

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
- 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
- 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, and vocabulary. *Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI)* will be integrated into the language arts as well as across multiple curricular areas and book studies. *EBLI* helps students develop skills in reading, writing, and spelling by explicitly teaching and integrating practice across multiple skill areas. *Scholastic News* will be used throughout the year. It offers high-interest articles and nonfiction videos about social studies, science, and current events as we build academic and content area vocabulary. In addition to the grammar introduced and used in the *Wonders* curriculum and in *EBLI*, we supplement with *Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics: Conventions of Standard English* by Zaner-Bloser.

MATHEMATICS:

Tang Math is a curriculum grounded in a proven Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach so all students can make sense of math and feel empowered as learners. Students develop conceptual understanding, think strategically, and take ownership in their learning. Materials used are designed to strengthen understanding, develop fluency, and challenge every learner.

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: physical science, life science, and earth and space 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 sound, energy, the human body, and earth's features and processes. *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.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." Colossians 3:23

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MRS. STEPHANIE LEAR



Mrs. Stephanie Lear is a graduate of Friends University with an Elementary Education degree. She is an Academic Language Therapist with experience in reading and math instruction for struggling students. Mrs. Lear has taught in the classroom at Holy Cross since 2019 in addition to 10 years of intervention reading instruction.

She and her husband, Rex, have two boys, Dylan and Anthony. Stephanie enjoys attending music productions with her husband, going on family trips, reading, and worshiping together in church.

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