



First Grade

Learning with a
Higher
purpose

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Holy Cross Lutheran School

About the Teacher: Mrs. Tashia Dieckhoff



Mrs. Dieckhoff has served in Lutheran education in a variety of roles since graduating from Concordia University, in Seward, Nebraska. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and started her career teaching at Redeemer Lutheran Church and School in Ontario, California. From there, the Lord guided her family to the Missouri District and then to the

Kansas District where she currently serves as the first grade teacher at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School. She feels very blessed to be part of the ministry at Holy Cross, serving the families and children she is privileged to teach.

First Grade Curriculum Overview

Biblical Studies

Centering on the immediate world of the six-year-old, this course begins by establishing the special relationship that God has with those who are His children. As students learn about the life of Jesus and His special people described in the Bible the children grow in their understanding of how God shows His love to His people and how we can show our love to Him by loving and forgiving others. Memory work is assigned weekly.

The text used is *One in Christ*, Concordia Publishing House.

Language Arts

The language arts program is designed to provide support for building a strong reading foundation. It combines research-based instruction with new tools to meet today's challenges. It incorporates both print and digital media to provide instructional support, finding and using text evidence, engaging in collaborative conversations, and writing to sources. The reading series which serves as the core program is enriched with carefully selected literature and the writing process using appropriate grammar, composition and spelling.

Text: McGraw-Hill Reading *Wonders*

Mathematics

By using a variety of manipulatives and hands-on learning strategies, first graders master one-digit addition and subtraction facts and are then introduced to two digit addition and subtraction without regrouping. Understanding patterns and grouping according to similarities and differences are important concepts of math at this level, as well as understanding the place value of our number system. Activities also develop the student's understanding of time, measurement, money and real life problem-solving. As the year progresses the children are introduced to the value of fractions and the concept of less than one whole. **The text used is** *Saxon Math*

Social Studies

As God's children, students learn the importance of being part of a family and interacting in Christian love with those around them. By investigating their environment and social groups; they learn of the responsibilities of families and homes, the importance of working together, and the meaning of Christian celebration. In First Grade students also broaden their understanding of the state in which they live, and Kansas history and culture supplement the learning in this program. Map skills are introduced and enrich the learning by providing visual relationships to certain locations.

Class activities for the Social Studies program also integrate literature and emphasize the writing process throughout the year, as well as, music, choral reading, finger plays, dramatizations, role playing, story telling, audio-visuals, and field trips. **The text used is** *Living in Families*, Silver Burdett-Ginn Publishing Company.

Science

The First Grade Science program emphasizes the process of investigating and solving problems in science. Observing, creating models, collecting and interpreting data, inferring, predicting, experimenting and formulating hypothesis are skills stressed in all activities as the students study the physical and earth sciences and health. **The text used is** *Discovery Works* by Silver Burdett-Ginn Publishing Company.

SUMMARY OF OUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS

In relationship to God

- ◇ The student grows in the grace and knowledge of the Triune God,
- ◇ The student is taught to live a Christian life through the power of the Holy Spirit, and that he/she has the assurance of eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, and
- ◇ The student gains knowledge of the Bible and its contents.

In relationship to self, others, and community

- ◇ The student will develop a positive self-image, and
- ◇ The student will develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for living a productive Christian life as a responsible member of his/her church, community, and world.

In relationship to intellectual development

- ◇ The student will develop academic talents and skills to the fullest extent of his/her ability,
- ◇ The student will develop positive attitudes toward learning, and
- ◇ The student shall be exposed to cultural activities, fine arts, and various types of music through classroom study, exhibits, direct participation, and field trips.