

Sixth 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:

Growing into an upper elementary level can require a lot from a child. Educational benchmarks are only part of the sixth graders' day at Cross and Crown. A Christ-centered environment allows each student to build knowledge and confidence at their individualized level and build relationships with peers, family, and Christ.

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: By reading God's Word and studying his intentions for a good life, we apply this knowledge throughout our curriculum and our day.
2. Intellectual: We provide structured learning opportunities where each child can individualize their education. Small class size allows us to assess children daily to ensure their placement.
3. Physical: By allowing each child to understand their body as a gift from God, children can develop their motor skills and team building strategies within a positive environment.
4. Emotional: We support children on their journey of self-discovery with God's love. Class cooperation and communication also ensures peers' support and respect.
5. Social: We assist in any way needed as each child builds and strengthens peer

relationships and family bonds. Small class size provides constant interaction and communication among students and teachers.

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 sixth grade are that students will:

- Understand basic concepts of the Christian faith and apply these doctrines to their daily lives
- Recount stories of Jesus' ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension
- and draw connections between the Old and New Testaments.
- Recount new testament Bible stories of the lives of Peter and Paul
- and the letters from the apostles, showing how everyday people can be involved in building God's kingdom.
- Recite key Scriptural verses, Books of the Bible, the Apostles' Creed, and Luther's meaning to the articles of the Creed
- 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:

Sixth Grade uses the *"CA Math Expressions, Common Core"* curriculum from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt publishers as a college and career readiness foundation. Lessons and activities focus on active learning, computational proficiency, problem solving and cooperative learning. Sixth graders focus on using ratio, percents, and proportional relationships to solve real-world and mathematical problems. They apply and extend previous understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions and division with decimal quotients.

They learn to compute fluently with multi-digit numbers finding common factors and multiples. Positive and negative integers are introduced as well as coordinate plane graphing and working with number lines. Real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area and volume are expanded. Statistics, data analysis, and probability are presented for a solid mathematical base.

Language Arts:

Using the "*Reading Street Common Core*" curriculum from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt publishers, we create an individualized program fit for every student. The program has high interest fiction and non-fiction literature to teach reading, phonics, grammar, and spelling. We supplement with other phonics and grammar programs as needed for each student. Skills are presented and practiced through a variety of mediums and curriculums throughout the day. Writing is strengthened through carefully designed planning, revising, and editing skills strategies. Homework is given to review language arts topics and spelling skills directed in the class. Our small class sizes allow for daily assessments and assistance.

Computer Lab:

Each student has available a classroom iPad for classwork and weekly access to a computer lab for a variety of computer projects and activities. Proper computer handling skills and typing techniques are taught through the "*Keyboarding Without Tears*" program.

Social Science:

Sixth graders expand their knowledge of the world through the study of Ancient civilizations. They learn the geographic, political, historic, religious, and social structures of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome and the Hebrews. Map, globe, chart, graphing, and critical thinking skills develop through research papers and oral presentations.

Science:

Science is taught in the Sixth Grade from a Christian perspective emphasizing the wonders God has created. Through the utilization of reading and scientific experiments the students study the features of the earth's surface, specifically

tectonic plates, the topography by the weathering of rock and soil, and the many phenomena on the surface affected by energy. Ecosystems of organisms and their exchange of energy and nutrients are also explored.

Music:

Elementary students are offered a weekly formal 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. Third through sixth grades are also taught basic music reading skills and have the opportunity to participate in our school Bell Choir.

Physical Education:

Physical Education at Cross and Crown builds fundamental skills as well as team building opportunities. We offer Physical Education twice a week. Drills, techniques, strategies, games, and cooperation are all part of the Physical Education curriculum.

Art:

Sixth 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:

Spanish for the elementary students includes exposure to the written and spoken language. They develop vocabulary and conversational skills that can be applied to written text and dialogue. They are also introduced to the traditions and customs of the Mexican people such as, "*Dia de Los Muertes*", "*Las Posadas*", 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 students 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

Sixth 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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