

Mrs. Guarraia and Mrs. Knickerbocker

5th grade

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Welcome to 5th grade! We are so excited to have you with us this year.

About the Teachers

Mrs. Guarraia has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from FSU and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from George Mason University. She is in her 21st year in education and 9th year at Trinity. Mrs. Guarraia teaches reading, writing, word study, and science. She loves tea, chocolate (without nuts) and all things Disney!

Mrs. Knickerbocker has a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida. She has worked in many roles at Trinity since 2013, but this is her third year teaching 5th grade. Mrs. Knickerbocker teaches math, religion, and social studies. She loves iced coffee, chocolate, reading, and traveling.

Mrs. Hart has a bachelor's degree from MTSU, and this is her 10th year in education. This is her third year at Trinity as she joined our 5th grade team in 2024! Mrs. Hart enjoys cooking and enjoying outdoor time with her family. She also enjoys volunteering for the Special Olympics.

Our fifth grade team is excited to work with you and your children this year!

Daily Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Homeroom 7:30-8:05	Morning Work and Announcements	Morning Work and Announcements	Morning Work and Announcements	Morning Work and Announcements	Morning Work and Announcements
	ELA Glorious (8:10-9:20) Math Luminous	ELA Glorious (8:10-9:20) Math Luminous	ELA Glorious (8:10-9:20) Math Luminous	ELA Glorious (8:10-9:20) Math Luminous	ELA Glorious (8:10-9:20) Math Luminous
	ELA Luminous (9:25-10:30) Math Glorious	ELA Luminous (9:25-10:30) Math Glorious	MASS 9:40-10:40	ELA Luminous (9:25-10:30) Math Glorious	ELA Luminous (9:25-10:30) Math Glorious
	Read Aloud 10:35-10:45	Read Aloud 10:35-10:45		Read Aloud 10:35-10:45	Read Aloud 10:35-10:45
	10:45-11:30 Media (G) PE (K)	10:50-11:35 Handwriting/ Study Hall	10:50-11:35 Handwriting/ Study Hall (G) Music (K)	10:50-11:35 Music (G) Handwriting/ Study Hall(K)	10:45-11:30 Handwriting/ Study Hall
11:40-11:55 11:55-12:10	Lunch Recess	Lunch Recess	Lunch Recess	Lunch Recess	Lunch Recess
12:10-12:55	PE (G) Art (K)	Mindfulness (12:10-12:30) Foreign Language (12:30-1:15)	12:10-12:55 Art (G) PE (K)	Mindfulness (12:10-12:30) Foreign Language (12:30-1:15)	PE (G) Media (K)
	Science/SS (1:00-1:45)	Science/SS (1:15-2:00)	ELA Luminous (1:00-2:10) Math Glorious	Science/SS (1:15-2:00)	Science/SS (1:00-1:45)
	Writing/ Religion (1:45-2:50)	Writing/ Religion (2:00-2:50)	Science/SS (2:00-2:45)	Writing/ Religion (2:00-2:50)	Writing/ Religion (1:45-2:50)

Curriculum

Reading

In reading, we focus on comprehension, fluency, and extending our vocabulary. We look deeper into the areas of character, theme, story structure, non-fiction text, and more.

Students will be using a combination of self-selected novels, Collaborative Classroom materials, and teacher-selected novels to work on these skills throughout the year.

How to support at home: Make sure your child reads for at least 20 minutes each day.

English/Writing

In English, we focus on writing skills and grammar skills. Students will write a narrative, expository essay, persuasive essay, poetry, and respond to text. In grammar, students will learn the parts of speech, rules for capitalization and punctuation, and sentence types

Textbook: *Grammar and Writing*, Hake, (9781935839057)

Workbook: *Grammar and Writing*, Hake, (9781935839064)

Spelling/Word Study

In Spelling, we focus on word study and vocabulary. Students will work on learning the etymology and morphology of words as well as making sure they are solid with their phonemic awareness. Additionally, students will also work on learning Greek and Latin roots to build their vocabulary and reading comprehension skills.

Word lists are individualized based on needed instruction.

Math

In Math, we focus on critical thinking skills, math fluency, communicating our strategies to peers, and building confidence in our abilities to problem solve. In **Luminous Math** (grade level math group), we will study topics such as decimal operations, fraction operations, place value, numerical expressions, and more! In **Glorious Math** (6th grade level math group), we will study integer operations, fraction and decimal operations, rate/ratio/percent, algebraic expressions, and more.

How to support at home: **MEMORIZE** multiplication and division facts through 12s and practice using our online math tools (IXL, Frax/Reflex, and Ray Dass). Make sure your child is completing their weekly homework on IXL, as well as a weekly worksheet for Glorious Math.

Textbook:

- Advanced: *Go Math: Grade 6, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* ()
- Grade Level: *Go Math: Grade 5, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*

Social Studies

In Social Studies, we focus on Map Skills, Geography, and American History from early civilizations through the American Revolution. Students will create projects, study primary sources, and learn about our country's unique history.

How to support at home: Encourage your child to read historical fiction novels or books such as the "Who Was/What Was" series! Talk to your child about current events, the events that lead up to them, and look at the locations on a map or globe.

Textbook: *Studies Weekly*

Religion

In Religion, we focus on growing in our understanding of the Catholic faith and learning how to live as disciples of Christ. Throughout the year, students will explore Scripture, the Sacraments, prayer, the liturgical year, and what it means to put our faith into action. We will also connect what we learn to our daily lives through discussion, reflection, prayer, and service.

How to support at home: Attend Mass together, pray as a family, and talk about what your child is learning in Religion. Encourage your child to look for ways to practice the virtues and live out their faith through kindness, service, forgiveness, and love for others.

Textbook: *Alive in Christ*

Science

In science, we explore a variety of different scientific topics throughout the year including: astronomy, chemistry, forces and motion, earth science, and environmental science.

How to support at home: Encourage your child to be curious about how things work. Perform simple experiments.

Textbook: *Nancy Larson Science*

Assignments

Students should include: reading 20 minutes every night. It is imperative to help with their fluency and comprehension as well as their vocabulary. Students should also practice their multiplication tables through games or flashcards. Students should expect a total of 4 IXL assignments each week as well. Two in math, and two in language arts.

In general, all assignments will be posted on the weekly agenda in Google Classroom. Students may have math, word study, or science/S.S. projects to work on occasionally. In addition, students may have religion, Spanish, or Latin homework on occasion as well.

Grading Scale

90-100--A

80-89--B

70-79--C

60-69--D

59-0--F

Make-up Assignments and Late Work

If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to come to the teachers on the day they return to get any missing work from when they were absent. They will be given some class time to complete the work,

and in general, the work should be completely made up within 2 days of returning. We will evaluate each student's absence and missing work on a case by case basis.

Guidelines for Late Work for 5th grade is as follows: It is the student's responsibility to turn work in on time. Consequently, ten percent will be deducted for each school day the assignment is late (up to 3 days*). **This does not apply to excused absences.***

Behavior Management Plan

All students are expected to maintain a positive learning environment in the 5th grade classrooms. Students are positively reinforced through tickets, compliments and other rewards for continuously following expectations. Any behaviors that disrupt the learning environment will be dealt with individually. Students will receive a warning first. If they choose to continue the disruptive behavior, then they will receive a "Learning Moment" ticket and a negative consequence that is logical to their behavior (i.e. if they were talking at an inappropriate time, then the consequence would be to have a silent lunch).

Conduct Grading Scale

Conduct Grade Guidelines (see Parent-Student Handbook)

Trinity Catholic School is committed to providing a high quality Catholic education for all students in an atmosphere conducive to learning and teaching. Grounded in the teachings of the Gospels, we demonstrate our faith through our behavior and we take responsibility for our actions and their consequences. We maintain high expectations with respect to student effort, positive growth, personal responsibility, and respect.

Conduct grades are a separate evaluation from academic performance. They reflect a student's overall behavior and development as a citizen within the classroom environment. Consistent positive behavior contributes significantly to a strong learning environment for everyone. By striving to meet the character traits of "KNIGHTS," students can earn high conduct grades in each subject, while fostering a positive and respectful classroom community.

I show...	Kindness
I am...	Nurturing
I act with...	Integrity
I show...	Grit
I have...	Hope
I show...	Tolerance
I show...	Self-Discipline

Teachers base conduct grades on a student's consistent behavior throughout the quarter, not just isolated incidents. They look for the following:

Conduct Grade-Citizenship in the Classroom	
Above Average Knight Behavior 1	• Is a positive role model, who leads quietly or outwardly • Shows kindness and care for others • Is always respectful of teachers and fellow students • Works to improve the classroom atmosphere • Takes an active part in class discussions, groups, etc. • Is a self-starter and seeks to help others • Completes all work to the best of their ability • Demonstrates personal and academic integrity • Respect classroom resources/tools • Arrives on time and prepared to learn
Satisfactory Knight Behavior 2	• Contributes positively to class • Shows respect for others • Comes to class prepared and on time • Demonstrates personal and academic integrity • Listens and talks when appropriate • Does what is expected • Willing to help others • Respect classroom resources/tools
Needs Improvement Knight Behavior 3	• Needs frequent reminders by the teacher to stay on task and/or behave appropriately • Needs improvement in showing respect and kindness to classmates/teacher • Sometimes comes to class unprepared and/or does not complete work • Distracts other students' learning • Occasionally displays a negative or uncooperative attitude • Irresponsible with classroom resources/tools
Unsatisfactory Knight Behavior 4	• Is a disruptive influence on the class, negatively impacting the learning environment • Shows a lack of respect for teacher/fellow students • Is disrespectful or unkind to others, in actions or words • Regularly comes to class unprepared and puts forth little effort • Demonstrates a lack of personal and academic integrity • Harms classroom resources/tools

In the event a student receives a 3 or 4 in Conduct and the behavior does not improve, a Parent/Teacher Conference may be scheduled, a Behavior Plan will be put in place, and the student

may lose privileges. In the event that the behaviors don't improve over time, it may be decided that Trinity is not the best fit for that student.

AI Policy for Students

Classroom AI Policy (see attached)

Each classroom teacher will establish and clearly communicate an AI policy that outlines permissible and impermissible student use. These policies, tailored to the subject's needs and students' developmental readiness and instructional goals, will be published in each grade/subject syllabus. Students are expected to adhere to their classroom's specific AI guidelines at all times. The Classroom AI Policy is attached to this syllabus.

Supplies

Students must have all supplies needed for each day. If they bring a notebook home to work, they must bring it back the following day. Students are responsible for making sure their binder comes home with them every day and is brought back to school.

Communication

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a collaboration tool for teachers and students. Teachers create an online classroom, invite students to the class then create and distribute assignments. Within the Google Classroom students and teachers can have conversations about the assignments and teachers can track the student's progress. This is an organizational tool for the students to see all assignments and to-do lists in one place. Parents are able to receive communication as well to see what the students are working on.

E-mail

The most effective method of communication between teacher and parents is e-mail. Parents should expect to receive a reply from the teacher within 24 hours (Monday-Friday). Emails received after 4 pm on Friday will be responded to on Monday of the following week. Students may confer directly with the teacher to resolve any questions or concerns.

PowerSchool

Parents and students are responsible for checking PowerSchool on a regular basis to monitor progress. Please bring concerns to the teacher's attention as soon as they appear. Parents and teachers will work together to promote student progress. Questions regarding access to PowerSchool should be directed to the front office.

Classroom AI Policy for 5th Grade

Fifth-grade students will have access to limited AI tools. They will be introduced to these tools for supervised use in conducting research for science projects and in writing one or two research-based essays. Students are not allowed to use AI in the classroom without explicit teacher permission and should refrain from its use at home for any school assignments.