

Welcome to Meet the Teacher 2023 - 2024

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Dear Parents,

This "Meet the Teacher" Package highlights some expectations for the upcoming year. It is very important for us to work together as a team to provide an atmosphere for the children which encourages active learning, comfort, and success. We are eager to work with you and your children to help them reach their goals and do the best they possibly can.

Philosophy

- Learning occurs in a variety of ways and at different rates.
- It is important to provide the children with a variety of learning experiences that are compatible with all the learning styles and needs present in our class.
- Children should actively engage in their own learning process.
- Lessons are formatted in such a way as to promote discovery, creativity, and exploration, as well as cooperative learning opportunities.

Communication

Open communication between parents and teachers is extremely important as we both work together for the benefit of your child. Please feel free to contact us by phone or email if there is something that concerns you. You are also welcome to schedule an appointment with us if it is necessary that we meet in person. Always remember that we are working as a team: teacher, parent, and child!

Medical Issues

Please ensure that the office is informed in writing and kept up-to-date of any medical changes in your child's health.

Since we are a "nut-aware" school and do have students in our classroom who have allergies to nuts, we kindly request that any treats sent to school for birthday celebrations are in fact free of nuts and nut-products. If you wish to send something in for the class in celebration of your child's birthday, it must be purchased from a commercial vendor and, if possible, individually packaged, so that it can be easily distributed.

Missed Classes

If for some reason your child is away from school, he / she is responsible for completing the work they have missed, collecting notices and asking for clarification on any new lessons. An extension of due dates may be provided depending on the circumstances.

Calls Home

Students may ask for permission to use the phone to make necessary calls home, for instance to report illness, but not to ask if they can go to another student's house after school or because they have forgotten their homework or gym strip at home.

Expectations of Students

- to treat others with respect and consideration
- to be active participants in the faith community, within and outside of school
- to demonstrate increasing independence and to be responsible for themselves
- to self-advocate
- to demonstrate good leadership
- to work diligently and quietly during independent seat work making productive use of class time
- to work cooperatively with others
- to submit all work in a neat and legible manner to write their name and date on all work, and format their work according to the expectations outlined in class
- to maintain organized notebooks and binders
- to complete assignments without simple spelling and grammatical errors
- to read-over and edit their written work
- to hand in all assignments on time
- to take accountability for unfinished work
- to take pride in their work and perform it to the best of their abilities

These rules and expectations will provide a safe, successful, and creative learning environment.

Agendas

The planner is intended to assist your child with developing time management skills and responsibility. Your child will record his / her homework and responsibilities for a particular day. Please check your child's planner each night to ensure all work is completed. Planners are checked *periodically (spot checks)* by the teacher.

Homework

Intermediate students should be completing approximately 30 to 60 minutes of homework each night (including daily reading). However, homework will vary according to the amount of class time that your child chooses to use wisely and productively. The purpose of homework assignments is three-fold:

1. to complete work not completed during the school day
2. to provide extension and/or reinforcement of concepts
3. to help the children continue to develop successful study habits

Individual and group projects will be assigned throughout the year (long-term projects). Criteria sheets that identify due dates will be sent home for parent signature.

* If a situation arises where homework cannot be completed, please send a note with your child explaining the reason as to why it could not be completed. Your child should give me the note before the start of classes. If possible, your child may report to school early the next day to complete the unfinished work prior to the start of the school day.

Homework notices are issued for "work owing" to the teacher. Students are expected to complete any outstanding assignments / corrections and submit them to the teacher along with the signed homework notice by 9:00 am the next morning.

Quizzes and Tests

On most Fridays (except when there is a Spelling test), there will be a **weekly quiz** based on concepts that have been covered in the week(s) before. Generally, the quiz will cover concepts from the core subject areas.

Parents will receive notice for major **tests**. Students will also receive / create a study guide to assist them in their test preparation.

Assessment & Criteria-based Grading

Please note that your child's progress in Grade 6 is based on their proficiency with respect to curricular competencies and content knowledge as it relates to each subject area, as well as student self-assessment of their performance in terms of core competencies (in the areas of communication, thinking and personal / social)


A variety of factors are taken into consideration when assessing your child's progress:

- Student performance in class (discussion, group work, class activities)
- Student's daily homework
- Student-teacher conferencing
- Student self-evaluation / peer-evaluation
- Tests and quizzes
- Assignments and project work




Whenever possible, Ministry created performance standards and achievement indicators are used to assess student work.

For major assignments and projects, students will be provided criteria. Assessment of your child's work will reflect to what degree he/she has met criteria.

PROFICIENCY SCALE

| Proficiency Scale |  | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|--|---|
| | Emerging | Developing | Proficient | Extending |
| | <i>The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.</i> | <i>The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.</i> | <i>The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.</i> | <i>The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.</i> |

CORE COMPETENCIES

| <i>The core competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep and lifelong learning.</i> | | |
|---|---|--|
| Communication  | Thinking  | Personal & Social  |
| <i>* Communicating</i> <i>* Collaborating</i> | <i>* Creative Thinking</i> <i>* Critical and Reflective Thinking</i> | <i>* Personal Awareness & Responsibility</i> <i>* Positive Personal & Cultural Identity</i> <i>* Social Awareness & Responsibility</i> |

Schedule of Specialty Classes

See timetable

Other Important Information

- ❖ Immunizations: Immunizations generally take place in the Grade 6 year (co-ordinated by the local health authority).
- ❖ Kindergarten & Grade 6 Buddies: The Grade 6 students are paired with students from Kindergarten. Every two weeks, the buddies gather together to engage in fun learning activities.
- ❖ Preparation for High-School: Next year in Grade 7, your child will be required to make a decision as to where he / she would like to attend high-school. In light of this, you and your child are strongly encouraged to familiarize yourselves with the websites of different high-schools in order to see what they have to offer in terms of programs. Some high-schools offer in-person or “virtual” Open Houses, as well. Please note that many of the high-schools may require copies of your child’s Communicating Student Learning Progress Report(s) from Grade 6, in addition to those from Grade 7, as part of the application process.

Field Trips

We are looking forward to some new ideas this year and will keep you updated.

Dates to Note...

Grade 6 Masses:

Truth & Reconciliation Assembly : September 29, 2023

Ash Wednesday Mass: February 14, 2024

Thank you in advance for your time, cooperation, and support. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns throughout the year, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to a positive and productive school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. K. Crescenzo & Mr. J. Villella

Curriculum Overview

Christian Education (Religion)

Our overall Archdiocesan theme for the year is: “Living, Celebrating, and Proclaiming Our Faith”

The textbook that we will be using is from the *Christ Our Life Series*: God Calls a People

Focus: Old Testament

Health Education (part of the “Physical and Health Education Curriculum”)

* Generally integrated into the other subject areas

Focus: healthy living, mental health well-being, substance abuse prevention, safety and injury prevention, puberty

Career Education

* Generally integrated into the other subject areas

Focus: effective work habits and study skills, goal-setting and decision-making, interpersonal skills, conflict resolution, and career development

Language Arts

Reading:

Reading is an important part of all subject areas. A variety of literature will be used to complement various themes: anthologies, grade-level appropriate picture books, short stories, novels and, of course, textbooks and reference material for content reading.

The novels studied this year include: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The Hatchet

Writing: The overall writing process (pre-writing, drafting, editing, proofreading, publishing and presenting) will be explored. Students will learn more about good sentence and paragraph construction, as well as various styles of writing: narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and expository. Some types of writing that your child will be engaged in this year include anecdotes, short stories, opinion / persuasive writing, and research reports.

Listening and Speaking: Various listening and speaking experiences will be provided. Students will also be involved in choral reading, oral reading, discussions, presentations and drama.

Math

The *Math Makes Sense* Program will be used, as well as *Journeys 6* and additional handouts to supplement lessons.

Some concepts that will be covered are: patterns, number concepts, number operations (addition, subtraction, division, multiplication), decimals, fractions, probability, measurement, geometry, graphing, estimation, problem solving, and financial literacy

Social Studies

Some units that will be covered include: Mapping, Global Citizenship, Protection of Human Rights, the United Nations and international cooperation, Global Poverty and Inequality, Government Systems, Ways of Life in Other Countries, Globalization, Economic Interdependence, Natural Resource Management & other Challenges Facing the World Today

Science

Some units that will be covered include: Exploring Extreme Environments (Space), Human Body Systems (excretory, hormonal, and nervous), Forces & Motion

Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies

* Integrated across the curriculum, particularly in Science and Technology

Topics explored: Digital Literacy; Media Arts, Robotics

Students will be creating digital portfolios this year to help showcase their learning.

Art

A variety of mediums and artists will be explored. Art will also be incorporated into the other subjects.

Drama

A variety of drama-related learning opportunities will be integrated across the curriculum.

* Exploration of the First Peoples' Principles and Perspectives will be explored throughout the entire curriculum, as will the Principles of Catholic Education.