

Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! I am Ms. Rebecca Gibbs and I will be teaching your child Religion and Science. I am looking forward to working with your child this year. There is some general information that I think you will find helpful.

Homework is written on the board in each homeroom. Each student then copies the work into his/her plan book. Many of the homework assignments are very short. Although short, skipping them would compromise their understanding of the next day's work, so an attempt should be made to answer all. Students who fail to complete three homework assignments in one trimester may receive a check mark on their report card. Homework is not always graded, but it is important preparation for the tests. Students are generally given a week's notice before a test. The date is also written on the board and on the calendar in the hall.

In Religion, this year we will be focusing on 7 critical areas of the Graded Course of Study that are aligned with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati: Knowledge of the Faith, Knowledge of Sacraments and Liturgy, Moral Formation, Praying with Christ, Living in the Community of the Church, Living as a Christian in Society, and Theology of the Body. Throughout the year we will be discussing how God reveals himself to us, the life, teachings, and miracles of Jesus and the beginning of our Church. The Seven Sacraments will be extensively covered throughout the year. Theology of the Body is also being taught to the 5th grade this year. Theology of the Body is Saint John Paul II's teaching of the meaning of and purpose of human nature. He emphasizes the body as not only a biological reality, but also as a "resacramentalizing" of our Catholic intellectual and moral life. He explores how our God-given masculinity and femininity complement each other and help answer two questions: "Who am I?" and "How am I to live?"

Science Instruction will focus on these 4 critical areas of the Graded Course of Study that are aligned to the Common Core Standards (C.C.S.) for Ohio: Science Inquiry and Applications, Earth and Space Science, Life Science, and Physical Science.

Throughout the year, we will be discussing:

1. How Scientists Work- What is Science, What tools and methods do scientists use in their studies, Experiments, and Scientific Method
2. The Engineering Process- What is the design process, how does technology improve our lives, and how engineers solve problems
3. The Solar System and the Universe- Sun, Earth, Moon, seasons, planets, our solar system, stars and galaxies, and Earth's rotations
4. Ecosystems- What is an ecosystem, physical and behavioral adaptations
5. Energy and Ecosystems- Roles of organisms in ecosystems, how does energy move through ecosystems, and food webs
6. Motion- speed, velocity, acceleration, forces, gravity, friction, balanced and unbalanced forces
7. Forms of Energy- potential and kinetic energy, electrical and thermal energy, mechanical and chemical energy, what is electricity, how do electric circuits, conductors, and insulators work
8. Light and Sound- what is sound, how does sound travel, and properties of light
9. Projects- demonstrating knowledge of key ideas in science will be assigned throughout the year.

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They should learn their vocabulary within the first week of starting a new chapter because without that knowledge, concepts can be very difficult to understand. Children should spend up to 10 minutes each night reviewing their notes rather than waiting the night before a test to study.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please contact me. My email address is gibbs@saintantoninus.org. Thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gibbs