

September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year. I will be your child's primary teacher, teaching the bulk of their classes and taking care of them most of the day. Mrs. Soca will be teaching them Latin. In addition, they have Mrs. Cunningham for music lessons, Mrs. Gilardi for chorus, Mrs. Karen Como for girl's physical education class, and Mr. Nick Scotten for boys. Mrs. Tanya Mladenovic will be their art teacher. I, as well as each teacher that your child has, will try to work closely with you trying to meet all your child's academic, social, and spiritual needs. We are trying to challenge the gifted and help those that are academically slower.

This fifth grade class is shaping up for me nicely. They seem eager to learn. As each day goes by they understand what I as a teacher expect from them. I appreciate their willingness to try and please me.

Hebrews 12: 1 & 2 tells us to run with patience the race that is set before us. We have many sins that weigh us down. Many times if we would only look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, our "race" that we are running would seem much easier. As the school year unfolds and the many challenges that we face begin to pile up on us, whether it be a deadline at work or a report that your child has to do, perhaps a social problem that may arise, we need to keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. He will help us to run with the strength of eagles the race that he has set before us.

My prayer is that the Lord would help me and the other teachers to be good examples to the children that we spend so many hours a day with, and that we would be a good testimony to them. My greatest desire is they may see Christ in us and be able to get a better understanding and knowledge of who our Lord is.

I do look forward to an exciting year of learning and growing. I hope to get to know each of you better and we can share the responsibility of training your child. May the Lord bless all of our efforts as we work together.

In Christ's service,
Mrs. Sharon Carrione

Homework Policy

Students in the fifth grade will usually be given assigned homework on Monday through Friday nights. I don't like to assign "tons" of homework because I feel strongly that family duties and family time are very important.

As you know we use a homework assignment book. Each child is required to write assignments in it. At the beginning of the day as well as at the end of the day I review the assignments, as best I can. Please look at this book every night, and initial it.

Homework that is not done will be noted with a green colored slip; and loss of recess. It will be up to the student to make up the work. When the work is handed in, because it is late, points will be taken off.

Please check the "Take Home" folder every night. Initial the form and take the papers out of the folder. We are trying to make sure that parents are really seeing all the papers that should go home, not just the "good" ones, as well as help each student to be organized with their work.

Two things to remember...#1. Initial assignment book and take-home folder paper #2 take papers out of the folder.

Bible

Fifth grade Bible is a survey of the New Testament. Notes and handouts will be given in class. Frequent tests and quizzes will be given to help the students keep up with the material. Each student will be required to write memorized verses and hymns.

Bible is taught four days a week.

Tests will be half 50% of their grade, memory is 25%, and homework is 25%

Catechism questions are reviewed in the fifth grade.

This year the Bible contest will be on the book of _____
The date for the contest will be _____.

English

We use the Bob Jones English curriculum for fifth grade English. This curriculum includes:

- grammar
- parts of speech and how they are used
- sentence structure
- composition
- punctuation rules
- letter writing
- research
- book reports

We do quite a bit of practice on parts of speech and punctuation rules. It is important for each student to understand how to form sentences correctly and how to punctuate them correctly.

I will on occasion ask the students to prepare an oral speech to present to the class. They will also have to orally recite their verses at least one time during each marking period.

Tests - 50% Quizzes = 15% Homework - 10% Writing = 25%

Creative Writing is a curriculum that teaches students how to write. It begins with the basic skill of writing a complete sentence; progresses to writing paragraphs and continues to broaden to a research paper. Writing is an important tool in life. In a day of poor and lazy language skills, writing is essential in developing thoughts. When writing, a person must think and reason.

Practice in writing basic sentences, friendly letters, business letters, a state report, short stories, and other small

reports are all developed in detail throughout the year. Weekly writing assignments will be given for various topics.

The writing contest will be in January.

Math

The fifth grade math curriculum covers the following:
commutative and associative properties of numbers
+, -, x, /, of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions
place value of whole numbers and decimals
choosing the appropriate method of calculation to solve word problems
estimation techniques
data and graph study and to make inferences from the data shown
metric and customary measurement
geometry
ratio and percent of numbers

One hour of the school day is devoted to doing math. In this hour flashcards, speed drills, quizzes, tests and general math practice and application are done. Homework is given to reinforce what has been taught. Please feel free to work with your son or daughter as they do homework. However, please do not do the work for them.

Math Grade to include	tests 75%
	quizzes = 15%
	homework 10%

Reading

Our Reading curriculum is based on *Pages In My Head* reader, and a worktext book. We also include a few well chosen books. This reading curriculum teaches biblical truths such as

honesty, forgiveness, orderliness, industriousness, etc. Our goal is to develop higher levels of thinking skills, vocabulary and comprehension as well as to foster enjoyment and appreciation for reading.

We will be reading as a class the books *Old Yeller*, *Pilgrims Progress*, *Amos Fortune Free Man*, *Martha California*, and *The Door in the Wall*.

Accelerated Reading books must be read to accumulate 5 points for each marking period.

Comprehension Quizzes are also given weekly

Vocabulary: A rich vocabulary is a key to learning. Studying the definitions of words and how they are used in sentences can boost students' comprehension, improve achievement, enhance communication, and shape thinking. Vocabulary words will be given each week with a test combined with spelling. Since there are not weekly reading tests, but there are weekly spelling tests these 2 tests, spelling and vocabulary are easily combined. Tests will be given on Friday.

Reading Grade to include:

Oral Reading	10%
Accelerated reader	15%
Homework	10%
Comprehension/tests	50%
Vocabulary	15%

Spelling

Fifth grade Spelling is a subject that teaches students how to spell. They will learn gradually from simple sound/letter relationships to strategies involving more complex word - structure patterns. Learning to spell for academic excellence, to increase a student's vocabulary, and to enlarge a students word power is our goal.

Spelling is taught by studying the word. The student will become a better speller as they look at the word structurally, memorize the spelling rule that applies to it, discover any patterns that the word may have, and use the word in a variety of activities such as crosswords, other puzzles, games and dictionary skills.

Writing dictation sentences will also help their spelling.

We use a spelling curriculum by Phillip Trocki that will fulfill these goals.

Spelling lessons will include spelling rules and words that use the specific rules.

Spelling Bee will be on _____.

Grade to include: Tests - 50%
 Homework/writing - 25%
 Books - 25%

Handwriting

Cursive is our type of handwriting. Neat work is required at all times. This is a process that will take effort but we feel that it will be an improvement in our overall performance in this area. Very little typing will be allowed in fifth grade. Grades for handwriting will be taken randomly from various papers as well as handwriting pages that are done.

Latin

Mrs. Madai Soca will be teaching Latin on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Each student will learn to speak and write Latin.

Art

Art for the fifth grade will be taught by Mrs. Tanya Maldnovic. This will be on Fridays.

Gym

Gym will be held on Friday afternoons for the girls, taught by Mrs. Karen Como. For the boys, gym will be taught by Mr. Nick Scotten.

As you know already TCS gym clothes must be worn for gym class. It is an added responsibility that these fifth graders remember to

bring these gym clothes with them to school this year. I will try to remind them the day before to put a note in their homework books. Their gym grade will reflect how prepared they are for class. They will not be allowed to call home if they forget their gym clothes.

Music

Mrs. Cunningham comes on Wednesday mornings to teach music. Music theory will be taught along with some vocal exercises, and music history.

Mrs. Kristen Gilardi will work with the students in chorus. Chorus is held on Thursday afternoons.

\$\$ Money Collections\$\$

All money that must be turned into me should be labeled with the child's name and the purpose for which the money is for. I appreciate your help in this area. With the system that the office uses with parents there probably won't be much cash that is collected in the classroom.

Birthdays

Birthday goodies are great! Please keep them simple. We usually only set aside about five minutes for a Birthday celebration (We eat and run!). We will have a celebration at the end of the year for those whose birthday comes in the summer.

Parties

The fifth grade class is allowed two parties a year. We celebrate at Christmas time with a party on the last day of school before Christmas Vacation. We also celebrate on the last day of the school year. These parties are organized by the students and you will know a week in advance what your donation will be.

Communication

I need to be able to communicate with you as often as needed and vice versa, you with me. The student homework book is the most easily used, but in the event that you need to speak to me personally about anything please feel free to call me at home or on my cell. Home number is (973) 808-6681. My cell phone number is 973-626-1853. If I am unavailable at the time leave a message, and I will return your call when I can. You may text if it is something quick. Please feel free to talk to me about suggestions, criticisms, concerns, anything that you feel I need to be aware of. You may also contact me through email, my address is sharonest@verizon.net

Science

Science is a way of investigating through observation and then coming to conclusions from what you've observed. Our great God has created a very complex world that no one can fully understand. By breaking apart certain topics and thinking of our world in very simple segments, I believe we can help the children understand God's creation and begin to marvel at how great a God we have. I want the students to appreciate the complexity of our world and to rise to the challenge of understanding it.

In order to accomplish this we must "do" quite a few activities in science. 1/2 of the student grade will be based on how they perform during labs and hands on learning activities that we do in class. Your child may be asked to bring in different items to use for class. This also is considered in their grade. Their attentiveness and willingness to try will make a big difference in how much they learn.

The Textbook used for Fifth Science this year is a Bob Jones edition. The chapters are interesting and emphasize scientific literacy. I will try to teach vocabulary, investigation, and the scientific method with every topic taught. I will try to develop in your child a scientific way of thinking or reasoning through practical experiences.

The topics we will be studying are:

Earth

Matter

Energy

Motion

Living Things and Body

Test = 50%

Quizzes = 25%

Homework = 25%

GEOGRAPHY

Curriculum: *Heritage Studies for Christian Schools* (BJU)

Geography Studies and Projects: Western Hemisphere (A Beka)

This is a geography survey course of the countries, bodies of water, and land formations of the Western Hemisphere. The students will be learning about and memorizing the locations, capitals, and important physical features associated with the Western Hemisphere. The focus is geography but culture and people will also be taught to bring the material to life. The students will be completing assignments from their books, researching and writing small reports, and making maps and graphs. As a culmination the students will put together a more lengthy report about one of the United States in particular. We will have regular quizzes and tests as well.

Because we cannot travel to such wonderful places as South America and Canada (unfortunately), I am looking for people who are from or have been to such places that we study to come into the class and share what they know. If you have been to another country in the Western Hemisphere or have items that you think would be of interest to our studies, please let me know.

In the very near future we will be in the midst of our New Jersey study and in need of help. The class will be going to Trenton to visit the State House and we will be looking for parents to go with us. Also in that same time period will be doing the famous "New Jersey Cake Day"! Needless to say, I will need lots of help!

Tests = 50%

Quizzes = 25%

Homework = 25%

Field Trips and "Extras"

Oct. =	Trip to Trenton State Cake Spelling Bee
Nov. =	Science Fair November Reformation Day/ Thanksgiving Program
Dec. =	DaVinci Science Center Geography Bee Christmas Concert
Jan. =	Creative Writing Heartland State Fair
Feb. =	Bible Contest Speech contest State Day
March =	Math Olympics
April =	Spruce Lake
May =	Music Recital

Spring Concert

Date	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:15 – 8:30	attendance and devotions	attendance and devotions	attendance and devotions	attendance and devotions Orchestra	attendance and devotions
8:30 – 9:00	Bible:	Reading	Bible:	Bible:	Math Word Problems
9:00 – 9:20	Spelling	Vocabulary	Spelling	Vocabulary	Spelling/ Vocab Test
9:20 – 9:50	Reading	9:10 – 9:50 Chapel	9:10 – 9:50 Music/Cunningham	English	English
9:50 – 10:15	Recess: Erika & Sharon	Recess: Sharon & Jenny	Recess: Erika & Jenny	Recess: Jenny & Janice C.	Recess: Erika & Sharon
10:20 – 11:00	Science	Science	Science	Science	Art
11:00 – 12:00	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
12:00 – 12:20 Recess	Sharon & Parent	Erika & Parent	Sharon & Parent	Janice & Parent	Erika & Parent
12:20 – 12:50 Lunch	Nick 4th clean	Jenny 5th clean	Jenny 6th clean	Jenny 5th clean	Sharon/Erika 6th clean
12:50 – 1:00	Read to class	Read to class	Read to class	Read to class	Read to class

1:00 – 1:25	Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography	12:50 – 1:25 Gym
1:25 – 1:55	Latin	Latin	Latin	Reading	Clean
1:55– 2:50	English	English	Reading	Chorus	Reading

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