

## Welcome to Fifth Grade 2016-2017

Welcome to an exciting school year! This will be a new start for both your student and for us.  
We are looking forward to a great year with your child.



### Everyday Math

We will continue using the Everyday Math curriculum. Our students have been very successful with this program. Study Links will be sent home every day (except Friday, for the most part) along with some additional practice problems. These are designed to provide an opportunity for you to work with your child on the skills covered in that lesson. It is important that these assignments be returned the following day in order for us to review and discuss the lesson before going on to the next one.



### Social Studies

Our fifth-grade social-studies curriculum is United States history. Our students will learn about our nation's history through the textbook, *United States: Adventures in Time and Place*, and through research. Reading and writing skills are incorporated throughout the lessons. Citizenship, thinking skills, and study skills are also an integral part of the curriculum. The students will learn about different cultures and their contributions to the development and growth of our country. Most lessons in the textbook will be read and discussed in class, but students will at times be assigned homework. We will also be using Daily Geography (DOG) lessons to learn geographical concepts and research skills.



### Language Arts/ Grammar and Spelling

*The Shurley Method* will be the primary source to teach grammar concepts. The program also assists students in incorporating these concepts into their writing. *The Shurley Method* uses a collection of jingles to help the students build a strong knowledge of the parts of speech. These jingles are repeated and recited throughout the entire program. The program re-teaches punctuation, capitalization, and proper sentence structure.

Emphasis is placed on knowing and applying common spelling rules. There will be spelling activities assigned. A new list of spelling words will be introduced each week, with spelling tests given on Friday. The list consists of approximately twenty words plus bonus words as a challenge.



### Writing

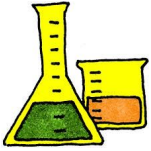
The *Writing Academy* is a program used to cover the four styles of writing (narrative, how-to, classificatory, and persuasive), the research paper, the novel, and all of the technical components (grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling) necessary to make students' writing successful.

This along with other supplementary material will be used to enhance the students' writing skills.



### Reading

In the fifth grade, the reading program is novel-based. We will be reading several genres of literature. Our focus will be to instill the "want" to read for enjoyment and informational purposes. Students will be expected to read each day after school. This will be in the form of their library books and/or assigned chapters from their novels. The Accelerated Reading Program will still be used as a supplemental program to increase comprehension. Along with writing and reading, the students will learn several types of poetry.



## Science

In the fifth grade, students will explore and learn about the physical, natural and living environment that surrounds them. Hands-on science investigations, inquiry, models, and interactive notebooks are just some of the tools we will use to explore these science concepts. The Harcourt Science textbooks and AIMS activities will be used to supplement learning.



## Homework

There will be daily homework assignments. Math and reading are expected everyday. Other assignments will also include social studies, science, grammar, etc. If there is a project to be done at home, we will give sufficient notice so that your child can manage his/her time. If you find that at times your child is feeling overloaded with work, please don't hesitate to contact us so we can evaluate the situation.



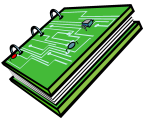
## Religion

Religion classes will meet once a week for about half an hour under the supervision of Mrs. Katherine Uhlhorn. Class activities and discussions are based on Judeo-Christian values and their application to everyday life. Mrs. Uhlhorn will be using readings and stories from the Bible, the Episcopal prayer book, and other resources. All students in first through sixth grades will explore their relationship with God, their relationships with each other, and how to live as God wants us to live. Mrs. Uhlhorn will also be using other materials to incorporate character and manners into the lessons. These classes work in tandem with chapel which will be overseen by Mrs. Duffy, Father Scott, and Father Rod. Shared experiences, role-play activities, and stories will help to integrate virtues and biblical values into the daily lives of our children.



## Birthdays

Birthdays will only be celebrated in each child's homeroom on Fridays. The celebration is usually the week of the student's birthday. If your child has a summer birthday, we will arrange for an un-birthday celebration! **Please see the Parent Handbook for policies involving birthdays.**



## Parent Handbook

Please see the Parent Handbook for more information about the attendance and tardy policies. The handbook also offers other useful information about St. Alban's. Please remember to be punctual when arriving to school. A tardy student loses out on information and also takes time away from other members of the class. Tardies can also affect a student's status for the Honor Roll.



## Report Cards and Conferences

Every nine weeks report cards are given out. You will receive progress reports every three weeks, twice each term between report cards.



## Corrected Papers and Weekly Conduct

Graded papers will be kept in a binder and sent home weekly for you to review. A weekly conduct sheet will also come home in this binder to keep you apprised of your child's behavior in class. There will be a sheet for you to sign acknowledging you have reviewed the papers.

**Please remember to check the website daily!**

[www.mindsharpeneddaily.com](http://www.mindsharpeneddaily.com)