

# 5th Grade News

2023-2024 (Back to School Vol.) *We are Christ-centered & Faith Directed in all that we are!* †

## Inside this Issue:



- Welcome - page 1
- General Information - page 1
- Good Habits - page 2
- Subjects Outline - page 2
- Homework Policy - page 2
- Jr. Deputy Program - page 2
- Planners/Daily Folders - page 3
- Late Assignments - page 3
- Common Practices - page 3
- Discipline - page 4
- School Calendar - 4



## Meet Your Teacher: Mrs. Eisterhold

*Welcome to Fifth Grade!* I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child better. The information in this newsletter will provide you with answers to commonly asked questions and give you an idea of the NORMS in my classroom. Please read through the information carefully. Keep it in a handy place so that you can refer back to it throughout the year. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email me: [teisterhold@saint-george-parish.org](mailto:teisterhold@saint-george-parish.org)

This is my 4<sup>th</sup> year at St. George. I have been teaching since 2008, previously teaching at Linn Elementary. I earned my bachelor's degree in education from William Woods University. I also have a bachelors in psychology and an associates degree in computer programming/web design.

My husband Rich and I are members of Sacred Heart Parish in Rich Fountain. We live on the family farm and our children live near by. Our oldest son is Daniel and he has two boys Zayden and Emric. Our daughter Quincie and her husband Shrey live close by too. Our youngest son Andrew lives in Holts Summit and is engaged to be married to a wonderful young lady, Taylor Quick. We love having our children and grandsons close by and enjoy traveling together and having many, many family cookouts. We also really love our fur babies--you'll hear a lot about them!

**But, one of the biggest things you need to know about me is that my students are very important to me and I am fair across the board! I will do my very best to make their year successful!**

## General Information: Classroom Norms, & Awards

In the fifth grade students will not be required to complete all assignments in cursive writing during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. I do require that all work be completed legibly. The means whether it is in cursive or printed, it must be legible enough to read. **First and last names will need to be in cursive on ALL assignments. 1-point will be deducted from the overall grade for names not written in cursive as well as those who do not put their name on an assignment.**

I also require that students make it a habit to complete assignments and projects in a neat and timely matter. On writing projects and subject area projects I will provide a rubric that denotes points for being neat and that provide a due date. These dates will also be included in weekly newsletters so that everyone understands when work is due.

These practices promote the idea that doing your very best on everything will result receiving desirable grades and give an overall feeling of satisfaction that will spill over into all aspects of academics and extracurricular activities.

Students will receive weekly or bi-weekly newsletters that provide dates, information from me or the school, and also provide an outline of weekly lessons. They will also receive school newsletters weekly. All information will be provided in each student's daily folder. Additional information about daily lessons will be provided in lesson plan books.

Students are required to complete their plan books each day. Spelling words are provided on the newsletter and in plan books each week. I am a stickler for students being responsible for themselves by noting assignments

and making sure you are aware of assignments and projects. I will also create an email list and will let parents know when work is due or if I need to make sure you know something is coming up. That way there's no confusion and all of us are on the same page.

In my classroom students are provided every opportunity to do well. In saying this, I expect a lot of my students and **they must earn every grade they receive.** As you know, awards are based on grades and grade point averages. Awards are also given in specials classes, athletics, and for citizenship. Establishing early the idea that hard work is what earns these awards, will give students the motivation to do well. I want nothing more than success for my students, but it is not just given, it must be earned.

**Be ready, we will get busy QUICKLY!**

## Developing Good Habits



Read 20-30 Minutes each night!



Make sure to complete all assignments as required & on time!



Follow all directions given or written! Sometimes I change things up, so be sure to note changes!

### Homework Policy

As a teacher I am not a huge fan of excessive homework. In fact, except for book reports, writing projects, or independent projects with due dates, I don't have set homework plans for students. Most work can be completed in class, but if not completed, it must be worked on and completed out of class at home. There should be ample time during class to complete most assignments if students keep their focus and get the work done. This allows them to ask me questions about the subject or assignment and not their parents who were not here for the lesson. I do however expect my students to read independently out of class, complete unfinished work, make corrections when needed, and follow all directions written and spoken, as well as due dates that coincide with projects. They will want to bring home books/work for test review.

The point is to make students responsible for themselves and their grades. I am a pretty black and white grader and students have to earn their grade. Additional work to me is less important than being responsible for the work that needs to be completed on time.

### The Junior Deputy Program

The Junior Deputy Program sponsored by Osage County Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Bonham will once again be part of 5<sup>th</sup> grade's extra-curricular activities. The program begins August 30<sup>th</sup> and will conclude sometime in October with a graduation ceremony at the Court-house. This is a great program and our law enforcement team in Osage County does a great job with the kids. You will hear a lot about it from your kiddos!



## Academics, Curriculum, and Resources

**Language Arts:** We will sometimes use the Wonders reading series, but I prefer Literature sets for reading. I like a varied set of reading resources and want students to have a wide experience of genres to select from within and beyond the classroom setting. This course will develop students as effective communicators who will be independent in the use of reading fiction, nonfiction, and other genres, writing, speaking, and listening skills as part of their routine. Students will be required and encouraged to read and write a lot this year!

**Math:** Fifth grade will use the Progress in Mathematics series books. Assignments consist of a hardback book which I use for examples and a workbook from which most of our assignments will be completed from. I prefer that students not try to write equations from the hardback book on assignments since this often is a source of common mistakes. Each chapter is tested and I will make sure you know when each test will be. I am fairly aggressive with math and want to make sure that students are well versed in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Without these fundamentals fractions and other mathematical processes are much harder concepts to grasp. I will be working with Mrs. Schmitz this year as well to make sure their transition into middle school is more successful when the time comes. ***Students can and should do corrections in math. This makes a huge difference in their grades!***

**Social Studies:** The Core Knowledge series covers a wide range of geography and history. My focus for students is to provide text evidence in assessing what they know which will benefit them in many ways.

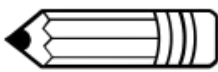
**Science:** This series is also through Core Knowledge and is concentrates on matter, energy, ecosystems, Earth's resources, and on space systems. There are labs and projects involved with this series and we will do a lot of writing and hands-on activities.

**Spelling:** Spelling words will come from a new spelling series or from Literature set vocabulary. We will also use the 5<sup>th</sup> grade edition of Vocabulary in Action which is a study in words, word usage, and various word skills. I use a variety of skills to drive spelling home, and help students work through spelling concepts.

**Religion:** We will use the We Believe series for this course which is similar to what they used in the past years including testing. I will be monitoring them during Mass as well and promote good habits in church that make sure they are focused and observing their Catholic faith. 5<sup>th</sup> grade will begin serving during Mass as well during 1<sup>st</sup> Semester.

We will also use Simple Solutions Reading Comprehension, Math, English Grammar, and Science to help with a spiral review of subjects. Math will be used as morning work, and we will grade work for points in the other subjects. We will do 5<sup>th</sup> grade level work in all subjects.

## Student Planners & Daily Folders



Each day I will display daily work on the board for students to write down work. What is on the board mirrors their planner, so there should be no confusion to what work is assigned daily. Filling in planners is a requirement. Signed planners returned each Monday will resort in some sort of treat left to my discretion.

Planners encourage responsibility and accountability, and in 5<sup>th</sup> grade they are preparing for their next step into middle school which will present them with new challenges. A good routine will be vital to their success this year, and in the years to come.

Students will be required as well to bring home daily folders with information from school and completed work. I grade daily and put graded work in their mail folders. Students should be looking for it daily to bring home to be reviewed, corrected if math, or signed as I require on all tests, and those who return their test the next day will be given an extra credit point on the test.

## Late Assignments



As a rule, I am fairly intolerant to late assignments. Daily work is expected the following day. I have outlined below in the next section assignments that have due dates. Students may:

- lose recess time
- have points reduced: (10% 1-4 days, 0 beyond)
- be issued a discipline notice
- have parent(s) phoned
- be sent to the office in extreme cases

I am not a teacher that sends students to the office often, but I will if I have a student that is not working to their potential or if they have a habitual habit of late work, they will be sent to the office.

I do understand certain unforeseen circumstances that students and families may face, but do expect work to be completed in a timely manner. Please let me know if something occurs out of the ordinary.

## Common Practices: Corrections, Extra Credit Work, Book Reports, Make-up Work, and Extended Leave Work

Throughout the year I allow students to do corrections on all math assignments and on tests. However, if a student does poorly on an assignment I will have them **"redo" or "make corrections"** from time to time. Corrections on work must be completed in a timely manner and not be strung out over several assignments or chapters. In fact, I would prefer that any corrections be completed by Friday each week or whatever day we return if we have a day out.

Corrections must be completed on a **separate sheet of paper** and have the assignment, page number, and problem number written on that page. I only give  $\frac{1}{2}$  a credit point on corrections, but this does add up and can improve their grade by a letter point. I will not beg students for corrections or for assignments I have asked them to redo. They need to take it upon themselves to want to improve the skill and their grade.

I do allow students to complete extra credit assignments. I often use Scholastic News magazines or other things readily available. Generally, these are shorter assignments that provide 5-20 points, but those points do make a difference on grades.

If a student is absent I will complete a homework sheet for that day that is similar to or

mirrors their planner. If students are going to be absent several days for illness or unexpected absences, I will try to pull together what I can and it will be in the office by 3:00-3:15 during the normal school day. Students are responsible for their schoolwork whether they are at school or absent. Please make sure all work is returned in a timely manner. The student handbook provides information in regard to this. It is a good rule of thumb to go by and for the return of absentee work.

I try to do one book report each month, but if we have another project or writing assignment in the works, I won't assign multiple projects. All book reports, projects, and writing assignments will have rubrics that outline what is expected and I will provide a due date as well. The due date is **concrete** and I usually give several weeks time to complete project type assignments. So, what that means is that if a student is gone a day or two or more during that time, they still need to have work completed by that due date. So, don't procrastinate!

If a student is going to be gone for an extended time due to vacations, family events, or for an extra-curricular activity please let me know and I will put together work for them.

Do not be surprised if it is not the same as the daily work we are doing in class. Let me explain this for you so that you see where I am coming from. I know that life is short and that we have to take our family time or other things that come up when they come up. Students do not give me the level of work that they usually would if they were in seat and I feel this is negative toward them and they need that down time as much as anyone. With our kids we don't get that time back and then they are grown before we know it.

I also do not feel that you should spend your entire time trying to get them to do the work or have to try to teach them concepts while you need that time to yourself as well. If you don't like this practice and you want me to send everything I will, but a few skill sheets and 20-30 minutes of reading time will be more than sufficient and I can be creative with points so they won't take a hit on their grades.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about these practices and I will be more than glad to speak with you about them. It is my intent to help my students be successful and provide them with the necessary skills and routines to achieve that success. You can call me here at school or email me.

teisterhold@saint-george-parish.org



# Be Safe - Be Kind - Be Respectful - Have Fun


**WHEN YOU ENTER THIS**
  
**CLASSROOM**













*You are kind*    *You are IMPORTANT*  
*You are RESPECTED*    *You are WONDERFUL*  
*You are Smart*    *You are BRAVE*  
*You are CARED FOR*  
*You are SPECIAL*  
*You are Loved*  
*You are UNDERSTOOD*  
*You are EXTRAORDINARY*  
*You are SUPER*  
*You are a part of my heart*  
**You are My Students**  
**Mrs. Eisterhold**



## School & Classroom Discipline

In the classroom I treat all my students the same and I do not rely on how they behaved in the past. I start from day 1 with my students. I understand differences in personality and try to find what makes them uniquely who they are. In saying this, I am a strict teacher. I have very high expectations for my students and want their best to shine through. I will handle discipline in my classroom as much as possible.

A few of the biggest areas of trouble would be aggression toward others, taking discipline upon themselves, un-Christian like attitude/actions, cursing out others, disrespect, always causing drama, and disrupting class. This past year as a school we have worked hard on a discipline report that utilizes a 3-part infraction system. I will use these reports if the aforementioned problems occur.

On the subject of disrupting class...**We Do Not Have Time For This At All In Our Schedule!** I work very hard on my lesson plans to assure that my students are successful. And, I am dully charged with making sure that each and every student receives the best that a Catholic education can give them. So, I will be very intolerant of actions in my classroom that disrupt the process for everyone.

Please refer to the Student Handbook and discipline policies for St. George and read and sign the playground/gym rules sheet. Having an understanding of what is expected will go a long way in making sure that students are responsible for themselves. Let's all start off the year right, stick to our routines, behave as we are supposed to, and be respectful to everyone!

## 2023-2024 St. George School Calendar (dates are subject to change and will be in newsletters)

<b>August</b> 13-Open House after Mass 16- First Day of School 25-4 D-Day (8 <sup>th</sup> grade) 28-Picture Day	<b>November</b> 1-All Saints Day: Holy Day 6-No School PD Day 13-Veterans' Day Program 17-4 D-Day (5 <sup>th</sup> grade) 20-24 Thanksgiving Break 27-Classes resume 30-Progress Reports	<b>February</b> 5-9 Acre test 13-Mardi Gras 14-Ash Wednesday 19- No school -Presidents' Day 23-Progress Reports
<b>September</b> 4-No School-Labor Day 11-No School PD Day 15-Progress Reports 29-4 D-Day (7 <sup>th</sup> grade)	<b>December</b> 8- Immaculate Conception: Holy Day 14-Christmas Program 15-Last day 2nd Quarter 18-31 Christmas Break	<b>March</b> 22-Last day of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 25-1 <sup>st</sup> Day to wear shorts 27-Parent/teacher conferences 12:30 dismissal 27-Report Cards go home 28-April 2-Easter Break No School
<b>October</b> 2-6 Achievement test 20-End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 20-Last day to wear shorts 20-4 D-Day (6 <sup>th</sup> grade) 26-Report Cards go home 26-Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:30 dismissal 27-No School 27-Trunk-or-Treat 31-Halloween Party	<b>January</b> 1-No School New Year's Day 3-Classes Resume 5-Report Cards go home 15-No School MLK Day 20-Taste of Italy 26-4 D-Day (4 <sup>th</sup> grade) 28-Feb 2-Catholic Schools Week	<b>April</b> 3-Classes Resume 9-Progress Reports
		<b>May</b> 16-Sports Day/Awards Day 17-Last Day of School 11:15 dismissal