



Fifth Grade

Learning with a
Higher
purpose

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Holy Cross Lutheran School

About the Teacher: Mrs. Karen Maxson



Welcome to 5th Grade! This is my first year at Holy Cross, and my 6th year teaching. I taught 5th grade for 3 years, as well as 3rd grade and middle school in Utah. I am looking forward to returning to 5th grade, and to a challenging and fun year together!

I am married to Brian Maxson, and have three rambunctious kitties that keep us entertained: Pippin, Lorelai, and Apollo. We enjoy traveling to national parks and playing board games together.

My favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." My favorite hymns include *When Peace Like a River*, *Holy, Holy Holy*, and *We Praise You and Acknowledge You*.

I am a graduate of Concordia University, Seward, NE, where I received a degree in elementary education. I am hoping to return to school to work on towards a Masters Degree in education this spring.

In the classroom I am passionate about teaching creatively through hands on lessons and class discussions. I believe that for this age group especially it is vital to teach content in a way that is engaging and high-interest in order to help them grow to love reading and to become lifelong learners. Some of my favorite things to teach in 5th grade include the novels we read together in class, and United States History.

SUMMARY OF OUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS

In relationship to God

- ◇ The student will grow in the grace and knowledge of the Triune God,
- ◇ The student will be taught to live a Christian life through the power of the Holy Spirit, and be taught about the assurance of eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, and
- ◇ The student will gain 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.

Fifth Grade Curriculum Overview

Biblical Studies

In our fifth grade religion course, the curriculum is designed to help the children have a more complete understanding of God and His Word, and to grow in their faith in Jesus through the study of God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. We begin by studying who God is, and the importance of His Word. As we progress through the year, we use scripture to help us understand the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We also study the Sacraments—Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the importance of prayer, and how to live out a life of faith and obedience to God. The text used is *One in Christ*, by Concordia.

Language Arts

The language arts program, *Wonders* by McGraw Hill, is designed to provide students with many opportunities to explore reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Using a phonetic approach to reading and the skills of a basal reading program, the curriculum expands the student's reading ability by emphasizing comprehension and reading for information and for enjoyment. Award winning literature provides for the application of reading skills and the enjoyment of reading. Reading various kinds of literature, narrative, folk tales, biography, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and drama, expand the student's understanding of literature. By emphasizing the writing process, students gain first hand applications for the grammar, spelling, and writing skills which they learn in class.

Mathematics

Students continue to apply their computational skills to large whole numbers but now apply the skills to decimal and fractional numbers as well. Knowledge of fractions is broadened by determining greater and smaller fractions and by writing fractions of equivalent value. Skills in measuring angles and comparing geometric shapes are also expanded. Students investigate the different forms of graphs and how the data in graphs can be used to visualize quantities and measurements. As an introduction to solving equations, students learn how to determine percent, ratio, and use probability. The text used is *Saxon Math*.

Social Studies

The fifth grade program is a study of American history and geography. Students trace the development of our country from the earliest inhabitants of America to the explorers and up to the founding of our nation. The text used is *The United States* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Science

This program emphasizes the process of investigating and reaching conclusions after utilizing a process of stating a hypothesis, observing outcomes, and collecting data. Fifth graders center their investigations on topics from life, physical and earth sciences, as well as health and safety. The text used is *Interactive Science* by Pearson.