



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 and graduated from Holy Cross.

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 *Enduring Faith* is a chronological study of bible stories beginning with creation and concluding with John's Revelation. Its emphasis is to help the students know the Word of God teaches about the Word made flesh— Jesus Christ— so that all people may know a renewed life now and an eternal life forever with Him. It points to us as forgiven children through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and that we are called to love God and others. The text used is *Enduring Faith* 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. One of the texts used for language arts is *Wonders by McGraw-Hill*. New concepts will be introduced that include 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 guided reading in small group instruction, research and inquiry and writing. Grammar and Spelling are also included in the *Wonders* curriculum. In addition to the grammar introduced and used in the *Wonders* curriculum, we supplement with *Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics: Conventions of Standard English* by Zaner-Bloser.

Mathematics

EnVision Mathematics implements focus, coherence, and rigor in the program. The program is organized to help students focus on clusters of related content within the grade, progress in mathematics across grades, and understand concepts, gain procedural skill and fluency, and gain skills to prepare for college and careers. Fourth grade topics include place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, problem solving, fractions and decimals, units of measure, and geometry concepts. The text used is *Savvas Envision Mathematics*.

Social Studies

In fourth grade students take a virtual tour of the geographical regions of the United States. The series emphasizes the connection of history, economy, civics, and geography in each region. The students engage in activities and readings designed to develop and deepen social studies knowledge as it integrates language arts skills through the informational text and thought-provoking primary sources.

Skills in using maps, graphs, and primary sources are expanded and become important skills to be used in many areas of learning. The text used is *Social Studies Alive! Regions of Our Country* by Teachers' Curriculum Institute.

Science

The science program in fourth grade is divided into three components: life science, earth and space science, and physical science. Mystery Science will be used to help students nurture their curiosity and learn about the world around them by listening, observing, sharing, writing, and learning to figure things out for themselves. Lessons will include topics such as the human body, earth's features and processes, sound, and energy. Mystery Science will be enhanced using additional videos and reading materials including Generation Genius as well as others. The goal is to have the students grow up and experience the amazing world we live in created by God, full of possibility and wonder.