treat each child, each parent, and each family unit with individual attention, and care. Because each child has been created by God as unique and because each child's gifts, circumstances and needs are special, our love and our caring in Christ will be just as personal.

If you want a quality education for your child, wish to give your child a firm spiritual and moral base for the future, and want your child to experience "wholeness" in all aspects of life, First Lutheran Church & School welcomes you to share the caring Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

The combined mission of First Lutheran Church & School is "**G**rowing Up Into Jesus, **R**eaching **O**ut With Jesus, **W**alking Together In Jesus." GROW at FIRST!

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The purpose of First Lutheran Church & School is first and foremost that God in all things may be glorified through his Son, Jesus Christ, to Whom be praise and dominion forever.

In order to accomplish this in an educational setting, we will first provide a Christ centered education for the children of Ponca City and the surrounding communities, who are accepted into our educational program. This education will be available to students, without distinction, because of race, color, sex, handicap, national origin, socioeconomic status, or religious creed. Our aim is to provide an education:

1. that is in accord with the Bible, which we call the Holy Scriptures and believe to be the verbally inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice;
2. that possesses academic excellence, spiritual depth, and moral integrity;
3. that trains students in the knowledge of and obedience to the Holy Scriptures, and promotes loyalty to our God;
4. that prepares pupils for Godly participation in the American society.

First Lutheran Church & School exists as an elementary school which includes classes for children age two through grade eight. It is operated as a non-profit, educational ministry of First Lutheran Church of Ponca City, Oklahoma, and is governed by the voting members of the Church.

First Lutheran Church & School acknowledges the trust placed in the school by the parents and holds in high regard the authority of the home and church. While students are enrolled from many denominations, our school is an extension of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Therefore, we do teach those fundamental beliefs that are unique to our church body.

The goal of the school is, however, to lead each student to a voluntary commitment of his life to the Lordship of Christ; to develop each student's God-given potential; and to lead each student to the spiritual maturity to think through and address the challenges of the world and creation, and thereby glorify God eternally.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY TO STUDENTS

First Lutheran Church & School admits students of any race, color, national origin, or ethnic background to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to the students of the school. First Lutheran Church & School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national origin in the administration of its educational policies, athletic, and/or any other school administered programs.

GRADES PreK-8

Grades PreK-8, accredited by the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the National Lutheran School Accreditation, are an educational opportunity second to none. The children learn: religion, math, spelling, reading, language, handwriting, science, social studies, music, art, foreign language, computer and physical education. To ensure the best curriculum available is being offered, our teachers spend time each year evaluating and adopting new material.

TITLE I – Parent/School Compact Agreement (Homework Policy)

First Lutheran will strive to challenge each individual student to his or her capability. The challenging program at First Lutheran has always required that some work be done at home, such as completing daily assignments and special projects, studying for tests and memory, and reading. Teachers are readily available to discuss questions or concerns. Discuss ways with teachers about how you can help at school and at home.

These strategies are not only necessary for accomplishing immediate goals, but also for creating beneficial habits for future education, which is becoming more and more demanding. Parents can help by doing the following:

Supply a table, chair, proper lighting, and a quiet place conducive to concentration.

Allow enough time to complete assignments before children get tired.

Make sure homework is a priority.

Encourage individual success. Parents should not provide too much help with doing assignments. Checking for habitual mistakes is encouraged.

Make sure all homework, textbooks, and all school items are ready prior to the next school day.

Encourage **prayer** before studying.

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION:

If classroom discipline procedures, detentions, parent conferences or other disciplinary measures do not produce the desired responsible behavior in a student, in-school or out-of-school suspensions or expulsion may be imposed at the discretion of the principal. A permanent expulsion may be appealed to the First Lutheran Board of Education.