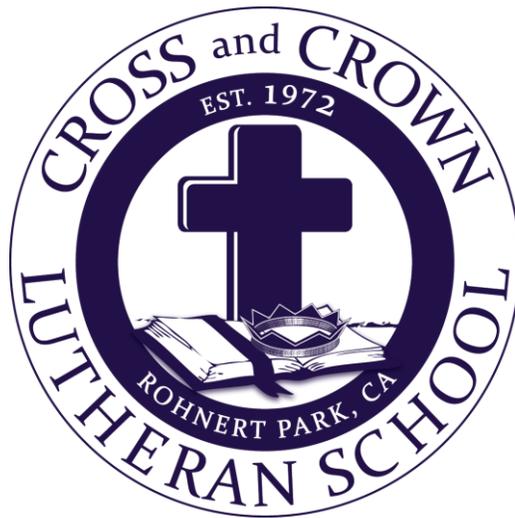


Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Curriculum Overview



Developing Responsible Christian Citizens

Cross and Crown Lutheran School

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Mission Statement:

At Cross and Crown Lutheran School we provide a nurturing environment where children can experience the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ through challenging scholastic programs, trusting relationships, prayer, worship, and God's Word. We are a ministry of Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, whose mission is to invite, grow, and serve our community.

Philosophy:

Cross and Crown Lutheran School utilizes a curriculum strong in academics and integrated with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our goal is to bring the Word of God into the lives of our students. We focus on the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and social areas of growth, developing the skills and knowledge necessary to become capable, caring Christian citizens.

Introduction:

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) provides an environment for your child to explore and expand his/her knowledge before entering into kindergarten. Our program bridges the gap between preschool and kindergarten, created to meet the needs of older "fours" and younger "fives".

Cross and Crown provides a warm, loving, and safe place for your child's educational experience outside of home that we hope will instill a life-long love of learning. Our experienced and well-educated teachers provide an integrated, theme-based curriculum designed to teach all areas of development that will meet your child's spiritual, social/emotional, physical, and cognitive/intellectual needs.

The Transitional Kindergarten Experience:

Creating a quality early learning experience for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) includes three critical components: developing and teaching the whole child; integrated and diverse activities; and social/emotional development. Curriculum and the environment are closely tied with the environment providing additional direction, support, and instruction in much the same way as an additional teacher.

The TK program is child-centered and focuses on developing the whole child. The child has large time blocks of child-directed explorations where experiential opportunities provide an understanding of concepts. The teacher supports development and optimizing learning by recognizing student developmental levels, readiness, and potential teachable moments. The teacher offers instruction and support when appropriate.

The day is balanced with large group, small group, and individual opportunities, indoor and outdoor activities, active and calm time, including free choice and teacher-directed lessons. Learning opportunities surface throughout the day, interwoven with carefully planned curriculum based in the developmental tasks of the age and the interest of the

children. There is a natural flow to the day that allows children time to explore and experience their world. Emergent curriculum flows from the children's discoveries.

Social emotional development is a corner stone in the TK program. Children are encouraged and supported in learning to solve problems, negotiate, and work toward reciprocal relationships with their peers. The social emotional component is foundational and critical for optimizing development. Attachment, emotional awareness, self-regulation, and resilience provide the child with a strong sense of self that allows them to fully develop their potential across all learning domains.

The Transitional Kindergarten Program:

The TK program supports children's learning in all developmental domains. Teachers gain an understanding of the individual child's progress through careful observation and documentation of their growth. Preparation of curriculum and instruction is based on the teacher's knowledge of child development coupled with these observations. In order to support quality curriculum development and a carefully planned environment, the following elements are present:

- Physical Development - large and small muscle skills, perception and sensory awareness, and good nutritional habits
- Social Development - awareness of others and building relationships, social competency
- Emotional Development - self-awareness and self-control
- Cognitive Development - thinking, problem solving, exploration, discovery, creative and imaginative activities
- Ethical/Moral Development - empathy, responsibility, respect, self-regulation, and decision making
- Communication Development - spoken language, listening, multiple language development, non-verbal, technology use, written language and comprehension. Quality curriculum is driven through assessment and observation of the children's interests and developmental tasks.

The program supports the development of each child's cognitive and language skills by supporting emerging literacy and numeric development through materials and activities suited to the developmental level of each child.

Learning for the young child is based on their experiences, the process of learning, and the discoveries that unfold. The California Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Framework are important resources for the development of curriculum and the learning and classroom environment.

Incorporated into our program is the opportunity for spiritual development as well. The curriculum used is "*Walking With God and His People*", published by Christian Schools International.

Exploring God's World through:

- Bible Stories
- Bible Lessons from "*Walking With God and His People*"
- Songs and Prayer
- Hands-On Activities
- Wednesday Chapel
- Daily Devotions

In addition, TK students have a unique opportunity with *Scribbles and Giggles*, an established Sonoma County Art School, for weekly art lessons. The children experiment with different techniques, styles, and put their own personal identity on their individual artistic expression.

The TK students are also offered a weekly music lesson. Students develop rhythmic and aural skills using instruments, singing, games, and listening activities designed to develop music appreciation. The students perform in several Cross and Crown Lutheran School and Church programs throughout the year.

The Transitional Kindergarten Environment:

The TK teacher prepares a wide range of developmentally appropriate activities and experiences within a richly prepared environment recognizing that young children learn best in an environment that encourages and supports various learning styles and opportunities.

The Physical Environment of the TK program includes carefully planned spaces that encompass all aspects of development.

Learning Centers include:

- Blocks and items to manipulate
- Dramatic play
- Creative expression
- Science experimentation and discovery
- Literacy (books, writing materials, etc.)
- Large motor/small motor activities

Cultural Experiences:

Field trips and special performances at Christmas and springtime serve as an important extension of our Cultural Arts program. In addition, community groups and individuals are invited on campus for further community and cultural experiences.

Service Projects:

Bi-monthly service projects are set-up to encourage the children to think of others and spread the love of Christ. Through the years, our students have participated in *Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF*, *Operation Christmas Child*, *the Heifer Project*, *Math-A-Thon for St.*

Jude Children's Hospital, as well as collecting cans for *N.O.A.H.*, a local food bank, and money to purchase Teddy Bears and school supplies for *Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation of Sonoma County*.

School Hours:

Before and after school care is available from 7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m., and 2:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Our full day Transitional Kindergarten program meets from 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. We are on a traditional school calendar, August through June.

The early school years are an exciting and important time of growth and development with each day offering something new and exciting! We would love to have the opportunity to serve you and your family, and hope that you will choose Cross and Crown to share your child's Transitional Kindergarten experience.