

## Welcome to fifth grade 2017 – 2018

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to the fifth grade class! I feel so blessed to be a part of the St. Mary's family. In this packet you will find detailed information regarding the curriculum, as well as our class expectations regarding behavior, homework, projects and tests. **Please read it carefully and reference it throughout the year.**

Fifth grade is a time of transition from elementary school to junior high. **Our goal is to prepare and contribute to each student's spiritual, academic, and social development by adding to the strong foundation that has already been set in place. In addition, this year there will be a special focus on helping each child develop a "growth mindset."** This means that your child will learn how to confront new concepts, and engage in deeper thinking with confidence. Many students love to embrace a challenge, while others may be more reserved about attempting new tasks. Please keep in mind that challenges and growth are an important part of your child's emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development. The goal of the fifth grade team is to partner with your family, and support your child in all of these areas. Working together, we look forward to providing your child a learning experience where they can explore, ask questions, make mistakes and ultimately gain new confidence. By encouraging an eager mind and a loving heart each student will be provided with a positive learning environment! Blessings,

Mrs. Trombadore

Mrs. Spangler

Mrs. Mooney

Mrs. Bettencourt

## Communication

EMAIL IS BEST!

<p>Mrs. Trombadore</p> <p><a href="mailto:strombadore@cdo.org">strombadore@cdo.org</a></p>	
<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>Daily Communication</b>
<p>Please email me to set up parent/teacher meetings.</p> <p>Before school: between 7:15–7:45</p> <p>After school: Thursdays between 3:30–4:00</p> <p>I am not available to meet on Wednesday afternoons due to faculty meetings.</p>	<p>Class Website</p> <p>Student Planners</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weekly Communication</b></p> <p>Friday Folders</p> <p>Friday Email with reminders</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monthly Communication</b></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Newsletter</p>

Student work will be sent home every Friday in a folder, which is to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned the following Monday. Please take time over the weekend to review your child's work with them so that you are aware of his/her progress. An email will be sent on Friday afternoon with news and reminders for the following week.

### Classroom Discipline Policy

Please review our School-Wide Discipline Policy in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Our classroom rules are designed to ensure an environment where all students can learn, feel safe, and each individual's unique contributions are respected. This year, the students will participate in a weekly class meeting with Mrs. Martinez to foster respect, empathy, tolerance, and compassion for one another.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom Behavior Expectations**

- 1) Treat each other with respect.
- 2) Be responsible and accountable for your actions.
- 3) Don't be afraid to take risks!
- 4) Help to maintain a clean and orderly classroom.
- 5) Put forth your best effort at all times.

## **Behavior Incentives**

Unlock the Love! The children will have the opportunity to earn Monopoly dollars for good behavior and following directions. They can then spend their dollars in two ways. 1. To buy treats or play games on Friday afternoons during Ace Time. OR 2. They may save their dollars to buy keys to unlock the LOVE. If you happen to choose the right key and the right lock you will win pizza lunch with Mrs. Trombadore at the end of the trimester. Every Trimester there will be four winners.

## **Homework and Assignments**

Homework must be turned in on time! Everyday I post directions on the board when students enter the room. One of the directions will be in regard to homework and where to hand it in. Generally worksheets, such as math, will go in the homework basket. Sometimes students will be directed to place larger projects on a counter, or they may need to hand in an entire workbook for grammar or vocabulary.

Fifth grade can be a big change for some students. Our goal this year is to teach your child time and resource management skills that will help him/her successfully get their homework done and handed in!

Students will receive explicit instruction in the use of their planners, and how to stack and pack all the required materials they will need to complete their homework each day. Each student has received an assignment notebook so he/she can keep track of daily homework, due dates, and test dates. Tests will be announced at least 2 weeks in advance. Planners should be in student's desks at all times while at school. We will record homework together as a class at the end of each class period so that all assignments are written down BEFORE the end of the day. This is to ensure students

understand the homework assignment and have an opportunity to ask questions during class time. A "must have" list will be kept on the board so students have a clear understanding of what needs to go into their backpack each afternoon.

If a student consistently does not turn in assignments on time, and attempts to correct the behavior are not acted upon by the student, the following homework policy will be implemented:

Late assignments will be accepted but given a lower score based on the number of days late. By the fifth day, late assignments will be accepted but will receive a 50% on that assignment.

Parents will be notified of late assignments with a missing assignment slip. These slips require a parent signature and need to be returned the next day. Each assignment is given a point value. Missing assignments can significantly hurt your grade and can lower it one or more grade levels.

Days Late	Highest Possible Score	Explanation
After Collection	90%	If collected after the assignment was turned in on the day it is due.
1 day		
2 days	80%	Assignment is worth a maximum of 80%
3-4 days	75%	Assignment is worth a maximum of 75%
5+ days	50%	On day 5 the score is 50%.

### Make-Up Assignments and Tests

Each day the student is absent, a folder will be made that includes details of all assignments given for which the absent student is responsible. It is the student's responsibility to complete and turn in all assignments and tests given while he/she was absent. The student has the same number of days that he/she was absent to complete make-up work and tests. For example, if the student missed two days of school, he/she has two days to make-up missed assignments and tests.

The student must take the initiative to ask questions regarding any work they may not understand. We are very happy to help the students catch up, but it is the student's responsibility to let us know if and when he/she needs help.

### **Paper Heading and Handwriting**

All papers must have a proper page heading that includes subject, date, page number, if applicable, name, and number.

When completing handwritten work cursive or printing is acceptable. This year I will require that work in science notebooks be completed in cursive so that students continue to practice their cursive skills.

Any typed work must be done in the Times New Roman 12 point font and double spaced.

For written assignments only blue or black ink may be used in class. (Mrs. Trombadore cannot read papers written in yellow marker!)

### **Projects and Reports**

Projects and reports provide additional learning opportunities to our curriculum in fifth grade. Students will be given adequate time to complete their work. The following are some examples of what you can expect:

- State Reports
- Saint Reports
- Social Studies Flip Books
- Group and Individual Power Point Presentations

### **Birthdays**

We happily celebrate birthdays. Free dress is granted on designated days for all birthdays in that respective month. Per school policy students may bring a small non-food treat to share with their classmates on their birthday. If you are so inclined, please note that there are 34 students in our class this year.

## Curriculum

**English Language Arts:** Our language arts program incorporates many different components, including Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, Vocabulary, Grammar and Spelling. **Please have your child bring a book for independent reading every day!** AR quizzes will be part of their reading grade.

### Texts:

- Writing: Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing, by Lucy Calkins. Heinemann.
- Reading: Students will learn to think about and respond to a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. Materials will come from a number of sources including A-Z Reading, science and social studies texts, and class novels.
- Vocabulary and Grammar: Vocabulary Workshop, and Grammar Workshop. Sadlier.
- Spelling words will come primarily from the science and social studies curriculum.

**Tests:** Students will have a vocabulary/spelling test every two weeks and will be given two to three weeks notice for all other tests.

**Math:** In fifth grade, students focus on computing with fractions, dividing with larger numbers, and finding the volume of rectangular prisms.

Throughout the year they:

- Add, subtract, and multiply fractions
- Divide unit fractions by whole numbers
- Divide whole numbers by unit fractions
- Calculate with decimal numbers
- Find the volume of rectangular prisms (boxlike shape)

Please see the Parent Welcome letter attached for more information regarding the fifth grade Bridges math curriculum.

**Science and Social Studies will be taught in two-week rotating blocks.**

**Science:** FOSS Science is a hands-on, activity-based program, which focuses on the student's development of observation and inference skills. FOSS (Full Option Science System) is a research-based science curriculum for grades K-8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Berkeley. We will cover three units, one per trimester. Each grade will cover a physical science, an earth science and a life science. In fifth grade our three units are:

- Mixtures and Solutions
- Earth and Sun
- Living Systems

**Social Studies:** The focus in fifth grade is U.S. History, with particular emphasis on the colonization of the United States, the Revolutionary War and the events, institutions, and democratic principles that form the basis of the United States Government. Text: Our Nation, Scott Foresman, Pearson.

- State reports: The state reports are broken into monthly projects and the majority of the work will be done in school. We will assign students their states next week. The first project will be due in late September. I will post the state assignments and project due dates on the website and let you know, via the newsletter, when this information is up on the website.
- Tests: There will be an assessment at the end of each two-week science or social studies unit.

**Geography:** Students will learn about the fifty states and their capitols. Regional assessments will prepare students for a cumulative state test in the spring. Spelling will count! We will also use the Daily Geography program, and have an Explorer of the Week presentation every Thursday.

- Explorer of the Week. Each week one student will do a mini-report (Who/What, Where, Why), about an UNESCO Heritage sight. Explorer of the week reports will begin after Labor Day.  
<http://whc.unesco.org/>. A list of assigned site, and assigned presentation date will be posted on the website.

**Religion:** Grade five will use the We Believe, text provided by the Oakland Diocese. We also read The Gospel Weekly magazine each week to gain a deeper understanding of the readings the children hear during Mass each Sunday. Each week begins with faith family meetings on Monday afternoon.

In addition, we will have a weekly class meeting, facilitated by Mrs. Martinez, in order to work on Christ-centered social and emotional skills.

**Study Skills:** Mr. Chin will teach study skills once a week. We will be sending more specifics regarding this curriculum shortly.

**Music:** The students will have formal music classes twice a week with Mrs. Droulliard. Recorder practice will be assigned each week, and parents will need to sign their child's folder accordingly.

**Art:** We will have Art every other Friday with Mrs. Bennett.

**Spanish:** Twice a week Senora Hernandez will come into the classroom to teach Spanish. Please read the attached letter from Senora which outlines the policies for Spanish class this year.

**Technology:** Mrs. Kearney will teach technology once per week on Wednesday afternoons. Students will have access to Ipads, three computers in the classroom for AR quizzes, and the laptop cart. Fifth Grade is also scheduled to use the new Spartan Center twice per week. Finally, technology, will be integrated, whenever possible, throughout the curriculum in the classroom.

**Garden Guardians** – Fifth grade will lead the school to keep the garden neat and clean.

**Tests:** Students will have a vocabulary/spelling test every two weeks and will be given two to three weeks notice for all other tests.

**Field Trips:**

October/November: In class art project (pending approval)

February: Chabot Space and Science Center (pending approval)

April/May: Day trip to the Balclutha tall ship (pending approval)

Other ideas ?????

## Grading

A point system will be used to keep track of student successes in all classes. Objective evaluation reflects the percentage earned and a letter grade based upon the Diocesan scale.

- **FORMATIVE (10%) - Assessments FOR learning:** an evaluation tool used to guide and monitor the progress of student learning during instruction. Its purpose is to provide continuous feedback to both the student and the teacher concerning learning successes and progress toward mastery.
- **SUMMATIVE (90%) - Assessments OF learning:** an evaluation tool generally used at the end of an assignment, unit, project, or chapter. These types of assessments are more formal kinds of assessments (e.g., unit tests, final exams, projects, reports, and presentations) and are typically used to evaluate student mastery of intended learning outcomes.
- **LIFE SKILLS:** Please see the rubric that is attached.

Finally, I would like to share one of my favorite quotes by Margaret Shepard:

**“Sometimes your only means of transportation is  
a leap of faith.”**

As we go forward this year I pray that we can all work together to guide your child to trust themselves, and the Lord, so they are able to make those leaps that will allow them to grow in faith and knowledge!

Blessings,

Mrs. Trombadore