

Mrs. Gallagher  
Grade 5

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. Below is a general idea of the procedures for my classroom. All students are challenged to do their best, in all areas. Coming to class prepared and willing to participate makes for a terrific learning environment.

### **Grading**

All grading is based on a points system. Projects and tests have a point value higher than practice pages and quizzes. Participation is encouraged, and may determine a final grade for the quarter.

### **Conduct**

Good behavior is expected in all areas of the school. Students do receive verbal, and sometimes non-verbal, warnings if they do not follow my classroom guidelines. Repeated disregard for rules may result in a demerit or an after-school slip. Detentions (see Second Floor Rules) may be issued.

**All subject areas reflect the Common Core State Standards  
as well as additional Diocese of Cleveland standards.**

### **Social Studies:**

The main focus is American history and geography of the Western Hemisphere. Homework usually includes assigned reading, review of notes, textbook or workbook pages, and projects or reports.

Chapter tests are generally announced one week in advance.

Quizzes are normally announced ahead of time, but an unannounced quiz may be given if I see a need.

Notebooks may be graded based on the correct format as taught in class.

Pages assigned from the textbook, review worksheets, and workbook pages all count as part of the social studies grade.

Projects and reports will be graded. A long-term, classroom guided, History Day project is required for all fifth grade students. This year's theme is *Conflict and Compromise*.

### **Language Arts:**

#### **Spelling/Penmanship**

Spelling words will come from the subject area content, as well as from the *Zane Bloser Spelling Connections* series which reinforces vocabulary and grammar skills.

Homework will usually include some form of practice Monday - Thursday.

Spelling tests will normally be given every Friday.

One to two practice activities will be taken for a grade each week.

Penmanship is practiced, both cursive and print, for correct letter formation, size, legibility, and spacing. A handwriting assignment is given weekly in class, and may

be assigned as homework if not completed in the allotted time. Penmanship grades are reflected in the English grade.

### **Reading**

Students should be reading on a daily basis.

Trade books and skills texts are used to practice different reading strategies to aid in comprehension and vocabulary building.

There may be several book projects assigned throughout the year. Clear guidelines and due dates will be distributed in advance for each project.

Vocabulary, comprehension questions, quizzes, and projects will be assigned and graded on class books and reading assignments.

Some writing assignments may be part of the reading grade.

The notebook may be graded based on the correct format as taught in class.

### **English**

Students will be instructed in correct English grammar, usage, and mechanics, with an emphasis on writing skills.

Workbook and textbook pages may be assigned for homework Monday – Thursday.

Writing assignments will be varied and are to reflect the skills taught in class.

Writing assignments will be graded for specific skills.

Unit grammar tests will be announced at least one week in advance.

Quizzes are normally announced ahead of time, but an unannounced quiz may be given if I see a need.

Students will receive grades for each step of the History Day research paper.

Specific guidelines will be distributed for this project. A parent signature will be required for parts of this assignment.

The notebook may be graded based on the correct format as taught in class.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me through the school office, or at [gallagher@stmarkwestpark.com](mailto:gallagher@stmarkwestpark.com). I believe it is going to be a great year in the fifth grade!

Mrs. Kathleen Gallagher