

# Grade 5 Learning Update

**Virtue Awards:** One of our goals in Catholic Education is "Helping Children Grow Closer to Jesus." Each month, all classes focus on the same virtue, which will help our children become more kind, loving, and faithful.  
September virtue: Hospitality

**Spaces EDU:** If you have not logged in yet, please do so! We will post updates, reminders, photos, and student work to keep you engaged in student learning and activities. Feel free to comment and like your child's work! It is meant to be interactive and a positive online environment. I sent an invite to each parent with an email address on file. If you would like an invite, please send me your email address.

## Special Dates Coming Up

Sept 19 - Terry Fox Run (Volunteers needed!)

Sept 26 - Orange Shirt Day

Sept 29 - No School

Sept 30 - Truth & Reconciliation Day

Oct 2 - Grade 5 Picture Day

Oct 7 - The Living Rosary Prayer

Oct 13 - Thanksgiving

Oct 21 - Picture retakes

Oct 27/28 No School

Oct 31 - Character Day

**Agenda:** I ask that students bring their agenda home daily for parents to review and sign each night. Parents/guardians may also use it to communicate with the teacher. We will often write an "Ask me about" sentence. Please ask your child about it! It may reinforce learning, or it might be something interesting that they learned that day. It may help to engage your child in conversations about school.

**Homework -** Spelling words are sent home on Monday, and tests will be on Friday. Some class time is given for practice, but students are encouraged to study nightly. Any other work not completed during class time or missed due to illness or travel will be assigned for homework.

**Allergies:** Following CISP G policy 329, "Student: Anaphylaxis." Notre Dame School is an Allergy-Aware School. We try to create and maintain a safe environment for children with food allergies.

Some best practices we do in the school setting to be allergen-aware are:

- Students wash their hands before and after lunch.
- Allergy Alert Signs are at all classroom door entrances.
- Students are not to share food.
- Our custodian washes desks down twice throughout the day.

## September 2025

### **McKenzie Money:**

I use McKenzie money to motivate students to engage actively in our classroom community. It provides the opportunity to develop better work habits. It also allows students to connect to real-world experiences, such as adding and subtracting, saving money, budgeting, and using money to buy objects/services. McKenzie's money is like Monopoly play money. Students can earn dollars by bringing in their agenda signed, following directions, keeping their desk organized, and from payroll each Friday for doing their assigned leadership jobs. They can also lose money by not following class rules, expectations, and other forms of tax. Students can spend their money at the "store" monthly. They can buy special erasers, pencils, stickers, fun days for the class, the teacher's chair, and much more! Donations to the store are always welcome.

Students are not permitted to use McKenzie money in the following ways:

- to buy, sell, or exchange items with other students
- to wager on games
- to share or exchange their money (they can pool their money at the time of making a shared purchase)
- any purpose other than buying items directly from the teacher or teacher store.

**Birthday/Celebration Treats:** Notre Dame students often celebrate their birthdays with their class, and I would like to continue supporting this tradition. I ask that you please give one week's advance notice, so that I have time to notify the families (I will do this via Spaces EDU) and prepare treats for students with allergies and food intolerances. We have sensitivities to gluten, wheat, and dairy. Alternately, you could consider sending non-food items such as stickers, pencils, and other fun trinkets.

**Library:** Students can exchange library books every Friday.

**Behaviour Expectations:** Students are given daily reminders about classroom expectations, such as listening, working, and following our class norms. Students struggling to meet these, and other classroom expectations, will be spoken to in private first with reminders of natural consequences (ie. homework) and intentional teacher-student connection. If their choices continue to disrupt their learning or others, students will be required to complete a reflection sheet to help them analyze their choices in class. The reflection sheet will be sent home for their parent/guardian to review and discuss with them. The next step will be a phone call home to discuss the issue and plan for mitigation. If the above steps fail to help the student meet expectations, then the Principal will be asked to intervene.

### **Term 1 Learning Update:**

~ **Math** – Our focus will be reviewing place value and number sense to 1 million. This will include comparing, ordering, rounding numbers, and mental math addition and subtraction strategies. Next, we will study multiplication and division strategies with whole numbers. Other skills that we will learn and practice include math facts, graphing, and time.

~ **Science**—In term 1, we will study the basic structures and functions of body systems, including the digestive, musculoskeletal, respiratory, and circulatory systems. Students will learn scientific terms, watch videos demonstrating the functions, compare human and animal characteristics, and create hands-on models and diagrams.

~ **English Language Arts** – Students will enhance their phonics skills and expand their vocabulary through interactive, weekly spelling activities. They will learn and practice creating structured paragraphs with topic sentences, supporting sentences with details, and conclusions. Through guided reading individually and in small groups, students will study text features, develop visualization skills, and make inferences about text to build comprehension skills. Students will practice oral language skills through our structured small group conversations and show-and-tell activities.

~ **Social Studies** - Students will explore children's rights and human rights and compare them to children in residential schools. They will engage in true historical accounts to deepen their understanding of Truth and Reconciliation. Students learn the roles of the three levels of government (municipal, provincial, and federal) and study and participate in the election process. Students will be able to describe their rights as Canadian citizens, symbols of government, and the differences in First Nations government.

~ **Career Education** - Students will develop leadership and teamwork skills while doing comprehensive classroom jobs. In their teams, students will use collaboration, problem-solving, and decision-making skills and contribute to the classroom in meaningful and purposeful ways.

~ **Arts Education**—This term, the focus is on Canadian Indigenous artists. Students will study a variety of artists' work and recreate styles using painting, oil pastel, weaving, and pottery techniques.

~ **ADST** – Students will engage in various design opportunities through team-building challenges, the Arts, and Math.

**Prayer and Mass:** Families are encouraged to attend Prayer assemblies and Mass, which are student-led events. Please arrive before the start time and remember not to bring food or drinks into the gym or church.



**Toys/Phones** - Any items not required for learning are a distraction and are to be kept at home.

**Volunteers:** If you would like to volunteer your time for special events or field trips, your assistance would be greatly appreciated! Please stop by the office for a criminal record check form and volunteer form. Note that processing criminal record checks could take up to two weeks!

**Communication:** I cannot stress enough how important it is to reach out to me when any concerns arise. I am here to answer questions and address concerns about the classroom and your child's learning. It can also be helpful to let our team know if anything outside of school may affect your child. Our team at Notre Dame can address a move, the death of a loved one, or even a tough morning with care and understanding. Thank you so much for your support this year!

It has already been a strong start to the year in grade 5 as we have welcomed new students to our school, worked together on math challenges, and started building our classroom community. Our class norms have been established, which will guide us throughout the year. I look forward to seeing you all at events, Mass, prayer assemblies, and conferences!

Warm Regards,

Mrs. Shannon McKenzie

✉ Email: [smckenzie@cispg.ca](mailto:smckenzie@cispg.ca)

☎ Phone: 250-782-4924

📱 SpacesEDU App

## OUR GRADE 5 CLASS NORMS

Together, we created agreements to guide our classroom community. These norms help us live out respect in all we do.

<h3>Catholic Virtues</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We show kindness, patience, and forgiveness.</li><li>• We include others and treat everyone with dignity.</li><li>• We practice gratitude and prayer.</li></ul>	<h3>Friendship</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We speak kindly to and about others.</li><li>• We listen and care when someone shares.</li><li>• We stand up for one another.</li></ul>
<h3>Learning</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We stay curious and try our best.</li><li>• We listen when others are speaking.</li><li>• We help each other grow.</li></ul>	<h3>Clean &amp; Organized</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We take care of our classroom and supplies.</li><li>• We clean up after ourselves.</li><li>• We keep our spaces ready for learning.</li></ul>

### Our Promise

We agree to follow these norms so our classroom can be safe, joyful, and full of respect.

Student Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_