



Welcome back everyone for the 2020-2021 school year! My name is Ms. Wallace, and this is my sixth year teaching at Sacred Heart. This year I will be teaching 5th through 8th grade Science, 5th grade Religion and will be the 5th grade homeroom teacher.

I earned a BA in Teaching of French from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a MA in Elementary Education from Saint Xavier University. I am a very proud mom of 2 boys, Brendan (26) and Sean (22). Outside of the classroom I enjoy reading, cooking, and exercising.

Working together, you and I can help make this year one of the best academically. I am looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know about some of the rules and procedures we will be following during the school year.

5th Grade Homeroom:

ASSIGNMENT NOTEBOOKS

Your child will fill out his/her assignment notebook daily. **It is required that a parent signs the assignment notebook EACH day.** Please check to make sure homework is completed to the best of your child's ability.

THURSDAY FOLDERS

Each Thursday, your child will bring home, in a folder, important notices from the office as well as graded papers that require a parent signature. Please take the time to go over the work with your child and then sign and return any graded papers requested by the teacher.

Also, please take the time to check your child's pocket folder every week and take out any completed activities and graded assignments in order to keep the folder neat and organized.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

Our instructional time begins at 7:45 a.m. and concludes at 2:30 p.m. Our dismissal time is at 2:45 pm. I appreciate your child arriving on time to begin instruction at 7:45. I often teach right up to 2:30 p.m. and appreciate your child staying for the full instructional day. If you need to take your child out of school early, please write a note, so I can get together any other assignments your child will be missing during his/her absence.

5th-8th Grade

First quarter overview:

5th Grade: Physical Science: structures and properties of matter - physical and chemical changes

Life Science: plant and animal needs

6th Grade: Earth and Space Science: space systems - history of Earth - weather and climate

Life Science: ecosystems food chain

7th Grade: Physical Science: digital signals/analog signals

Life Science: contributions of parts of a cell

8th Grade: Life Science: nervous system response to stimuli - ecosystems and environment change

HOMEWORK

Homework may be assigned in all subjects. Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. However, students may use a two day extension to return work and receive full credit. After that extension expires, points will be taken out. In case of an emergency, if they are unable to complete homework, please let me know so an arrangement can be worked out.



ABSENCES, VACATIONS AND HOMEWORK

If your child is out sick, assignments and homework will be posted on Google classroom. Any work that is still missing by the end of each month will have to be completed to receive credit. Students may stay after school to complete those.

If you are planning on going on vacation, please let me know as soon as possible. I will let you know what will be covered while your child is out of school. Your child will be responsible for the material covered and will take any makeup tests missed when they have completed the assignments associated with the material.

GRADING POLICY

The school grade scale is attached.

Students are expected to turn their work in on time, and late work will not receive full credit. Progress reports are sent out mid-quarter. You can monitor your child's grades online using the Powerschool Parent Portal. If you don't have online access you may contact the office for the login information.

POSITIVE REWARDS

It is important for me that our classroom is a safe, respected environment for every child. We will work throughout the year on positive teamwork and displaying respect for all members of our class and school. This year 5th-8th grade will be using a common plan: Students will receive a warning for any unacceptable behavior in accordance with the school handbook and our classroom rules (see attached list of rules). After 3 daily warnings, parents will be contacted and after 6 daily warnings, a detention will be given.

Also, students will be rewarded for their positive behavior and improvements. We will be using the school reward system with the Crusader Cash. Students will be given a Crusader Cash and will receive a stamp each time positive behavior is observed. After collecting 10 stamps, students will turn in the cash for a prize. In addition to Crusader Cash, 5th graders will also use a WOW board where students will be able to write their name each time they are caught doing something positive. At the end of the week, names from the board will be picked, and those students will get a prize. Students will also have the opportunity each day to earn a class star. After accumulating 20 stars, students will be rewarded with a movie or game hour.

We will use email as a communication tool. Please make sure to promptly communicate your email address to teachers.

I am excited about working with your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at **iwallace@shschool96.org**.

Sincerely,

Ms. Wallace



GRADING SCALE

A+	100
A	99-95
A-	94-93
B+	92-91
B	90-87
B-	86-85
C+	84-83
C	82-79
C-	78-77
D+	76-75
D	74-71
D-	70-69
U	68 & below

Classroom rules

- **BE RESPECTFUL**

Raise your hand

Listen when others are speaking

Talk quietly and politely

- **BE RESPONSIBLE**

Follow directions

Complete assignments

Be honest about your actions

- **BE SAFE**

Keep hands to yourself

Use materials properly

- **BE KIND**

Use kind words

Be helpful

Cooperate with others