

8th Grade Newsletter – 9.25.20

Hello 8th Grade Families,

We just have a few quick items for you.

1. Next Friday, October 2nd is the midterm for Trimester 1. Please remind your student to check PowerSchool and reach out to their teachers if they have any questions. If you do not have or do not remember your PowerSchool credentials, please reach out to the main office. We have also attached a reminder of the updated Honor Roll guidelines that were shared with the students the first week of school.

2. Monday is Picture Day! Information on how to order pictures has been emailed home by Mr. Kendrick. Students should avoid wearing green as they will blend in with the green screen. Also, at this moment official graduation pictures will still be taken in the spring (usually early March). We will send out more information about that at a later date. Ordering these school pictures are completely your choice.

The 8th grade cohorts have been signed up for the following times:

Esquivel - 8:25am

Bilski - 8:35am

Tomko - 8:45am

These are early times so please try to have your student to school as close to 8:20am as possible. If a student arrives after their scheduled time we will make sure to get them to the photographer.

3. Starting Monday, we will be asking all students to place their cell phone in a pocket holder in the classroom before homeroom begins. While the majority of students have been following the expectation to keep their phones off and in their backpacks during the day, we have run into a few issues. As we continue to figure out this new school situation, we have decided to make this adjustment to help students avoid an added distraction during class time. More information will be sent home by Mr. Kendrick.

4. The following message is from our new Music teacher, Mr. Marcotte. If you have any questions, please reach out to him directly at dmarcotte@stjamesschoolah.org.

"Greetings 8th Graders! I will not be teaching you until another Trimester, but there are exciting things ahead for music. We will be making movie trailers, soundtracks, and other applied music technology. Students will be developing music performance and sight-reading skills, using garage band instruments rather than singing. Any students in Band will receive extra credit for music class (4th-8th Grade). Any students who are Cantors or on slide crew will receive extra credit for music class (6-8th Grade only). Being in Band, Cantors, or Slide Crew, is the only way to achieve an A+ in music class. Thanks!"

Have a great weekend!

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Mrs. Esquivel

Mr. Bilski

Senorita Tomko