

## Weekly Eagle News – Head of Schools

My Favorite Parents:

My predecessor, Mr. Cole, had a wonderful mantra that he would often share at about this time of the year. He would tell parents and staff, “We are not a perfect school.” Then he would explain that we are not a perfect school because we do not have perfect students, nor perfect teachers, nor perfect parents, nor perfect administrators. He would always finish by saying, “And you do not have a perfect head of school. It would only take a brief conversation with my wife and she would convince you.” Well, that reality is true for this head of school too! 😊

So, if we are not perfect, what does that mean:

- It means that it is important that we treat each other with grace. As we address issues, we do so with the humility that recognizes that none of us are perfect. This changes the tone and approach that we use in dealing with issues.
- It means that as a school we have to be committed to continuous improvement. Not being perfect is not an excuse for not pursuing excellence. We have to recognize the need to continue to grow and improve. We need to continue to become better at fulfilling our school’s mission of Christ-centered excellence in education.
- Our communication on issues is derived from the Matthew 18 model that Christ shared. When we have an issue, we address it directly with the individual involved. If we cannot reach an agreement, then we bring someone else into the conversation. Typically, this means that classroom issues are addressed with the teacher – graciously and directly – and would involve the principal only if the issue cannot be resolved. It also means that as our children mature, we want to coach them through how to use this same approach (rather than having the parent be the first point of contact).
- When you have a concern, know that we want to resolve it. We recognize that we are not perfect and that things can be better. We love your child and want your child to flourish. We value that you have chosen to partner with us in the education of your child. All of these statements are personal and give you as a parent the freedom to not have to gossip about the problem or seek to get a number of others fired up about the problem. You may be the only person with the problem... and we STILL want to resolve it.

I am going to add a contextual caveat to what I have shared. Today’s world can seem in disarray. What was once considered evil is now considered good and what was good is now considered evil. This can leave the Christian seeking to live by biblical principles feeling like they are under attack. The result is this constant sense of stress that impacts how we react to issues that arise. In our brains, our amygdala, the emotional center of our brain, is constantly being bathed by cortisol, the stress hormone. While this is not a healthy way to live, for purposes of this discussion, being aware of this reality may help us to go back to the first bullet above and double down on grace when it comes to our interactions with each other.

Just some thoughts from your [much] less than perfect head of school!

Enjoy your week!

Brian