



Mrs. Bridgers

5A

*FIFTH Grade Welcome  
Newsletter*



AUGUST 2011

Bridgers Bulletin Issue 1



**Every  
Second  
Devoted  
To Success  
and  
Learning**



## Welcome to Success!

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to your 5<sup>th</sup> grade year! I am so excited to meet you at the K-5 orientation on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Before you come to school let me share a little about my family and myself. I am a second career teacher-my first career was a Registered Dietitian. Following my work as a nutrition educator, I spent 8 years at home raising our sons Daniel and Aaron. Daniel, joined by his new wife Jessica, are in

Boston working on his Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering and Aaron is in Albuquerque finishing his degree in Architecture at UNM. My husband Don will be retiring from Sandia Labs this December. He enjoys spending his time rebuilding his '51 Ford and playing his guitar in our neighborhood garage band. Our summers

Continued on p. 6

## 5A Rules

1. Have all your appropriate materials and supplies at your desk and be seated when you enter the room.
2. Respect the people, equipment, and furnishings of Room 5A.
3. Adjust your voice level to suit the activity.
4. Follow directions the first time they are given.
5. Observe all rules in the student handbook.

## If you choose to Break a Rule

- First time: Name on board
- Second time: One check. Walk track ALONE for entire next recess.
- Third time: two checks. Walk track ALONE for entire next 2 recesses.
- Fourth time: three checks. Walk track ALONE for entire next 2 recesses and stay after school 30 minutes to write MY ACTION PLAN. Parents called regarding MY ACTION PLAN for signature.
- Fifth time: Four checks. Student sent to office with Signed MY ACTION PLAN. If necessary, parent-student conference scheduled.

Severe disruption: Student sent immediately to office.  
Names and checks will be erased each Friday afternoon.

## Rewards

1. Praise Daily.
2. Positive Notes Home.
3. Whole class radio or free time on Friday.
4. Movie and Popcorn party at the end of each trimester.
5. Various other positive perks (throughout the school year).
6. The JOY of LEARNING!

STUDENTS: I have read this classroom discipline plan and understand it. I will honor it while in Room 16.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: My child has discussed the classroom plan with me. I understand it and will support it.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: I will be fair and consistent in administering the discipline plan for room 5A.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT: Keep this sheet in your binder at all times. Thank you.



What to  
bring to  
school.

## Come prepared to learn, come prepared for activity, come prepared to worship.

### TO LEARN:

On Orientation Day (August 15<sup>th</sup>) parents can bring their students supplies (see **Attachment 1**) to school. Please have personal items such as notebooks, folders, pencil bags, sweatshirts labeled with their name in black sharpie. Items such as Kleenex, Wipes, hand sanitizer, paper, pencils, cards will go into a general class supply and do not need to be labeled.

Art Supplies: please student name on the box of markers, colored pencils, oil pastels, and water colors. These will be kept in separate bins to take to art.

### FOR ACTIVITY:

Please remember that students must follow dress code. I encourage all students to have a St. Charles sweatshirt labeled and available to wear in the classroom-even on hot days as sometimes our cooling system makes the rooms a little chilly. As a reminder, only tennis shoes should be worn each day, but most especially on PE days. At the time of this newsletter I do not know which days students will have PE, but I will let them know as soon as our schedule is out. For Parent Teacher conferences and DRA testing days, students may wear street clothes.



## After care?

Please fill out the **aftercare form** attached (attachment 1) at the end of this newsletter to let me know if your child will be staying for aftercare on a regular basis. If you need to use aftercare on an irregular basis, please send a note in your child's homework folder and let them know that they are to go to aftercare that day. Pick up in the back is until 3:15. If you cannot be there by that time, please send your child to aftercare. You will not be charged until after 3:15. For safety reasons, you **MAY NOT** walk around to the back of the school and pick up your student from our box. If you have to pick them up early for an appointment please let me know ahead of time-either with a call or note in the homework folder so your student can be ready to go.

### For Worship:

Mass Days will be on Tuesdays. Be sure all uniforms are clean and students are prepared to attend Mass. I expect all students to sit with their legs still, keep their hands to themselves, and not talk in church. I expect students to stand tall, touching the back of their legs to the pew. Students will be expected to sing all hymns during Mass and quietly put the books away. Parents are welcome to join us for Mass. Please sit on the left side of the church with other parents. We also encourage you to discuss Best Behavior for Mass at home. Students will receive grades for their behavior in Mass as part of their Religion grade.

### Morning Literacy Block

Our day will always begin with independent morning reading. Students will read books at their Lexile level. I will be helping students find their Lexile number in the first weeks of school. After they read, they will record the **BOOK TITLE** on a Reading Log (**see attachment 2**). This reading log will be collected at the end of the month and students are given 1 point for each day they record on their logs. A similar log will be sent home each month for the student to record at home. Please return the student reading log on Mondays for 10 points per week. If you lose your log, please print one online.

Students may read books from the school Lexile Library list (updated list to follow), the classroom Library and the Public Library.

We have many exciting concepts in our Reading Series-I look forward to exploring them with the students. Weekly concepts begin with a Question of the Week, and a concept map, Amazing Words, comprehension skills and strategies, Academic Vocabulary and Fluency tips. Language arts include writing conventions, a daily fix-it problem, and weekly journal writing. The writing lesson begins with a genre study, a close study of exemplary writing models, and continues through the stages of the writing process. Journals will be a large part of the students English and Writing grades.



Spelling: Each week I will begin our spelling lessons with a pretest. These will not count as a grade, but rather, as a guide for which words students will focus on. I have purchased a wonderful spelling homework program where students will self select a variety of activities to practice their words-STAY tuned for these activities that will be coming home the first full week of classes! Our spelling test will be on Fridays-the last trimester we will be having a Banana Split Spelling Activity where a portion of a Banana Spli100% is awarded for each 100% on the Spelling test. Student grades will be derived from class work pages, homework and the tests.

Math-I is eagerly awaiting training in August on the Scholastic Math Inventory. (SMI) Stay tuned for more information in the following newsletters. This year we will be focusing on math concepts of long division, decimals, fractions, and word problems. Each Friday we will have timed tests for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

In Social Studies we will join the first Americans in the New World and progress through the Industrial Revolution! I am excited to see what new and creative ways I can bring Social Studies to life for your students.

Fifth Grade is the year for Physical Science-which I taught at Eisenhower Middle School as a student teacher. Motion, energy, heat, and light will all be a challenge to investigate.



## 1.Snacks

Please send a light snack with your child every day. Something that is not too messy is ideal such as apple slices, cheese sticks, snack bars, ½ sandwich (please let me know of any allergies). Snacks, which are not so good, are gooey items, things that spill, or foods with little nutrition content. A reusable water container should be refilled each night and chilled but not frozen- the condensation gets our desks all wet!

## 2. Lunch

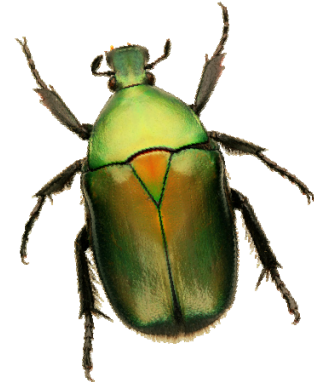
Lunch counts are taken in the morning. Please be updated on your cafeteria funds. All food is provided by APS. The lunch menu is available on the St. Charles Website..

(Continued) from page 1

are spent at our cottage on a beautiful Minnesota Lake. I enjoy gardening, cooking, and hiking in the Sandia Foothills with our two Airedale terriers. Chester, who is the great nephew of our 8-year-old Kaylee, is helping me learn how to show in confirmation. Last May I enter my first dog show with him!

This is my fifth year teaching at St. Charles. My teaching philosophy is simple: I teach so others may learn, and as do this, I learn myself. My emphasis in the classroom is implementing research-based strategies to help each child discover the world according to their learning style. Most important, I am a teacher because of a calling from our Lord Jesus Christ who supplies me with creativity, wisdom and patience; providing your child with a safe and fun learning environment.

If you have any questions this year, please contact me at the school 243-5788. Be sure to leave your name, number and I will return your call within 24 hours.



*TEACHERS are not in*

*private practice.*

*We are in the helping and*

*caring profession.*

*A  
service*

