



August 2018

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. You probably have many questions about all of your classes and your new school, but please have no worries. 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: Mr. Brady, Mrs. Raccuglia, Mrs. Prorok, and Mrs. Surdyk, our Learning Behavior Specialist (LBS) who will be co-teaching with 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, Foreign Language, and Related Arts, you will change classrooms and have different teachers. Some of you may also have Academic Strategies or Learner Qualities, 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 on Thursday, August 30th – a half day of school. 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 eighteenth year at HMS! I have been a homeroom teacher for twelve 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 of almost five years, Scott, our three-year-old daughter, Eloise, our one-year-old daughter, Annabel, and our ten-year-old English 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, 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, I will see you at the **Fifth Grade Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 6th**. Please contact me 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 and making this fifth grade year full of special memories.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kate Batzer
batzerk@wilmette39.org