



Fourth Grade

Learning with a
Higher
purpose

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Holy Cross Lutheran School

About the Teacher: Mrs. Gwen Thomas



- Graduate of Concordia University Seward, Nebraska
- 1986-1988 First teaching position at Redeemer Lutheran School in Wichita
- 1988-1989 Taught at Northwest Lutheran School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 1989 Called to teach at Holy Cross Lutheran School

I have taught fourth grade all my years at Holy Cross with the exception of two years when I taught combination grades including third/fourth and fourth/fifth classes. My past experiences at Holy Cross have included directing the Intermediate Choir as well as several children's bell choirs. I also served as Director of School Music.

My husband, Andy, and I have two children, David and Carrie. Both attended school at Holy Cross. David now serves in the US Navy and Carrie attends Colby Community College.

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.

Fourth Grade Curriculum Overview

Biblical Studies

The religion program presented in *One in Christ* is a chronological study of bible stories beginning with the creation of the world. Its emphasis is to help the students know the one true God and the forgiveness and salvation offered through Jesus' death and resurrection and grow into Christian maturity. Each lesson centers on the cross of Christ and is grounded in the Word of God through which the Holy Spirit works to create, strengthen and sustain saving faith. The text used is *One in Christ*, by Concordia Publishing House.

Language Arts

The language arts program is designed to provide students with many opportunities to explore reading, writing, speaking and listening. The text used for language arts is *Wonders by McGraw-Hill*. Each week a new concept is introduced that includes grade appropriate topics including science and social studies. Lessons include comprehension, strategies and skills in reading and writing, genre, vocabulary, and writing. This program also allows for differentiation in small group instruction, research and inquiry and writing. Grammar and Spelling are also included in the *Wonders* curriculum.

Mathematics

Fourth graders build on the skills and concepts that they have learned in grade three. Multiplication and division of all whole numbers continue to be practiced and students begin to apply all of the computational skills to decimal and fractional numbers. Problem solving is emphasized as the students become more adept at using their mastered math facts. Students apply measurement skills to meet the challenges of higher thinking and problem solving. Geometric shapes and their various characteristics are introduced. The text used is *Saxon Math*.

Social Studies

In fourth grade students investigate the different geographical regions of the United States. Students learn that God's creation is a blessing, and all that God has created must be treated responsibly. As the students investigate the environments, climates, cultures, and people, they learn how each of these interact and affect each other. Growing in their understanding of how people's lives reflect the environment in which they live, the students connect them with other societies and cultures from other societies globally.

Skills in using maps, globes, time lines, and graphs are expanded and become important skills to be used in many areas of learning. The text used is *States and Regions* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Science

The science program in fourth grade is divided into four components: life science, physical science, earth science, engineering and technology. Students will be engaged in their learning through reading, inquiry, and digital means. They will investigate plants and animals, energy and motion, and the earth's resources. *Interactive Science* by Pearson will help students develop a better understanding of the world they live in.