



Seventh Grade

Learning with a
Higher
purpose

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Holy Cross Lutheran School

About the Teacher: Mrs. Amy Ruppert



My name is Amy Ruppert and I teach middle school language arts. I am originally from Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, England, and so began my career teaching high school English, Media, Film and Drama there for 6 years before moving to America. Before coming to Holy Cross I tutored at Collegiate, and taught 6th-12th grade English and Literature at the British International School in Houston.

I am a graduate of Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, UK . I lived mostly in the east of England before moving to Texas in 2014. I moved to Wichita in 2017 due to my husband's career, and along with my husband and little boy hope to stay here for the foreseeable future.

I love the theatre and have been involved with Wichita Community theatre and Wichita Shakespeare Company for the last 5 years, both as a performer and supporter. My family love exploring and always search for places steeped in history. I love public speaking and debate and love for students to share their ideas in class. My biggest passion lies in literature, especially Shakespeare, and I hope to ignite this passion in my students!

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.

Seventh Grade Curriculum Overview

Biblical Studies

Beginning with an overview of the four Gospels, students carefully study the life of Jesus Christ and His ministry with an emphasis on His teachings and His examples for all people. Following the death and resurrection of Jesus, students review the development of the Christian church and the writings of Paul and the other apostles. The course ends with a brief study of the book of Revelation. Memory work is assigned weekly. **The texts used are:** the *Bible* and *Voyages: Exploring God's Word – New Testament History*, Concordia Publishing House.

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. Scope Magazine will also be used in informational text studies. 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.

English: Students will analyze a mentor sentence each week at the start of class and identify all parts of the sentence while also learning a new grammar lesson and taking note in their interactive grammar notebooks. Additionally, there will be grammar lessons using the G.U.M curriculum each week 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 7th grade will include: narrative, informational/explanatory, arguments and a research paper. Students will also learn the use of MLA formatting.

Mathematics

In this course students receive the foundation for next year's - pre-algebra and algebra courses. Building on the previous course, students learn how to find missing numbers in problems of addition, subtraction, and multiplication and to compare the value of positive and negative numbers. They learn about factors and factoring, and solving equations. Expanding the concepts and skills of geometry, students learn about lines, rays, and segments as well as how to measure angles and determine the various measurements of circles using Pi and formulas. The Pythagorean Theorem and characteristics of triangles are introduced. Decimals and fractions are computed. Students graph inequalities, and they apply formulas to solve problems of percents and area and volume of polygons and solids. The text used is: *Saxon Math Course 2*.

Social Studies

Seventh grade social studies includes World Geography for the first semester and Kansas History the second semester. In world geography, the students will learn to read and use maps to study the world and also various research techniques to give reports on countries from the continents. Students will learn about recent events that have taken place in the various regions of the world and also participate in the International Food Fest in the fall. Kansas History covers the history, government, economics and geography of Kansas from the time of the early "big game hunters" to modern times. An emphasis is placed on doing history not just memorizing it using many primary source documents and student activities with each chapter. **Texts:** *Discovering World Geography* by McGraw Hill and *The Kansas Journey* by Gibbs/Smith

Science

The seventh grade course is divided into four major modular units. Students begin by exploring the animal kingdom. When studying amphibians, the students dissect frogs. When studying reptiles, students will also investigate facts supporting Biblical creation and the history of the theory of evolution. Students study Earth's natural resources and the God given responsible use and care of those resources. The third unit explores cells and the science of heredity. The fourth unit explores light and sound. The final and shorter units include a study of our universe and electricity and magnetism.