

Welcome to Mr. Cruz's 1st Grade Class!



My name is Mr. Cruz and I am going to be your child's 1st Grade teacher this academic year! Our classroom will be Room 1 and can be found towards the right side of the school building, or just after the TK Playground. Teaching has always been my passion. Over the years, I've worked with grades 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, so I am excited to work with our new 1st graders! I enjoy watching movies and reading! I promise to create and deliver quality education for our students, create a safe learning environment, and nurture the Catholic Faith. Coming from a Filipino cultural background, I understand the importance of teaching the values of faith that allow our students to create a loving relationship with God, as well as the value of Education. I am excited to work and connect with all the students, parents, and the Santa Rosa community. Let's have a great year!

Mission

- Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic School strongly believes that each child is a gift from God who deserves the right to quality education. Here, at Santa Rosa de Lima, we are dedicated to providing our students with a spiritually rich and nurturing environment where our teachers, staff, and parents prepare our students to make a difference in the world

School Philosophy

In fulfillment of the Church's mission of Catholic education and in response to parental need, Santa Rosa de Lima exists to bring Jesus and the Gospel message into the formal educational experience of its students.

- We strive to have our students follow the call of Jesus Christ by centering our teaching around faith, life and learning; providing opportunities for service and worship.
- We strive to embody the spirit of Santa Rosa de Lima, living as disciples of Christ.
- We strive to build a school community which responds to the dignity and worth of each member.

Curriculum

Math:

Students will learn how to Add/Subtract single-digit numbers within the range of 20, Identify and Count numbers through groups and clusters, and learn Numerical Relationships/Number Families. (Ex: $3+3=6$ and $6-1=5$). They will also learn how to model their thinking by working with manipulative tools, illustrating their logical reasoning, and improving their ability to recognize the order of numbers as they increase and decrease. Additionally, they will learn the concepts of Place Values by grouping 100s, 10s, and 1s; they will manipulate digits and group objects and numbers together. Further, students will learn about the Properties of Geometric Shapes; learn how to measure objects; and learn how to determine the lengths of objects by Units.

Students will be learning through the i-Ready Curriculum. The i-Ready Curriculum is designed to build, accelerate, and strengthen students' knowledge and abilities in the given subject areas, which accommodate the California Common Core State Standards. i-Ready textbooks and materials will be used during instruction, while the students participate and complete online lessons: the lessons provided align with each Unit and Chapter, and cater to each student's academic performance.

Reading:

Students will build upon Phonological Awareness: learn the order of letters and identify the meaning and function of words, while building relationships with them. They will continue to develop their ability to Recognize and Manipulate the vowel letters: a, e, i, o, and u, while they identify the Long and Short sounds. More importantly, they will learn how to isolate each letter and the sounds of the alphabet; blend letter sounds together to construct a full word (Consonant Vowel Consonant words); and recognize syllables in words. Further, students will integrate their learning of letters, sounds, and word recognition into the use of Small Group exercises, assistive learning tools, and writing.

Students will be learning how to read and write through the i-Ready and Superkids Curriculum. The i-Ready Curriculum structure for Reading and Writing is identical to the Math domain. Superkids is another integral part of the curriculum used in the class. Superkids provides in-depth stories, writing exercises, and homework material that align with California Common Core Standards, which can be found in the students' class textbook and workbook. i-Ready and Superkids will go hand-in-hand to develop reading and writing skills.

Writing:

Students will learn how to write and construct full sentences with basic Grammar, the set of rules that construct a sentence, and Punctuation (. , ?). They will construct their own opinions, learn and understand from peer perspectives, and elaborate on their written statements. Ex., "I can

run... I can jump... I will walk..." Students will work amongst each other to read and learn about each other's writing, as well as use their writing skills to create or supplement stories of their own. Also, students will participate in writing exercises through our Catholic curriculum, utilize assistive technology, and explore books/texts that complement the writing agenda.

Students will learn to read and write through the i-Ready and Superkids Curriculum. Similarly to the Reading domain, i-Ready and Superkids will both be integral structures of learning that will accelerate and guide students through the Reading and Writing Standards.

Religion

Students will learn the sign of the cross, prayers and their significance, and when and where to pray. They will also learn about the religious calendar dates that recognize and acknowledge the life of Jesus, explain the Sacraments of the Church, and identify the Three Divine Persons/The Holy Trinity. Additionally, they will learn the procedures of participating in mass, praying, and demonstrating respect to the Archbishop/Bishops.

Students will learn and participate through the Archdiocese ADLA Religion Curriculum Standards. These materials, lessons, and activities will be integrated into Reading and Writing as they accelerate and foster learning through all subject areas.

Science

Students will learn to observe, notice, challenge, and gauge nature's properties. (Ex. learning the Scientific Method at the basic level). Students will challenge themselves and develop Logical Reasoning by asking 'Why?', 'How?', or 'I wonder if...' They will learn about Earth's Properties, Animal types, and the Weather Cycle. They will observe and participate in in-class-orchestrated experiments that guide them through the provided Unit and lesson. Students will learn through the California Common Core Standards curriculum as it introduces and increases the areas of focus for the provided topic(s).

Social Studies/History

Students will learn about their perspective, position, and location. (Ex. creating rules for the classroom and describing why they are important, knowing and understanding boundaries, identifying community, learning other's cultural backgrounds, and learning how to construct a map). The students will integrate their experiences and observations into the subject, while developing their ability to identify their position and the characteristics of a community.

Students will be learning through the Superkids, Archdiocese Curriculum, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons/activities. Both curricula will complement each other as the student learns and begins to understand the value of faith, as well as identifying when or how to create faith from a personal perspective.

Art

Students have a variety of supporting areas of focus that facilitate the Arts Curriculum: Music, Dance, Theater, and Visual Arts. Students will be focusing on the Visual Arts, Music, and Theater. Students benefit from the other subject areas when the Arts are integrated into instruction because they can demonstrate their understanding, express and learn from other's perspectives, and build sensory and cognitive relationships.

The Arts, per California Common Core Standards, will be mostly integrated into the instruction alongside the Archdiocese ADLA Religion Curriculum Standards.

Student Learning Expectations

- Students are expected to attend class every day, Zoom included, unless their absence from is communicated with the teacher, or excused with a Doctor's Note or Main Office.
- Students are responsible for bringing their class materials every day, as well as their Homework/Work Folder, along with necessary materials.
- NO Toys are allowed in the classroom, outside the classroom, or on the playground. If brought to school, it will be withheld until given to the parent.
- Cell phones are NOT to be used during class time.
- Students must provide a note if they are arriving late, or absent, and parents must NOTIFY the office.
- There is no tolerance for BULLYING or any unkind behavior that results in other students feeling unsafe and isolated from the school. Doing so will result in result in a phone call home. The classroom is a safe space that promotes learning, care, and confidence.

Parent Expectations

- Parents are encouraged to check their child's grades and monitor their progress on GradeLink weekly. On Gradelink, parents will see submitted and missing assignments, which could be accounted for. For any questions regarding parent access to GradeLink, please email Ms. Aceves at aaceves@srdlcs.com.
- Class updates regarding schedule, assignments, goals for learning, events, etc. Will be sent home through Weekly Newsletters with your child at the beginning of every week in their Homework Folder and posted on ClassDojo. For any questions or clarifications, you may message me on ClassDojo during available times.
- Studies show that reading to your child for 20-30 minutes daily strengthens their early Literacy and Phonics Skills. Your child will benefit from consistent exposure to identifying sounds, the function of words, and reading comprehension. Please read to your child when available to do so.

- Join your child's journey of building a relationship with God by practicing how and when to pray, reciting the prayers, and preparing them to read bible passages (when it is time for 1st grade to lead the mass).

Homework and Late Policy

- Daily Homework will be assigned weekly from Monday-Thursday and will be sent in their Homework Folders. Students will learn, practice, and perform the assignment's problems in class to ensure their confidence in performing the tasks at home. Students will NOT be given homework on Fridays. However, there will be occasions in which I will assign homework on reduced days, online instruction, etc. to supplement learning.
- Online activities for i-Ready for both Math and English will be assigned along with paper assignments. I will assign students to complete 15 minutes of both subjects, which will be a total of 30 minutes. The i-Ready lessons accommodate the curricula taught in the classroom, so the students will be much more familiar with the material.
- Late homework is Accepted. However, there will be a 10% reduction basis for each day AFTER two days of the due date. For example, if Student A was unable to submit their Monday homework on Tuesday and Wednesday, they would still earn full credit. But if Student A submits their Monday homework on Thursday, their late homework will be reduced by 10% from full credit. If the student is unable to complete the assignments under specific circumstances, please message me on ClassDojo.

Grading

- Grading for students across all subject areas will be based on a Numerical Scale:
 - 4: 100%: Above grade level: Demonstrating variations and models of thinking additional to grade level material
 - 3: 85%-100%: At grade level: Meeting grade level expectations, standards, and performance
 - 2: 70%-84%: Approaching grade level: Proceeding grade level expectations, standards, and performance while students strengthen areas of improvement across subject areas.
 - 1: 0%-69%: Below grade level: Academic performance and abilities are measured below grade level standards and expectations; students are unprepared/unable to scaffold through content and material

- Students' progress will be assessed and monitored by using i-Ready, STAR Renaissance, and in-class assessments: such as spelling tests, participation, unit and chapter book-specific assessments. If your child is absent, the classwork or in-class activities will not need to be made up unless otherwise communicated to do so. However, tests, quizzes, and projects, Assessment-type assignments, will need to be made up the following day your child returns to class. Missing homework will NOT significantly impact assessing your child's cumulative progress, but if your child is missing homework regularly, then a parent-teacher conference will be necessary.

Technology and Resources

- Headphones and iPads/Computers will be used during class time to supplement learning.
- ClassDojo will be used for Parent-Teacher contact.
- GradeLink will be used for parents to view their child's grades, which will be updated weekly.
- Occasionally, I will provide educational videos to pass the time during dismissal or early arrival.

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

- On the following dates: September 12th, 13th, and 16th, 2024, the class will be attending class online via ZOOM. Because the school will prepare and host the Fiesta on the 13th, 14th, and 15th, students will be unable to attend in-person instruction, but are still expected to attend instruction online. Activities and schedules for these specific dates will be posted/shared as the date approaches.
- Testing and Assessments: Students will be tested through the curriculums STAR and iReady within the FIRST 2 WEEKS OF SCHOOL. They will be tested 3 times throughout the academic year: Beginning, Middle, and End. The goal of these assessments is to monitor your child's growth and to accommodate areas of improvement. They will be tested on the following for both STAR and iReady: Early Literature, Math, and Reading. I will ensure the students are prepared, notify parents when these tests will be administered, and prepare them in class.
- Birthdays: Students will receive a Free Dress Pass on the day of their birthday and will not be assigned homework. I encourage parents to send their children to class with their favorite book to read with the class. As per birthday goodies, I recommend goodie bags for each student with store-packed treats as they will be sent home with each student. If you intend on bringing treats like cupcakes or pizzas, please message me two days in advance to plan accordingly.
- Tutoring: Tutoring for 1st grade will be hosted and administered by myself in our classroom. Tutoring will be held every Monday beginning 30 minutes after dismissal. Given the students are dismissed at 2:50, I will be hosting tutoring sessions Monday, Weekly, from 2:50pm-3:10pm. Tutoring is recommended for students who are struggling

with the content, activities in class, or could benefit from differentiated learning. After evaluating initial student performance data, I will recommend tutoring to the student's families. Tutoring activities will operate through Small Group learning and in-class exercises. I will host 4 students per session: the goal is to provide individualized instruction and support, and I will rotate students weekly if other students are recommended.

Weekly Overview/Class Schedule

1st Grade	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00am-8:10am	Morning Assembly	Morning Assembly	Morning Assembly	Morning Assembly	Morning Assembly
8:10am-8:40am	Music	P.E.	Learning Lab	U.A. Small Group Focus Whole Group	U.A. Small Group Focus Whole Group
8:40am-9:40am	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
9:40am-10:00am	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
10:00am-11:00am	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
11:00am-11:40am	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion	Art
11:40am-12:20pm (Mon-Thurs.)	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	11:30am Bathroom break Pack-up 11:45am start walking to church 12pm-1pm Mass Dismiss from classroom
12:20pm-1:40pm	Science	Science	Science	Handwriting	
1:40pm-2:35pm	History	History	History	Art	

1st Grade	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2:35pm-2:250pm	End of day prayers	End of day prayers	End of day prayers	End of day prayers	
	Pack up	Pack up	Pack up	Pack up	
	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	

Contact Information

- Please feel free to message me on ClassDojo for any questions or concerns. ClassDojo will be the primary messaging system to reach me. I will be sending home copies of the link on the first day of school if parents have not yet joined.
- As per contact and messaging, you can message me from 5:00am-5:00pm Monday through Friday. I will try my best to respond to messages during school hours when there is an available time window outside of instruction time.
- For any other questions or concerns, you may contact the Main Office: (818)-361-5069

Acknowledgment and Agreement

Please sign and return this form to acknowledge your agreement to the curricula, policies, expectations, and procedures addressed in the Syllabus. Thank you for your time, consideration, and support! Please have you and your child sign and return the form by Monday, August 19, 2024.

Student Name: _____	Parent Name: _____
Student Signature: _____	Parent Signature: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____

Finally, please state the best way for me to contact you!
