

Saint Ambrose Catholic School
Ms. Kelly Whelan

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school and to fifth grade! Fifth grade is an important transitional year for you and your child as you begin to prepare for middle school. I am looking forward to working with you to make this year a smooth and productive transition. With your help, we will build upon your child's successful academic foundation. Included in this packet is additional classroom information that is supplemental to the guidelines and procedures outlined in the 2015-2016 Parent-Student Handbook.

Birthdays

Birthdays will be celebrated during lunch with a treat and lunch box. Parents may provide a store-brought treat, juice box, and napkin to share with the class. Please drop these items off at the school office on the morning of the celebration. This year, the fifth grade class has 25 students.

Classroom Expectations

My classroom management style is based on positive reinforcement. Students are grouped into teams and are rewarded for cooperating and following directions. This process encourages students to take responsibility for their actions and realize there is always room for improvement. Students are first given a warning. If the behavior continues, the student begins to lose time from recess. After time is deducted, and if the behavior continues, the parent will be notified so we can work together to improve these problems.

Communication Folders

These folders are sent home with the oldest child in each family on Thursdays and will contain important information from the office. Please establish a routine of asking your child and check the book bag each Thursday for this folder. Return any necessary paperwork the next day.

Curriculum

The curriculum for elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Washington is standards-driven. The Academic Standards are specific skills and benchmarks that students are required to master in order to be promoted. Textbooks, workbooks, and supplemental materials are used as a reference point to address the standards. The Fifth Grade Language Arts and Social Studies textbooks and workbooks are listed below with their replacement cost should they become lost or damaged. Hardback textbooks must be covered with a paper book cover (provided by the school) at all times. Workbooks are to be covered with clear contact paper.

Zaner Bloser <i>Handwriting</i>	\$15.00
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Sadlier-Oxford <i>Vocabulary Workshop- Level Blue</i>	\$25.00
MacMillan-McGraw Hill “ <i>Timelinks</i> ” <i>Social Studies</i> (textbook)	\$50.00
MacMillan-McGraw Hill “ <i>Timelinks</i> ” <i>Social Studies</i> (workbook)	\$5.00
Loyola Press <i>Voyages in English</i> (textbook)	\$57.00
Loyola Press <i>Voyages in English</i> (workbook)	\$30.00
Houghton Mifflin <i>Reading: Expeditions</i> (textbook)	\$40.00

E-Mail

Feel free to contact me with questions and/or concerns: mshelansas@gmail.com

Grading Scale

The grading scale is as follows:

93-100 A
85-92 B
77-84 C
70-76 D
69-0 F

Final grades are based on classwork, homework completion, quizzes, tests, and projects.

Engrade

Engrade is an online grade book that is utilized by the teachers. Parents can sign up for this free service by going to www.engage.com and following the sign up process for parents. If you already have an Engrade account you just need to change the teacher access codes for this year.

My teacher’s login ID is: mshelansas

mshelansas-student access code

Homework

Homework will typically be given Mondays through Fridays and will always be a reinforcement of concepts and skills discussed in class. These homework assignments will go home in the blue homework folder and should be returned daily. Assignments are a valuable assessment tool for me to determine how well your child has understood the topic discussed in class and how successful they are completing it independently. It is important that it be the child’s work. Parents are welcome to assist if necessary, but if your child is having a great deal of difficulty with an assignment, please email me or send a note with your child discussing the questions the following school day. If I am not

aware that your child is struggling with the homework, I will assume they have mastered the skill for that evening.

Students will be given credit and a homework grade for completion of the assignment and will not be penalized for mistakes.

Late Work

Students are required to complete the assigned homework or studying material each evening. If your child does not complete the assignment and turn it in the day due, they will receive a deduction of 25%. After second day, a deduction of 50%, and after the third day, a deduction of 75%. After the third day, no late work will be accepted.

Extra-Credit For every vocabulary quiz, students may complete an online practice quiz for extra credit (due by the day of the quiz).

<http://www.sadlier-oxford.com/vocabulary/vocabularyworkshop.cfm>

Agenda Books

Students are required to carry agenda books to each class and write down the necessary assignments. The agenda books will be signed daily by the teacher for the first semester of the school year.

Lost and Found

Clearly label all of your child's belongings with their name, including school and gym uniforms, sweaters, jackets, and supplies.

Uniform Policy

Please review the uniform policy in the Parent-Student Handbook as some changes have been made since last year. A clean gym uniform should be worn on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Any student not in proper school or gym uniform will be issued a uniform violation. After three violation notices for the same infraction, a new uniform item will be provided for the student and you will receive a bill from the office.