

August 15, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 5B. I am very pleased to have your child among my 5<sup>th</sup> grade students this year. I invite you to contact me if you have any questions or need any help. By working together with a positive attitude, we can all have a successful and enjoyable year. The purpose of this letter is to review a few of our classroom policies and to make a few requests.

(1) **ASSIGNMENTS** --- Classroom assignments are expected to be completed during the school day. Every child is given adequate time to complete the daily curriculum of fifth grade, and each assignment is within the student's ability. Each lesson builds upon the previous lesson. When classroom assignments are not completed during that day, the student may need to stay in at recess or complete the assignments at home and return them to school the following day.

**Assignments (classroom or assigned homework) not returned the following day will be considered late, and will be marked in the grade book accordingly.**

(2) **HOMEWORK** --- All students are to write their homework assignments in their **SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT PLANNER** each day. Homework will be given daily and students should plan accordingly. Please encourage your child to be responsible for returning their assignments on time. You can help by nightly reviewing and signing your child's planner. There will be more studying required in 5<sup>th</sup> grade especially in Social Studies and Science. To help your child develop good study habits, we will be concentrating on note taking and making study cards.

According to the International Reading Association:

*Study habits do not come naturally to most people. It takes work and time to develop them. However, parents who help their children develop good study habits will see them reap a lifetime of benefits.*

(3) **BACKPACKS** --- It is important that your child learns to organize their materials. The first step in this process is maintaining an orderly backpack. Please help your child clean out their backpack each night so papers don't accumulate there. Also please ensure all papers, books, Assignment Planner and necessary materials are packed up and ready for school daily. It takes away others' valuable learning time if your child is unprepared for class. Please remember to stress to your child that **ALL TEXTBOOKS NEED TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL EACH DAY!**

(4) **COVERING TEXTBOOKS** --- Your child will be bringing home several books to be covered and labeled. Please cover the Math, Language, Reading, and Social Studies Practice Workbooks with clear contact paper. This clear contact paper allows for easy identification of the workbooks. **The hardback, non-consumable texts (Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts) need to be covered, but not with contact paper.** All books should be labeled with student's name, number, and subject. Textbook must be kept covered at all times to avoid wear and tear.

**Please have the textbooks covered by Wednesday, 8-24-11.**

(5) **SNACK** --- We set aside time right before morning recess to have a snack. I encourage your child to bring in a healthy snack as well as a water bottle.

(6) **BINDER** --- Your child will be responsible for two binders. The first binder will be used for keeping the work they are presently working on and will contain papers that have not been graded. They should be bringing this binder home on a nightly bases. The second binder will contain graded papers. Students are required to keep all graded papers for that semester in chronological order as well as graph their progress. ***Any paper receiving a grade lower than a C must be signed by a parent. No paper should be removed from this binder until the next semester has started.*** Students may bring home this binder anytime, but will be required to do so once a week at which time I would like you to review all work in there. Students will receive a grade on the upkeep of this binder. That includes having all necessary papers accounted for, having them in chronological order and having any necessary parent signature.

(7) **READING CALENDAR** --- Student will be expected to read daily and keep a log of the strategies they used. Reading calendars will be handed out each Monday morning and must be completed and returned the following Monday. I will post a copy of the "Reading Log, the Reading Directions, and the Strategies Used by Good Readers" on line. Please note that by monitoring the number of minutes read and following directions, your child has control of his/her grade on this assignment.

I am looking forward to working together to help make your child's 5<sup>th</sup> grade experience at St. Charles a fun and successful one.

God Bless,  
Rose Haley  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher