Mr. Afelskie’s Gr. 7/8 Class Newsletter

ACCOUNTABILITY

As we settle into the rhythm of the school year, one thing that I notice is that sometimes individually, and also as a class, we forget how to be respectful in and out of the classroom. I see the great potential of each student and it becomes disheartening to hear or watch when we say mean words/things about others (students or school personnel), when we do not keep our work area tidy, when we fail to use good manners, when we fail to listen to the teacher or our classmates when they are speaking, and when we fail to go the extra mile. To this end, I resolve to hold myself and the class accountable to the expectations that were set out at the beginning of the year. Please encourage your son or daughter to do likewise. That being said, I have witnessed many acts of kindness and I have seen the efforts that a lot of our class has invested in our school. I leave us with the words: WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

REMINDERS

1. You will need to have indoor shoes to participate in our gym classes (for safety reasons) or extra-curricular activities (e.g. basketball).
2. Please refrain from chewing gum/sunflower seeds on the school premises during school hours.
3. Be respectful of other student’s property, e.g. lunches, student materials, personal belongings. If you break something intentionally, then you are expected to replace that item.
4. Listen to and respect the directives of the school staff, e.g. other subject teachers, EAs, lunch hour supervisors and other support staff.
5. Keep your personal work area and the classroom neat and tidy.

MAKE ACADEMICS A FOCUS IN YOUR LIFE

Studying takes time and effort. Get organized, ask for help and put forth effort aimed at improving your study habits now.

The lessons taught in middle school are building blocks for high school and college/university. Starting good study habits now will help you later in life. It does take more effort to study and to become organized; however, academic success will make you feel good about yourself and make your parents smile.
Areas of Curriculum Focus

ENGLISH
- Reading Focus: asking questions, focusing particularly on evaluative questions to gain meaning from text.
  Each student will select an independent book (as approved by the teacher), and then complete the required number of writing activities (plot profile, book review, character

- Writing Focus (organization):
  a) Comparison Brochure (Geography)
  b) Letter to the Editor (English)
  c) Book Review / or Character Sketch

MATH
Geometry and Spatial Sense Strand – Unit 9 of Textbook: We are just completing our Data Management Unit and we will next be moving into geometry. In this unit students will use the Cartesian coordinate plane and practice plotting points, as well as transforming two-dimensional shapes. Drawing from the geometry strand of the curriculum, this unit allows students to participate in interactive activities and demonstrate learning in engaging activities.

GEOGRAPHY
Patterns & Global Settlement Strand: our class use the geographic inquiry process to investigate the impact of natural events and / or human activities that change the physical environment, exploring the impact from a geographic perspective.

RELIGION & FAMILY LIFE
- Religion: Particular attention will be given to how the Catholic Church determines how a person is declared a Saint.
- Family Life Focus: We will be examining bullying and ways to combat bullying in our everyday lives.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION
- Our gym classes will be focused on movement and mobility skills as we prepare for our basketball tournament in early December. In health, our focus will be on cyber-safety and healthy relationships.