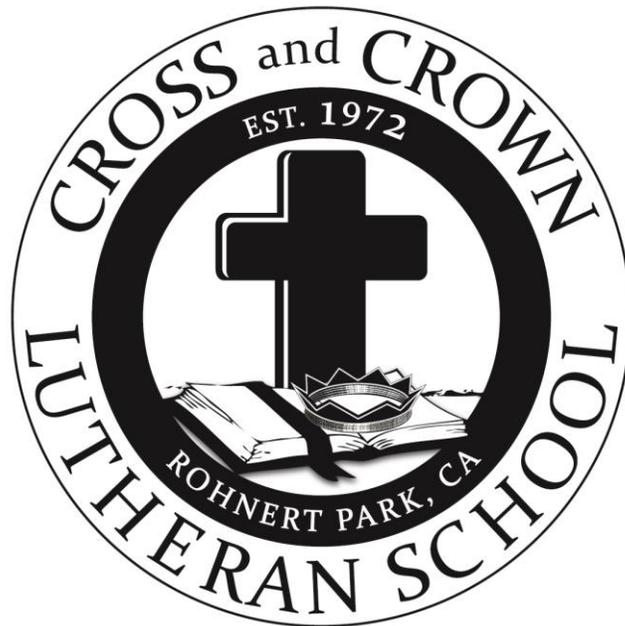


Kindergarten Curriculum Overview



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:

These early years in a child's life are so very vital. They are the foundation on which all the following years of schooling are based, and your child is like a sponge soaking up every bit of knowledge s/he can get. It is no wonder that the average 5/6 year old increases her/his vocabulary by 25,000 words!

Curriculum Goals:

Each kindergarten child has spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and social needs. The following statements summarize developmental goals for our kindergarten.

1. Spiritual: Lovingly share with the child God's saving Word so that s/he experiences God's love in Jesus Christ and responds in faith and love to God and in love to others.
2. Intellectual: Involve the child in appropriate experiences to enhance discovery, communication, conceptualization, and creativity.
3. Physical: Plan activities in which the child regards his/her body as a gift of God and grow in perceptual motor skills and bodily development.

4. Emotional: Encourage, support, accept, and help the child grow in positive self-awareness, living confidently as God's child.
5. Social: Provide an environment in which the child understands and strengthens relationships with others.

Bible:

Spiritual development is a part of the entire school day and not confined to one set period of worship and instruction. Experiences such as caring for a class pet or cleaning our environment are viewed with an awareness of the Creator. Solving conflicts involves sharing forgiveness with each other and receiving forgiveness from God through Jesus Christ. Working on patience and self-control invites the Holy Spirit into our day. During formal "Bible Time", biblical concepts are presented to the children in a variety of ways. Because the kindergarten child learns through all of her/his senses, these concepts are presented using puppets, books, music, crafts, and games. The curriculum resources used are "*Walking with God and His People*" published by Christian Schools International, and *The Beginner's Bible* published by Gold 'n' Honey Books. A variety of music sources are used throughout the school year.

Mathematics:

Kindergarten uses the *CA Math Expressions, Common Core* program by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. This program is designed to help students learn a wide range of mathematical concepts as well as insure knowledge of basic arithmetic skills. The program is based on current research evaluating the most effective ways to teach young children mathematics. The children become actively involved with concrete materials and make many discoveries using pattern blocks, unifix cubes, geoboards, mirrors, collections of buttons, bottle caps, seed pods, etc., as well as a variety of measuring devices for comparing weight, length and volume. Over the school year, the children will work with patterns, sorting and classifying, graphing, measurement, addition and subtraction, probability, geometry, place value, and problem solving. Concepts and skills introduced during lessons are practiced and

reinforced on Lesson Practice sheets. Some of these practice sheets are completed in class as a whole group or small group activities, and others are completed at home.

Language Arts:

Children vary greatly in the ability and ease with which they use language. Through the program “*Reading Street Common Core*”, we concentrate on auditory memory, auditory discrimination, vocabulary development, critical thinking, speech development, visual discrimination, auditory visual integration, and writing skills. A year-round creative writing center is also set-up to encourage freedom of written expression. Handwriting skills are taught through the “*Handwriting Without Tears*” program.

Homework is given in the area of language arts. This term is used loosely because the work that is sent home is designed to be more of an opportunity for the parent and child to work together on school related objectives.

Computer Lab:

Weekly, the students visit our computer lab and are taught computer skills through the “*Keyboarding Without Tears*” program.

Science/Social Science:

In kindergarten, science and social science are taught in themes that provide students with opportunities to explore their world and then to apply what they have learned. For example, a unit on the five senses would stem from how God has made each of us special (Bible), to allowing students to learn what the senses are (science), how the senses affect daily life (social science and language arts), and how the senses make our lives more interesting (art and music).

Music:

Kindergarten children naturally respond to the rhythm and mood of music. Throughout the day, music is used to enhance the curriculum. Whether it is singing a watershed song for science or dancing and

singing the return of the prodigal son during religion class, a wide variety is used.

In addition to classroom music, the children are offered a weekly formal 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.

Physical Education:

Much of the physical development at the kindergarten level is the result of non-directed, spirited, free play. Twice weekly, the children attend P.E. classes for more directed activities. Structured games, gymnastics, physical fitness, and rhythm activities, help the kindergarten child develop perceptual motor, locomotion/non-locomotion, and coordination skills along with general physical fitness.

Art:

Art provides opportunities to explore, discover, and express the kindergarten child's perception of the environment and of self. Art activities support and supplement the kindergarten curriculum in all the developmental areas. Kindergartners have art instruction at *Scribbles and Giggles Art Studio* each week. The focus of the art program is not only to teach students the elements of art (line, shape, form, color, texture, composition, and perspective), but also to foster creativity. Additionally, students learn an appreciation of art through this creative experience regardless of their level of artistic ability.

Spanish:

Weekly the students are taught the basics of the Spanish language. The Spanish classes provide a foundation in daily vocabulary, simple conversation, and reading and writing basic Spanish phrases. Cultural aspects are added as well with the study and celebration of "*El Dia de los Muertos*", the "*Posada Navidena*", and "*Cinco de Mayo*".

Library:

Kindergarten students have weekly access to our school library where they can bring home a book of their choice. The library's collection contains fiction and non-fiction with all subjects filling each category.

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*.

Cultural Experiences:

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

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 kindergarten program meets from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

We are on a traditional school calendar, August through June.

February 2017