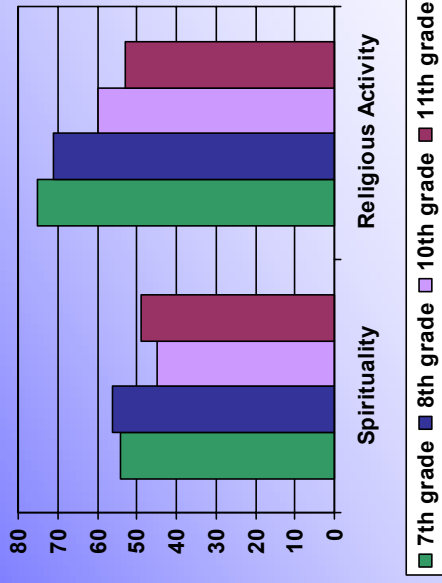


# What Happens to Spirituality & Religious Activity from 7th Grade to 11th Grade?



The above chart shows the results of a 1998 to 2001 study conducted by The Center for Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence. It illustrates statistics that should give parents cause for concern and provide strong support for continuing Lutheran education beyond 8th grade at Martin Luther High School.

This study found that youth who felt that being spiritual was very important to them and were religiously active in 7th & 8th grade became **LESS** spiritual and **LESS** involved in religion as they grew older.

\*Retrieved 3/24/09: www.spiritualdevelopmentcenter.org

**Do All You Can to Make Sure Your Teen Stays Close to God**

# The Handwriting is on the Wall

"The five major effectors in positive youth development are:

1. Family
2. Church
3. Schools
4. Communities
5. Media.



In recent years religious organizations have pulled away or been pushed into the background, losing their effectiveness as a major influencer on our youth.

- Religiously active youth are 39% **LESS** likely to engage in ten high-risk behaviors, such as *tobacco use, illicit drugs, school problems, alcohol abuse, antisocial behavior, etc.*

- Religiously active youth are 26% **MORE** likely to have eight indicators of thriving such as *getting good grades, resisting danger, maintaining physical health and leadership etc."*

-The Search Institute

**Do All You Can to Make Sure Your Teen Continues to Thrive**

## Mission Statement

"Martin Luther High School

by **God's Grace** in partnership with

Homes and Congregations exists to

**help Young People**

lead *active Christian* lives

and

*excel* academically through

**Christian** training and nurturing."

## Your Lutheran High School...

**Martin Luther High School**  
 PO Box 228 County Hwy 38  
 Northrop, MN 56075

Phone: 436-5249 Fax: 436-5240  
 E-mail: [margethiesse@martinlutherhs.com](mailto:margethiesse@martinlutherhs.com)  
[www.martinlutherhs.com](http://www.martinlutherhs.com)

## A Choice Worth Making...

# In the Whole Picture of Life....



# How Important is Lutheran Education for Teens?

## Are We Raising a Lost Generation?



- Young people born between 1984 and 2002 (age 23 and under) are the age group *least likely* to pray to God.
- They are also the least likely to attend church on a given Sunday with only 33% attending.

-The Barna Group

## What is the Most Important Thing for Your Teen?

If you were to list the most important thing that you are looking for in a high school, what would it be?

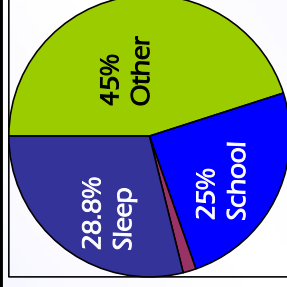
- Strong academics?
- Superior athletic programs?
- School safety?
- Prestige?

What is the one non-negotiable characteristic that your high school has to have?

## Let's Do Some Simple Math

The average high school student attends high school for 175 days for 8 hours a day (we'll throw in an extra hour for athletics or activities.) That's 1400 hours in school per year. Of all the hours available during the school year, approximately 25% of his/her time will be spent at school. That's a huge amount of time. (And most MLHS students are here much more than eight hours.)

**Estimated number of hours spent by teens in various activities during the school year.**



Considering 2 hours per week at church = 1.2% \*this is being very generous

■ Other ■ School ■ Church ■ Sleep

The decision about Christian education really comes down to this:

Spend that 25% at a school that encourages growth in Christ and has a Christian influence on their 45% "other" time.

OR

Spend that 25% at a school that wants nothing to do with Jesus Christ and promotes a non-Christian worldview.



## Education Beyond the Books

The truth is that Christian high schools have the one thing that public schools will never have, and it is the most important educational tool ever – God's Word—the Bible—the only source of true Wisdom. God's Word is used in Christian high schools for:

1. Salvation – Students will come to know Jesus as their Savior through their Christian high school experience.
2. Training – Students will not only learn about God's grace daily, but also how to defend their faith.
3. Discernment — Students learn how to think like a Christian and use God's truth as their foundation for living.
4. Magnifying God's glory – students will learn how great God really is.

At MLHS, God's Word is found in the following places:

- Daily Religion Classes for four years=700 hours of in-depth study of God's Word
- Chapel twice a week for four years=288 times of worship
- Regular academic classes=5,040 hours of comparing man's philosophy with God's true wisdom

- Bible studies twice a week for four years=288 times of intimate reflection on God's presence in our lives
- In the guidance and discipline from teachers and staff
- In the prayers of pastors, teachers and staff on behalf of students, parents and the MLHS ministry
- As the basis of, and the reason for, the MLHS ministry and all operations

Current scientific research tells us that a teenager's brain is not fully developed. According to a study from the National Institute of Health: "Teens are at a particularly important stage of brain development. What teens do, or do not do, can affect them for the rest of their lives. It is called the 'use it or lose it principle.' Therefore, if a teen is active in music, sports or academics, those are the cells and connections that will be hardwired. If they're lying on the couch or playing video games or MTV, those are the cells and connections that are going to survive."

**→ If teens are active in God's Word their brains will be hardwired to Him!**

The decision on whether or not to attend a Christian high school is really the choice between developing with Jesus Christ or developing withOUT Him.

**Is anything more important than developing with Christ?**