



Eighth Grade

Learning with a
Higher
purpose

Holy Cross Lutheran School

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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 completed the Colloquy program through Concordia University, Seward, NE.

I am married to Marcia and we have three children who are Holy Cross graduates. Anna attends Trinity Academy, Matthew attends Kansas State University, and Katie teaches first grade at Iseley Elementary School.

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.

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: Students will be exposed to a number of different literature pieces which are included in the online literature curriculum. They will take part in literature circles where they will read from a selection of novels with a small group as well as participate in a whole class novel study of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*. Students will be graded on reading responses, selection tests and book report projects. Book reports will assess students' abilities to summarize plot, identify literary elements, compare and contrast characters and settings, and support their predictions, inferences and opinions with textual evidence.

Vocabulary: Students will complete one unit of focused vocabulary instruction over the span of two weeks per unit. The words from each unit will be used as their spelling words as well. Each new word will be studied and broken down by looking at synonyms, antonyms, examples, nonexamples, analogies and word structure. Students will be tested at the end of each unit on their ability to define, use and spell the word.

English: There will be grammar lessons everyday using the G.U.M curriculum on sentences structures, parts of speech, usage and mechanics. They will be tested on grammar concepts at the end of each unit.

Writing: Explicit instruction of writing will be given twice of week during writer's workshop. Students will be guided through the writing process and give peer revision before turning in a typed final draft. Writing projects in the 8th grade include: informational, argument, literary analysis, personal narrative, short story and research report.

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.