

Fifth Grade News

2019-2020 School Year

Welcome to Fifth Grade! Here is some information about fifth grade classes and activities. Keep this information handy for future reference during the school year.

Organization – Organization is an important skill in fifth grade. Assignment notebooks will be provided for each student. The assignment notebooks help keep track of assignments, homework and deadlines. We will also use labels for subject notebooks and folders.

Work of God – We will be studying the Old Testament this year using our Synod's Christ Light curriculum. The students will be given worksheet packets that have a Bible study format with questions about the Bible lesson and space to write answers. One week in October we will study the life of Martin Luther in place of Christ Light lessons. Wednesday's religion class consists of Choristers with Mrs. Stokke or hymnology class with Mr. Ohm.

Memory Work – Memory work is learned from the Memory Treasure sheet handed out to the students at the start of each Christ Light Set. Memory work will be assigned on Monday and Thursday. It will be recited the **next day we have Christ Light class**. Any memory work assigned on Monday will be recited on Thursday, and recitations assigned on Thursday will be due on Friday. Students may recite the passages at the beginning of the day, before devotion, or at the end of Christ Light class, during Christ Light study time. Hymns are assigned from the hymnal on Wednesday and recited the following Wednesday (this is for hymnology students only). **All memory work should be practiced and recited to a parent in preparation for recitation to the teacher, no signatures are required.**

Math – Fifth grade Math is a continuation of the Saxon Math series using a hardcover textbook and a spiral notebook for daily assignments. Saxon Math gives students daily practice with a variety of Math concepts. This helps the students retain Math skills long term. This series also has a strong emphasis on word problems. Word problems provide important challenges to students' reasoning skills, as well as opportunities to apply the Math concepts they have learned.

Every five lessons the students take a test on previously learned lessons. Tests are completed during class time and provide an accurate evaluation of your child's independent Math ability. They are worth a double grade (2 daily assignments).

Spelling – Our weekly spelling schedule:

- 1) Pretest is taken on Monday (or first day of the week), self-corrected in class and sent home so students have a list of the week's words to study. On the back page of the pretest is an optional activity providing extra practice with the week's words for parents and students to work on together at home.
- 2) Directions and instruction of the unit workbook pages will also be gone through and assigned on Monday. The completion of the workbook pages for that week's unit will be due on Thursday, where it will be corrected in class.
- 3) **Final test is on Friday.** Final test includes 20 unit words, 3 review words from the previous unit and 2 challenge words counted as extra credit.

Reading – The fifth grade reading textbooks contain a wonderful collection of literature with illustrations. *Please remind you child to be extremely careful while handling the books, and all subject textbooks (damages occurred during the school year may result in a fine at the end of the school year).* We will work on many higher-level reading skills in connection with the stories. Reading skills, comprehension and fluency will be assessed during the school year.

Students are encouraged to select and read novels on their own. Crown of Life students use the Accelerated Reader program to check comprehension on the novel. Look for more information about AR in this packet.

Social Studies – Fifth grade Social Studies centers around the United States history for the first two thirds of the year. We will study our country through its early years, including the American Indians, explorers, colonies, the Revolutionary War, U.S. government, pioneers and the Industrial Revolution. In the fourth quarter we turn our attention to studying Minnesota History, focusing on Dakota Indians, the fur trade, treaties between the Indians and the U.S. government, and the settlement of the St. Paul/Minneapolis area.

Science - In Science we will study food webs, ecosystems, the plant and animal kingdoms, rocks and soil, minerals and laws of motion. Towards the end of the school year the students will show their knowledge of the laws of motion as they construct a 2-liter pop bottle rocket that will be launched in the air using a pressurized launcher.

Spanish – Spanish will be a combined class with the sixth grade students taught by Mr. Fuhrmann two days a week (Tuesdays and Fridays) at the end of the school day. It will be a continuation of the Spanish knowledge instilled from previous years, working towards building the skills and knowledge of the language.

Music – Fifth grade Music class is taught once a week on Tuesday mornings by Mrs. Chan. In addition, band lessons are available through St. Croix Lutheran High School to students in grades 5-8. Mr. Roger Zolldan will teach individual instrumental lessons on Wednesday as well as beginner mass band practice. A date for an informational meeting for new band students and their parents will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. Choristers (junior choir) is open to students in grades 5-8. Rehearsals are Wednesday mornings in the church, directed by Mrs. Stokke.

Art – This year art class will be taught by Mrs. Danner. The students learn about the various elements of art (color, line, pattern, etc.) while using many different types of art materials. “Art Adventure” lessons through the Minneapolis Institute of Art will be taught school-wide during the month of January.

Technology – The key focus of technology is on keyboard skills and becoming familiar with using Google services. All fifth grade students will have their own google account and will be taught the basics of using Google email, drive, docs, slides, and Classroom.

Physical Education and Recess – Each day fifth graders have two periods for physical activity. Two days each week P.E. class is taught, on Monday and Thursday. Each student will be assigned a locker with a combination lock for storing clothes and shoes. Please remind your child not to share his/her combination with anyone else. **Appropriate shoes for gym-use only (see supply list) are required for days P.E. class or if recess is held in the gym.**

Sports – Students in fifth grade are eligible for participating in sports at Crown of Life. Sports include: in the fall - volleyball for girls, coed soccer, coed cross country and coed Frisbee golf; in the winter – basketball; in the spring – coed bowling and coed track.

Homework – Using ten minutes per grade as a rule of thumb, your fifth grader should average 50 minutes of homework per day. Please let me know if your child exceeds this amount of homework on a regular basis. Your child should be able to complete homework independently with minimal help from you. You can help by providing your child with adequate time to complete homework and a desk in quiet space for studying; free from distractions (TV, phone, video games, siblings, ect.). Homework is part of your child's school experience, and you can help him/her excel at this work by teaching how to manage time well. On a light homework night, encourage spending time reading a novel for Accelerated Reader. All fifth graders should arrive at school in the morning with assignments for the day completed.

Grading – The school grading scale is detailed in the parent handbook. Find this on the COL website. Parents of students in grades 3-8 may check their student's progress online using *Praxi School*. **Unfinished or forgotten** assignments will be handled according:

- 1) For the first few weeks of the school year lenience will be given on late assignments as the students learn the classroom expectations and start to build their study habits and routines.
- 2) Continual late assignments will need to be finished before handing in and will be docked one full grade after it is corrected.
- 3) If the habit continues and becomes chronic, the assignment will be handed in and graded "as is".
 - ❖ Students are expected to work on completing a late assignment during recess time.
 - ❖ Students are expected to hand in a completed late assignment *no later* than 8:00am the next school day.
 - ❖ A separate parent/teacher meeting may be set up at the teacher's discretion to discuss homework issues and possible solutions.

Field Trips – Field trips will arise throughout the school year. A note with details and chaperone information will be sent home prior to each field trip.

I'm looking forward to a great year! I feel privileged to be a partner with you in the spiritual and educational training of your child. Please ask if you have questions or concerns about anything regarding your fifth grader. I pray the God grants us a successful year together. Please keep COL and the fifth grade class in your prayers.

In His Service,
Justin Ohm

Contact Information:

651-451-3832 (emergencies during school day – via Mrs. Ulrich)
651-451-3832 Ext. 6686 (classroom voicemail)
651-239-8454 (cell phone)
Justin.ohm@colwsp.org