

Program Highlights

The second grade program supports our school's philosophy that *All students are blessed with unique gifts, talents, and abilities...* The targeted maximum is 24 students in each second grade class. Our Second grade is in session from 8:20 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The core academic program includes Phonics, Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. Literacy Centers are incorporated throughout the week, which involve learning through hands-on activities, independent work, and group games. Bible classes that include role-playing, crafts, and puppets are added to the curriculum to deepen the students' understanding of God and His Word. Our students enjoy enrichment learning activities in Specialty Classes that include Computer Science, Music, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Spanish, Meet the Masters, and bi-weekly visits to the school library. Students enjoy 20 minutes for morning snack and recess and 35 minutes for lunch and recess. Second Grade students share their recess periods with third and fourth grade students; Support Staff members provide careful supervision. Three academic field trips are incorporated throughout the year to enrich student understanding.

The Second Grade Faculty

Mrs. Aguarino is a second grade teacher at Red Hill Lutheran School. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications, a California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, and a Masters of Education in Language Teaching. Mrs. Aguarino taught Adult ESL (English as a Second Language) at the Irvine Unified School District and has been teaching for over 20 years. This is her 7th year at RHLS. She enjoys traveling, reading, writing letters and watching movies.

"Mrs. A" as she is fondly called believes that the Word of God is always relevant and can be integrated in all subject areas. Her

highest joy is to see her students

establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to develop a lifetime passion for reading. She is married to Al, a pastor in Huntington Beach, CA. They reside in Tustin.

Mrs. Kathleen Castro is beginning her second year as a second grade teacher at Red Hill Lutheran School. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Child Development and a Clear Multiple Teaching Credential.

Mrs. Castro has been married for 12 years and has two children, Michael and Ashley who both attend Red Hill. She enjoys spending quality family time by camping, watching movies, and going to the beach.

Mrs. Castro prides herself on having a loving and comfortable classroom environment where students find it easy to ask and explore any questions or ideas they may have. Building self-confidence is very important to her.



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Our curriculum and instructional materials are current, motivating, challenging, and responsive to student needs. All materials and instructional goals meet the California Content Standards. We emphasize hands-on learning activities that appeal to multiple learning modalities and are integrated with technology to support student learning.

Mathematics

Harcourt Math curriculum is used to review Addition and Subtraction Concepts, Money, Time and Graphing, Geometry, Measurement, Fractions, Double and Three-Digit Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication, etc. The students are introduced to these fundamental concepts through hands-on learning, manipulatives, computer-based games, and interactive learning via the Promethean Board. Nightly math homework is given to reinforce what is learned in class.

Language Arts

Open Court Reading, Fundations Phonics, and Write Source curriculum are used in conjunction to develop strong reading, spelling, and writing skills. Open Court Reading Curriculum teaches students comprehension skills and strategies with thematic units. Fundations Phonics Curriculum equips students to read and spell words with ease. Write Source introduces the Writing Process and Narrative, Expository, and Creative Writing. Language Arts homework is given daily, except Friday, to reinforce concepts introduced in class.

Science

Science investigations and experiments are explored through the FOSS curriculum. The students learn about Balance and Motion, Pebbles, Sand and Silt, and Insects and Plants. Hand-on lessons make it fun, relevant and interesting for students to grasp the concepts. Lessons are enriched through UnitedStreaming video and the Promethean interactive whiteboard. Students attend two engaging, academic field trips to La Brea Tar Pits, and the Ecosystem Extravaganza to further their understanding of the environment, plants, and animals.

Social Studies

Social Studies is introduced in the first trimester and continued in the first part of the second trimester. The units are: *Our Ancestors*, *Maps Skills and Directions*, *Government*, and *Economics*. A Field Trip to the Kellogg House reinforces the unit on ancestors.

Students discuss communities, economics, government, past, present, and future in whole and small groups. Students are also taught using the interactive Promethean Board.

Bible

The ACSI Bible curriculum deepens understanding of Bible stories and fundamental principles of Christianity. Interactive Bible stories, Bible reading, role playing, and Bible glossary cards are explored. Bible homework is given weekly. The homework reinforces the current lesson's objectives and allows for at home discussion of God's Word.

Classroom Management

Our teachers consider their teaching profession a ministry, and they serve as Christian role models, teaching Christian truths and values. Our teachers provide a warm, loving environment where students can be nurtured and are free to learn without fear of failure or embarrassment. Public humiliation is never an acceptable form of discipline. Through continued encouragement and positive reinforcement, students learn appropriate classroom and playground behavior.



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Our teachers are also happy to share more information about our program with you. Contact them at the following E-mail addresses:

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Mrs. Kathleen Castro
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