

Open House
2009 – 2010
5th Grade

Welcome to Fifth Grade! We are looking forward to a great year. This bulletin contains information that will be helpful throughout the year. (Use this as a reference throughout the school year!)

Teachers

Ms. Elizabeth Horan – LA, Reading, Religion, Science, Math
Mrs. Jacki Kochanski – LA, Reading, Religion, Social Studies, Math
Ms. Lola Milito- Math

Schedule of Specials

Library: Monday
Gym: Monday & Wednesday
Media/Art/Music (one per trimester): Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
Spanish: Wednesday
Mass: Friday

Homework

Students will be expected to copy the homework into their Assignment Notebook every day. Students will receive Math homework Monday-Thursday. In addition to their daily Math, they may have homework in Reading, Language Arts, or Spelling. Science and Social Studies homework will also be assigned throughout the week.

All homework must be in blue or black ink and in their best cursive. Math must always be done in pencil. Any homework on notebook paper must have the proper heading on the top. There is a Late Slip Policy in place for 5th grade. If a student forgets their homework or hands in unacceptable work, they will receive a late slip. This late slip needs to be signed and returned to the teacher along with the missing assignment. A child may receive a late-slip if they do not follow the homework expectations. If the student receives three or more late slips, they will stay in at lunchtime with their teacher and work on an assignment during that time.

Wednesday Folders

Students will receive Wednesday folders. Inside this folder will be the student's work from the previous week. These papers should be looked over and left at home. Please return the folder and Wednesday sheet signed by Friday.

Reading – *Storytown* – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

We are proud to introduce that we will be working with a new reading series this year. *Storytown* is a series that offers the latest reading skills and strategies to help improve and strengthen all readers. In addition to the textbook, students in fifth grade will also be reading a variety of novels. These novels will help them improve their reading skills as we introduce and reinforce a number of techniques and strategies. In class, we will be having discussions and working in literature circles to make sure students comprehend the book we are reading. This year, accelerated reading will be incorporated into the reading grade. We expect each student to read a minimum of five books per trimester and pass the corresponding accelerated reading test. Each classroom will be using different incentives for reading.

When calculating this portion of the reading grade, the following scale will be used:

5+ books -----	100%
4 books -----	90%
3 books -----	80%
2 books -----	70%
1 book -----	60%

In addition, students will be expected to prepare book reports throughout the year. Silent reading is incorporated daily into the fifth grade schedule, but we highly encourage students to read independently at home for at least 15 minutes per night.

Language Arts – *HBJ Language* - Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

This year the students will be learning a variety of material in Language Arts. They will be working on daily morning work in their homeroom, which will consist of review skills from previous years. In addition, they will be working with their textbook to learn such skills as nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. Along with learning these important skills, the fifth graders will be writing paragraphs every month. Descriptive, narrative, and informative paragraphs are just a few examples. In addition to these paragraphs, they will be writing an expository during Catholic Schools Week as part of the Wax Museum. Every student in fifth grade is creative in their own unique way. It will be exciting to see what they will bring in their writing as we explore their creative minds.

Spelling – *Spelling Practice Book* – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Spelling has its own grade and a unit will be completed each week. Spelling books are due every Thursday. They are to be completed in blue or black ink and written in cursive. If the Spelling Workbook is late, points will be deducted from the workbook grade. A Spelling test is administered every Friday. Included in the list of 20 unit words are 5 commonly misspelled words and/or Challenge words. Therefore, each Spelling Test will contain 25 spelling words each week.

Religion – *Blest Are We* – RCL Benziger

This year our school theme is “Connected With Christ!” This theme is revolved around the Catholic Social Teachings. Students will participate in activities surrounding this theme throughout the year. We will be using a religion book entitled, Blest Are We. The Religion grade is made up of projects, class work, reviews and tests. The end of chapter reviews are completed in class and students may use their books. Tests are also administered in class and students are able to use their books to complete the test.

Social Studies – *Our Nation* – Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

Social Studies class will be exploring many new topics as we travel from the days of the Native Americans and cruise along with the different explorers who came to North America. In addition, we will learn about the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and American Government. This year we will be working on connecting with events and people around our world. Every week we will be reading “Time for Kids” and discuss the current events taking place in the world. Later in the year, students will be writing summaries about current events and presenting them to their peers. Geography will also be a part of this year’s learning. Note taking is a major skill learned in this class. Through graphic organizers and outlines, students will learn how to take notes. Since note taking is important, a number of tests and quizzes will be open note. In addition to notes in class, they will be having class discussions and debates.

Science – *Science* – Houghton Mifflin

This year in science the fifth graders will be exploring life, earth, and physical sciences. We will start the year off by learning about microscopes, cells, and cell reproduction. Students are expected to take notes and participate in class. The students will be engaged in many hands-on experiments and projects that will help enhance their learning. All experiments will be performed in class and all students are expected to participate. Safety is of the utmost importance, and while conducting experiments it is extremely important that the students follow directions and pay attention to what is going on around them. Any misbehavior will result in removal from the experiment and a note home. Throughout the year the students will be expected to complete various science projects. Some of these may be long term and although the students will have time in class to work, time should be spent outside of school to complete the projects.

Math – *Math Connects* – Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

Math Connects - Glencoe

Students are required to keep a Math notebook. This notebook should contain class notes and some class work. The notebook will be checked periodically throughout the year. It should be used to help remind students how to do their homework and to study for quizzes and tests. Correct heading and notes should be in the proper order. Every student is responsible to get notes and homework when he/she is absent from class. The textbook has an online website www.glencoe.com/ose. The students have the access code in the back of their notebook. This website includes the actual book, practice quizzes, and additional resources to help students. It is strongly suggested students use this online feature.

Each assignment should be completed in the student's folder, unless otherwise specified. The students will have homework Monday – Thursday. Homework will be checked on a daily basis in class for completion. It is suggested to the students to keep all homework and assignments in their Math folders until the end of the unit. Then, to take all work out and paperclip it together to use as a study resource for the End of Year math test.

Quizzes will usually be announced one to two days in advance but pop quizzes should be expected. Study guides will not be provided. Students should expect around one quiz per chapter. Tests will be announced at least one week in advance. When they are announced, a study guide will be provided.

In the beginning of the week, students will be given a “Friday Facts” sheet. These sheets keep previously taught material fresh in their minds. The problem, process, and procedure need to be shown on a separate sheet of for the student to receive full credit. It is due Friday in class.

Students will be given two Mad Minutes each week in their homeroom. They will have specific time to complete the problems. As the year progresses, this time will decrease. Each week the best score will be kept for a grade. Students should be practicing their Math facts at least three times a week!

Breakdown of Grades

Reading

Tests	40%
Quizzes	25%
AR & Book Reports	20%
Classwork/Homework	15%

LA

Tests	40%
Quizzes	25%
Papers	20%
Classwork/Homework	15%

Religion

Tests	35%
Projects	30%
Reviews	20%
Classwork/Homework	15%

Math

Tests	40%
Quizzes	25%
Friday Facts	15%
Mad Minutes	10%
Homework	10%

Social Studies

Tests	40%
Assignments/Projects	30%
Quizzes	20%
Homework	10%

Science

Tests	40%
Experiments/Projects	25%
Quizzes	20%
Classwork/Homework	15%

Spelling

Tests	50%
Classwork/Workbook	50%

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. Email is the best way to communicate with us. Our email addresses are:

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Thank you for attending our Open House.

Ms. Horan

Mrs. Kochanski

Ms. Milito