

SCCS Grade 5

Parent Information Packet

August 27, 2009

Dear Families,

As we begin this year together, we hope you had a chance to take a look at "The Star Polisher". Our hope is that you too can see the polishing that happens throughout this year and that you consider yourselves to be partners with us in the process. It is a joy to be here and to share in this common mission.

The following information is designed to be a resource for you about the ins and outs of 5th grade. You will find information related to class schedules, curriculum, homework policies, etc. *Please save this and refer to it throughout the year!*

Assignment Notebooks

Students are expected to come prepared for class with the necessary supplies and completed homework. All assignments are to be completed in full and on time. Each student has an assignment notebook that is to be kept current. Please check your child's assignment planner daily for homework and other news. We are trying to establish good study routines as well as home/school communication. Find our 5th grade homework policy near the back of this packet.

Thursday Take-Home Folders

To ensure regular home/school communication, students have been given a Thursday Take-Home folder. This folder will contain corrected assignments and tests as well as important information regarding upcoming events at school. Please take note of this information and return the folder to school on the following day (Friday). Expect to see items such as the SCCS FYI newsletter (if you do not access through E-mail), fieldtrip information, our bi-weekly Grade 5 newsletter, and all Youngest in Family (YIF) communications in this folder. The school website will have this information as well.

Gym Shoes

Each student is expected to have a pair of athletic shoes for gym class. Students without the proper shoes will not be able to participate in the activities for that class period.

Lockers

The fifth grade lockers will be used **ONLY** to store lunches, snacks, jackets, boots, shoes, and book bags (**without wheels**). All other materials are stored in each student's desk. While we would like to believe that stealing would never be an issue in this building, reality is that things disappear sometimes. Please remind the students to keep treasured items at home. **Combination locks are optional. Lockers may only be locked overnight. Teachers must be given the combination if your child chooses to use a lock.**

After School Arrangements

Students need to make after-school social arrangements prior to coming to school. Students may use the telephone for emergencies. We request that parents send a note if your child's after school destination is different than his/her regular schedule. **Bus drivers must be given a note for a child to ride a different bus or get off at a different stop than usual. Please do not leave voicemail messages for changes to your child's end of day destinations. Rather call the office and request a call up to the classroom. There are many occasions when we are not able to check voicemails until after the children are gone at the end of the day.**

Grading

A	95-100	C	73-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 & Below

Tests

Most grade 5 tests will come home asking for a signature. This will assure us that parents see the test score. We want you as parents to be fully aware of all test grades so there will be no "surprises" at the end of the trimester. Please sign and return these tests promptly. Test Re-do policies vary by subject.

Late Homework Policy/Powerschool Grading The late assignment policy changes in 5th grade to help ease the transition into Middle School as well as to encourage students to complete all assignments on time. A zero will be recorded until an assignment is turned in. A maximum of 70% will be given for late work. Assignments due to absence will be given 1 day for each school day missed. Beyond that time, the assignment is late and 5% will be deducted each school day the assignment continues to be late.

Grade 5 Curriculum

Reading/READO (Homeroom Teacher)

Reading work consists of reading stories from the text and answering comprehension questions both orally and in written form. Vocabulary development and specific skills are reinforced in a variety of activities.

In an effort to encourage independent reading, fifth grade students are required to complete a READO assignment each trimester as a part of their Reading grade. Students read a minimum of 5 different genres on their READO board and complete book reports with corresponding information. These selections encourage greater variety in their reading. Prizes are given at the end of each trimester to students who complete more than the required amount of reading. **We welcome donations for READO prizes!** Students not completing READO by the due date will receive a drop in their grade for each day READO is not turned in. A detailed outline of READO expectations is distributed each trimester to the students. Please post this at home. **Book reports need to be written in cursive using correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. The summary must be a minimum of 5 complete sentences. Books should be at your child's reading level and should be a book not previously read. We ask that you edit each book report and verify work has been completed by signing it.**

Language Arts (Mrs. Rustin)

Language Arts includes grammar, mechanics and usage, language and reasoning. Students will complete a variety of writing samples through the writing process - prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Descriptive and Explanatory writing, Personal Narratives, 5 paragraph essays, Poetry, Short Stories, Picture Books and Journaling will be the focus for this school year.

Spelling (Homeroom Teachers)

We use the Sitton Spelling and Word Skills program. Please see attached parent letter regarding the curriculum format.

Math (Mrs. Rustin, Mrs. Thomas, and Mrs. Lehman)

One day is spent learning a new skill and applying it through board work, group work, problem solving, and individual assignments from the textbook. The following day the assignment is corrected in class, a review of the previous concept is given, and a new skill is introduced to build on previous skills. Our math program uses "Mathematics" published by Scott Foresman - Addison Wesley. It is designed to adapt to three levels. Mrs. Thomas teaches the upper level group, Mrs. Lehman teaches the mid-level group, and Mrs. Rustin teaches the basic skills level group. An accelerated group of 5th graders will be put into a 6th grade math class taught by Mrs. Bates. Advanced placement is determined by strict criteria. Students are monitored and evaluated throughout the year and may move to a different group if need be.

Science (Mrs. Thomas)

Harcourt Science is the curriculum used as the basis for our Science program. Time will be spent on Seeds and Living Systems, Systems and Interactions in Nature, The Metric System of Measurement, The Solar System and Matter and its properties. Experiments and field trips to study these concepts will be incorporated. Visiting scientists from Warner Nature Center and 3M wizards are scheduled. Tests and quizzes will be given; student assignments will include both written and oral work; note taking and study skills will be used. Students will also work on a variety of research projects. In cooperation with Social Studies, some time is spent on the Ag. Mag. - a publication for children from the MN Dept. of Agriculture.

Social Studies (Mrs. Lehman)

5th graders study Minnesota geography, Early Peoples of the Western Hemisphere, Native Americans in Minnesota and throughout the United States, the Eastern Hemisphere and the Age of Exploration. The students will practice note taking. Tests are given at the end of each chapter in our book. Student assignments will include reading the text and related materials, written and oral work, projects and curriculum related art work.

Religion (Homeroom Teachers)

Our religion curriculum is part of the IMAGE OF GOD series. The 5th grade book Our Mission of Love, emphasizes in particular three truths of the Faith: Christ, Church, and the sacraments. These key truths serve as the unifying elements of the lessons. Much of our work is seasonal and dependent on the liturgical calendar. We anticipate the priests will be visiting the classrooms again this year. All school masses are scheduled once per week, usually each Wednesday at 9:15 in the church. Please feel free to join us whenever possible.

Library and Computer (Mrs. Donlon and Mrs. Koening)

Students will spend 30 minutes each every week in both the computer lab and the library. Additional lab and library times may be available throughout the week as the schedule allows.

Spanish (Sra. Bates)

Spanish is scheduled for two- 30 minute sessions each week. Students are asked to purchase a Spanish-English dictionary and should expect to have homework.

Band/Orchestra

Orchestra students take a bus to Oak Park Elementary for large and small group lessons. The Hill-Murray Band program is held at SCCS. Band, small and large group lessons are scheduled throughout the day. **Students are expected to check the assignment board and complete the material covered in class as well as the homework assignment. We do not mean to be insensitive to individual needs, but since we practically have a revolving door on these days, we rely on student responsibility and parent involvement to help with lessons missed.**

D.A.R.E.

Officer Chyrisse LeMoine will visit our classrooms for nine weeks beginning in March. Officer LeMoine will visit each Homeroom for a 50-minute session once a week. Parent communication is often distributed through the Thursday folders regarding D.A.R.E. As our world gets more complicated and dangerous, knowledge is a sword.

We hope this information will give you some idea of what your child will be studying and expected to do during this year of fifth grade. We are looking forward to another fabulous year with your children. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call, e-mail, or make an appointment to see us.

Sincerely,

Toni Lehman
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Boxtops: Please send any boxtops with your child to school. These equal cash for our classrooms! For every 500 collected in each homeroom, students will be given a movie reward afternoon. Please continue to collect and turn in milk caps and soup labels. These are also valuable for a variety of purposes.

Reminder: Fieldtrips are an integral part of the 5th grade learning experience. If you are planning to chaperone please be sure that your background check and Virtus training have been completed. If you have questions, please contact the school office.

