



Seventh Grade

Learning with a
Higher
purpose

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Holy Cross Lutheran School

About the Teacher: Ms. Terri Vanwey



Terri Vanwey grew up in Yucca Valley, a little desert town about 40 miles from Palm Springs, California. She moved to Winfield, Kansas, in high school where her dad taught math at St. John's College. She is a graduate of both St. John's and Emporia State University, where she received a Masters in Library Science. In 2007, she earned a colloquy and is thrilled to be a

Minister of Religion, Commissioned. She has been teaching at Holy Cross since 1976. Terri has one daughter, Josie, who attended Holy Cross.

She loves to read, travel, and do any activity that goes with summer weather. She has also taken up running and has run half marathons as well as shorter races. A special joy is spending a week leading Bible study for girls' basketball camp in Okoboji, Iowa.

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.

Seventh Grade Curriculum Overview

Biblical Studies

Beginning with an overview of the four Gospels, students carefully study the life of Jesus Christ and His ministry with an emphasis on His teachings and His examples for all people. Following the death and resurrection of Jesus, students review the development of the Christian church and the writings of Paul and the other apostles. The course ends with a brief study of the book of Revelation. Memory work is assigned weekly. **The texts used are:** the *Bible* and *Voyages: Exploring God's Word – New Testament History*, Concordia Publishing House.

Language Arts

Reading includes various types of literature (literature textbook); worksheets or questions; multiple choice tests and essays. The teacher will instruct the students how to format an essay. Scope magazine, which adheres to common core standards is also used in the classroom.

Book reports: Three or four are assigned per year and may include the following: summarizing, character analysis, theme, and novel study.

Vocabulary: One unit per two week period – spelling, meanings, synonym, antonym, analogies, word families, and pronunciation are covered and tested. Paragraphs are assigned each unit using an assigned number of words per quarter. Spelling, vocabulary and unit tests are taken every week. Tests are cumulative.

English: All eight parts of speech, usage, sentence structure, are studied and tested. Tests are cumulative.

Writing: Structured writing program (text used is *Reading/Writing Workshop*) as well as poetry and a research paper.

Mathematics

In this course students receive the foundation for next year's - pre-algebra and algebra courses. Building on the previous course, students learn how to find missing numbers in problems of addition, subtraction, and multiplication and to compare the value of positive and negative numbers. They learn about factors and factoring, and solving equations. Expanding the concepts and skills of geometry, students learn about lines, rays, and segments as well as how to measure angles and determine the various measurements of circles using Pi and formulas. The Pythagorean Theorem and characteristics of triangles are introduced. Decimals and fractions are computed. Students graph inequalities, and they apply formulas to solve problems of percents and area and volume of polygons and solids. The text used is: *Saxon Math Course 2*.

Social Studies

Seventh grade social studies includes World Geography for the first semester and Kansas History the second semester. In world geography, the students will learn to read and use maps to study the world and also various research techniques to give reports on countries from the continents. Students will learn about recent events that have taken place in the various regions of the world and also participate in the International Food Fest in the fall.

Kansas History covers the history, government, economics and geography of Kansas from the time of the early "big game hunters" to modern times. An emphasis is placed on doing history not just memorizing it using many primary source documents and student activities with each chapter.

Texts: *Discovering World Geography* by McGraw Hill and *The Kansas Journey* by Gibbs/Smith

Science

The seventh grade course is divided into four major modular units. Students begin by exploring the animal kingdom. When studying amphibians, the students dissect frogs. When studying reptiles, students will also investigate facts supporting Biblical creation and the history of the theory of evolution. Students study Earth's natural resources and the God given responsible use and care of those resources. The third unit explores cells and the science of heredity. The fourth unit explores light and sound.

The final and shorter units include a study of our universe and electricity and magnetism.