

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



Mr. Cruz, 1st Grade Teacher, Room 1

jcruz@srdlcs.com

ClassDojo Messaging: Monday-Friday: 5:00am-5:00pm

Office Hours: Thursday and Friday: 3:00pm-3:30pm (or by appointment)

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 left 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 manipulate digits and group objects and numbers together within story problems across addition and subtraction. Further, students will consolidate their conceptual understanding and independent abilities from counting into addition and subtraction using illustration, objects, fingers, identifying missing addends within numerical relationships, as well as solving story problems.

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 create and develop their ability to Recognize and Manipulate the vowel letters: a, e, i, o, and u, while identifying the Long and Short vowels. Students will also learn how to read various Digraph Patterns, which allows them to recognize word structures between Reading and Writing. 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); recognize syllable patterns in word structures; and will develop independent Reading Fluency. Further, students will integrate their knowledge of letters, sounds, and syllables to develop automaticity in vocabulary, spelling pattern, and sight word recognition, which will be performed through both whole and small groups.

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, build upon peer statements, develop a consistent understanding of the English Language structure, 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 to use writing skills as a communicative tool to convey messages and associate the English Language as print, while integrating personal experiences to create engagement. 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 build, learn, and identify with their Catholic Faith and Relationship with God through the following: learning proper prayer etiquette, how to participate in Mass and Church, the sign of the cross, when and how we pray, prayer significance, and reading through Bible Stories. 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. By the end of the academic year, students are expected to recite prayers and their significance; model appropriate behavior and participation in church; and foster an interpersonal positive relationship with God.

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). Students will integrate their experiences and observations into the subject as they read Multicultural Historical Texts (Ex. Martin Luther King) and develop their skills in identifying their position, influence, how previous actions affect others, while constructing foundational knowledge of History— building a conceptual framework of 'before and after' and 'cause and effect.'

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— they will utilize the Arts to implement them into the respective area of study or subject. For example, creating an illustration of cookies being eaten to model a math subtraction story problem. Students will benefit from the other subject areas when the Arts are integrated into instruction as they model 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.

Common Sense Curriculum: Digital Citizenship

Each year, students receive two dedicated lessons on appropriate online behavior and cyberbullying awareness. These lessons are based on the **Common Sense Curriculum**, a reputable resource for digital citizenship education. This instruction supports our education. This instruction supports our compliance with the **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)**, which requires schools to complement and enforce an internet safety policy, As part of this compliance we also maintain a technology protection measure—such as a filter or firewall—to restrict access to inappropriate online content. <https://www.commonsense.org/education>

Empowering God's Children

In accordance with Archdiocesan policy, all Catholic elementary schools are required to implement ongoing Safe Environment Training for children and young people. This important initiative must be carried out annually at each school site. Archbishop Jose H. Gomez has approved the following for use:

Empowering God's Children and Young People

This K-12 child abuse prevention program was developed specifically for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The curriculum follows a three-year cycle:

- Year One: The Five Safety Rules
- Year Two: Boundaries and Bullying
- Year Three: Internet Safety

The program equips students with age-appropriate tools to recognize and respond to situations that may pose a risk to their safety. It is designed to empower children and youth with knowledge and skills to help protect themselves from harm.

Parental permission is required prior to instruction. Consent forms are sent home each year before the Empowering God's Children lesson is delivered. Thank you for your continued partnership in ensuring the safety and well-being of all students.

<https://lacatholics.org/empowering-gods-children/>

Student Learning Expectations and Accountability

- Students are expected to attend class every day unless their absence 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 from the office 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 a phone call home. The classroom is a safe space that promotes learning, care, and confidence.
- If any issues or conflict arise, students are encouraged to meet with their teacher or any staff member at their comfort. I maintain an Open Door Policy and confidentiality. Students on all accounts will be assessed on the event, will be reminded of class rules and expectations that were agreed upon, and will practice positive habits in maintaining a fun,

friendly, and safe environment. Further, I encourage you to reach out to me if there are any concerns during my available hours.

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.
- Our school encourages parent involvement to both help our school, church, and all families become a stronger community together, but to also be part of your child's learning and development! Throughout the year, our school will have events and festivities in which you can volunteer to account for your volunteer hours! Each family is expected to complete 30 hours, so volunteering for school events, festivities, Sunday Family Mass Fundraising, or Warrior Wednesday is the perfect opportunity! Please note, that you must be VIRTUS TRAINED and CERTIFIED.
- Class updates regarding schedule, assignments, goals for learning, events, etc. will be posted on ClassDojo as 'Weekly Newsletters' at the beginning of every week. 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).

Morning Drop off and Pick Up Procedure

- Our school opens at 7:30am and parents may begin student drop off at that time; classrooms will be open for students to enter, store their belongings, and prepare for instruction at 8:00am. If in any event I am not present at the opening time, you may drop off your child in my neighboring classrooms: TK/K with Mrs. Sanchez or 2nd/3rd Grade with Mrs. Ramirez— all of our teachers welcome all of our students into the classroom. Further, this is only for any event where I am not present or have not yet opened my classroom doors at 7:30am.
- Parking gates for our Dismissal is at precisely 2:50pm. However, our class will begin packing their belongings at the end of the day at 2:40pm; they will be ready to go as soon as 2:50pm. Please take this into consideration as you make your way towards our classroom or park your vehicle.

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. Students must also have their names on their assignments at all times.

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

- Grade Weights
 - Daily Homework: 10%
 - Daily Classwork and Participation: 15%
 - Quizzes across all subjects: 25%
 - Unit Tests or Projects: 50%

- 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 by Sunday evening.
- Occasionally, I will display educational videos or G-rated movies to pass time during dismissal or early arrival.

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

- Testing and Assessments: Students will be tested through the curriculums STAR and iReady within the FIRST WEEK 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.
- Family Mass Dates for the '25-'26 Academic Year:
 - Below is the Sunday Family Mass schedule for the 2025–2026 school year. Please note that Family Mass attendance and participation will count as part of your child's Religion participation grade. We kindly ask that you plan accordingly. If you are unable to attend any of the dates listed below, please reach out in advance to request an accommodation.
 - Scheduled Dates:
 - September 21, 2025
 - October 19, 2025

- November 23, 2025 (*Attendance/participation will be counted as extra credit*)
- January 25, 2026 (*Open House Sunday*)
- February 22, 2026
- March 22, 2026
- April 26, 2026
- May 17, 2026 (*Led by 1st grade students and parents*)

We look forward to celebrating these special Sundays together as a school and faith community.

- **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 Wednesday. Given the students are dismissed at 2:50, I will be hosting the tutoring sessions Wednesday, Weekly, from 3:00pm-3:40pm. 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.
- **Bible Fee:** As a part of our Religion Curriculum, students will actively learn and read through their Personally Assigned Bibles. Their assigned bibles feature grade-level scriptures, conversational topics, illustrations, and Bible Stories . The user-friendly text allows students to build a solid foundation and understanding of God's Creation, Jesus' Story, and the significance of life and prayer, making it a supplemental resource into daily learning and in the classroom. In covering this fee, payments may be made directly to the Main Office.

Weekly Overview/Class Schedule

Monday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30am Doors Open	Open Class	Open Class	Open Class	Open Class	Open Class
8:00am	Morning Prayers and Attendance	Morning Prayers and Attendance	Morning Prayers and Attendance	Morning Prayers and Attendance	Morning Prayers and Attendance
8:15am-8:45 am	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion or Music 8:30am-9:00am
8:50am-9:40 am	Reading	Reading or P.E. 9:00am-9:30am	Reading	Reading	Reading
9:40am-10:05am	Art	Art	Art	Art	Brunch
10:10am-10:30am	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Math
10:30am-11:20am	Math	Math	Math	Math	Whole Group or Independent Reading
11:40am-12:20pm	Group Work	Group Work	Group Work	Group Work	Mass @12:00pm
12:30pm-1:10pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Dismissal @ 1:00pm
1:10pm-1:40 pm	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	
1:40pm-2:10 pm	Science	Science	Science	Science	
2:10pm-2:40 pm	History	History	History	History	

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 25, 2025.

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

Finally, please share the best way I can contact you!
