

**Student and Parent Information**  
**Fifth Grade – Mrs. Hartz**  
**St. Brigid School – 2009-2010**

Welcome to fifth grade and St. Brigid School. An exciting year is beginning, and I look forward to working with you and your child or children during this extraordinary learning adventure. These sheets contain basic information for fifth grade students and parents. Please read the attached papers with your child and return the signed portion by Monday, August 31, 2009. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at St. Brigid, 372-3222, or by e-mail:

[shartz@stbrigidxenia.com](mailto:shartz@stbrigidxenia.com)

As always, communication is extremely important. Therefore, please check with your child for important paperwork from school, such as newsletters and various correspondences. Again, welcome to St. Brigid School and the fifth grade.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Sandy Hartz

**Fifth Grade Curriculum**

This is a brief synopsis of what your student will learn during fifth grade. The curriculum follows the Graded Course of Study developed by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and adheres to the State of Ohio Standards.

**Religion**

Fifth grade Religion centers upon the Sacraments. The seven sacraments are studied in relation to the Church and the life of Jesus. Please join us for Mass at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesdays and 10:00 a.m. on Holy Days of Obligation. Sunday liturgy is an important part of our total faith development. Additionally, students will participate in numerous activities throughout the liturgical year. These activities include Communities and Outreach Programs. We will work on developing a positive Christ-like atmosphere in which to help one another become better Disciples of Christ.

**Math**

Fifth grade Math curriculum continues to use the spiral approach to learning. Students build on skills learned at an earlier time. Some areas we study are: problem solving strategies, place value, estimation, measurement, basic computation, word problems, fractions, decimals, geometry, probability and ratios. Additionally, the students use the *Simple Solutions* workbook which consistently reviews basic math skills. Fifth graders develop confidence in learning to communicate mathematically and in becoming problem solvers.

**Social Studies**

Social Studies is divided into two focal areas: Geography and Ancient History. Geography is studied during the first two quarters with an emphasis on the five themes of Geography. Although these two quarters concentrate solely upon geography, map skills and other geographical related activities will continue throughout the entire school year. During the third and fourth quarters, students will study Ancient History beginning with the Paleolithic Era and continuing through the Fall of the Roman Empire.

**Science**

The fifth grade Science curriculum focuses upon the following subjects: Space and Astronomy, Human Body and Nutrition, Force and Energy, Electricity, Sound, and Basic Chemistry. Hands-on experiments and labs will be

conducted where students will complete basic level scientific methods. Additionally, D.A.R.E. occurs during the third and fourth quarters courtesy of the Xenia City Police Department.

### **Language Arts and Reading**

The Language Arts curriculum includes reading, writing, vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Reading includes fiction and non-fiction genres. Students are involved with individual, partner, and small group readings. A tentative reading list for classroom novels is listed. For non-fiction, The Dayton Daily News is delivered on a weekly basis. Throughout the year, Scholastic News magazine is a supplement. The Accelerated Reader program is also used in fifth grade, with each student selecting an Accelerated Reader book according to his/her goal and targeted reading area. These goals and reading levels will be reassessed each quarter according to test results and current reading levels. The goal of Accelerated Reader is to strengthen comprehension skills, not to read the thickest book, or get the highest number of points, only to result in poor assessments. Students are expected to have a novel of choice at all times and will have the opportunity to complete various projects with self-selected, but teacher-approved novels. Writing encompasses multiple styles including expository, narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and poetry. Student writing is incorporated in every subject but will have a main focus of idea gathering and organization, revision, and editing. Vocabulary is mainly from the classroom novels, with spelling from the textbook and frequently misspelled words. Grammar will include parts of speech, sentence structure, and language study with a strong incorporation into the writing curriculum. The areas of speaking and listening are addressed in Language Arts, with an opportunity for students to progress through presentations within all curricular areas.

#### **Novel List-Fifth Grade**

Pedro's Journal   George Washington's Socks   Charlie and the Chocolate Factory  
From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler   Dear Mr. Henshaw  
The Mouse and the Motorcycle   The Watson's Go to Birmingham   Freedom Crossing  
Call it Courage   The Trumpet of the Swan

### **Art**

Elements of Art are taught once a week through many projects. The Attention to the Arts Program also includes Picture Lady sessions, the Dayton Philharmonic, and the Dayton Art Institute.

### **Computers**

Students will have access to computers in the classroom and in the computer lab. Weekly library time allows for computer lab access. Please be sure to sign the Acceptable Use Policy; all students and parent volunteers are required to sign this form prior to computer use.

### **General Classroom Information**

**Homework** – Homework is an essential component to developing and practicing concepts taught and learned in school. Each assignment assists in monitoring understanding and comprehension in the specified subject area. Homework is assigned on a regular basis; please check your child's homework nightly. Students are given time to begin work during school hours and may complete assignments. However, reinforcement and reviewing material is also key to learning. Since there are many different learning styles, each child's needs vary, and the teacher will work with the student to master the task to the best of his or her ability. Assignments are written on the homework chart (which corresponds to the assignment book), with time being given to record the necessary information.

**Homework grades** consist of a numerical score. **Completed homework and in-progress work** is kept in the individual subject folder. Parents are asked to frequently check the folders and composition books (Math, Daily Oral Language) for completed assignments exhibiting a high quality of work. These papers and books will serve as study tools for assessments.

**Quiz and Test Corrections** - Incorrect items on quizzes and tests are corrected on separate paper and stapled to the back of the quiz or test. Corrections are in complete sentences and all work is to be shown (Math). Short answer and essays questions are corrected if full points were not earned. Please review the test or quiz with your child and

check the corrections for accuracy. The quiz or test with the correction paper is to be returned with a parent signature the following school day. Two days are given to complete corrections and to obtain a parent signature. **Assignment Notebook and Supplies** – All students are responsible for academic work. The assignment notebook is a tool to assist in organization, planning, and preparation for school. Each day will contain entries, regardless if the student has completed work. Reminders and class information will also be recorded in the assignment book. Please check with your child pertaining to his or her homework assignments, upcoming projects, quizzes, or tests. Students have a list of necessary supply items to be kept in their desk. Reminder notes will be written when supplies are low or when a student does not have the necessary supplies. All textbooks are to be covered, including the small classroom novels. **FYI** – I will conduct homework assignment book checks frequently, especially at the beginning of the year.

**Missing Assignments and Disciplinary Notices** – Students are ultimately responsible for their academic progress and behavior. Missing assignments are given for incomplete or missing work. Depending upon the assignment, points will be deducted from the overall grade. If a student receives a missing assignment, the work must still be completed, attached to the notice, and returned to the teacher the following school day. The parent is asked to sign the notice and check the student’s work. Failure to comply with this procedure will be communicated with a disciplinary notice.

The teachers’ expectations are clearly communicated to the students at the beginning of the year through a classroom discipline plan. With these plans, I strongly believe in positive reinforcements to support and encourage good behavior. In the case of any extreme disciplinary infractions or concerns, the parents will be notified promptly. Any discipline procedure is intended to achieve a goal of behavior modification and aligns with the Parent/Student Handbook.

**Absences** – If a student is absent, his or her study buddy will record in-class assignments, completed work, and gather textbooks for the absence. Students keep the homework slip and return it to school, along with the missed work. It is the student’s responsibility to meet with the teachers to review missed work and submit any missing assignments. For early dismissal or late arrival (appointments, etc.), the student must obtain the missed work, which will be due the following day. For unexcused absences (vacations, etc.), the teacher will give only tentative assignments since lesson plans and class progress change. All work is due upon return if assigned prior to departure; all other work will be due approximately two days after returning to school.

**Homework/Traveling Folder** – Each student has a traveling folder with in-progress work. Additionally, this folder is used for home and school correspondence. Please check this folder daily and remove parent correspondence. Any assignments, quizzes, or tests requiring a signature and corrections will also be kept in this folder. If there are accomplishments or concerns, the teachers may write a note and I ask the parents to do the same.

**Grading** – For the main curricular subjects, Math, Science, Religion, Social Studies, and Language Arts, grades will be calculated by point totals. For example, a total of 500 points accumulated for the first four weeks; a student receives 450 points total and therefore has an average of 90%. For major assessments (tests, projects, writing compositions, etc.) points will be counted double. For example, a test is worth 100 points; a student receives a 95/100; this score will be recorded as two grades. Points will vary for all assignments depending on the complexity of the assignment.

Please sign and date that you have read and understand the information packet, returning the slip by Monday, August 31, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact me at the school, 372-3222 or by e-mail.

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**I have read and understand the Fifth Grade Student and Parent Information Packet.**

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_