

Dear University Parents:

Five years ago, I introduced the idea of a special "Holiday Project" in an effort to simplify gift giving for parents and to ensure that each employee received something for the holidays from the students. Once again, I am asking all parents to give \$15.00 per student to purchase gift cards for the teachers and staff members. Parents on the Japonica campus pay \$15.00 per student as part of their classroom fees which will be used for the "Holiday Project."

I recognize that many of you still wish to give your child's teacher/ teachers personal gifts as well. This is not prohibited nor encouraged. Over my years I have seen this practice cause numerous problems and also animosity among faculty. Bare in mind that on the University campus most students have a minimum of 7 teachers and that number often increases during a semester as electives change. Imagine the family who may have more than one child and are feeling the pressure to buy 14 or so gifts?

A special note regarding the Holiday Project: In some years, the growth of the fund has increased or slowed as some parents have chosen to pass out gifts on their own. We believe this practice is counterproductive in that many employees that you do not come in contact with do not equally benefit from your generosity. Our policy makes sense because it ensures equitable distribution to all staff members as well.

If you wish to participate, please send your donation in an envelope labeled "Holiday Project" with your child's name and his/her homeroom teacher's name to the tuition box in Student Services or the front office. We ask that donations be received by Friday, December 7, 2018, so that the gift cards can be purchased in time. Your support of the 2018 "Holiday Project" will be greatly appreciated by all of those who work hard to provide the best educational experience possible for your child/children.

Please join me in giving a special "thank you" to our wonderful faculty and staff!

Sincerely,

Mike Notaro



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