



Fochtman's Fifth Grade News

September 9, 2011

Updates on Learning

Language Arts:

We are setting up our reading and writing workshop. The students have explored the question, "What is true for me about reading?" and taken time to brainstorm writing topics.

Math:

Math homework will be assigned every night (with the occasional exception) from the math workbooks. Students can earn 5 points for completed work, 2.5 points for partially completed work, and 0 points for little or no effort. More info on this will come home in a packet at the Open House on Sept. 14.

Religion:

Every week, students will be expected to memorize our "Scripture of the Week." The verse comes from one of the readings from the upcoming Sunday. We will reflect on this verse in class on Mondays and work to see how it specifically connects to our lives as 5th graders. This week, our class spent some time talking about a wonderful concept called OWNER-SHIP! There will be a test on the six part definition next week. Hopefully, you will see some of these concepts practiced at home!

Science:

We are starting the year off by learning about force and motion. We will study Newton's

Three Laws of Motion, conduct experiments and take notes. We will be working out of 3 different textbooks and utilizing lots of online resources.

Social Studies:

We will start the year off looking at maps and the five themes of geography.

Please see permission slip for the field trip to Aquinas on Sept. 14th.



Important Things:

- **Open House** is Wednesday, **Sept. 14 at 7pm.** Meet in church.
- **Field Trip** to the Gerald Ford Museum on **Wed, Sept. 21st for a Naturalization Ceremony.** 5th Graders will be singing. I am in need of **5 chaperones.** Please email me at sfochtman@stthomasgr.org ASAP if you are able to join us! Meet in my room at 12:05. We return to St. Thomas at 2:45.
- Remember to turn in **Box Tops** for Education!

Welcome Mrs. Jenna Engel!

I will be the instructional aide in Mrs. Fochtman's fifth grade classroom this year! Some of you may know me already, as I have been the Title 1 Teacher here at St. Thomas for three years now and was Mrs. VanDyke's aide last year. This year I will be splitting my time between Title 1 and fifth grade.

Here's a little background: I am a certified elementary teacher with a special focus in reading. I received my bachelor's degree from Cornerstone University. Currently, I am attending graduate school at Grand Valley to obtain my master's degree in Literacy Studies with certification as a K-12 Reading Specialist. I will be done at the end of this year! I live in Kentwood with my husband, Michael. We have been married for four years. We don't have any children of our own yet, but we have a two-year-old Boxer dog named Sadie and a one-year-old Boxer mix named Dillinger. In my free time, I love to read, watch movies, and be outside as much as possible. I am excited to begin a new year at St. Thomas, and I look forward to getting to better know your fifth graders and partnering with Mrs. Fochtman!

