

Mrs. Gilbertson's Class

4th and 5th Grade Room 8

Email: lgilbertson@saintscjm.com

Telephone: 616-754-3416 ext. 148

Website: <https://saintscjm.com/school/grade-5>

Happy Wednesday, 4th and 5th grade families!

I apologize for the tardiness of this edition of the Gilbertson Gazette. I hope you received the **“Special News Flash”** note that was sent home with students on Monday. Since this edition of the Gazette is coming home on Wednesday it will cover last week and this week. There will be no Gazette on Friday this week. Next week will be back to normal with Gazette coming home on Friday. We have lots to cover in this edition, so let's get started.

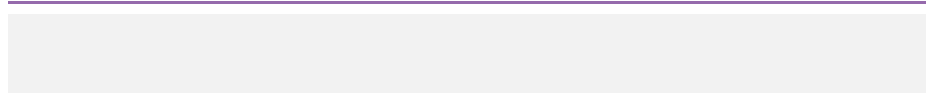
-Mrs. “G”

- **Communication is Key!**

This is a huge transition year for 4th and 5th graders. Our class, as a whole, is struggling in many areas. The majority of the struggle is outside the confines of academic content. Behavior, following directions, interpersonal communication/relationships, motivation, quality of work, and attitude are areas giving students trouble. This past week, in particular, has been a challenge. The class has been spoken to many times. Today, Mrs. Karpus and I addressed the class together. Mrs. Karpus and I were careful to make it clear that some students are doing the right things consistently and that this talk was not directed at them.

We addressed the need for students to complete assignments, to respect school property, and to treat others with kindness and respect. We stressed the need to “do the right thing always”; like Nike says, “Just Do It”.

Due to the choices some students have made some privileges have been lost. Students no longer may use the restroom at their



Upcoming Events

September 21

Social Studies Test

Spelling Test 4

September 21

5th grade reading project due

September 24

Conferences 2:30-7:00 PM

Thought Focus:

Your future is created by what you do today.

discretion. Each student must be signed in and out of the classroom in order to track who is using the facilities and when. The students must now be completely silent whenever they are in the halls or transitioning between classes. Additional privileges (i.e. Recess time, free reading time, Chromebook access, etc.) will be lost if the behaviors continue. I do not believe in blanket disciplinary action unless it is impossible to determine which students have in fact made the choice to do the "wrong thing". Those students who are consistently making good choices have no reason to worry. Please have a quick conversation with your student about what is happening at school and the choices they are making. Doing the right thing, making good choices, advocating for kindness and self are all contagious. Jonathan Doyle, a renowned Catholic motivational speaker, says, "We are all called to be Saints; thus leading by example." Your child has heard this many times in my classroom. Please assist me in driving this message home.

We have student/teacher conferences every week. Each week I share my thoughts with individual students and give them an opportunity to express questions, concerns, and areas that may be challenging for them. Together each student and I set goals for the upcoming week. The majority of students respond to my inquiries by stating, "I'm fine." These same students will then do poorly on an assignment (like spelling/academic vocabulary) and tell me they didn't know the meaning of certain words. I am a strong believer in making students learn to help themselves. The students know that they are to "check their own knowledge/resources, then ask a buddy for insight, and then come to me for help". I cannot tell you how many times a day I say, "check yourself, check a buddy, check with Mrs. G/me." Students need to establish this habit and become comfortable asking for help/expressing when they are unsure of something. Advocating for one's self is empowering and helps to strengthen interdependent, academic, and life skill foundations. Academic **content** comes far more naturally the stronger these foundations are. It is all a process and we, no matter our age, are always working toward improving. This is what lifelong learning is all about.

For the most part, I am proud of all of these students on a regular basis. The past week and a half have simply been a challenge and students have made some disappointing choices. With your support, I am confident we all will be back on track and moving forward in a positive direction quickly. A simple conversation with your student can be a huge motivator to make consistently good choices. Thank you for all you do for your kids and our classroom. Please feel free to contact me anytime. I am always happy to discuss student progress and success with interested parents.

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:**

The SCS teachers met Tuesday, September 18, to schedule Parent-Teacher conferences. We made every effort possible to accommodate each family's requests for convenient times. Please understand it is never possible to accommodate everyone. Conference confirmation slips are coming home today (Wednesday, September 19). Please let me know ASAP if your scheduled conference time/date does not work for you. I will do everything I can to find a time that works for your family.

- **Infinite Campus Update:**

This past Monday a DOGR representative was onsite at SCS to provide training for both teachers and parents on Infinite Campus. It is my goal to have our classroom Infinite Campus information completely updated and functional by October 15th. I appreciate your understanding, as I learn how to make this learning management software best serve the 4th and 5th grade class in conjunction with the new DOGR standards. I will have grades and assignment information for each student at conferences.

- **Grading:**

Students' grades will be calculated in the following manner:

Tests = 50%, Projects = 20%, Special assignments/Quizzes= 20%, and Homework/Daily Work = 10%

Homework/Daily work grades will be entered in Infinite Campus every weekend for the previous week. These assignments are graded based on a check plus = 3 points/check = 2 points /check minus = 1 point system. Each weekend the points possible are totaled as are the points earned by each student. These totals are then entered in Infinite Campus. Please let me know if you have any questions.

- **Student Input:**

This week during student conferences, many students expressed their desire to move their spelling tests to Fridays. I considered this input, figured out a way to make the request a possibility where our classroom schedule is concerned and presented the option to the class. The students voted and decided Friday should be spelling test day. That means this week the students will take a spelling test on Friday. New spelling words were given to the students on Monday and can be found on our class webpage (<https://saintscjm.com/school/grade-5>).

- **Classroom Store:**

I am sure you have heard some excited buzz about the soon-to-open Classroom Store. This is a massive incentive program as well as a project based learning opportunity. Students earn tickets (or **Gilby Gold**) at my discretion for outstanding performance, behavior, decision making, etc. Students have the opportunity to redeem these tickets on days when the store is open (once every 2 weeks approximately). Items in the store for purchase range in price from one ticket on up.

The Store provides an incentive to students while teaching them the following concepts:

Basic money management, consumer math, tithing, supply and demand, the difference between visible and invisible goods, the value of time and talent, teamwork, and much more.

If students or your family would like to donate new or gently used items to the Store they will be gladly accepted.

