



NOTRE DAME SCHOOL
925-104th Ave. Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 2H8
Phone: 250-782-4923 Fax: 250-782-4388
www.notredameschool.ca notredame@cispg.ca



September 2026

Grade 5 Learning Update

Dear Families,

Welcome to Grade 5! We have had a busy start to the year getting to know one another, building our classroom community, and settling into our Grade 5 routines. My goal is to create a classroom where students feel safe, valued, supported, and excited to learn.

This year, we will learn, ask questions, try new things, make mistakes, and grow together. I am looking forward to all the learning and adventures ahead!

Thank you for your support at home. I am excited for a wonderful year with your children!

What We Will Be Learning

Math: We will review place value and number sense to 1 million. This includes comparing, ordering, and rounding numbers, as well as mental math strategies for addition and subtraction. Next, we will study multiplication and division strategies with whole numbers. Other skills that we will learn and practice include math facts and time.

Science: In Term 1, we study the basic structures and functions of body systems, including the digestive, musculoskeletal, respiratory, and circulatory systems. Students will learn scientific terms, demonstrate 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 vocabulary activities. They will learn to create and edit structured paragraphs with topic sentences, supporting sentences with details, and conclusions. Through guided reading individually and in small groups, students will study text features, make connections and ask questions to build comprehension skills. Students will practice oral language skills through structured small-group conversations focused on listening, taking turns, and staying on topic.

Social Studies: Students will explore children's rights and human rights today and examine children's experiences in residential schools. They will engage in true historical accounts to deepen their understanding of Truth and Reconciliation. Students will explore their rights and responsibilities as Canadian citizens and examine what makes Canada and Canadians unique.

Career Education: Across subject areas, students will develop a growth mindset and practice goal-setting strategies by regularly reflecting on their learning. In their leadership teams, students will use collaboration, problem-solving, and decision-making skills and contribute to the classroom in meaningful and purposeful ways.

Christian Education: Students will deepen their understanding of prayer and explore different ways we pray together as a community, including intentions, Mass, and singing. We will also begin our year-long journey of exploring the Call to Holiness by learning about the lives and examples of the saints and how their faith can inspire us to live out our own faith each day.

Arts Education: This term, the focus is on Indigenous Canadian artists. Students will explore the work and styles of a variety of artists while developing their understanding of the elements of art, including line, colour, shape, texture, and space. They will experiment with painting, oil pastel, and weaving techniques to create their own artwork inspired by what they learn.

Important Reminders:

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 to help our children become more kind, loving, and faithful. The September virtue is 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.

Homework - Any work not completed during class time, or missed due to illness or travel, will be assigned as homework. Students may also occasionally be asked to study at home to prepare for an assessment. We will provide specific instructions or a study guide when needed.

Allergies: Following CISPG 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.

Students in our grade five classroom have sensitivities to eggs, dairy, seafood and nuts.

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

- Students wash their hands before and after lunch.
- Allergy Alert Signs are posted at classroom entrances.
- Students are not to share food.
- Desks are cleaned twice throughout the day.

Toys/Phones - Any items not required for learning are distractions and should be kept at home.

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.

Birthday/Celebration Treats: Notre Dame students often celebrate their birthdays with their class, and I would like to continue supporting this tradition. Please provide one week's advance notice, so I have time to notify families through Spaces EDU and make appropriate arrangements for students with allergies and food intolerances. Students in our grade five classroom have sensitivities to eggs, dairy, seafood and nuts.

Alternatively, you could consider sending non-food items such as stickers, pencils, and other fun trinkets.

Behaviour Expectations: Students will receive regular reminders about classroom expectations, including listening, being respectful, and following our class norms. When students struggle to meet expectations, I will speak with them privately and give them an opportunity to reflect on their choices and make a positive change. If the behaviour continues to disrupt their learning or the learning of others, students may complete a reflection sheet to help them understand their choices and consider how they can repair the situation. I may send the reflection sheet home for a parent or guardian to review and discuss with their child. If further concerns arise, I will contact home so that we can work together to support the student and develop a plan for accountability and moving forward. The Principal may be asked to provide additional support when a student continues to struggle to meet expectations or repair their behaviour.

Library: Students can exchange library books every Friday.

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!

Supporting Learning at Home: Families can support student learning by encouraging regular reading, practising basic math facts, talking about what your child is learning at school, and encouraging them to take responsibility for completing their work and caring for their belongings. Most importantly, ask your child about their day and celebrate their effort, growth, and willingness to try!

Communication: I cannot stress enough how important it is to reach out to me when 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 something outside of school may be affecting your child. Whether it is a move, the loss of a loved one, or simply a difficult morning, knowing what is happening can help us respond with care and understanding.

Thank you so much for your support this year!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Shannon McKenzie

✉ Email: smckenzie@cispg.ca

☎ Phone: 250-782-4924

📱 SpacesEDU App

