

# Welcome to 5TH GRADE

Hello 5th Graders,

Welcome to Highcrest! This is a special year, the transition to middle school, and I am honored to help you begin your journey.



## About Me:

This will be my first year teaching 5th grade, but my 16th year in education and in District 39. I started in 2008, teaching 8th grade math, science and social studies at Wilmette Junior High School. Then, in 2015 I began as the 5th grade level administrator (GLAd) at Highcrest (*which means I am very familiar with everything about 5th grade!*). In 2019 I became the principal at Harper Elementary, where I have been for the past 4 years. I have enjoyed all of these experiences and all have helped me grow as an educator. This past school year, I made the decision to come back to teaching. I have missed it and am very excited to get back into the classroom and ready to form amazing relationships with my students. I am equally as excited to be back in 5th grade at Highcrest, which is a significant year in the lives of District 39 students.

Now a little more about me personally- I grew up in Glencoe, went to New Trier, and then the University of Illinois (Go Illini!) where I majored in Education with a minor in Mathematics. I then obtained my Masters in Administration from National Louis University. I am a huge Cubs fan, love to run and love to travel. I live in Northbrook with my wife and our 2 girls, Ellie (age 4) and Nora (age 2). This summer, I have spent a lot of time just being a Dad, going to the pool, beach, and parks, as well as taking some family trips to Denver, Door County, and South Haven (see below for some pictures of my summer). Even though I love summer and have enjoyed this extra time with my family, I am really looking forward to the start of school. I love teaching and the beginning of a new school year, and I cannot wait to meet you all!

## About 5th Grade:

5th grade is organized into teams within houses. You are on the Dubnow/Konicek team within House 1. I will be your math, science, and social studies teacher, while Mr. Konicek will be your English/language arts teacher. 5th grade is full of exciting adventures and several hands-on learning opportunities that are sure to make for a meaningful and eventful school year. You may be nervous as you start at a new school but do not worry, the beginning is all about this transition to being HAWKS... learning the school, meeting new students, and getting acclimated to middle school. We are a team and are in this together, and I am here to support you however I can!

# First Day of School:

Our classroom is room #143. The first day is Wednesday, August 23rd which is a half-day (8:50am-11:46am). Please bring your labeled school supplies with you. If you ordered an EduKit, it will be in our classroom waiting for you.



## Before the First Day:

Your first assignment of 5th grade is to find an artifact or a picture that represents some part of your summer and bring it on the first day of school. Keep it simple- find any small artifact or print a picture from this summer and bring it in.

Until then, students or parents/guardians, if you would like to email me to tell me about your summer or ask me any questions, I would love to hear from you. My email address is: [dubnowa@wilmette39.org](mailto:dubnowa@wilmette39.org).

I look forward to meeting you all very soon and to a fantastic school year!

All the best,  
Mr. Dubnow

