

September 2023

Dear Families of 5th graders,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year at St. Patrick School! As you know, the 5th-grade classes switch classes. I teach Science and Language Arts to each class, and we welcome Mrs. Bubolo up to 5th grade this year. She teaches Social Studies and Math. We each also teach Religion to our homeroom classes. The schedule allows for each of us to see each class every day for each subject, as well as a double period of each academic subject once a week. The students usually make the adjustment to switching classes quickly.

Language Arts:

I am excited to be teaching 5th-grade Language Arts, my personal favorite subject. I have a strong background in Language Arts, as I have a Bachelor's degree in Communications, specializing in Journalism.

There are several elements of the Language Arts program, including vocabulary, spelling, grammar, writing, and reading. These will be interwoven throughout the LA curriculum. We have several LA books:

- 1) Vocabulary Workshop Enriched Edition - Level Blue (Sadlier 2011),
- 2) Voyages in English: Grammar and Writing (Loyola Press 2018),
- 3) Voyages in English: Grammar and Writing Practice Book (Loyola Press 2018),
- 4) Into Reading 5 Volumes 1 & 2 (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- 5) Into Reading 5 Know It. Show It (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

The Vocabulary book is divided into units. We spend approximately one week on each unit, at the end of which a test is given. Vocabulary should be studied daily. The publisher

has a student website with some games and activities

(<http://www.sadlier.com/school/vocabulary>). Towards the end of the year when we finish the vocabulary book, we will focus on spelling each week.

Through Voyages in English: Grammar and Writing and the Practice Book that accompanies it, we will study and practice all aspects of grammar and writing, such as parts of speech. This will help the students with their writing and reading skills. The students should also have dry erase boards, markers and erasers, which we will use to practice grammar skills.

Through Into Reading, as well as Into Reading Know It, Show It, we will explore various pieces of writing to learn about different aspects of literature, comprehension, writing, etc. I will incorporate other reading and writing lessons throughout the year as well.

Also, please be sure that your child always comes to class with a book to read. Sometimes, especially during the double period of LA, I will have Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) time. I will ask the students to read and discuss their individual reading books. Please help them pick out a book from home, the library, or the bookstore. The students should also have the student dictionary listed on the supply list.

Science:

I am also happy to be teaching 5th grade Science again this year. We are using the text Elevate Science (Savvas 2019), which is a consumable book, meaning the students can write in it. We will learn about various fields of Science throughout the year. I supplement the Science curriculum with hands-on experiments, non-fiction reading materials, and websites. We also will probably have a Science Fair in the spring. You will receive more information as it gets closer.

Religion:

In 5th grade Religion, we are using the text Word of Life (Augustine Institute). One main focus this year is on the sacraments. Also, the students are becoming familiar with the Bible, as we are reading the Gospel during Friday's lesson as well as further exploring the

Bible during Religion lessons. The students should each have a copy of the student Bible listed on the supply list, which they will use through 8th grade. We will also devote time to the Rosary, saints, and Christian character traits, as well as Catholic holidays and holy days.

All:

Students are expected to come to each class prepared with their assignments, appropriate textbooks and workbooks, notebooks, and folders, as well as a blue or black pen. In addition, students must always have their dictionaries (Webster's Dictionary for Students) with them in class. Homework assignments, as well as upcoming tests, quizzes and projects, are posted on the SMARTBoard in my classroom, as well as on my website. Students are told to copy homework assignments into their agendas as soon as they get into class.

Homework must be done when assigned. Homework will be checked and graded, and will count as part of each student's grade at the end of each marking period. Please see a copy of my Homework Rubric on my website under Documents. Sometimes students will be asked to see me during Recess to make up missed work, especially if it is excessive.

Homework, tests and assignments, as well as other resources including Google Classroom Join Codes, will be posted on my section of our school website at **www.spssmith.org** (under "Class Pages"). Please note that our St. Patrick School Handbook is available on our St. Patrick School website as well. Any additional worksheets or information needed for homework will be posted on my **Google Classroom** pages for your child to print out as needed. Grades are available for viewing on the **parent portal of PowerSchool Gradebook**. I encourage you to contact Mrs. Ewald to sign up for an account if you haven't already. It is an excellent tool to monitor your child's progress throughout the semester.

Birthday Celebrations: Please let me know beforehand when you plan to send in a birthday or holiday treat. All food brought in for birthdays and other class events must be store bought and have the ingredients printed on the package. Any goodie bags sent in to go home with students cannot contain candy or any other food.

Cell phone policy: Cell phones must be powered off and in the lockers during school hours.

Discipline: Students are expected to follow all school and class rules. Failure to follow rules may result in various consequences, including warnings, notes/ emails/ phone calls to parents, and staying in during recess for repeated infractions. Physical altercations of any kind will not be tolerated, and may result in the student being immediately removed from the classroom. Students may NEVER put their hands on any other person.

Dismissal: If there is a change in dismissal, please send in a note the day of the change. I am not able to check emails throughout the school day, so please do not email changes as I may not see them in time.

Uniform Expectations (from handbook) include:

- Headbands: School colors, NO headbands with cat ears, unicorn horns or large bows.
- Gym socks: white crew
- NO makeup
- NO unnatural color dying of hair
- Uniform shoes only
- School sweaters or sweatshirts

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. The best way to reach me is via email at: jguerriero7172@spssmith.org. I look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Guerriero