



Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Statement: We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating Saint Francis of Assisi as "instruments of peace." Our goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to be academically prepared for this technological age.

From the desk of Mrs. Gauthier

WELCOME!

Welcome to Grade five! I am delighted to begin this school year with you and your child at Saint Francis of Assisi. This year, my goal is for all of us to work together as a team to encourage each child's maximum effort and individual learning potential. We will also strive to continue to develop your child's sense of spiritual, moral and ethical behavior. Discussed below are some of the procedures that I recommend your child follow. These can certainly be modified by you according to the needs and abilities of your son or daughter.

STUDY TIME: I recommend that your child spend 5-6 minutes each night studying spelling and then 5-6 minutes on vocabulary definitions. This is in addition to the time spent doing any written work that may have been assigned in those areas. That way, the student will not be left with the task of studying 20 spelling words and 12 vocabulary words on Thursday night to prepare for Friday's test. Remember that spelling and vocabulary tests are cumulative in the fifth grade. This means that on every test there will always be a few words from previous lists. It is important to keep current with studying because this year the children have different teachers for math and science and your child may find that he/she has three tests on the same day---**Don't leave studying until the last minute!!!**

In other subjects I recommend that my students look over their notes and text books at least once a week to be sure they understand the material that is being covered. Paying attention in class and doing homework is usually enough to have your child master the information. For large unit tests I recommend that your child study for at least three nights in a row. If you know that your child has problems with certain subjects, be sure he/she spends more study time in that subject area.

TESTING: I do give pop quizzes; this is one way for me to see if the children are taking in the information and skills that they need to know. These quizzes are for my information only and also serve to keep the information in the forefront of the student's attention. For a regular quiz I will give two-three days notice, for a Unit Test I give one weeks notice. You will be notified on Teacher Ease if your child scores below 70 on any quiz or test. If your child continues to do poorly in any given subject, we should meet to discuss what can be done at home to help improve the situation and I may request that he/she arrange for extra help from me.



S A I N T F R A N C I S O F A S S I S I S C H O O L

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NOTE TAKING: Your child will be taking notes in Literature, Social Studies and Religion. Note taking is an important skill and we will gradually begin to master it so the class will be ready for the upper grades.

PROJECTS: Students will be assigned book reports and social studies projects throughout the year. In the area of Social Studies please be sure that your child does not just download information from the internet and hand it in. This is not acceptable. It is fine to use the internet but the student must put the contents into his/her own words and use only that information relevant to the topic being discussed. It is acceptable to quote from a book or internet source but this must be credited via a footnote. Any project not turned in will receive a grade of zero.

You will always be notified far enough ahead of time to prepare for a big project or book report. I will send home a sheet outlining for you what is expected in the report and how it will be graded. **Be sure your child shows you the instruction sheet.** I am sending home a format that must be followed for book reports.

GRAMMAR: After the introduction of a grammar skill where worksheets will be used, most of the grammar instruction in grade five will be done through writing. Many students can fill in grammar worksheets beautifully—but this never seems to carry over into their writing! Studies have shown that grammar drill sheets (unlike math drill sheets) have little effect on the transference of knowledge. We learn grammar so we can write and speak clearly; therefore, the children should be practicing correct grammar through their writing and speaking. Your child will receive a spelling and grammar mark on most of the finalized written work that is handed in. Students at St. Francis will again be using the Collins writing system.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE: I do not anticipate any serious discipline problems with this class. Most discipline issues are handled in the classroom according to the rules of our school. Any serious discipline problems will be handled according to what is outlined in your Parent/Student handbook. I encourage all parents to read the handbook and be familiar with the discipline code here at St. Francis of Assisi.

HOMEWORK: It is fine to help your child do their homework but please do not do it for them. It is better to say that you see a few mistakes in the paper and let your child try and find them. **Please be sure that if your child has written "study" in their homework notebook that they do spend some time studying!**



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Feel free to contact me should you have any concerns or questions regarding your child or any aspects of the program at the middle school level. I am more than happy to arrange to help any child who needs extra instruction in a subject area. Parents new to the school may want more detailed explanations; please feel free to contact me at any time. I usually stay after school for over an hour after dismissal and e mail is checked daily. Below you will find the goals and objectives for students entering Grade Five.

The Goals for Grade Five Homeroom Subjects:

That your child learns to practice and incorporate into their everyday life the tenants of Christianity taught here at Saint Francis and that they develop into caring and compassionate individuals

That the students will continue to become familiar with the basic tenants of the Catholic Religion and the teachings of Jesus Christ

That the students will further develop their sense of responsibility and self-discipline

That the students will learn to make connections across the curriculum and to see the relevance in their everyday life of the subjects taught in the classroom

That in the area of Social Studies and Geography your child be exposed to the origin and the variety of cultures which have helped shape our nation and that they will come to understand the unique history, geography and development of the United States.

That in the area of Language Arts they will be able to use grammar to more clearly express their thoughts both in speech and writing

That in the area of Literature they will begin to identify the underlying themes, symbolism, and author's purpose in the prose and poetry they read

J. Gauthier
Grade Five