

Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! I am Ms. Rebecca Gibbs, and I will be teaching your child Math, 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.

In Math, this year we will be focusing on 5 critical areas of the Graded Course of Study that are aligned with the National Mathematics Principles and Standards for School Mathematics as well as in compliance with the latest Ohio New Learning Standards (O.N.L.S): Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Numbers and Operations in Base Ten, Numbers and Operations/Fractions, Measurement and Data, and Geometry.

These O.N.L.S. have the following Mathematical Practices:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model the mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend the precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity.

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, the tools and methods that scientists use in their studies, Experiments, and Scientific Method
2. The Engineering Process- the design process, how technology improves 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.

Additional information for class:

- Students are expected to keep all work (notes, assignments, graded work, tests, quizzes, handouts) in their notebook and/or folder at all times.
- Expect homework on Mondays through Thursdays for all classes. Not all homework will be collected for a grade but will be checked and reviewed/discussed in class.
- Preparations for tests should include reviewing assignments and quizzes as well as notes/examples from class discussions. Tests and quizzes are usually announced at least 3 days in advance.
- 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.
- Basic math facts will be assessed several times in the first trimester, although it is expected that basic facts have been mastered before entering 5th grade. I hope to integrate the MobyMax website into the curriculum and can be used at home to practice the student's fact fluency. Weakness in fact fluency can affect their overall performance and understanding of content. Please encourage your child to continue to keep up on their fact fluency.
- All textbooks can be found online on my google classroom pages in case your child's textbook is left at school.

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