

September 9, 2019



Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

Welcome Back to School!!! My name is Alison Bradshaw, and I am honored and excited to be your child's fifth grade teacher. I have taught at Redeemer for close to 30 years. I have a Masters Degree in Education and Curriculum from Pepperdine University and a California Teaching Credential. ***This year will be an exciting and rewarding year of Spiritual, Mental, Emotional, Social and Physical growth for your child.*** I deeply desire your prayer and support throughout this school year. Please feel free to get in contact with me if you have any questions or comments about any part of fifth grade. ***My email address is abradshaw5th@gmail.com.***

Please forgive the length of this particular Parent Letter due to the beginning of the school year and all the information that comes with it. Future Parent Letters will not be as lengthy.

Each Monday, you will receive a "Parent Letter" such as this one with pertinent information and a list of classroom lessons and assignments. These assignment lists are to inform you of what is covered in class each day. Obviously, these are subject to change for various reasons. Students are ***NOT to work ahead***, but instead this is a way to give parents information regarding what each child should have accomplished on the day and date listed. If something is not completed it will be homework (as well as possibly assigned homework), and must be completed by the next school day. ***I am confident that each and every one of my students are more than able and capable to do what is required of them as fifth graders.***

I have enjoyed the first three days of school. ***My students and I are off to a great start.*** I am looking forward to an amazing year together. ***I look forward to meeting all of you at Back To School Night on Thursday, September 26th at 6:00pm.*** I will discuss fifth grade policies and procedures as well as my exciting expectations for your children this year. Just a reminder this is a ***Parent Only*** evening.

On a daily basis students are taught in any given subject matter for approximately 40/45 minutes. A lesson is presented and students then work independently on a related assignment. I encourage my students to do their absolute best on all assignments, and I am always ready and willing to assist. ***Whatever is not completed during the allotted time is homework, along with possibly assigned homework.*** It is my objective

that fifth grade students have no more than approximately one hour of homework on any given night. If students are on the average spending more than an hour they are possibly either struggling with subject matter, or they work slowly, or are not staying on task in class.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY: Students must have all assignments completed by the next school day. If an assignment is not completed by the next school day students will receive a 50% on that particular assignment. Any assignments turned in later than the day after they are due will receive a 0%. Assignments given on Friday will be due on the following Monday. (It is important to note that if a student is absent he/she will have as many days absent to make-up the assignments missed.) Ideally, I would like to see all assignments turned in the following day. I am confident that my students are more than able and capable to do what is required of them as fifth graders.

The following is information regarding weekly required Spelling Tests and Spelling homework assignments. Each Friday students will be given a list of Spelling words for the upcoming week.

****A Spelling Pre-Test is given each Wednesday and a Spelling Final Test each Friday.*** If a student passes the Spelling Pre-Test with 100% he/she is excused from taking the Spelling Final Test on Friday.

****Spelling Definitions*** - Students are required to look up each week's spelling words in the Spelling Glossary and write the word and definition/s given. (I will be providing glossaries which are to be taken home and then brought back to school after each use).

Students are not to get definitions from any other source other than the glossary I have provided for them. These definitions need to be spelled correctly. Since they are to be copied from the glossary, spelling should not be an issue. Spelling Definitions are graded with a possible forty-six points given. Students achieve forty-six points by spelling the word and definition correctly, and making sure they write each definition given not just the first one.

****Spelling Sentences*** - Spelling Sentences need to have ***at least eight words*** per sentence. Each sentence should only have one spelling word in it and the form of the spelling word cannot be altered. For example, if the spelling word is "pursue" you cannot change it to "pursued" or "pursues." Each Spelling Sentence is worth four points. A point is given if the sentence begins with a capital letter. Another point will be given if it ends with the correct punctuation. Also, the Spelling word needs to be spelled correctly for a point. Also, a point will be given if the sentence makes sense and is a complete thought. Spelling Sentences total 100 points each week. ***(Needless to say, students are not allowed to copy the example sentence in their Spelling Glossary.)*** Also, I will be giving my students cursive writing worksheets to build up their cursive writing skills. I

will be requiring my students to begin by writing 5 of their Spelling Sentences in cursive writing.

***Putting their spelling words in alphabetical order will be another weekly spelling assignment.** Every spelling word needs to be spelled correctly. This assignment will be a total of twenty five points.

Once again students are given spelling word lists each Friday for the upcoming week. Students have until the following Friday to complete their Definitions, Sentences and Alphabetical Order assignments for the week. (This first full week of school students were given their word list today (Monday), and all above assignments are due this Friday.)

In Bible we will be reading through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John this year in fifth grade. Three chapters will be read and discussed each week. For example today we began with Matthew 1. On Tuesday we will read and discuss Matthew 2, and on Wednesday Matthew 3. There will be notes given to students on each chapter read and discussed totaling ten notes per week. ***Fifth Graders will be required to choose any five notes from their weekly Bible Notes and in their own words, and in paragraph form, write the following regarding them...What was Jesus teaching in the particular note, and how can I apply it to my own life?*** Each answer will be given five points. Weekly "Bible Connections" will be due each Friday. I am looking forward to thorough and detailed answers in the notes each of my students choose to write about. I am also looking forward to the heartfelt connection my students will make with Jesus and His Word this year.

I require my students to write comprehension questions in History and Science in complete sentences. I encourage them to use the wording in the question in their answer. When students write comprehension questions in complete and thorough sentences they will learn the information thoroughly and in context. This is an essential skill as they progress in their education. I have modeled through templates and will continue to model what I encourage and require of my students.

Reading is very important for children. It broadens their hearts and minds in powerful ways. My purpose and vision for book reports this year is to engage students in reading continuously. I believe they will gain a love for literature and the power of the written word. Book Reports this year will alternate between projects and worksheets. Book Report Worksheets include various ways in which to evaluate reading comprehension and understanding, as well as critical thinking skills. **My students' first book report is to read a fiction book of their choice. The book needs to be one they have never read, and needs to be read in its entirety. It also needs to be at least one hundred pages in length**

and fifth grade or above reading level. Once books are read students will complete a book report worksheet. This worksheet will be given to students a week before it is due. Book report worksheets will be due on ***Monday, October 7th.*** Students should find a book and begin reading it as soon as possible.

Math Worksheets are assigned each day. They are graded, and if ten or more problems are incorrect a ***“Correct and Return”*** is given. A “Correct and Return” gives students the opportunity to correct incorrect problems for a better grade. I have encouraged my students to take advantage of this opportunity.

Just a reminder regarding Honor Roll or High Honor Roll: Students with no more than ten late or missing assignments can qualify for Honor Roll or High Honor Roll if they have no more than two B’s. I am excited to see my students strive for this goal.

Feel free to speak to me regarding any questions you may have about any of the above. Just a reminder I will be going over all of this at Back To School Night on Thursday, September 26th.

God bless you all and have a great week!

Respectfully Yours,

***Alison Bradshaw, M.A.
Fifth Grade Teacher***

Important Information From The School Office:

- *Welcome Back to School Redeemer Family. We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to a great year.*
- *From this point forward, unless otherwise noted, students should come to school in their school uniforms.*
- *This week will be our first week of Fun Friday Treats. Every Friday, after school, we will have treats for sale for \$1 or \$1.50 (depending on the treats offered). This week, we will be selling popsicles for \$1.*
- *We had a nice turn out for praise team try-outs last Thursday. It's not too late. If you or your child can sing or play an instrument and would like to join the Redeemer Praise Team for Friday morning chapels, please see Mr. Wamble this Thursday, anytime between 3:15pm and 4:15pm to try out.*
- *September 16th: Hot lunch begins. Please send your child to school with a lunch all week this week. Our hot lunch program will begin next week and is \$5 per day.*
- *September 26th: Back to School Night*

School Wish List

- *N/A*

Curriculum for the Week of 9/19-9/13 and Upcoming Tests:

UPCOMING TESTS:

****Spelling Pre-Test #1 - Wednesday, 9/11 and Final Test #1, Friday 9/13***

Monday, September 9th

Prayer
P.E.
Bible-Matthew 1
Spelling Word List #1
Language pp. 9-11
Math pp. 5-6
History pp. 4-10 Comp. Check 1A
Science pp. 5-7 Comp. Check 1.2
HW: Unfinished Classwork
Weekly Spelling Assignments
Study for Tests
Matthew 1-3 "Bible Connections"
Read for Book Report

Tuesday, September 10th

Prayer
Bible-Matthew 2
Language pp. 12-13
Math pp. 7-8
History pp. 11-14 Comp. Check 1B
Science pp. 8-11 Comp. Check 1.3
HW: Unfinished Classwork
Weekly Spelling Assignments
Study for Tests
Matthew 1-3 "Bible Connections"
Read for Book Report

Wednesday, September 11th

Prayer
P.E.
Bible-Matthew 3
Spelling Pre-Test #1
Language pp. 14-15
Math pp. 9-10
History Chapter Check-Up p. 15
Science pp. 11-14 Comp. Check 1.4
HW: Unfinished Classwork
Weekly Spelling Assignments
Study for Tests
Matthew 1-3 "Bible Connections"
Read for Book Report

Thursday, September 12th

Prayer
Language-Writing Assignment
Read & Think Sheet #1
Math pp. 11-12
History pp. 16-18 Comp. Check 2A
Science pp. 15-18 Comp. Check 1.5
HW: Unfinished Classwork
Weekly Spelling Assignments
Study for Tests
Matthew 1-3 "Bible Connections"
Read for Book Report

Friday, September 13th

Prayer
Chapel
Math pp. 13-14
Bible Test-Matthew 1-3
Spelling Final Test #1
Spelling Word List Lesson #2
History pp. 19-22 Comp. Check 2B
HW: Unfinished Classwork
Read for Book Report