

Dear Parents:

Welcome back to school! We are pleased to have your children in our classes this year. Our goal is to work as a team --teachers, parents, and students-- to ensure an excellent learning environment. Below is a brief summary of the content your child will be learning with us this year.

Religion

Religion is the most important subject we teach. Fifth grade religion involves study of the sacraments and parts of the Mass. We will also study the liturgical year, virtues, Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, and the Trinity. As you know, **you are the primary educator of your child in the faith**, so it is truly important that their religious education begin at home. **Please join us to celebrate Mass as a community. We celebrate Mass at 8:15am on Wednesdays and Fridays. Weekend Mass times are: Saturday at 4:15 pm, Sundays at 8:15 am, and 10:30 am.**

Math

Fifth graders expand their understanding of place value patterns and relationships. They will solve problems and evaluate expressions using whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers. Students will apply formulas for area and volume, convert units, and classify polygons. Our primary resource is the EnVision textbook which develops higher level mathematical thinking.

Science

Students will be learning and practicing the science process skills. They will study weight and mass, Earth-Moon-Sun relationships, ecosystems, and the design process. Students also learn and utilize the scientific method and the engineering design process through group investigations. 5th grade participation in **STARBASE** is one of the highlights of science this year.

Language Arts

The children will be writing everyday. Reading consists of the Daily 5 approach and CAFE Menu of strategies to learn and practice. Each child will have choices and goals throughout the trimester. Research shows when a child reads books for pleasure they quickly progress because they enjoy what they read and focus on skills. I would love to have the children use their library cards to check out audiobooks from the public library.

Spelling will be different this year. The number of words will increase as each child builds their accuracy. Words the children spell correctly on pre-test on Wednesday they will no longer have to write on Friday.

Social Studies

Many of the standards in U.S. History also cover Language Arts standards at the same time. The class will study the history, government, geography, and economics of our country from its early beginnings to the 1800s.

Conduct

We advocate attitudes that are virtuous and academically enriching. The following rules have been established to reinforce this:

1. Take Care of Yourself
2. Take Care of Each Other
3. Take Care of this Place

Discipline Policy:

We will be using the Conduct Binder as our primary discipline policy in 5th grade. Students will receive a conduct mark when they are choosing not to take care of themselves, each other, or our school community. Two conduct marks in the same day from the same teacher or three conduct marks in a week will result in a referral to the office and communication with parents. Excessive conduct marks for the same infraction will result in a loss of privileges or referral to the office. Conduct Marks start fresh at the beginning of each trimester.

Homework:

Student work will be graded on a total points system; however, tests, quizzes, and projects make up a larger majority of total points than homework assignments. Student work should be turned in on time. Our late policy is as follows:

1 day late	10% deduction
2 days late	20% deduction
3 days late	50% deduction

All assignments will be written in the assignment notebook. Late assignments will be marked as a zero in the grade book until they are turned in and will result in homework mark. Excessive late assignments may result in a conference with teachers or a loss of privileges. Fifth Grade students can expect to have approximately 50 minutes of homework a night.

Please Note: **Long-term projects are due on the due date regardless of a child's absence.**

School Website:

Student planners are an essential resource for student organization. **Please Note: Daily homework tasks will NOT be uploaded to teacher website pages each day.** We will update teacher pages with upcoming test/project dates and helpful study resources. Students are responsible for recording daily homework tasks from the classroom homework board.

Powerschool:

We encourage you to pick a weekday to access PowerSchool with your child to discuss his/her progress and set goals. PowerSchool access questions should be directed to Mrs. Taylor or Mrs. White.

Absence:

If your child is absent, a homework sheet will be completed and the assignments/books compiled. Please contact the homeroom teacher to discuss the best way to collect your child's missing work.

It is the student's responsibility to get the class work and complete the assigned work in a timely manner. Students will be allowed one day for each day absent to complete missed work. If there is a problem, the student needs to see the teacher/s immediately with any questions.

Safe Environment:

Just a friendly reminder that Safe Environment Clearance is required to chaperone field trips and assist in the classroom. In addition, all visitors must sign in at the front office and wear a Visitor's Badge.

Communication:

As educators we feel that the learning process and the students' performance will be enhanced when we work together to develop each and every child to his or her fullest potential. We welcome all questions and concerns. We appreciate you contacting the classroom teacher first so we can have open and effective communication. Emails are the best form of communication and will be answered within 48 business hours.

Our email addresses as follows: jegyhazi@stasb.org sleblang@stasb.org ebladwin@stasb.org or call the school office Phone: 574-233-7169 to schedule an appointment.

Sincerely,

Janet Egyhazi
Sarah Leblang
Erik Baldwin