



Welcome to the Fifth Grade at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School!

The 2018-2019 school year will be filled with excitement as students will grow in learning about the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic faith and grow in their knowledge of the world around us. Prayer is central to our school day. We will attend School Mass at least every two weeks and we will participate in daily prayers as a school and class community. There will be opportunities each day to work with partners and in small groups to help each other and problem-solve. A couple of our favorite group activities include solving a math *problem of the day* and creating skits to help the class understand new vocabulary in a fun way.

CLASSROOM GOALS/EXPECTATIONS/HOMEWORK

Each student is expected to be prepared each day to learn. This includes having all learning materials (e.g. textbooks, notebooks, folders with completed assignments and forms from home, and sharpened pencils) ready. Each student is responsible for completing all assignments on or before the due date and to record all assignments and events in the student planner each day. There will be time each day given to record assignments. Absences and written requests for a due date extension will be considered. Math assignments will be given daily and expected to be completed by the following school day with some exceptions. Most weeks students will be expected to complete a summary or another response to his/her home reading. These will be turned in on Fridays.

RULES/GUIDELINES

First of all, treating others as you want to be treated is of most importance as we strive to build a safe and respectful Christian community for each person. Secondly, I expect each and every student to always do her/his best at each task. Learning can be and should be challenging. Your best effort will lead to a greater ability to master concepts and grow. Keeping a positive and respectful attitude will go a long way to having a successful school year. For my part, I will dedicate my effort to meeting the individual needs of each student and help them to be successful and enthusiastic in their learning.

CLASSROOM COMMUNICATIONS

Each day your student will record assignments along with due dates and upcoming events in her/his planner. This is an important way that communication will take place between home and school. In addition, I will publish a weekly update of what we are learning in fifth grade including specific topics being covered in each subject as well as the page numbers in each textbook and dates for upcoming tests and events. This update will go home each Friday (or last day of a shorter week) and will also be e-mailed to families. Completed assignments will be entered into *Sycamore* (our school online grading system) each week and any missing assignments will be viewable by families as well as each student's current grade in each subject. Science notebook grading may take two weeks to be current. Feel free to email me with any questions or concerns you may have.

CELEBRATIONS

In addition to occasional celebrations for birthdays in our classroom, we will celebrate time each month with our *Spirit Partners* in kindergarten. They will also join our class for school masses. In the late fall, we will celebrate our completion and presentations of our slide-shows of various Saints created on our laptop computers. We will also celebrate our work on creating posters of biographies of various explorers to the “new world” and leaders of the first colonies in America.

Finally, in the spring, we will celebrate our creativity and ingenuity with presenting our projects using simple machines as part of our STEM curricula.

OTHER/EXPERIENCES:

Throughout the year, students have several special opportunities to go deeper in their learning about themselves and the world they live in.

During the year, students will go to STARBASE near Fort Snelling to spend one week immersed in STEM activities that will challenge them to problem-solve in small groups, learn about what latest technology scientists are using in space exploration, and create machines to solve problems.

Students will also participate in the D.A.R.E. program that will be led by one of our local sheriff deputies to learn how to deal with peer pressure and build confidence in making good choices in life.

Our fifth graders have the special privilege and responsibility to be our school safety patrols. They will make sure that our students that walk home can cross streets safely and will assist in setting up and taking down safety cones to keep our parking lot safe for students. There is a skating party for all safety patrols in the winter and a large picnic event in the spring. Prizes are also awarded at these events.

Fifth graders, along with the other grades, will be involved in service projects as opportunities to live out their Christian calling to serve others. One project is creating “birthday bags” with party supplies to be given to families in need. Another project is decorating greeting cards to send to parishioners who may have lost a loved one or who are ill.

Fifth grade here at Saint Rose of Lima is an exciting time of self-discovery as students learn how to take on a greater part of the responsibility of learning and prepare for middle school. It is a time of becoming a leader in the school community and modeling what it means to be a Christian. I look forward to meeting your child and showing you what amazing things we do and learn here at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School. Feel free to contact me any time.

Sincerely,

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