



Sixth Grade

Learning with a
Higher
purpose

Holy Cross Lutheran School

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About the Teacher: Mr. Jacob Kelly



My name is Jacob Kelly and I am the Middle School Math/Science Instructor at Holy Cross Lutheran School. I have been married to my wife Marcie for thirteen years and we have three children that attend Holy Cross, Cal, Kyle, and Christopher. At age 30, I quit my job as a police officer and went back to school to become a teacher. I student taught with Mr. Ochs in the fifth grade at Holy Cross, in order to spend more time

with my children. I loved being at Holy Cross and longed for an opportunity to work there full time. When the opportunity for me to teach at Holy Cross came about, I prayerfully considered teaching middle school and believe that God has called me to be here.

I am a graduate of Southwestern College. I love being around children and enjoy teaching using fun, interactive activities and technology.

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.

Sixth Grade Curriculum Overview

Biblical Studies

The sixth grade curriculum is designed primarily to help teach students about key concepts of faith such as Law, Gospel, confession, repentance and grace while focusing specifically on the person, attributes and work of God's son. We begin studying the creation of the world and focus on the story of Christ that began from the first day of creation. We continue to work through the Old Testament looking for Christ's work and God's promises. We end the year with two units that are centered upon the work of Christ and his instructions to spread the gospel. Along with the Bible, the text used is "One in Christ" by Concordia publishing.

Language Arts

Reading: McGraw Hill *Wonders*, adheres to common core skills; assessment tests, research
Second semester: J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, multi-activities. All reading selections or chapters are read aloud in class.
Book reports: Number varies by quarter. Types include the following: summaries, oral reports, comparison/contrast, and character analysis.
Accelerated Reader: computerized reading program. The students read for an A, B, or C. The grade is worth four daily work grades.
English: Parts of speech, usage sentence structure is part of *Wonders* are studied and tested. Tests are cumulative.
Writing is incorporated in *Wonders*. Spelling tests are taken and the words are used in spelling paragraphs and stories.

Mathematics

By the end of fifth grade, the processes of computation –addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division – are mastered for the system of whole numbers, fractions, and decimal numbers. In grade six, these skills are now applied to higher levels of math; solving equations and working with formulas in perimeter, area, volume, and ratios and proportions. Exponents and square roots are introduced. Skills and concepts of geometry are expanded. Percentages, measurement, integers, creating and using graphs, and probability and statistics add to the preparation for later years of study. The text used is: *Saxon Math Course 1*.

Social Studies

Sixth grade social studies covers world history from the ancient river civilizations through the Middle Ages. In each of the areas the students will concentrate on the G.R.A.P.E.S. of social studies looking at the geography, religions, achievements, politics, economics and social structure of the peoples during those times. Students will begin to learn how to do research and make presentations to the class on what they learned from their research.

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

Science

The sixth grade course is divided into four major modular units and three shorter units. Students begin by observing, classifying, measuring using the metric system, and designing experiments. Students explore the Earth's living resources and its ecological systems. In the physical sciences the students investigate matter, motion, forces, and energy. As students learn to work together in chemical experiments, they are also introduced to the properties of matter.

The shorter units include an introduction to earth science through the rock unit and an introduction to fossils and the evidence to support an understanding of God's creation of the earth and man's theory of evolution. A health unit is included which emphasizes the miraculous changes occurring within their growing bodies and the care and respect they should have for themselves and others. The students are introduced to dissection techniques by dissecting earthworms.