

November 13, 2018

Dear Parents:

I realize it is hard to believe but we are only four weeks from the end of the first semester. Time seems a blur when you are enjoying what you do. Our students have once again done great things this fall. Our cross country boys and girls teams won their respective district tournaments as did our volleyball and girls soccer teams. Our football team will be playing for the state championship on Friday. In the recent SAT and ACT reports we were pleased to see that our students continue to exceed the district and state average scores. This is not to say that we are satisfied with the results. We can do better and I am confident that our students will.

With this in mind I am concerned about the number of students whose grades have fallen the last few weeks. As I talk to teachers and pull reports, much of this is caused by what appears to be a lack of effort. Many of these students have multiple missing assignments. Parents this is an area where you can help us. If your child is not bringing school work home that should be a red flag to you. Please do not accept their explanation that they got it all completed in class. Julie and I are on our fourth high school child in our house, and I can tell you from experience they have all had homework almost every night.

I am shocked how often our students do some, or even at times, all the work and then do not turn it in. Again, parents you can help us with this. Search their backpack. If you find completed work see that it gets turned in. A few parents have come to the school and together we have searched lockers only to find work that could have been turned in. Something is always better than nothing.

An increasing number of our teachers are placing information on their web pages or in Google Docs. Please take a moment to email your child's teachers if you do not know how to access this information.

I would like to change directions now for a moment. There is an increasing number of our children who are succumbing to the lie that vaping is a safe alternative to smoking traditional cigarettes. Please understand that this is a lie. E-cigarettes and vaping are harmful and addictive. There are federal regulations coming out in the near future due to the danger these products pose to our children. These products and devices are not allowed on school grounds and are illegal for children under the age of 18. If a student is found in possession at school they will be suspended and law enforcement will be contacted. Now would be a good time for all of us to have an honest discussion with our children about the dangers and risks of participating in or using any form of illegal substance.

Too often I am guilty of focusing on the things that are not going well or that are not getting completed. This gives the unintended perception that our children are just not measuring. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact I ran a report this morning by accident. I'm so

glad I did. This report showed that out of our 301 students 293 students have at least one grade that is a B or higher. Every child in our school can and is succeeding at something. Please help me make sure that we as the adults are pointing out their successes. Life is pretty dang hard if we never hear that we did something right.

I know I have said this many times before but I believe it bears repeating. We need your help. Your children need to see that you value what they are doing and that you expect them to succeed. Please be as involved as you are able. I believe the more interested you are in what they are doing at school the more likely they will be to succeed.

Thank you so much for all your support. Lets work together to see that all of our children succeed.

Roland Bott, Principal