**ACADEMIC CLUBS**

**First® Lego® League**

*First Lego League promotes inspiration and recognition of Science and Technology in students. With adult coaches to guide them, First® Lego® League teams apply Science, Engineering, and Math concepts, plus imagination, to develop solutions to real-world challenges. The team will design, build and program Lego Mindstorms®-based robots. These robots will perform autonomous “missions” on a playing field. Along the way, students will develop critical thinking, team-building, and presentation skills. Divine Redeemer currently has teams in 4th-6th grade.*

**Future Problem Solving**

*Future Problem Solving is a year-long program where students in fifth through eighth grade, working in teams of four, learn and apply a six-step problem solving process and apply it to future situations in three practice topics they have researched. The program encourages students to carry out in-depth research, to think creatively and critically, to apply ethical thinking skills and to work as part of a team. Teams ranking high on the third research topic are invited to compete at the state competition. Teams winning the state competition move on to the national competition.*

**All Academic Clubs follow our Extra-curricular Eligibility Guidelines**

*Students participating in academic clubs at Divine Redeemer Lutheran School must meet all three of the following conditions to participate in the program:*

*1. Participants must maintain grades of “C-” or above in all subject areas on report cards.*

*2. Participants must be working at an academic level that is considered keeping with the child’s ability (according to his/her teachers) and must show effort in class participation and assignments.*

*3. Student conduct and behavior must follow the code of student conduct as outlined in the student handbook.*

*If a child fails to meet any of the conditions above the following measures will be taken:*

*1. The child will ineligible to attend practice/meetings (starting Tuesday of that week and continuing to the next week Monday). During the period of ineligibility, the student will use the extra time to improve their grades and get extra help.*

*2. Grades will be updated and checked every Monday. If the student is still ineligible at that check, the student will remain ineligible for another week. After numerous weeks of being ineligible, the student may be too far behind to continue with the club. This decision will be made by the principal.*

***Spirit of the Guidelines***

*The spirit of these guidelines is to encourage the student athlete to be responsible, first and foremost, in their academics and in their behavior. Exceptions to these guidelines have been allowed due to extenuating circumstances. When such circumstances do not exist, and responsibility is not demonstrated in the student’s academic performance or behavior, then the letter of the guidelines will be followed.*

***Practice Guidelines***

*Students may not participate in practices/meetings or competitions if they were not in attendance at school prior to 10:00 A.M. on the day of the practice/meeting or competition. In addition, if a student leaves school early, that student would not be eligible to participate in practice/meeting being held later that day. Physician appointments would be exceptions to this policy.* **ACADEMIC EVENTS/CONTESTS**

**Geographic Bee**

*The Geographic Bee is an educational program of Divine Redeemer that includes a geography competition designed to encourage the study of geography. All students in fifth through eighth grade are asked a series of geography questions. Those students scoring the highest move on to future rounds until a school champion emerges. The school champion is recognized and awarded for their accomplishment.*

**National Spelling Bee**

*The spelling bee consists of a competition for third and fourth grade and another for fifth through eighth grades. All students are given a classroom qualifying test which determines the finalists for the oral spelling bee. The winner from the 5th – 8th grade competition moves on to a regional competition.*

**Forensics Nights**

*Students in fifth through eighth grades are given the opportunity to develop their public speaking ability through a variety of categories such as prose, storytelling, poetry, choral reading, and original compositions. Pieces are presented before judges, and students receive evaluations and ribbons.*

**Knowledge Bowl**

*One sixth, one seventh, one eighth, and one at-large student will comprise the Knowledge Bowl team. The team will compete against the other Lutheran schools answering eighty multiple choice questions and ten short answer questions. The team that answers the most questions correctly is the Knowledge Bowl Champion.*