

January, 2019



Dear Middle School Parents,

As of next Friday, the first half of the 2018-19 school year will be complete. Time has flown by and it's been a wonderful first half of the year full of great growth, memories, fun, challenges, and learning. I am confident God has more in store for the second semester. I pray that your students have been fruitful in their endeavors and that the fruit continues to grow as we complete this semester and head into the next.

The first semester will culminate next Friday (1/25) with the last two days of the semester designated for finals. To ensure you are aware of all of the important details regarding finals schedule, please review the information provided below.

### **Early Dismissal on Both Days of Finals**

Middle school students will be dismissed at 11:00 next Thursday (1/24) and Friday (1/25)

Early dismissal will allow students additional time to study, prepare, refresh, and rest. We know they will work hard and this additional time will contribute to their success and resilience.

### **Finals Schedule**

Thursday students will complete English and Science finals  
Friday students will complete Math and History

### **How to Prepare for Finals**

**Study!** By the end of this week, all teachers will have provided students with the necessary study guides and resources to prepare well for the finals. Students are welcome and encouraged to seek any additional help so that they are confident and fully prepared as they tackle finals. It is also recommended that students create a study plan which specifies time each day to study for specific finals. To maximize focus and study time, next week's homework will solely focus on preparation for finals. We believe finals are not only a means of students demonstrating understanding and mastery across all subjects but that they are also a valuable experience as they learn how to study for a major exam, how to manage the pressures of test taking, and build important test taking skills for success now and in the future.

**Pray!** It is the desire of the entire middle school team that finals do not become overwhelming or a source of great concern or stress. We are covering our students with specific prayers for peace.

**Prepare beyond studying!** We encourage students to get a good night's sleep before each final. A tired mind and body will not allow them to do their best. Eat a healthy breakfast and bring a healthy snack to avoid the distraction of hunger during testing. Bring a book or quiet activity to do after each final so that they can unplug and relax a little between tests.

In addition, it is important to relay that there is no ASP for middle school students following dismissal on either of these days. In addition, because school will be in session for elementary as normal, we are asking that every student be picked up through carpool. The walking gate will not be open during school hours and picking up through carpool will help minimize stress and pressure in the lobby. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

We are praying our students finish strong with confidence and peace. Thank you for your continued partnership! And thank you for entrusting your children, one of God's greatest gifts, to our care!

In His Service,

*Heather Harrison*