

A Message from Mr. Rizzo

August 28, 2019

Dear SJCA Middle School Families,

All signs point to an incredible and productive start with our students, and I feel so blessed to be back with you for another year.

As I reflect on the past year, my first year at SJCA, our school's dedication to Academics, Service and Christ-Centered Values are just a few of the many great things that truly stand out. I am looking forward to a great year with all of you. Together, let's continue to make SJCA an even better place for our children to grow and learn.

With that, I hope your student felt that the first three school days went as well as I did. From my perspective, our Middle School students have done a great job at already displaying our core Lancer Values as they work with other students and staff throughout their day. This is exciting to see!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Monday Morning - Middle School Meetings

I will continue with the focused time of meeting with our Middle School students on a weekly basis. One focal point of each meeting will be on a Lancer Value. For the month of September, we will focus on Spirituality.

- Next Meeting - (Tuesday) September 3rd @ 7:50 a.m. in the Buri-Nelson.
- All Middle School students should report to the Buri-Nelson for our Monday Morning Middle School Meetings by 7:50 a.m. each week.

LANCER BUCKS

Our Middle School will continue with our *PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) incentive based program* this year. PBIS is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture, and needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success.

- The Program is set up to encourage good behavior - specifically, we will encourage and continually teach our Lancer Values and other high character expected behaviors. When observed, our students displaying our Lancer Values (and other high character expected behaviors) will and should be rewarded with Lancer Bucks. In short, our students will learn about behavior, just as they learn other subjects like math or science.
- Incentives will be built in for our students to "spend" their Lancer Bucks. More details on the incentives will be distributed soon.
- If you are interested in contributing to the list of incentive offerings, we are looking for your time, talent or treasures. No donation is too small. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated.

HOMEROOM/STUDY HALL

- All Middle School students are assigned to a Homeroom/Study Hall according to their school counselor's caseload. Your student's Homeroom/Study Hall will meet every day after our Middle School lunch. Interventions will take place during our Study Hall time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- On Mondays, our Middle School students will be assigned a "Priority Day" for each day the remainder of the week.
 - Example: Tuesday - 6th Grade/Math, 7th Grade/Reading, 8th Grade/Writing.
 - Each student will be able to meet with their teacher by subject area for intervention opportunities, when needed or assigned, through these Study Halls.
 - Our Middle School teachers will assign and communicate to the students of their "Priority Day" schedules.
- Fridays will be used as a bonus day for activities. So, if a student needs to go back to a specific class for more learning opportunities, he or she can be assigned another day. We will also use Friday's time to study, focus on classroom group activities or for school-wide planned activities.
- Additionally, our counselors have created a Counselor curriculum that will be delivered during these Homeroom/Study Hall days. This curriculum supports our students' academic, social, emotional and spiritual growth.
- I will share more information on Study Hall activities, specifically Counselor Curriculum items, when we finalize the details. Our goal is to start the rotation of Study Halls/Priority Days by next Wednesday, September 4th, keeping Tuesday, September 3rd as a Homeroom day.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Scheduled for tonight at 6 p.m. is Back to School Night. This is a great opportunity to meet your student's teachers and establish an important connection and relationship. I will certainly be there to answer any questions you may have.

My door is always open - Please feel free to stop in, call or email. I hope to see all of you at Back to School Night, tonight at 6 p.m.!

God Bless,
Mr. Rizzo