

**What Shall We Teach?
What Should They Learn?
Ruth Murdoch Elementary School
Focus On Competencies**

Institutions of higher education have prepared statements of competencies they hope elementary and secondary schools will use as they prepare students for the academic challenges of college. The ICAS Statement of Competencies, prepared by the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senate of the California Community College, the California State University, and the University of California, is typical of such a compilation. Competencies outlined by the ICAS Statement and like documents focus primarily on academic competencies, leading to higher education and careers.

Our definition of competencies is broader in scope.

Ruth Murdoch Elementary School maintains that our mandate is dictated by our Mission Statements goal of "striving toward excellence." What we offer families of our school reaches beyond preparing competent students for academia, to preparing them for service to God and humanity in this life and for the blessed privilege of eternal life. It is this vision that informs the competencies we promote and legitimize.

The faculty and staff of Ruth Murdoch Elementary School are deliberate about integrating these competencies into our curriculum at every stage of our scope and sequence, in a carefully measured age/grade-appropriate manner. Students' grades reflect the mastery of content, their ability to communicate effectively the knowledge they gain, and their progress in mastering the competencies listed below.

Spiritual Competencies

Understanding/accepting of faith-based model of salvation
Appreciating and accepting the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus
Understanding the triune nature of the Godhead
Introducing God as creator, sustainer, friend, Savior and Lord of one's life
Appreciating of all Scripture and nature as the revelation of God
Seeing in Scripture examples of right and wrong behaviors from the human experience
Developing habits leading to a life of personal bible study and prayer
Accepting obedience as a function that is motivated by love and gratitude
Accepting the golden Rule as the perfect model for interpersonal relationships
Understanding/accepting the role of humans as stewards of created things and the environment
Accepting responsibility for the welfare of our neighbors [[those who need our help]
Understanding one's personal responsibility to the "family of Christ," His church
Developing quality of unselfish love and selfless giving
Understanding the nature and role of continued inspiration in the Church
Distinguishing between the culture of the world and the culture of the Kingdom
Understanding/appreciating the SDA world view through the great Controversy model
Developing an orientation to living a life that in all aspects seeks to glorify God
Accepting the challenge of representing God correctly, and understanding how that is done

Developing all the talents and spiritual gifts that one is given to promote one's faith

Life Skills/Social Skills

Being punctual in attendance and completing assigned tasks
Learning and practicing Organizational skills
Learning effective time management skills
Being able to read, understand and follow directions
Being able to work with others in a responsible manner
Learning to take responsibility for one's own learning and actions
Being able to work collaboratively with others
Demonstrating a commitment to doing one's best at all times
Practicing responsible problem solving skills
Showing sensitivity and respect for cultural diversity
Showing respect for fellow humans
Demonstrating a commitment to shared democratic values
Demonstrating a commitment to responsible civic action
Respecting one's own health and safety and the health and safety of others
Working diligently towards a goal, avoiding short-cuts
Being able to choose positive role models
Developing leadership skills consistent with spiritual principles
Willingness to develop and use individual Spiritual Gifts
Using one's creative abilities in a way that will please God and be a blessing to others

Study Skills

Developing good listening skills
Developing analytical/critical thinking skills
Developing good reading/comprehension skills
Reading for information and knowledge
Developing a love for leisure reading and demonstrating the ability to choose reading materials wisely
Developing the ability to compare and contrast ideas
Being able to distinguish between fact and opinion
Being able to sequence events and procedures effectively
The ability to separate fact from fiction
Commitment to learning
Demonstrate a desire for learning
Being able to show respect for knowledge and demonstrate intellectual curiosity
Being able to use the scientific method correctly
Being able to begin a project in a timely manner and see it successfully to completion
Develop effective note taking skills
Being able to meet deadlines in a timely manner
Develop writing skills using proper mechanics
Learning to use the talent of writing as an outreach tool to promote one's faith