

## **Fifth Grade Curriculum 2017-18**

### **Religion**

This year we will learn more about our Catholic faith as we journey through the liturgical year. We are using the “Blest Are We” series as our classroom textbook which covers much about the sacraments. St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order introduced a particular type of prayer called the Examen. Our class will be doing this meditation prayer on a regular basis. We will also be doing lessons from the Steps to Respect program to help focus the students on learning to better get along with others. In addition we will cover the upcoming Gospel message weekly as it is presented in our daily assignment notebooks. The students will also participate in school masses and liturgies during the school year.

### **Math**

This year we are continuing with the Math-in-Focus series which is also known as the Singapore math method. It has proven to be a very effective program and we are excited to pick it back up as we begin our fourth year in the program. We cover place value and the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We will also work with decimals, fractions, measurement, and geometry. Problem solving is one of the most important skills the kids need to learn, and it will be dealt with throughout every chapter in the curriculum. Bar-modeling is a common way to create a pictorial representation to help the learner better see what is happening in a math problem. A complete mastery of the basic math facts is a must so students can better focus on the more challenging math concepts. Please be aware that much of the material is available to you online, so you can refer to the text and create workbook pages from home.

### **Social Studies**

The curriculum for the fifth grade is centered on the United States. We have begun the study of geography. We will be covering units on the Native Americans, the early explorers, the colonial period, the American Revolution, and American government. The students will be expected to read an assigned text, requiring them to develop the proper reading (and re-reading) skills for content areas; this means checking for comprehension on a topic so one can answer questions, and be able to intelligently discuss what has been covered. There will be a variety of activities related to the class including projects, reports, and team learning. We will also keep up with current events with the classroom magazine Time for Kids.

### **Science**

In Science this year we will be using the Full Option Science System (FOSS) science kits. We have the latest version of the program which includes a wealth of materials for the kids to get their hands on to help students with the learning experience. The main topics are Mixtures and Solutions, Earth and Sun, and Living Systems curriculum is matched with the Next Generation Science Standards.

## **Language Arts**

Mrs. Malia Santucci will teach the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class their Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking, and English Language instruction. The content for Language Arts consists of in-depth analysis of select novels and informational texts, drafting and publishing in a variety of writing forms, communicating effectively in different groups and for specific purposes, engaging in active listening with targeted goals, and fine tuning their English grammar skills. Her lessons utilize the *Read Sided By Side CIA Literacy Curriculum*, *Voyages in English* and the *Step Up to Writing* program. Independent silent reading and continuous *Accelerated Reader* quizzes are expected of all students.

## **Spanish**

Bienvenidos to our new profesora Senora Julie Gibson! She will be teaching the class four days per week. You may check out her table in the hallway regarding the curriculum for this year.

## **Homework**

The purpose of homework is to reinforce learning that has taken place during class, and to give the students an opportunity to extend their understanding. It is important each student develops habits that work in his or her best interests. This includes having a regular time and place to do homework free of distraction. And they need to put finished work in the same place consistently so they don't forget to take it to school! If there is a legitimate excuse for not having work done the child should bring a note from home describing the situation. In case there is no good excuse, I still need to know first thing in the morning so a plan can be figured out to get them up to speed. I would expect students to spend an average of 45 minutes per night Monday through Thursday. Please let me know if it is consistently much longer than that; it's not meant to be torture.

## **Grading**

The number one thing I expect from students is to work to the best of their ability. Consistent effort will result in good grades. I tell kids that it's normal to make mistakes along the way so long as they are being properly challenged. They aren't penalized for having initial difficulties, but they would be expected to show improvement with time. Quizzes and tests are given a higher priority in the grading. If there is still a problem, I usually give students opportunities for more practice to help them learn whatever it is that they need.