

## Program Highlights

The third and fourth 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 third and fourth grade. School is in session from 8:20 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. In addition to the core academic program that includes Phonics, Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science, Bible classes are part of each day's curriculum. Our students enjoy enrichment learning activities in Specialty Classes that include Computer Science, Spanish, Music, Performing Arts, Physical Education, and biweekly visits to the school library. Math in third and fourth grade concentrates on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. California communities are covered in Social Studies. In Language Arts, students read stories that include grade appropriate novels such as *Charlotte's Web* and *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and work on the 6+1 Traits of Writing. During Science, students do in-depth investigations of Physical, Earth, and Life Science. Hands-on activities are included in all subject areas. Students enjoy 20 minutes for morning snack and recess and 35 minutes for lunch. Third and fourth grade students share their recess periods with second grade students; Support staff members provide careful supervision. One field trip per trimester is part of the program, culminating with a three-day excursion to San Francisco and Sacramento.

## The Third and Forth Grade Faculty

**Mrs. Colette Hammer** has earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Cal State Fullerton, and has an extensive background in Early Childhood Education; She is currently working towards completing her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential at Cal State Fullerton. She has worked within private academies for the past fifteen years as a teacher and administrator. This will be her sixth year working at Red Hill Lutheran School. Mrs. Hammer and her husband reside in Hesperia with their daughter Kylie and son Devin. She feels a Christian education is one of the most important gifts she can give her children. She enjoys all outdoor activities: Her passions are camping, hiking, fishing, running, bike riding, and swimming. She feels very blessed to have a career that she deeply enjoys.

### **Mrs. Monica Sharp**

Mrs. Sharp earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications from Cal State Fullerton and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Cal State Teach. Mrs. Sharp has worked in private education for five years and has experience working with all ages, Kindergarten through 8th grade. The students in her Multi-Age classroom enjoy many center activities and she believes in molding 21st century learners by integrating technology into her lessons daily. Married for 15 years and a Tustin native, Mrs. Sharp and her family are active in the local sports community and their parish. Taking road trips, boating, and going to the movies are some of the activities she enjoys with her husband and three daughters.

### **Mrs. Kelly Sonderby**

has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education, a California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, and a Minnesota Teaching License in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and middle school mathematics. She graduated from the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota in 2005 and has taught 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, as well as preschool. She has also served as long-term substitute teacher in computers. Mrs. Sonderby enjoys going to the beach, biking, and skiing in Colorado. She values her family and friends and makes it back to Minnesota as often as she can.



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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 and are Biblically integrated. 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 develop students understanding of numbers and operations, money and time, Multiplication concepts and facts, division concepts and facts, data, graphing, probability, geometry, measurement, fractions and decimals. 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, ACSI spelling 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. ACSI/Open Court Spelling focuses on context, definitions and developing dictionary skills. Write Source introduces the Writing Process and Narrative, Expository, Creative, Persuasive, and Research Writing. Language Arts homework is given nightly to reinforce concepts introduced in class. Students complete at least two in-class book reports and three at-home projects.

## Science

FOSS Science curriculum is used to introduce students to the Physical, Earth, and Life Sciences. Students learn through teacher demonstration, hands on activity, recording/writing in notebooks, class discussion, teacher explanation, and vocabulary reinforcement. Investigations are initially self explored and formally reviewed. Some materials used include live organisms, magnets, minerals, and light bulbs. Students attend engaging, academic field trips to further their understanding of Life and Earth Science. Through an interactive, multimedia website, students can further their science investigations and exercise new skills.

## Social Studies

Harcourt Social Studies curriculum is used to develop students' understanding of Geography, American Indians, Community History, Government and Citizenship, United Symbols, and Economics. Fourth grade students focus on California History. Students discuss communities, economics, government, and past, present, and future in whole and small groups. Students are also taught using interactive PowerPoint presentations, United Streaming videos, and Promethean Flipcharts. Students attend an informative Native American fieldtrip and a three day education tour to San Francisco and Sacramento.

## Bible

ACSI Bible curriculum deepens understanding of Bible stories and fundamental principles of Christianity. Foundational understanding of God's word begins with learning how to navigate through the Bible. Students are able to relate biblical stories to life experiences, and are familiar with utilizing a Bible concordance when seeking guidance from God's word. Interactive Bible stories and Bible homework are assign weekly. This homework assists the students in memorizing the required, weekly school Bible verse 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. Monica Sharp  
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Mrs. Kelly Sonderby  
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