

5A News – First Week!

September 5, 2018

Dear 5A Families,

It was great to meet many of you yesterday and to begin getting to know your wonderful children today! These first few days will be full, as we set the expectations for the learning year ahead and build a sense of community within our classroom. I know that it can be a big adjustment back into a school routine, and each of our students came in with a positive attitude and went all out to make the day a success!

We're thrilled to welcome Rudas, Clara, Jamie, and Hailey to St. Luke's and to 5A. I look forward to seeing new friendships blossom this year. As we held our Meet and Greet yesterday, Hailey and Jamie were on a plane from Korea to join our St. Luke community for the school year!

We will be establishing our 5A Essential Agreements together this week and going over classroom procedures. Over the next couple of weeks, the 5th grade teachers will be gathering data about the knowledge and skills that our students have as they enter 5th grade and how they are making meaning of it and are able to apply what they know. Next week, students will start using their planners and getting into a homework routine.

On Monday, we'll begin sending weekly classroom newsletters. Newsletters will be emailed and posted on our website at the beginning of each week and will contain information about curriculum units, important 5th grade events, and classroom logistics. You will also be receiving a Parent Information Sheet with that first newsletter, inviting you to share any information that will help us to know your child better and work with him or her effectively. On **Wednesday, September 19th**, we look forward to sharing 5th grade curriculum highlights and important information about how we will be assessing student learning at **Curriculum Night (6:30 pm)**, preceded by a **Camp Seymour* Information Meeting (5:30 pm)**.

**Dates for Camp Seymour are Tuesday – Friday, October 23rd – 26th.*

A few logistics...

- Students are strongly encouraged to have a water bottle at school to keep at their desk.
- Our PE days are Monday and Wednesday. If your child doesn't already have PE shoes at school, please send a pair in soon!
- Library classes begin next week. Students should have a book for silent reading in their desk at all times, starting on Monday – whether from the library or from home.
- We have a snack time in the morning before recess every day, and 5th graders have typically worked up an appetite by then; please make sure that your child has a snack packed!

We'll be joining with 5B for an activity each afternoon this week. This afternoon, Ms. Bakamis and I had the students write 5 questions, expectations, hopes, fears, and/or things that they are looking forward to about 5th grade. We addressed as many as we could for today and were impressed with the thoughtful questions and comments about curriculum, camp, assessment, switching classes, social dynamics and making new friends, field trips,

and more! Mr. Boyle came in to talk with the class and joined us for the afternoon prayer service. This week, I will be teaching every day, so that he can participate in the Thurs./Fri. 8th grade retreat.

As we continue to share information about this school year with the students and with you, please feel free to reach out if you have a question that hasn't yet been addressed (your student may know the answer as well!), or if you'd like to have a conversation to discuss insights, concerns, or specific questions about your child's 5th grade learning journey!

Enjoy these beautiful September days,

Donna

Upcoming Important Dates:

September 11th (Tuesday) - School Pictures (in uniform)

September 13th (Thursday) - Mass of the Holy Spirit 9:30 am & New Parent Night 6:30 pm

September 15th (Saturday) - Poker Tournament

September 17th - October 11th - MAP Testing

**Wednesday, September 19th - Camp Seymour Information Meeting 5:30 pm,
Curriculum Night 6:30 pm**

**September 23rd (Sunday) - VIRTUS Safe Environment Training for new volunteers
2:00 - 5:00 pm**

September 26th (Wednesday) - St. Luke-a-thon

September 28th (Friday) - Free Dress Friday