



August 2017

Dear Fifth Grade Student and Parents,

Welcome to Highcrest Middle School and to Mrs. Batzer's Homeroom! I am sure you have loved your summer vacation, but are anticipating your entry into fifth grade and starting this new stage in your life. As you might have heard, I had my second daughter July 1st. Her name is Annabel, and she is simply wonderful. I have another daughter named Eloise who is two years old. I will be staying home with my girls until November 27th, when I will be returning as your homeroom teacher. Until then, Ms. Janice Linkowski will be my maternity sub. She has been working in the district as a maternity sub numerous times, the last of which was just this last school year. Ms. Linkowski is extremely knowledgeable about Highcrest, the curriculum, and loves the students as her own. I have no doubt that she will be an excellent teacher for you until I come back from my leave. When I do return, Ms. Linkowski and I will be working closely together during a transition process helping me to learn all that I need to about my students as I settle back into the classroom.

You probably have many questions about all of your classes and your new school, but please have no worries. Ms. Linkowski 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 during 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: Mr. Brady, Mrs. Raccuglia, Mrs. Prorok, and Mrs. Surdyk, our Learning Behavior Specialist (LBS) who will be co-teaching with Ms. Linkowski, me, and other teachers 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, personal goal setting, 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 or a WIN class, 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 Ms. Linkowski. She is here to help and guide you, which is one of the best parts of her job, until my return ☺.

Ms. Linkowski is looking forward to meeting you on Tuesday, September 5th – a half day of school. I am excited to meet you, too, in November, but until then, though, here is a little bit more about me that might interest you. This will be my seventeenth year at HMS! I have been a homeroom teacher for eleven years, and the six years prior 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 with my husband of almost four years, our spirited two-year-old, Eloise, our sweet and calm baby, Annabel, and our headstrong, but loving, Bulldog, Morty. 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, cooking with my husband, decorating and organizing our home, trying new restaurants, indulging in croissants and chocolate covered caramels, watching movies, 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.

Please check out the 5th grade general supply list and make sure to label everything with your name. On the first day of school, feel free to bring your supplies with you. Parents, Janice Linkowski will see you at the **Fifth Grade Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 7th**. Please contact her (linkowsj@wilmette39.org) with any questions that come up, as communication between home and school is a critical piece of the successful school year puzzle. I look forward to working with all of you upon my return and making this fifth grade year full of special memories.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kate Batzer

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