

# St. Joseph Catholic School

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## 5th Grade Profile

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Classes Available	Two
Teachers	Ms. Jennifer Fuhrmann Mrs. Francine Grasso-Regan
Class Size	Maximum 25 students
Teacher Notes	Fifth grade is a time of leadership and ownership of who we are. Our fifth graders are the leaders of the lower school as they begin to make the transition to upper school. The butterfly stands as our class motto because like the butterfly, we are experiencing change. As we continue our journey through fifth grade, we come out of our cocoons ready to spread our wings and fly. The butterfly also defies all rules of science when it flies. Our faith provides the answer that anything is possible if you believe.
Highlights	Our students are responsible for the recycling program at SJCS and reading buddies with the Kindergarten classes.  Each student spends several weeks studying and writing about an assigned saint.
Core Curriculum	Religion, Handwriting, Language Arts (Composition, English (grammar), Literature (reading), Spelling, Latin Roots, Math, Science, Social Studies, Enhanced Curriculum
Religion	Fifth Grade actively participates in Mass leadership by doing the readings, responsorial psalms, and prayer petitions at three Masses during the school year. Twice per year, we receive the vocation chalice after Wednesday Mass and focus on the prayer for vocations for one week. In addition, fifth graders are a vital part of our weekly "Mass Buddy" program. Each week, our students are assigned a kindergartener to mentor through the celebration of the Mass.  The seven sacraments are our focus during this school year with specific attention on vocations. Our students attend a Diocesan Vocation Day along with all the 5 <sup>th</sup> graders in Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. We also take an in-depth look into the parts of the Mass and the books of the Bible.
Composition	We spend a significant amount of time on the six traits of writing. Our students learn different styles of writing, and must proof and edit

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	extensively.
English (grammar)	In order to reinforce the essential parts of speech and writing, we continually diagram sentences. Mountain English & Language (repetition of grammar/punctuation skills) are done weekly.
Literature (reading)	Short stories out of our reading book are broken down into units: In and Out of School, American Portraits, Personal Journeys, Listen to This!, Planet of Life, and Roads to the West. Throughout the year, students participate in reading clubs, roundtable discussions and reader's theater in response to our countless novels. Our novels include: <u>Maniac Magee</u> , <u>Where the Red Fern Grows</u> , <u>Holes</u> , <u>Bud, Not Buddy</u> , <u>The Devil's Arithmetic</u> , and <u>The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</u> .
Math	Our math program is called "Progress in Mathematics". Fifth graders learn: (1) place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division; (2) number theory; (3) fractions – adding, subtraction, multiplication, division; (4) probability; (5) decimals – multiplication and division; (6) geometry; (7) measurement topics; (8) metric measurement – area and volume; (9) ratio, proportion and percent; and (10) algebra.
Science	In science we have several areas of study: Life Science (classification, cells, human body, plants and ecosystems); Earth Science (oceans, weather, layers and protecting the environment); Physical Science (matter, forces of motion, energy, and electricity); and Space and Technology (stars and galaxies, earth in space, modern technology). We reinforce each lesson with weekly experiments.
Social Studies	United States history is our focus in fifth grade. In addition to studying U.S. history prior to the first English settlers, we cover exploration of the new world, the original English Colonies, the American Revolution, the Constitution, the Civil War, the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century, World War II and modern day conflicts and finally, the various relationships between the United States and the world.
Enhanced Curriculum	Spanish, Computer Lab, Music, Physical Education, Library and Art
Field Trips	The entire fifth grade in the Fort Worth Diocese meets together once a year for vocation day. They also attend Bass Hall and other local theaters for performances.