

6th Grade News

9/7/2023

It was very wonderful to see you all during 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. We have had a terrific start to the school year! Our classroom theme this year is: Sharpen our Faith and Knowledge. Our school theme for the year is: Remember That Jesus is the Bread of Life.

We have made it to our second year of middle school together at SJE! The students have started the year a little more polished than last year and have shown more maturity so far this year. There are some areas that we will continue to work on such as organization, strong work habits, and positive behavior choices. Please help your child with this process by planning to arrive at school **prior to 7:45 am**. The students have been told they need to be in their seats and organized for their morning classes by 7:45 am, or they will be marked tardy. 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 school year, but I'm looking for them to take more initiative with controlling their own behavior choices.

Next week, the students will be taking the first round of STAR testing. STAR Reading and Math 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.

There are a few changes this year that you need to be away of as you help your child excel in 6th grade. The first change is that we will no longer have a monthly reading log. Instead, the students will be required to read 20 minutes every night. We are using the Accelerated Reading program that links with our STAR testing program. Every child will have a points goal to achieve each month/trimester. The students earn points by reading grade appropriate books and successfully completing an online Accelerated Reading test. There are books available for them to borrow from the school library and classroom libraries in both Mrs. Wisniewski's room and our room. Please direct specific questions about the program to Mrs. Wisniewski.

Another change this year is regarding your child's Honor Card. I bright green informational flyer was sent home last week. The change involves direct contact from a teacher (email/call/car line) when your child receives an infraction. Honor Cards are in full effect and have been staying relatively 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 call from school because their green Honor Card is filling up.

The final change this year pertains to the Scholastic Book Club program. This year, Scholastic is no longer accepting paper orders brought into the classroom. All orders need to be submitted online. The Back-to-School flyer will come home in the Friday Folder this week. All orders are due back by Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Please let me know if you need help with the online ordering process.

The 6th grade students have been invited to become a Junior Lector, Alter Server and member of the Youth Choir and/or Youth Hand Bell Choir. This information and signup sheets went home in last week's 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 and Lord of the Rings Club sign-up forms are available from Mr. Courchane. Mrs. Pitcher spoke to the students about signing up for Wellness Warriors this year. If you would like your child to sign up for these clubs and they did not bring a form home, please let me know.

I am blessed to have you on our team as we work together to sharpen the faith and knowledge of our sixth-grade students. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at wdunning@sje.school. I am looking forward to a fantastic year as I work with you and your child.

Ms. Dunning