



Dear Grade 5 and 6 Students,

I have long awaited the day to see you all again in person and am thrilled to announce that I am your teacher this year! Many students already know me as I was their homeroom teacher in the past, others have worked with me on committees and sports, a few may have had only polite conversations and waves in the hallway or school yard and some are new to St. James. Whichever case, I hope in a short time that you will come to know that I will do everything in my power to make you feel welcomed, cared for, trusted and valued, empowered to express the true, unique, best version of you!

Our classroom community is especially fortunate to welcome the talents of your French Teacher, Mme. Genevieve and the invaluable guidance of educators, Mrs. Sutherland and Mr. Platt.

Our learning focus for the first week is to re-establish our community and healthy social-emotional activities. As a combined class of Grade 5 and 6 students, I am seeing this as a remarkable opportunity to come together as lifelong learners and St. James role models and leaders. I hope that students and parents see our learning community as one that provides a balanced program of guided whole class discussions, flexible small group learning and individual conferences- one that meets each member where they are and guides and assists continued progress and success. As valued members of the Grade 5 and 6 community, I will be inviting students' voices in all our class discussions and activities.

Our first day which begins on Tuesday, September 7th, homeroom teachers will be in the school yard to welcome you with chart paper identifying students' members. Please come say 'hi' and then line up in front of me, respecting physical distancing with peers. Us teachers know it will be hard as you have not seen some of your friends in a long time. You can do this! As you are junior class leaders, the younger grades will follow your example. Be the best role

model you can be! Once you are ready and calm, we will then head to the classroom and go over everything you need to know to start the year :)

Please remember to **bring your face masks**. We recommend that you bring a minimum of two masks per day: one that you will remove outdoors but will keep with you to go back to the school after recess (or if you need to go to the washroom). **Please find a practical and hygienic way to keep that mask ON YOU** (carabiner, plastic bag, fanny pack, etc.) while outside. Think of what would work best for you. The "indoor" face mask will remain on your desk for you to use in the classroom.

We are sending you a picture of us with and without a mask :) There are big grins on our faces behind the mask. Bringing your smile to school is as important as having your mask on. **Don't leave either one at home!**

Make the most of the remaining days of vacation and come back to us filled with positive intentions and ready to do your best on Tuesday, September 7th at 9:15 :). This school year will be "extraordinary," and you have a big part to play in it. Together, let's create positive and unforgettable memories!

Please find attached the list of recommended school supplies.

See you soon!

Mrs. Lewis

**Suggested Items for Return to School**

- Personal size hand sanitizer (may be refilled at school)
- Cloth or disposable mask
  - Ensure any logos on masks adhere to the school dress code
  - Wash reusable masks frequently
- Full water bottle (labelled with student name)
- 1 Kleenex box
- Appropriate footwear
  - Students will require a change of shoes. Students should have proper fitting, non marking running shoes as indoor shoes for gym class.
- Learning materials
  - Digital devices - **Students are encouraged to bring their personal Chromebooks and headphones. Please ensure Chromebooks are charged.**
  - See chart below for specific grade requests

Grade 6	pencil sharpener (enclosed in a little round case, sold at Staples, brand called Staedtler/ Noris) pencil case, scissors, 2 glue sticks, metric ruler, calculator, markers (fine-tipped, multicolor), personal headphones, personal Chromebook (only if student already has one)
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Here's our Grade 5 Classroom. Can you spot **Mrs. Lewis** (wearing a jean jacket) and **Mme. Genevieve** (wearing white in the back row)? [I wasn't quick enough to get a picture of Mrs. Sutherland

and Mr. Platt]





