ST. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

5th Grade Profile

Classes Available	Two
Teachers	Mrs. Jennifer Seed Mrs. Cheryl Horton
Class Size	Maximum 25 students
Teacher Notes	We offer a challenging curriculum within the framework of Christian morals and values, designed to deepen a child's relationship with God and develop knowledge and skills needed to excel in higher education. Fifth grade is a time of leadership and ownership of who we are. Our fifth graders are the leaders of the lower school as they begin to make the transition to Upper School. The butterfly stands as our class motto because like the butterfly, we are experiencing change. As we continue our journey through fifth grade, we come out of our cocoons ready to spread our wings and fly. The butterfly also defies all rules of science when it flies. Our faith provides the answer that anything is possible if you believe.
Highlights	Our students are responsible for acting as reading buddies for the Kindergarten classes. Each student spends several weeks studying and writing about an assigned saint.
Core Curriculum	Religion, Handwriting, Language Arts - Composition, English (grammar), and Literature (reading), Latin and Greek Root Words, Math, Science, Social Studies, Enhanced Curriculum (Specials)
Religion	Fifth Grade actively participates in Mass leadership by doing the readings, responsorial psalms, and prayer petitions at three Masses during the school year. Twice per year, we receive the vocation chalice after Wednesday Mass and focus on the Prayer for Vocations for one week. The seven sacraments are our focus during this school year with specific attention on vocations. We engage in Bible verse memorization and the study of the Virtues to improve our daily lives, and to do all things for the greater glory of God.
Composition	We spend a significant amount of time on the six traits of writing. Our students learn different styles of writing, and must proof and edit extensively.
English (grammar)	In order to reinforce the essential parts of speech and writing, we continually diagram sentences. Mountain English & Language (repetition of grammar/punctuation skills) are done weekly.

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Literature (reading)	Short stories out of our reading books are broken down into modules with leveled readers to support each selection. Throughout the year, students participate in reading clubs, roundtable discussions and reader's theater in response to our countless novels. We study the morals and virtues found when reading Classic Literature (some examples: *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, *Summer of the Monkeys*, *Where the Red Fern* Grows, and *The Devil's Arithmetic*). We engage in seminar discussions over many topics.
Math	Fifth graders learn: (1) place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division; (2) number theory; (3) fractions – adding, subtraction, multiplication, division; (4) probability; (5) decimals – multiplication and division; (6) geometry; (7) measurement topics; (8) metric measurement – area and volume; (9) ratio, proportion and percent; and (10) algebra.
Science	In science we have several areas of study: Life Science (classification, cells, human body, plants and ecosystems); Earth Science (oceans, weather, layers and protecting the environment); Physical Science (matter, forces of motion, energy, and electricity); and Space and Technology (stars and galaxies, earth in space, modern technology). We reinforce each lesson with weekly experiments.
Social Studies	United States history is our focus in fifth grade. In addition to studying U.S. history prior to the first English settlers, we cover exploration of the new world, the original English Colonies, the American Revolution, the Constitution, the Civil War, the 20th Century, World War II and modern day conflicts and finally, the various relationships between the United States and the world.
Enhanced Curriculum	Spanish, Computer Lab, Music, Physical Education, STREAM, Outdoor Learning, Library and Art
Field Trips	We attend Bass Hall and other local theaters for performances and the Perot Museum.