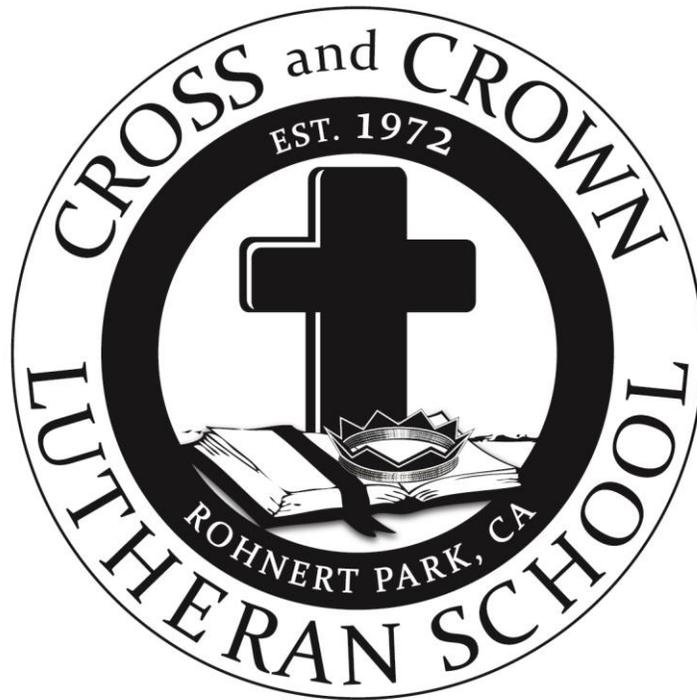


First Grade Curriculum Overview



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:

The typical six-year-old is a bundle of opposites. Six-year-olds can be stubborn, ambivalent, and the center of her/his own universe while enthusiastic, aggressive, and exuberant about the world around her/him. The average six-year-old is growing more independent, more adventurous and peers become more important in decision-making. It is the job of the experienced first grade teacher to understand these complexities and create an environment where the six-year-old can blossom using her/his enthusiasm for adventure and new ideas to increase academic capabilities.

Curriculum Goals:

Educating the whole child can be a challenging task that we face head on. Reaching out to their spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and social needs within the curriculum includes all parts of their day.

1. Spiritual: We study God's Word to share his love and faith with peers, friends, family, and our community. We also apply this love and support throughout our day together.
2. Intellectual: With our small class size, we can embrace each child's potential and stretch their capabilities beyond current standards of learning.
3. Physical: We use physical development as an opportunity to build team skills and cooperation that can be used on and off the field.
4. Emotional: Providing an environment of love and support, allows each child to develop the confidence of God's grace and love.
5. Social: We foster, model, and encourage understanding and development of relationships. Using communication and God's examples of love, students embrace each other with love and respect as well.

Bible:

A period of time is set aside each day for Bible instruction. We use "*Walking with God and His People*", published by Christian Schools International. In addition, each Wednesday Pastor leads a school-wide Chapel service.

The Biblical standards for first grade are that students will:

- Understand basic concepts of the Christian Faith and apply these concepts to their daily lives
- Retell basic old and new testament Bible stories
- Recite simple Scriptural verses and the Ten Commandments
- Use daily prayer and worship in the classroom and chapel in response to God's love

Biblical principles are not confined to one set period of worship and instruction. They are a part of the entire school day. Cross and Crown is a place where every adult and child will feel the hands of God. We encourage sharing the love of Christ through patience and forgiveness with each other, spreading God's grace by treating others the way we wish to be treated.

Mathematics:

First grade uses the *CA Math Expressions, Common Core* program by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt that provides opportunities for students to build their understanding of mathematical concepts with ample practice to master important skills. The lessons are hands-on, connecting reading and math skills. All concepts are taught through and practiced within a strong problem-solving environment, insuring that students become life-long problem solvers. They develop problem solving skills as well as skills in geometry, fractions, graphing, money, time, measurement, and two digit addition and subtraction.

Language Arts:

Reading Street Common Core published by Pearson publishers, is a complete Language Arts program containing word analysis, fluency, and systematic vocabulary development, reading comprehension, writing strategies and applications. Writing, spelling and drama components are included to complete the program. In addition, students learn handwriting skills through the "*Handwriting Without Tears*" program.

Computer Lab:

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

Science/Social Science:

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:

Weekly music lessons are held in an on site music classroom. 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

Twice weekly, the children attend structured P.E. classes for directed activities. Structured games, gymnastics, physical fitness, and rhythm activities help the students develop perceptual motor, locomotion/non-locomotion, and coordination skills along with general physical fitness.

Art:

First graders 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*”, “*Posada Navidena*”, and “*Cinco de Mayo*”.

Library:

Elementary 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. In addition, community groups and individuals are invited on campus for further cultural experiences.

After School Enrichment Programs

First graders can participate in enrichment programs offered during each trimester.

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

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