

## **Lutheran Schools Are The Place to Be!**

Formal Lutheran education began 165 years ago when people felt strongly that it was time to set up Christian schools for their children and grandchildren. Now, almost two centuries later, over 290,000 children are enrolled in schools operated by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations.

There are many reasons why parents choose to send their children to a Lutheran school. Lutheran schools provide top-notch Christian and academic education. On average, students in Lutheran schools perform significantly higher than the nation's public school students. Furthermore, Lutheran schools get the attention of parents, says Terry Schmidt, Associate Director of School Ministry, LCMS, "because the schools play a significant role in their most precious possession – their children."

Educators in Lutheran schools enter into this ministry because of their love for Jesus, their love for children, and the desire to serve these children. The staggering amount of time Lutheran teachers devote to each child, from preschool through high school, presents many, many opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those who already know Him as Lord and Savior, as well as with those who do not. According to Schmidt, to get the same investment of time in a church setting, a child would have to attend Sunday services faithfully for 266 years.

Of the 290,000-plus children attending Lutheran schools, 46,000 (or 16 percent) are unchurched. What an awesome opportunity for Lutheran schools! The Lord can work mightily, using our schools as a great mission field. We should praise God for the untapped potential He's given us for all Lutheran schools to set hearts on fire for Christ.

Lutheran schools provide not only a Christian education, but also an excellent, well-rounded, academic education for students, from preschool through college. In the words of one of our principals, Paul Brandt (Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, AZ), "The Pacific Southwest District is the place to be!"

Rachel Klitzing, PSD Executive Director of School Ministries, 9/05