

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I write this message, we are finalizing plans for a group of teachers to depart for a Professional Learning Community workshop in San Francisco the first week of March. Once there, they will focus on processes that will modernize grading and reporting systems to be more aligned to our standards-based instructional paradigm. By further developing a standards-based mindset, our teachers will more effectively form a seamless relationship between the formative and summative purposes of assessment with the goal of maximizing the potential success of each and every learner.

In addition to our focus on academic learning, we strive daily to teach our students the value of the words that define Kerr Nights; Kindness, Effort, Respect, and Responsibility. To that end, we just finished our “Kindness Challenge Week” where students were encouraged to participate in different daily activities that focused on being kind. Students took pieces of chalk and wrote words of encouragement all over the ground in the quad. Others engaged in random unsolicited acts of kindness which were inspiring to see. Although we specifically called out kindness the week leading up to Valentine’s Day, we encourage students to be kind and considerate of each other every day as we continue on with a keen focus on PBIS here at Kerr. I encourage all of you to find opportunities with your children to impress upon them the importance of kindness in both speech and action and to reinforce the value of carefully choosing their words to build up and encourage others as they navigate the day to day challenges of middle school life.

Quarter 3 can be a challenging time in the lives of our students as the rigor of course work is increasing as concepts build on themselves and students must access prior learning to inform future progress. Now, more than ever, it is important that children be in school every day if they are to be successful. I encourage you to emphasize the importance of regular attendance throughout the rest of the school year. Kerr students are doing amazing things, and we want them here every day so we can impart the skills necessary for them to achieve, not only academically, but grow socially as well.

In addition to daily attendance at school, please also encourage your children to make every effort to arrive to class on time. If students are not inside the classroom and ready to work when the bell rings for class to commence, they may be considered tardy.

Our eighth-grade parents should pay close attention to items found in this newsletter. By the time you receive this newsletter, your child will be well on their way through Term 3 and you should have received a progress report from the school with your child’s grades to date for the term. These progress reports are sent home with the students, except in the case of a student who earned a “D” or “F” in a class; in those cases, the progress report is mailed home directly to parents.

This past week we held our 8th Grade Expectations Assembly to provide an overview of the many exciting events and celebrations planned for the 8th grade students as they finish their time in middle school. With the prospect of end of the year activities and celebrations, students were reminded of the need to keep their grades and behavior in good standing so that they can participate in these events. Please continue to review ParentVue/StudentVue, the calendar of events, upcoming testing dates, and minimum days.

Thank you for your continued support, I am so proud of the collective effort of your children!

Principal



Zachary Cheney, Principal