



Sacred Heart School | Salinas

Celebrating over 100 years of Quality Catholic Education

June 8, 2018

Dear Parent of Incoming Fifth Grade Students,

Welcome to 5th grade! My name is Ms. Stefani and I am so excited to be your teacher (again)! I did my student teaching in a fifth and sixth grade combined classroom and I loved the fifth graders! I am so excited to work with this amazing class and their supportive families again. This will be my fifth year at Sacred Heart School and I love this community with Mrs. Rains, the teachers and staff, students, and families. I really do have the best job in the world!

I am looking forward to a very special year together. We are going to explore classic stories together, new periods in history such as the Colonial Period and the American Revolution, memorize all fifty states and their capitals, put on a play, study new science and math concepts, write, and go on field trips. I cannot wait for our journey!

I want you all to enjoy your summer with your families. Relax, soak up the sunshine, get some rest, and also STUDY! To prevent the “summer slide,” I am asking each of you to do a few things to prepare for next year. Please see the attached sheet for a list of summer activities.

I look forward to having each of you in my class! Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Ms. Stefani

Turn page over for summer activities

5th Grade Summer Activities

Book Report: Please read *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo. This book is divided into four books or parts. I am asking each student to write a summary that is about one page in length for each of the four parts of the story. You may type each page or handwrite it in cursive on a piece of binder paper. For each of the four summaries, please attach a hand-drawn illustration that shows an important event from that part of the story. Remember that all writing should be YOUR own. Please do not copy summaries from the internet. Make sure all pages are attached or stapled together. This book report will be due on the first day of school. Enjoy *The Tale of Despereaux*! We will discuss the book during the first week of school and there will be a test on it.

If you would like something extra, you can also read *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster. This book has 20 chapters so students can write a one-page summary after every five chapters. Draw an illustration for each of the summaries in the same format as *The Tale of Despereaux*. I will give extra credit if students complete this book report. It is not required, but some students may want something extra.

Math Facts: Please review your math facts over the summer! Students should know their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts extremely well. There will be a timed test on addition and subtraction facts on the first day of school. There will be some regrouping on this test as well. On the second day of school there will be a timed test on multiplication and division facts (between 0 – 12). Students are expected to complete 100 problems in five minutes.

Here are some ideas to help students review their math facts.

- Free Rice (www.freerice.org)
- Flashcards
- Ipad or phone applications
- Practice worksheets (www.math-drills.com)
- Khan Academy
- Educational Resource stores

Workbooks: *The Summer Bridge Activities: Reading and Writing Skills* workbook is a good way to prepare for 5th grade. You can find this workbook on Amazon, at Costco, or in other bookstores. It is most valuable when done on a consistent basis. Students can get into a routine of doing a page or two a day. There are also many options out there for cursive practice, comprehension passages, writing, etc.

Writing: Students can keep a summer journal to keep their writing skills sharp. I will give a special treat on the first day of school to anyone who keeps a summer journal.

Something else: I would also like each student to share something about their summer during the first week of school. If possible, please bring in an object that shows something you did over the summer. This object can be a picture, postcard, souvenir, or anything else that you would like.