

August 2023

Dear Fifth Grade Student,

Welcome to Highcrest Middle School! I am Mrs. Batzer, and I am so happy that you will be in my homeroom. For sure you are anticipating your entry into fifth grade and starting this new stage in your life. While you probably have many questions about all of your classes and your new school, I am here to reassure you that all will be fairly smooth sailing. I will certainly spend a lot of time the first few weeks of school going over everything you need to know to be comfortable and successful your first year at HMS.

Fifth grade is made up of houses and each house has four classrooms. The other teachers in our house include: Mrs. Albrecht, Mrs. Raccuglia, Mrs. Prorok, and Mrs. Surdyk, our Learning Behavior Specialist (LBS) who will be co-teaching with me at times. We are all excited to be working with you this school year.

You are going to be busy learning math, science, social studies, writing, and reading. In addition to those core subjects, we will also be learning about friendship, community service, current events, school spirit, time management, and how to organize your materials. As for Physical Education, World Language, and Related Arts, you will change classrooms and have different teachers. Some of you may also have Academic Strategies, which also requires a change of classroom and teacher. All of this can be a little overwhelming at first, but you will become a pro moving from class to class with zero problems in no time! Just remember, if you ever have any issues, all you have to do is talk with me. I am here to help and guide you, which is one of the best parts of my job☺.

I am looking forward to meeting you at **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, Tuesday, August 22nd from 8:45am- 9:15am**. I will tell you more about me when we meet then, but here is a sneak peek into my life that might interest you. This will be my twenty-third year at HMS! I have been a homeroom teacher for sixteen years, and the prior six years I was the fifth grade drama teacher. My undergraduate degree is from Indiana University (Go Hoosiers!) where I studied education and theatre. I received my Masters from Concordia University. I live downtown Chicago in Bucktown with my husband, Scott, our eight-year-old daughter, Eloise, and our six-year-old daughter, Annabel. I spend my free time playing, laughing, and learning with Eloise and Annabel and watching them change and grow daily, enjoying dear friends and family, taking extremely long walks around the city, running, baking with my girls, decorating and organizing our home, watching movies and reading, and traveling. I am looking forward to getting to know you very well, learning from you, and sharing some terrific lessons together during the school year.

Feel free to bring your supplies with you on Tuesday or the first day of school, Wednesday, August 23rd.

I look forward to working with all of you and making this fifth grade year full of special memories. Until then, enjoy your last few days of summer.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Kate Batzer  
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