



Welcome to 5th Grade!

Curriculum and Policies

2011-2012

# Mrs. Ackmann's 5th Grade St. Peter School

## Welcome

Welcome to 5th grade! My name is Denise Ackmann. This is my 5th year teaching 5th grade here at St. Peter. I am honored to provide your child with a solid Catholic education. 5th grade is a very important year. Students will transition from elementary school to middle school. Preparing for middle school is no small undertaking. By the end of this school year, students will grow academically, socially, and spiritually to be able to take on adolescence full force! Are you ready?!

As your child's teacher, my responsibility is to give him or her the opportunities he or she needs to become a

successful, independent thinker and learner. I will encourage your child to take responsibility for his or her actions. I will teach him or her to manage time wisely, and to balance school work with extra-curricular sports and activities.

You are your child's first teacher. I look forward to working together to meet the needs of your son or daughter, and to bring him or her forward. This partnership will smooth the transition into middle school, and will make for a successful 5th grade year. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

And now, to address the students. Your parents and I will be working very hard to make this a great year for you. We expect you to put forth your best effort in everything you do. You will need to do your best to stay organized. Your parents and I will help you in any way that we can, but remember that you have to ask for our help. Be responsible for your actions. Conduct yourself with respect and honesty, even when it seems like you might get in trouble. Everyone in our classroom deserves to feel respected. This is going to be such a fun year, and I can't wait to get started!

-Mrs. Ackmann

## Contact

The best way to reach me is by e-mail:

dackmann@stpeterrockets.org

I check my e-mail before school, at lunch, and after school. I cannot guarantee that I will have time during the day to check and respond.

If you have an urgent message, please call the school at 630-232-0476. Mrs. Cummins can relay immediate messages to me. You can also reach my voicemail. I check my voicemail messages during lunch and after school.

Please send a note in with your child regarding any changes in dismissal. We need a signed, written document in this situation. If you forget to send a note, please call the school office. E-mail is not an option in this case.

### Inside Information

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Use my teacher page at [Stpeter-rockets.org](http://Stpeter-rockets.org) for:

- Weekly test reminders
- Downloads of important documents
- Links to helpful pages, including Math book
- E-mail link
- Due date reminders

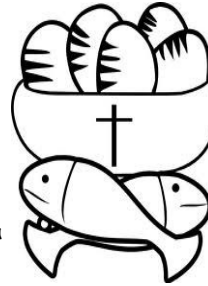
## Religion

### Text and Activity Book: Credo: I Believe

This year, students in St. Peter School and Religious Education programs are using a new series called Faith and Life. The name of our text is *Credo: I Believe*. The text is broken down into three sections:

- God, The Father of All
- God the Son, The Redeemer
- God the Holy Spirit, The Sanctifier

Each section is then broken down into chapters. There are a total of 30 chapters, so please anticipate a quiz almost every week. The series has an online component, which you can find linked on my teacher page. Each lesson begins with a scripture reference and concluded with a list of questions and answers found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.



Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Students will also learn the parts of the Mass this year, and will be educated in the new translation coming in November. We will plan two Masses as a class. Each month will also feature a school-wide virtue to be studied, and a monthly prayer.

Special seasons and Holy Days will be studied as well. Students will attend Reconciliation in the seasons of Advent and Lent, visit the adoration chapel, and partic-

ipate in monthly Rosary Prayers

## Reading

### Text and workbook: Spotlight on Literacy

Reading comprehension skills and strategies are reviewed and practiced through our weekly reading stories in the text. Each story has accompanying workbook pages (typically 3-4) and a ten question quiz. Five questions cover comprehension, and five cover vocabulary. Vocabulary words will be introduced at the beginning of the week. In addition to the reading text, students will practice reading fluently and with intonation and

**Before 5th grade, students learn to read. During and after 5th grade, they need to read to learn!**

expression through reader's theater plays throughout the year. Most importantly, students will be expected to read independently at least 30 minutes each day. Books can be selected at our weekly library visit. At least 15 minutes

of independent reading time will be given each day in class. Independent reading is the single most important factor in improving your child's reading skill! I will meet with small groups throughout the week to discuss independent reading books.

## English and Writing

### Text and workbook: Voyages in English

**Grammar:** Throughout the school year, students will review basic parts of speech. In 5th grade we take a closer look at how these basic parts of speech function in sentences. Homework will be assigned in the English workbook. Tests will cover a few sections of the grammar chapters at a time.

**Writing:** To help students become great writers, they need to understand the fundamentals of grammar and sentence structure. A large part of the beginning of the year will be spent covering sentence and paragraph form. Students should be writing complete sentences at **all times**. Writing projects will be completed in class. We will work through the writing process of prewriting, draft-

ing, editing, revising, and publishing together. Towards the end of the year, we will transition from paragraph writing to the traditional 5 paragraph essay model. 5th graders will publish two five-paragraph essays by the end of the year.

## Math

### Text: HoughtonMifflin Math Workbook: Homework book

This year in math, we will cover:

- Place value of whole numbers and decimals
- Basic operations with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions
- Fraction concepts, such as equivalent fractions, simplest form, greatest common factor, and least common multiple
- Geometry: basic terms, measuring and drawing angles

- Pre-algebra: reading and writing expressions, function tables
- Problem solving strategies
- Logical reasoning
- Critical thinking

Math instruction is given whole-group, but then students break down into small-group centers for practice. Small groups will change several times throughout the year. They are assigned at random, not according to ability. Groups move through four centers every

day: an enrichment center, a problem solving center, a smart board game center, and a homework center with me. I love working with smaller groups to assess the needs of individual students! I always work through a few examples with the group, then help students start their homework assignment. Working in small groups allows students to challenge themselves in a safe environment, and to help each other understand the concepts! I am able to incorporate a variety of techniques and manipulatives through center work as well.

## Science

### No text or workbook, just a Science journal!

This year, we will be using a new curriculum called FOSS. FOSS allows students the opportunity to learn science by doing science every day! Students will learn through hands-on activities, or investigations. A science journal will help students keep track of concepts we learn and vocabulary words that are introduced. Homework takes the form of written responses to situations similar to those we face in class. There is a

written test and a performance test at the end of each module. FOSS is not graded traditionally, by the number of questions answered incorrectly, but rather whether or not the student is understanding the concepts. We will cover four modules this year. You can go to the FOSS website to read more about each of these units.

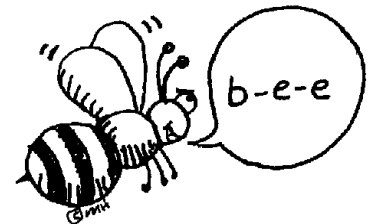
- Models and Designs: Scientific method concepts through construction and design.
- Landforms: Earth science concepts, cartography.
- Environments: Life science, environmental biology
- Mixtures and Solutions: Physical science, chemistry

## Spelling

### Workbook: Spelling and Vocabulary

There will be a spelling unit every week. Regular units consist of thirty words: twenty basic, five review, and five challenge words. Words in the unit are grouped according to a phonetic rule which is listed at the top of the first page in the unit. Learning and understanding the phonetics of the words can help students spell the words correctly. This is also our vo-

cabulary text. I do expect students to learn what these words mean and use them appropriately. A "Spelling Contract" will be given on Monday. Students will choose activities from four categories. All four activities need to be completed and turned in on Friday, the day of the test. There are occasional review units which cover words from the previous five units. No contract is assigned on these weeks.



## Welcome to 5th Grade!

Monday: Music or Tech

Tuesday: Music or Tech

Wednesday: P.E. and Library (2:00-2:30 PM)

Thursday: P.E.

Friday: Spanish with Mrs. Wilson (12:20-12:45 PM)

All specials 8:38-9:17 AM unless otherwise specified

SPS Website  
[www.stpeterrockets.org](http://www.stpeterrockets.org)

## Homework

Homework will be assigned in class with a clearly defined due date. All assignments will be written on the assignment board, with the expectation that students will copy the assignments into planners. Students are responsible for completing and handing in assignments on time. Late assignments will be accepted for reduced credit.

It is necessary to grade some homework assignments in class to determine overall achievement before continuing with lessons. Each student is encouraged to advocate for themselves, checking over graded work carefully for mistakes. Assignments and tests graded by me will be returned in a timely fashion. All grades will be posted on Teacher Ease.

If your child is absent, please check the work room after 3:00 PM for make-up work. Siblings can pick up work in the work room. Please refer to the handbook for information regarding work for planned absences.

## Discipline Procedure

When behavior results in disciplinary action, a standard procedure is followed. While the steps in the procedure are standardized, the consequences will be given based on the individual situation.

I believe that children need to be held accountable for their actions, but also need to be involved in solving the issue. Misbehavior does not occur for lack of reason. If the child or children and I can get to the heart of the misbehavior, we will be much more effective in discontinuing the problems that result.

If a misbehavior is brought to my attention, I will have a private conversation with the child or children involved. The child will be able to explain the misbehavior that occurred and why it occurred. I will then ask that child to determine a fair consequence. This sometimes results in a back-and-forth discussion until a fair consequence is determined. The child will then put into writing the misbehavior that occurred, the chosen consequence, and an apology when necessary. This written document will be signed by the child and myself, and a copy will be sent home for you to sign as well. I will then follow up with an e-mail or phone call within 24 hours. If the consequence is not carried out, further action will be taken. If a

problem persists, Mrs. Feldmann or Mrs. Panizzi will be called in for assistance.

In the past, this has worked well for most children. As you know, each child is a unique individual and it is impossible to find a catch-all solution for everyone. In the event that this procedure is ineffective, the parents will be notified of any changes.