

5th & 6th Grade News

9/13/2021

Dear Parents,

It was very wonderful to see all of you the first week of school at both the supply drop off morning and at Back to School - Parent Info Night. I look forward to educating your child at St. John the Evangelist. I hope your child has come home with the same level of excitement about this year as I have left with each afternoon. We have had a terrific start to the school year! Our classroom theme this year is, Sculpted by God.

This week, the students will be taking the first round of STAR testing. STAR Math testing was administered today to both classes. They will take the STAR Reading test on Friday. These tests allow the teachers an opportunity to see areas of student strengths and areas with opportunities for growth. We will discuss the results of these tests at the parent-student-teacher conferences in October.

Being a part of the SJE middle school is quite a change for the students – changing classes, multiple teachers, no morning recess. I keep reminding myself that 5th and 6th graders need more time to complete EVERYTHING and that they are filled with many questions. We are working through the challenge of a slightly different schedule every day and using their lockers. We will also continue to work on limiting socializing to appropriate times, so that we can maximize learning time. I will continue to support their academic and social development throughout the year, but I will eventually turn over more responsibility to the students.

In last week's Friday Folder, your child was given a bright green Reading Log for September. Please keep this in a safe spot so that your child can record their daily reading entries outside of school. We are asking the students to keep track of what they are reading instead of how many minutes. They will need to log the title, author, number of pages read, and a summary or questions they may have while reading. Additional paper can be attached to these logs if needed. The goal for the 5th & 6th grade students is 16 entries per month. They may read magazines, newspapers, library books, etc. At the end of the month, please sign the reading log and return it to school. Reading is such an important life skill. As with all skills, it needs to be practiced if we want to improve. I challenge you to model this skill by sitting down and reading during the same time as your child.

The 5th & 6th grade students have been invited to become a Junior Lector, Alter Server and member of the Youth Choir or Hand Bell Choir. This information and signup sheets went home in the school Thursday Folder. It is not too late to submit these forms. Please encourage your child to share their talents with the SJE community. Chess Club sign-up forms were made available to the students last Friday. If you would like your child to sign-up for this club and they did not bring one home, please let me know.

Honor Cards are in full effect and have been staying clean. PLEASE remember to check your child's Honor Card regularly. It is stapled inside the front cover of their assignment notebook, which should come home every afternoon. It is important for your child to hear your comments and expectations before you receive an e-mail or phone call from school because their green Honor Card is filling up.

Reminder, Scholastic Book Order forms were sent home a few weeks ago. All orders are due back by Tuesday, September 22, 2021. Thank you to those families who have already submitted their orders. Online ordering is also available with many more book choices and home delivery if you so desire.

I am blessed to have you on our team as we work together to assist the students as they are Sculpted by God. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I am looking forward to a fantastic year as I work with you and your child.

Ms. Dunning
wdunning@sje.school