FIFTH GRADE – 2014/2015 HANDBOOK

Mrs. Ellen Burton - 5A
Mrs. Grace Duckworth - 5B
Mrs. Mary Gates - 5C

Textbooks Used:

Sadler-Oxford: Vocabulary Workshop Level A
Benzinger: Family Life
Sadlier: We Believe
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: Journeys
McGraw-Hill: Language Arts and Science
Simple Solutions: English and Math
Harcourt: Math, and Social Studies

RELIGION/FAMILY LIFE

Each year, the children complete the Benzinger Family Life series in addition to working from the Religion textbook. Fifth grade is the year when “the birds and the bees” are discussed in detail. This program will begin after we return from Christmas break. The majority of the time the students will be together by homeroom, however, when we get into anatomy and reproduction, the students will be divided into gender groups. Please talk to your children openly about this subject in order to help prepare them.

Religion this year will include an in-depth focus on the sacraments. Book assignments, projects, tests, and quizzes will all be forms of assessment. One Religion class per week will focus solely on Scripture study - generally the Readings and Gospel for Sunday’s liturgy. This should help your child understand the liturgy more clearly when he/she attends Mass on Sunday.
MATH – Mrs. Burton

In math, students will be focusing on numbers and operations, decimals, fractions, multiplication and division. Students should be proficient in their math facts. Students will have homework from their workbook on a daily basis along with periodic tests, quizzes, and projects for skill assessment. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced. Students will be given the opportunity to earn extra points to use on tests and assignments. Students do have the opportunity to work the St. Albert bookstore for extra credit. See the bookstore section for more details.

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS-Mrs. Gates

Simple Solutions Common Core Math will be used as a supplement to our math curriculum. The strategy is based on the belief that students will retain what they have learned when they are required to revisit concepts and practice skills on a daily basis. Students will complete one lesson per day four days per week and on the fifth day in the sequence; students will take a quiz that covers material addressed during the previous four days. You can help your child by supporting him or her to complete a Simple Solutions lesson each day.

BOOKSTORE-Mrs. Burton

St. Albert the Great’s bookstore is operated in classroom 5A. Fifth grade students may participate in the running of the bookstore for 50 extra credit points toward their daily math grade. The store is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:30-7:50 A.M. Students may sign up at the beginning of the year for the Aug-Dec. schedule and again in January for the Jan.-May schedule. Students will be scheduled two at a time to work and will be notified in writing of their assigned day and time a minimum of one week in advance.

SCIENCE/SADAP-Mrs. Burton

Science units this year will focus on the following: cells, the human body, plants, and populations/ecosystems. Along with text study, students will conduct experiments and complete projects, both alone and in groups. Periodic tests and quizzes along with worksheets and lab experiments will all be used for assessment. Some projects may be sent home to be stored and returned for the Academic Fair in April. Please be sure to keep these, as students are afforded the opportunity for extra credit points toward their fourth quarter grade when they return them. Extra credit opportunities are available
throughout the year.

In the past, the fifth grade students have participated in the DARE program. In recent years, the DARE program was eliminated by the LMPD. Because we think the program's lessons are so important, we have devised our own program, SADAP: St. Albert's Drug and Alcohol Program. This will be a 15 week program that educates the children about the dangers of drug and alcohol use. We will also be discussing peer pressure, friendships and good decision making skills. Upon completion of our program, the students will participate in a class performance and graduation ceremony to be held in Willett Hall on Monday, November 17, 2014 from 8:00-10:00 A.M. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Gates

The 5th grade Social Studies curriculum will be a study of United States History including the study of our Nation’s geography. We will discover our Nation’s rich history through the study of people, places and time. There will be an emphasis on understanding the impact the past events have had on us today. This class will provide students with the necessary tools to develop into thoughtful and caring citizens.

READING/LITERATURE - Mrs. Duckworth

We will use the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt reading book, Journeys this year. Students will complete activities in the Reader's Notebook and will take a written assessment after each selection in the book.

We will also read a few novels together. Various graded projects and assignments will be completed with each novel study.

Accelerated Reader will be encouraged greatly in our class. This is a very effective way of challenging our students who are a little more advanced in their studies, and of improving comprehension and fluency in our students who need a little extra help. Each quarter the percent of the AR goal reached (maximum 100%) is entered as a test grade in reading.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Duckworth

English class will consist of studying grammar, the writing process, the six traits of excellent writing, and spelling. We will work from our Language Arts text book and workbook to practice grammar. We will follow the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing), to complete several writing pieces. We will also work to improve ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency and writing conventions. Students will be graded from a rubric based on the six traits of writing,
which will be given to them when we start working on each writing project. Students will also learn interview skills and write an article for The Viking Voice.

We will also work from the English Simple Solutions workbook. Students will have an assignment each night and quizzes are usually on Thursdays. We will correct the assignment in class each day and students will be given a completion grade at the end of each week.

Spelling words and practice pages are in the Reader's Notebook. Spelling tests will be announced a few days prior to the test.

VOCABULARY/SPELLING – Mrs. Gates

Our Vocabulary study will focus on word meaning, pronunciation, and part of speech but most importantly the student will incorporate these words into their written and spoken word. We will study word origins as well as the meanings of prefixes and suffixes. The text we will use is Vocabulary Workshop, Level A.

SUPPLIES

Students and parents are given a supply list at the beginning of the year. Students are expected to have all of their supplies at all times and replace them when necessary. Not having supplies makes it difficult for students to complete class assignments. **Students are required to have a novel with them at all times.** Whiteboards are provided in the hallways so that teachers can list required materials for each class. As this is part of classroom participation, student's name will be taken down and 2% will be deducted from the behavior/participation grade. In the event that a student's name is taken down three times within the course of one week, a detention will be given.

ORGANIZATION OF MATERIALS

Students are required to use their assignment notebooks. Parents should look over the notebook each evening. Please compare the assignment notebook against the homework website - [www.stalbert.org](http://www.stalbert.org). We make every effort to post homework each day on the school website unless the teacher is absent or the site is down. Homework is always posted on the boards in each classroom. Any missing work is considered late if it is not in class when checked or collected.

HOMEWORK/MISSING WORK

Homework will be assigned daily, Monday through Thursday, and occasionally on Friday. Homework is posted on the homework board in each room and on the Internet at the end of the school day. Unless a written note from the parent is received, all students are expected to have completed homework in on the due date. Depending
on the nature of the work, students may be allowed one day to turn work in with a 20% penalty. After that, no credit will be given for the assignment. Partial credit will be given on any part of the assignment that is complete. If no part of the assignment is complete, a zero will be given. Should an emergency arise, and your child is not able to complete an assignment, please notify us in writing or via e-mail. Notifying us keeps your child from being penalized.

**Homework must be ready at the start of class.** Homework is considered late if the student continues to work on it after class begins, leaves it at home, or in another place (including locker), or has left a large portion of the assignment incomplete. As this is part of classroom participation, student's name will be taken down and 2% will be deducted from the behavior/participation grade. In the event that a student's name is taken down three times within the course of one week, a detention will be given. It is the parent's responsibility to check both the homework website for work due, and Rediker to be aware of your child's grades. Once an assignment has been graded and posted on Rediker, no changes will be made to the grade with the exception of a typographical error. If you see a zero on Rediker, you should assume it is due to work not turned in or completed on time. No redo's are possible at this point.

**Homework from other classes may not be worked on during any of our classes unless we give special permission in advance.** Anyone doing homework from another class will have that work confiscated and returned to the issuing teacher. A grade of zero will be issued for the assignment.

Homework is usually begun in class to be sure that students understand the directions. Students should complete any unfinished work at home. RARELY is all work completed in class. Your child should still have homework to be completed at home. This includes preparing for any upcoming tests.

**GRADES**

Students will earn a test grade, a daily work/homework grade, and a participation/conduct grade in each class. The test category grade will be obtained by averaging a variety of assessments which may include but is not limited to written tests, quizzes, and end of unit projects. This category will be weighted as 90% of the final average. The daily work/homework grade may include but is not limited to worksheets, lesson reviews, and textbook assignments. This category will be weighted as 10% of the final average. The participation/conduct grade will begin at 100% each quarter. After students have had sufficient time to learn routines, materials required, and behavioral expectations in fifth grade, points will begin to be deducted from the 100% average if a student is not prepared for class, exhibits a lack of participation, or displays behavior that disrupts the learning environment. Points will be lost in 5% increments. In the event that a student's name is taken down three times within the course of one week, a detention will be given. Quarter grades for all four quarters will be averaged for a final grade at the end of the year.

Our grading scale this year is as follows:

A 93-100%   B 84-92%   C 75-83%   D 70-74%   U Below 70%
ACCESSING YOUR CHILD’S GRADES THROUGH REDIKER:

It is the parent’s responsibility to stay abreast of your child's academic progress through Rediker. Please refer to the office information for accessing your child's grades on Rediker. Grades are updated weekly. Please remember that with so many students, grading may sometimes take a bit longer. Please direct specific grade questions to the appropriate teacher.

ABSENCES

When a student is absent from class and the office has deemed it an excused absence, the student has the responsibility of meeting with the classroom teacher about make-up work. A missing work sheet will be completed each day a student is absent and it will be placed in the student’s locker. Parents may come in the classroom after school to gather that sheet, check out the homework boards and gather supplies the student may need. Please check with the teacher ahead of time if you will be stopping by, as our classrooms are used for other activities after school and sometimes access is not possible. Students are responsible for completing make-up work and turning it in within a timely manner (i.e. the number of days absent = the number of days permitted to complete work and turn it in). It is the student's responsibility to turn the make-up work in to the appropriate teacher. If work is not turned in, or a test is not made up, then a grade of zero will be given. Some quizzes cannot be made up. Missed quizzes will NOT result in a grade of zero, nor will they be averaged in with the overall grade. Persistent absences on test days will be referred to Mrs. Cooper. Refer to the Blue Book for school policy. Vacations are unexcused absences; however, work is expected to be made up and may require that the student spend time after school, as he/she will not be permitted to miss further classes to make up missed work. Work missed for vacations or other unexcused absences will never be given in advance. The school office will determine if an absence is excused or unexcused per the Blue Book policy. A parent note is required for ALL absences.

Since test dates and long range project dates are posted well in advance, if a student will be absent the day of a test or on a due date of a long-range project because of a vacation or other unexcused absence, the student is expected to take the test or turn the project in the day they return to school. Projects not handed in or tests not taken in will result in a grade of zero for each assignment. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule a time to take missed tests with the appropriate teacher.

DISCIPLINE

Per Blue Book policy. For most behavior issues, the student's name will be taken down and 5% will be deducted from the behavior/participation grade. In the event that a student's name is taken down three times within the course of one week (per teacher), a detention will be given. Some situations call for harsher consequences and teachers
reserve the right to deduct more points from the behavior/participation grade if the situation warrants.

FORGERY

Any student that forges the signature of his/her parent will receive a detention, behavior/participation grade will be lowered by a letter grade, and parents will be notified.

CHEATING POLICY

Cheating will not be tolerated. **If it is determined by the teacher that a student is cheating, a grade of zero and a detention will be given.** A meeting may also be scheduled with the child and his or her parents.

ACADEMIC DEFICIENCIES

Parents are expected to stay abreast of their child's academic progress online through Rediker. Specific academic deficiency slips will not be sent.

WRITTEN WORK

All students are required to write in cursive. A 10% penalty will be deducted if work is printed.

COMMUNICATION

Your child will have a successful year if we work together to assure that things go smoothly. We will keep you informed of your child's progress and notify you of any problems that may arise. Please feel free to contact us to discuss any concerns you may have. Email is the preferred form of communication. We will respond to all emails within 72 hours of receipt. Due to extracurricular responsibilities, we will not hold impromptu conferences. While we understand and share your concern for your child and their academic success, please contact us through our email and we will be happy to return an email to you or call you to set a time to meet to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. We will not accept or answer calls to our homes or schedule impromptu conferences. Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to our year together. If we work together, we know we will have a successful year!

Sincerely,

5A - Mrs. Ellen Burton eburton@stalbert.org
5B - Mrs. Grace Duckworth gduckworth@stalbert.org
5C - Mrs. Mary Gates mgates@stalbert.org
Please print the following page and sign/return indicating that you have read and understand the policies outlined for the fifth grade classes. Students, also, please read the policy handbook and sign it indicating your understanding of the policies. Return your printed and signed copy to your homeroom teacher by Wednesday, August 27, 2014.

I understand the fifth grade policies as outlined in the 5th grade handbook.

______________________________    __________________________
Student Signature            Date

______________________________    __________________________
Parent Signature             Date