



# Kindergarten

Learning with a  
Higher Purpose

## Holy Cross Lutheran School

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### About the Teacher: Mrs. Molly-Ann Gugel



My goal for each and every one of my students is that they would know that they are loved by the Lord. Each student that I have the pleasure of teaching holds a very special place in my heart. Over the course of a school year, our class becomes a family. My hope is that they would grow academically, emotionally, and most importantly in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

In December of 2013, I graduated from Concordia University, Nebraska. I started my teaching career as an interim kindergarten teacher in Shenzhen, China. I then spent the next seven years teaching first grade at Lutheran schools in Brighton, Colorado, and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Leavenworth, Kansas, is my hometown. I attended St. Paul Lutheran School there from pre-school through eighth grade. I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a Lutheran School teacher - just like my mom! Lutheran education is near and dear to my heart. Sharing the love of Christ with my students is something I cherish dearly. I feel incredibly grateful that the Lord has Called me to this profession!

When I'm not teaching, I enjoy going "home" and spending time with my mom and sister, Maggie. I love finding quaint coffee shops, creating charcuterie boards, crafting, and cheering on my favorite sports teams - the Kansas City Chiefs and the Kansas Jayhawks!

My favorite Bible verse is "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

### 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.

### Kindergarten Curriculum Overview

#### Biblical Studies

In religion time, the kindergartners hear, retell, and act out Bible stories, pray, sing songs and make crafts. We will lead chapel one Wednesday during the school year. Families may attend! They will grow in their knowledge of God, our Heavenly Father and of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

#### Language Arts

The kindergarten language arts program is Saxon. It provides a strong phonic-base for Reading readiness. It focuses on letter recognition, letter formation, letter sounds, blending, sight word recognition and small group reading.

Our Daily Five Literacy Centers provide differentiated stations for: word formation work, listening to books/CDs, writing to a theme, independent and small group reading. Children develop at their own pace and "stretch their stamina" at these activities throughout the school year.

#### Mathematics

Math for the kindergartner is the world of investigation and problem-solving. It is establishing concepts of numbers, and operations, patterns, counting, comparing and sorting. By manipulating objects, students apply various learning strategies to solve problems of numbers, relationships, time, order, direction, and quantity. They will develop a strong foundation to begin adding and subtracting numbers up to ten. With the activities geared to the student's level of readiness, they are introduced to the concepts of algebra, geometry, measurements, data analysis and probability. *Savvas EnVision Mathematics* curriculum is used.

#### Social Studies

"Around the World in 180 Days" is our curriculum. Our kindergartners "travel" to a new country each week. They learn geography, "new" languages, landmarks, taste foods and are introduced to guests who will share slides and souvenirs from different cultures. We also cover "The First Thanksgiving" and a "Presidents" unit.

#### Science

A hands-on curriculum where units studied include: apples, birds, pumpkins, growing plants, insects and their life cycles, seasons, chick hatchery and weather. Field trips are taken as extensions of our learning.

#### Art

The kindergartners enjoy using and learning from different art mediums. They are given opportunities for creativity, free expression and fun!

#### Music

Singing happens daily as part of our Religion class, and bi-weekly in choir. Here the children will explore rhythm, musical expression, games and instruments.

#### Computers

Through the use of our classroom SMARTboard, weekly computer time and center time on School iPads, the kindergartners are given opportunities to expand their understanding of technology

#### Outreach

At Holy Cross Lutheran School all of the students are given opportunities for outreach in the community. At various times throughout the year help is provided to welfare organizations, mission projects, and people in need.