

Fifth Grade Curriculum (2011-2012)

Religion

In Mr. Flanagan's class we will study basics of Catholicism as we journey through the liturgical year. The fifth graders will specifically cover the seven sacraments of the church. We are using the Blest Are We series as our classroom textbook. We will be doing lessons from the Steps to Respect program to help focus the students on learning to better get along with others. Each week we will take a look at the upcoming Gospel message as presented in the daily assignment notebooks. The students will also participate in school masses and liturgies during the school year.

Math

Mr. Flanagan is teaching the math classes. The class is divided into two groups, while one is receiving math instruction, the other half will be in English class. We begin by studying place value for whole numbers and the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We will also work with decimals, fractions, measurement, and geometry. Problem solving is one of the most important skills the kids need to do. This will be dealt with all year during math class in connection with all the topics we cover. A complete mastery of the basic math facts is a must so students can better focus on the more challenging math concepts. Homework will most often be assigned from their math workbooks, usually not the larger hardbound book. And they will have quizzes on a regular basis (on average every two weeks or so).

Social Studies

Ms. Mulvihill will be teaching the fifth graders this year for Social Studies. The curriculum for the fifth grade is centered on the United States. We have begun the study of geography. We will be doing units on the Native Americans, the early explorers, the colonial period, the American Revolution, American government, westward expansion, and the Civil War. The students will be expected to read assigned text much of the time, requiring them to develop the proper reading (and re-reading) skills for content areas. This means checking for comprehension on a topic so one can answer questions, and be able to intelligently discuss what has been covered. There will be a variety of activities related to the class including projects, reports, and team learning. We will supplement the textbook with other materials that will enhance our learning.

Reading

Mrs. Santucci will teach reading. The students will enjoy several read-aloud stories and will read from novels as a whole group. In addition, there will be activities to help with reading comprehension, including skill-building activities in sequencing, plot mapping, fact/opinion, cause and effect, main ideas, character traits, and summarizing to name just a few. All students will be participating in the Accelerated Reader program throughout the year. As a part of the homework students are supposed to read for a minimum of fifteen minutes per night and make regular entries into their Reading Log.

Spelling

Ms. Mulvihill will be teaching the fifth graders this year in spelling. We will spend the week working with the twenty words of the week. These words will all have a common spelling rule that we will focus on. For example, we have already worked with words that have the long and short a sounds in common. In addition there will be challenge words available for those who are ready for more. After spending the week practicing with the words, the students will have a test on Fridays. They will have time to do a good portion of their work in class, although some work may have to be finished as homework. The expectation is that students will make a concerted effort to spell correctly in all their work across the curriculum, not just during spelling class.

Writing

Ms. Mulvihill will be teaching the fifth graders this year for grammar and writing. The students will engage in weekly English grammar, and Step Up to Writing instruction. Students will be helped honing their skills for letter writing, a variety of special purpose paragraphs, reports, and also their speeches for the All-School Speech Tournament. Writing and Social Studies projects will often be linked together. We will endeavor to have each child build confidence in their writing abilities so they can develop a greater appreciation for writing, while also having fun.

Science

Mr. Kester will have the fifth graders this year in the Science Lab. Please refer to his handout for the curriculum.

Spanish

Senora Kate Scott is teaching the class once again. Please refer to her handout for the curriculum.

Homework

The purpose of homework is to reinforce learning that has taken place during class, and to give the students an opportunity to extend their understanding. It is important each student develops habits that work in his or her best interests. This includes having a regular time and place to do homework free of distraction. And they need to put finished work in the same place consistently so they don't forget to take it to school! If there is a legitimate excuse for not having work done the child should bring a note from home describing the situation. In case there is no good excuse, I still need to know first thing in the morning so a plan can be figured out to get them up to speed. I would expect students to spend an average of 45 minutes per night Monday through Thursday. Please let me know if it is consistently much longer than that; it's not meant to be torture.