

September 9th, 2019

Holy Spirit, call us to ACTION!

“From my early school days, I was brought up with the belief that we have a duty to use our talents, to volunteer and to make a contribution.” - Michael Hintze

Welcome back to school! This is our first full week in 5th grade. It was so wonderful getting to know your students this past week. We will continue to hone our classroom procedures this week and practice our typical class schedule. This week is packed with exciting learning activities! Here's where we're headed this week in the classroom:

This week in **Reading & Language Arts**, we will continue assessing their spelling skills, grammar conventions, & reading strategies. We will also be writing creative stories about our superheroes and their alter egos. This writing piece will be accompanied by student created artwork & real-life photos of the students. We will also be reflecting on which symbol of the holy spirit we most closely identify with and why. As a nightly practice, the students will be expected to complete at LEAST 25 minutes of reading.

In **Science** we will begin our first unit on how organic matter cycles through our living world in systems of interdependent parts. Many of our lessons will focus on ecology and will help the students develop the idea that plants, animals, and fungi form a system of interdependent parts, with each part dependent on the other parts for its material nourishment.

In **Religion** this week we will begin our first unit on God, Our Creator and Father. This unit focuses on creation and emphasizes that God the Father created us and continues to care for us and call us to live in God's kingdom. We will also be learning about ways we are called to action and we will decide on a service project that we can experience in our own community.

This week we will begin our **Second Step** lessons which focuses on Empathy & Respect. Each student will participate in an interactive lesson during class and will practice this skill with a parent/guardian for homework. These worksheets are due on Fridays.

In **Math**, we will continue to evaluate the skills of the students with a few more assessments. One of the first assignments the students will complete this in their electronic Math program (ALEKs) is a Knowledge Check. This will help guide the student to practice specific skills that they need to work on at their own level. I have aligned this program with our Math textbook, but

when they achieve 85% or higher on all of the overall 5th grade topics. I will move them into a more advanced section of the program. *This week students will be expected to complete AT LEAST 60 minutes of ALEKS by the end of the week.*

Important Dates THIS week:

- **Monday** – Design, Spanish, Library
- **Tuesday** – Music, 2pm Dismissal
- **Wednesday** – PE (don't forget your PE shoes!), Spanish
- **Thursday** – Music, Library (don't forget to bring books to return or renew)
- **Friday** – PE (don't forget your PE shoes!)

Upcoming Important Dates:

- ***Wednesday, September 18th – Veterans' Service Project Assemblies by CCS (more information coming), PYP Academic Night***
- ***Monday - Friday, September 23rd- October 11th – MAP TESTING WINDOW***
- ***Tuesday, September 24th- Second Mission Statement Session with staff***
- ***Thursday, September 26th – St. Luke-A-Thon***