

September 5, 2023

Welcome to Grade 5

I am excited this year about working with your child on the front lines of learning. There are many wonderful parts to the Grade 5 program and I hope that it will be a rewarding year for us all. This letter will give you an initial introduction to some of the routines and general expectations for our classroom. I hope you will be able to make it in person to our open house later this month.

➡ Please help me to get to know your child better. Each student will be asked to fill in a one page 'WHO AM I?' profile and bring it back to class on or before Friday. Please help your child to complete this page. It will be sent home today in student planners.

Our Faith



Woven throughout our entire program will be a commitment as children of God to be the best and most responsible people we can be. The way that we treat each other forms the foundation of a learning environment where it is safe to learn. As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ is our model and we will do our best to follow his example. Our theme for the year is, **"Living, Celebrating, and Proclaiming our Faith"**.

Safety and Communication

My top priority is to ensure your child enjoys a safe learning environment.

➡ I wish to establish good lines of communication. Students will record their homework in their planner each day and I ask that you **sign the planner each night**. Should you wish to bring anything to my attention please write a note in the planner or send me an email at docallaghan@cispg.ca (preferable). You can reach me by phone during the school day at 250-964-4362 or I am always happy to meet in person. Class newsletters and updates will generally be sent home by email. Please also watch out for ongoing updates on the topics being covered in class. I will use Google Classroom to post classwork.

Learning Philosophy

GROWTH MINDSET



FIXED MINDSET



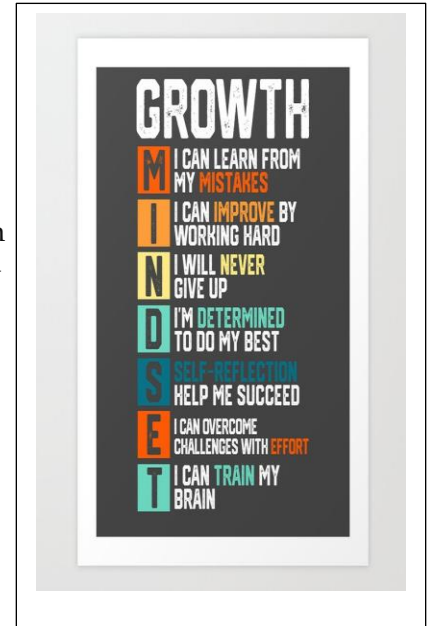
The philosophy in Grade 5 is built around developing a growth mindset. Having a growth mindset means believing that a person's abilities aren't innate but can be improved through effort, learning, and persistence. A growth

mindset is all about the attitude with which a person faces challenges, how they process failures, and how they adapt and evolve as a result. Everyone has the ability to learn but it takes practice, determination and hard work. This is what it means to have a growth mindset. Secondly, learning is a consequence of thinking and students in Grade 5 are always prompted to 'think'.

My job is to provide an environment in which each child can learn and to provide the support they need to be successful.

Check out this link for further insights on grit and growth mindset:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H14bBuluwB8>



Homework

Homework is not meant to be an end in itself, it supports the learning happening in the classroom. Homework will be assigned each night but not on weekends except in situations where a student has not used the time given during the week to complete assignments. I would not expect any child in Grade 5 to ever spend more than an hour on homework on any given evening – if that is happening please let me know and we can see what is going on. **If there isn't a specific homework assignment, students should spend time reading, reviewing number facts, practice typing, or do some review of concepts covered that week, etc.**

Basic Skills Practice



Never let your child tell you they don't have any homework!!!! If I have not assigned homework or your child has completed their work at school I want them to spend some time each evening on the basic skills of reading and numeracy (recall of math facts such as adding, subtracting, and multiplication).

Standards Based Learning

All learning will be assessed in relation to the BC curriculum learning standards. I will endeavour to provide as much helpful feedback as possible to the students to support them. A full overview of the Grade 5 program and the BC Curriculum can be found here:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

School Supplies

Thank for to all those who provided the required school supplies to start the year. If any major item was forgotten it will be noted in your child's planner.



Absentee Notes

I am required to have on file a written note for all absences. Please include a note in the planner or send me an email. Thank you.

Nut Aware



Please note we are a NUT AWARE school. I ask that you avoid including these products in student's lunches. Thank you for your understanding.

Once again I look forward to working with each of you this year.

Mr. Donncha O'Callaghan

Grade 5 Teacher