

August 3, 2021

Dear Rising 5th & 6th Grade Families,

We are working hard to ensure our students are offered academically & developmentally appropriate, challenging, and enriching learning opportunities through the courses we offer. Thank you for participating in the surveys last spring. Your input was discussed and the data collected helped determine the format of our St. Mary Campus programs and course offerings moving forward. We understand the need to provide students extra support, if needed, while offering courses that are both engaging and allow for creativity and utilize the limited teaching staff we have available. We believe we have formulated a plan that will better prepare our 5th and 6th grade students for 7th and 8th grade- and beyond- as well as meet their individual learning needs.

Though our 5th & 6th grade teaching team is still being determined, we have developed a tentative schedule of classes to ensure each student's day is a balance of our Catholic faith, core content, electives, and enrichment offerings.

Each 5th & 6th grader will be placed in a homeroom class. 5th grade homeroom classes will remain in their current location. The two 6th grade homerooms will be in the rooms immediately below the 5th grade classrooms, at the front of our historic building.

Homeroom teachers will teach their homeroom class the following:

- Homeroom at the beginning of the day

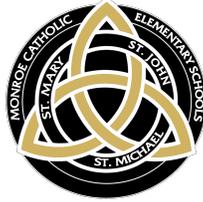
- Religion

- Enrichment class at the conclusion of the day three to four days per week

- And our 5th & 6th graders will attend Mass together each week

In addition, their homeroom teacher will teach one of the four core classes (Math, Science, Social Studies, and English) to their homeroom, as well as to the other three classes. Students will rotate with their homeroom class through these four classrooms and return to their homeroom at the end of the day for the new enrichment class or special class. This enrichment class will provide the students time for support based on their individual class needs at any given time, as well as provide a time for teachers to jigsaw their classes and provide learning support to smaller groups. The 5th & 6th grade teaching team will formulate a weekly plan for this enrichment period.

This new model is a more developmentally appropriate format for our 5th and 6th graders, as it gives them more skills to transition to middle school grades and allows for further individualized instruction. We are fortunate to have adopted a model used at other schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit and beyond, learning best practices from their programs to ensure a smooth transition to this new format.



5th & 6th grade will also participate in Art (pending an available teacher), Technology and Physical Education on a regular basis. Instrumental Music will continue to be part of our 5th grade schedule and tentatively offered to our 6th grade for those who are interested.

These changes represent a strong emphasis on academics and ensuring our students have a more effective and measured transition into our St. Mary Campus. This modification also allows us to include 5th grade in a more meaningful way, while allowing our 6th graders to receive more developmentally appropriate courses and support.

More details will be provided in late-summer- including homeroom placement and teacher information, prior to the start of the school year.

Thank you,

Kyle Kubik
MCES Executive Principal