

WELCOME TO FIFTH GRADE PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT!

Fifth grade is a wonderful grade filled with excitement and preparation and we so look forward working with your child this year. In order to make this a super year for your child and to ease the transition to middle school, we invite you partner with us in the spiritual, emotional, educational, and moral development of your child.

Key Dates and 5th Grade Highlights:

The Living Rosary: Wednesday, October 26th. We will begin practicing the afternoon of Monday, October 24th. If you are able to help with preparing our students for this special activity please sign up to volunteer on sign-up sheet on back table. Thank you!

The Pines Outdoor Education Program (located in Big Sandy, Texas): Monday, November 14th – Thursday, November 17th. The approximate cost is \$250 per child and all students are expected to participate in this once in a lifetime learning opportunity. Additional information and details will be provided on Weebly in the month of October. Please note a lottery will be used if we receive more than the needed volunteers and we thank all of those who are willing to participate in this wonderful learning experience!

The Nativity Pageant: Thursday, December 15th and Saturday, December 24th: The 5th grade is blessed to have all of the roles for our annual nativity pageant and this is most definitely a highlight of the year for us all! Father Cliff has designed and provided costumes for ALL of our 5th graders and we work diligently to honor this special time with respect and reverence.

5th Grade Website:

5th grade has a website: <http://stmcsgr5.weebly.com/>. This website is updated and used **regularly** by all three teachers. Please let us know if you are having trouble accessing the site at any time. *Be on the lookout for information from our team about accessing Seesaw!*

Diverse Learning:

We know that every student comes to our classroom with a unique set of talents, interests and needs. Our goal for this year is to invite students to explore new learning material in a way that is both comfortable and meaningful for them. Students have unique learning styles and we commit ourselves to providing a variety of learning opportunities and experiences in each classroom.

Faith in Action:

As you may be aware, our school community has made some exciting changes to our monthly service project program. In an effort to strengthen our commitment to serving those in need around us and in our community, we will be bringing discussion and celebration of gifts from the heart to every homeroom in our school. Students will explore the virtue of the month and reflect upon whether they looked beyond themselves to help those around them. Each month we will offer our time or valuable resources to a designated group. Please keep an eye on the weekly school bulletin and chat with your son or daughter about how St. Mark seeks to serve others! Thank you for your continued support.

Policies:

Homework – We strongly encourage you to set up a consistent routine for your child for completing homework assignments, to include providing your child with a quiet place and time to complete homework. Students are expected to write in cursive and five points will be taken off assignments that are missing their name and heading. Students will receive a zero for homework not completed or left at home, in accordance with school policy. Although a zero may be issued to a student, please note that students may still be required to complete the missed homework assignments. *Xtra Math will be completed at least three times per week for a homework grade and students are expected to read nightly.*

Absences and Late Work – The school's policy is important for you and your child to review so assignments will be turned in on time. Students will be given a missing assignment sheet completed by all three teachers. Arrangements must be made with the individual teachers to schedule quizzes and tests. If your child will be absent please email Mrs. O'Connor and CC your child's homeroom teacher. ***If a student is absent we will input a "1" which calculates into their average. This grade can be made up within the school 3 day policy.***

Behavior Sheet and Caught Being Good Slips – The Behavior Sheet must be signed weekly and will be collected every Monday morning. Class expectations have been reviewed with the students; these expectations include: Be Your Best, Be Honest, Be Kind, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible. Students who do not respect these expectations will be given a behavior check. Students who go beyond these expectations can be given a Caught Being Good slip.

Assignment Book and Pencil Bag – The assignment book needs to be taken to each class and brought home each night. We are teaching the students to be responsible for writing this information in their assignment book. Parents may also review their child's assignment notebook to help stay informed of daily assignments and dates for long-term projects, quizzes, and tests. Any item the student brings to class that becomes a distraction will be taken by the teacher and kept until the end of the school day.

RenWeb – Please be sure to regularly check RenWeb. The weekly lesson plans and homework will be posted on RenWeb by Sunday afternoon for the coming week. ***Please be aware that plans do change, so always refer to your child's assignment book for homework, project, and quiz and test dates.***

Curriculum:

Religion and Guidance – We will closely follow the religion curriculum provided by the Diocese, and you will find a link to all curriculum standards under the Academics tab on the school website. Units on the bible, liturgy and the sacraments will be studied. Guidance will be centered on the Second Step program. Each month students will be asked to participate in a school-wide service project and a homework grade will be given each month for completion. We greatly appreciate your support with this!

Science and Health - This year in science we will cover the following areas: life, earth and physical. We will closely follow the science curriculum provided by the Diocese, and you will find a link to all curriculum standards under the Academics tab on the school website. We will be working on gaining a solid understanding of the wide range of material covered and an emphasis will be placed on interactive STEM activities. Health will be covered several Fridays a month, and topics discussed include peer pressure, substance abuse, first aide, and personal hygiene. We have a health text book the students will refer to and those are kept in the classroom.

Social Studies – The students will be learning about the history of the United States. Some topics to be discussed include colonization of the New World, the American Revolution, Civil War, and the 20th Century. Geography, civics and economics will be covered as well.

Math – Frequent homework will be given in Math. The concepts for this year include: decimals, fractions, ratio, percent, geometry, and problem solving skills. Students must use Xtramath.org at least three times a week to review math facts, and we strongly recommend using nightly. An online supplement to the curriculum will be implemented this year for students to use both in the classroom and at home. The math textbook website is www.sadlier-oxford.com.

Language Arts – Language Arts includes spelling, vocabulary, grammar, writing, and literature.

Reading – The students will be reading literature of different genre types from the reading text and using the pearson.com testing component. The class will also be reading two assigned novels throughout the year.

Spelling – The Houghton-Mifflin spelling program, which has a strong phonics base will be used. It is recommended to spend time over the weekend to complete the homework. Students are able to find multiple resources to practice and study at home using www.spellingcity.com as well.

Vocabulary – The Sadlier-Oxford vocabulary program has been added to the Language Arts program in order to enhance your child's language skills. www.sadlier-oxford.com should be used as an online resource for extra study and practice to challenge students.

Writing – Students will apply the writing process through various types of writing, such as narration and persuasion. The 6 Traits to Writing and Thinking Maps' Write from the Beginning and Beyond programs will be used through out the 5th grade curriculum.

We hope you enjoy this evening and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

God bless you this year and always,

Mrs. Ferri (krissy.ferri@stmcs.net) – Religion, Science, and Health

Mrs. Ostermann (donna.ostermann@stmcs.net) – Math and English

Ms. Pennartz (hillary.pennartz@stmcs.net) – Social Studies, Reading, and Spelling