



Dear 5th Grader,

Welcome to Highcrest Middle School! My name is Mrs. Essary and I will be your homeroom teacher this year, as well as your reading, writing, and social studies teacher. Ms. Sarich, our team teacher, will be teaching you math and science. You will be doing and learning amazing things in all these classes!

You'll also do fun things in your other classes, which include PE, creative arts, and world language. Additionally, there are many ways to get involved at Highcrest by joining activities like band, orchestra, choir, or one of the many fun clubs or sports that we offer.

You probably have a lot of questions about fifth grade, life at Highcrest, and how everything works in middle school. Don't worry, we will spend the first few weeks of school going over everything you need to know!

We can't wait to meet you on Wednesday and start getting to know you! In the mean time, here's a little bit about myself: I've been teaching for 18 years. (Yes, I am very old and wise). After graduating from Northwestern, I taught junior high in Hawai'i, where I was also a background actor on the TV show *Lost*. (I played a police officer, so in addition to teaching, I'm also excellent at fighting imaginary crime.) When I moved back to Chicago, I taught 3rd grade, and now this will be my 11th year teaching 5th grade at Highcrest. I love teaching 5th grade and I'm so excited to be your teacher this year!

When I'm not teaching, I love being outdoors, kayaking, hiking, surfing, paddle boarding, and spending time with my family. (I have a 6 year-old daughter and a 4 year-old son.) I also love reading and writing stories. I can't wait to hear about all the things you love to do!

We're looking forward to meeting you at 5th Grade Orientation on Tuesday, August 22 and seeing you on the first day of school on Wednesday, August 23rd! These days will be spent getting to know each other, the school, the schedule, and the rest of your teachers. Our classroom is room #141.

I can't wait to begin an exciting school year with you, full of learning, fun, and adventures! See you soon!

Enthusiastically,
Mrs. Essary
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