

8th Grade Newsletter – 2.15.19

Hello 8th Grade Parents,

We have a few important topics to discuss this week so please be sure to read through carefully.

We first want to say a few words about behavior. The 8th graders have started to get "squirrelly" - for lack of a better word - and a lot earlier in the school year than normal. St. James by tradition expects our 8th grade to set the proper tone and serve as role models for the younger students. We are not seeing this. They participate in numerous side conversations during class and have been rude at times. Teachers have used several methods to quiet a class down - counting to three, staying silent, talking over the conversations, etc., but to no avail and it is becoming exhausting. It takes the students far too long to settle and refocus after lunch and they linger at their lockers, which often results in a loss of five minutes of academic class time. This adds up over time. There are times to chat with their friends and there are times to focus and get to work. We want them to have a great rest of the year and we do not want to constantly have to discipline. That is not enjoyable for anyone. Please help us in supporting your child in understanding appropriate and respectful behavior.

1- Next week is the last week of the trimester. Students should be checking PowerSchool and completing any missing assignments or speaking to teachers. Grades are always posted and should not be a surprise for either the student or parent at report card time.

2- Students need to turn in their Confirmation requirements by next Friday, 2/22. These include the Saint Name Report, the Letter to the Bishop, and the Online Confirmation Form, which can be found on Mrs. Esquivel's or Mrs. Chandler's website. Students should also continue to complete service hours and turn in the forms to their homeroom teacher.

3- The winter school dance is next Friday, 2/22. Students can begin bringing in their \$5 fee starting on Tuesday.

4- This past Wednesday in Physical Education/Health Class, the 8th grade students were visited by Arlington Heights School Resource Officer Rick Veenstra who spoke to them about Decision Making and Drug Trends. Today, Mrs. Pettenuzzo did a follow-up activity on Vaping and provided the opportunity for students to brainstorm and talk about resistance skills. For more information, please contact Mrs. Pettenuzzo.

5- We have been noticing that several 8th graders have been arriving late for homeroom in the morning. Many of them are still unpacking in the hallway during morning pledge and prayer. Please remind your child that they need to arrive in homeroom on time, otherwise, they are considered an unexcused tardy. According to page 10 of the Parent-Student Handbook, an unexcused tardy is a Level 1 Infraction and should result in a citation. Thus far, we have not felt the need to distribute citations. However, if we do not see an improvement in the situation then we will have to enforce this policy.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this. Have a wonderful weekend!

--

Mrs. Esquivel
Mr. Bilski