



Eighth Grade

Learning with a
Higher
purpose

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Holy Cross Lutheran School

About the Teacher: Mr. Gregg Wolgast



I was born and raised in Alta Vista Kansas and am a graduate of Council Grove HS. I graduated from Kansas State University with BA degree in Social Studies Education.

My teaching career began in St. John, KS, where I served as a social studies teacher for grades 7-12 and a coach, for six years. I completed 25 years

of teaching high school social studies and being a coach at Mulvane High School. I earned a Master's Degree in Sports Administration from Wichita State University. I recently completed the Colloquy program through Concordia University, Seward, NE.

I am married to Marcia and we have three children. Anna attends Holy Cross Lutheran School, Matthew is a graduate of Holy Cross and attends Trinity Academy, and Katie is at WSU.

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

Eighth Grade Curriculum Overview

Biblical Studies

In this course students learn the teachings on which the Lutheran Church is founded and the meaning of the Lutheran worship services. During the year students also discuss Christian morals and values as they prepare themselves for the life of a Christian teenager. Memory work is assigned weekly. **The texts used are:** *Voyages: Exploring God's Word – Church History, and Contemporary Issues.*

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. The novel, *And Then There Were None* is studied. Scope magazine is used also; it adheres to common Core standards.

Book reports – four or five assigned in one year. The format varies and may include the following: summarizing, character analysis, historical fiction, and short story analyzing.

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 two weeks. Tests are cumulative.

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

Writing: Structured writing program (text used is *Reading/Writing Workshop*). Journal writing is also included.

Mathematics

Students are divided into two math groups for eighth grade, Pre-algebra and Algebra 1. Assessment testing in math, seventh grade grades on the report card, parental conferencing and teacher recommendation determine which math level is appropriate for the incoming eighth graders.

Pre-Algebra

In this course of introduction to algebra students review many of the basic skills and concepts necessary to carry forward into next year's algebra course. **The text used is:** *Saxon Math, Course 3*

Algebra 1

In this algebra course students discover absolute values, they will evaluate algebraic expressions, graphing inequalities, and other algebraic topics. **The text used is:** *Saxon Math, Algebra 1*

Social Studies

Eighth grade social studies looks at U.S. History from the American Revolution up through Reconstruction and the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution of the 1800's. Emphasis is placed on students not just knowing the "what" of history but also the "why". In addition to the text, many primary sources and videos are used to help students see history through the eyes of the people who lived it and / or were influenced by it.

Text: *Discovering our Past: A History of the United States* by McGraw Hill

Science

Through God's grace, students will grow in their understanding of God's creation and their responsibility for properly maintaining it as they investigate and experiment in depth topics of biology including protist, fungi, plants, human biology, and chemical interactions. They will grow socially and emotionally as they work together in the science laboratory.