

Weekly Eagle News – Middle School

Hello Middle School Community,

It was wonderful to see everyone back on campus this week! After dodging the rain drops during drop-off on Wednesday morning, I had the opportunity to meet and greet our eight new short-term international students from Korea. It was a blessing to see our domestic students partner with them to help them set up Chromebooks, tour the school, and figure out their schedules. Even after just a few days, our new Korean friends have been enveloped well into middle school life.

Another highlight was surviving my first three days as middle school principal! It has already been a tremendous blessing leading our fantastic team of teachers and working with our wonderful students. I am so appreciative of your prayers and encouraging comments. I am excited to tackle another week, with lots of activities going on....

- On Wednesday we will conduct our Winter MAP tests. In case you are not familiar with the ins and outs of the NWEA MAP tests, you can learn more by watching [this video](#) and exploring this [family toolkit](#). We take MAP test data seriously and expect our students to work hard and do their best. Please encourage your student to get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and be ready for testing day. We also expect each student to bring a book to read after they finish a test.
- Before MAP testing on Wednesday, students will meet with their Life Groups and discuss our Eternal God, based on Psalm 102:11-27 and Psalm 90:1-2. Perhaps those verses would be a good family devotion and discussion around the dinner table this week!
- Our middle school teachers have been working hard grading finals and making report card comments. On Friday, you will receive an email with your student's first semester grades. If you have questions or concerns about particular classes, please contact their teacher.
- On Friday, our 8th graders will join some of our upper school students on a field trip to LifeHouse Theater to see a production of "The Hiding Place". This provides an excellent connection to their reading of Elie Wiesel's *Night* last semester as well as their visit to the Holocaust Museum on the DC Trip in March.
- In an effort to motivate students to get to class on time and to dress appropriately, we will closely track tardies and dress code violations over the next two weeks. If our middle school students can stay under 10 tardies/dress code violations, we will reward everyone with a dress down day on January 19. This means students can wear pajamas, sweats, and hats indoors! Hopefully this program is successful and can be continued for the rest of the semester.

And finally, a friendly reminder for parents:

Please remember that drop off (and our supervision of students) begins at 7:30 AM each day. There is extended care available before that time at the lower school campus. Many of our faculty (including myself!) arrive between 7:20 and 7:30 and at times, it can be challenging to get into the parking lot.

Have a fantastic week,
Matt Wiers
MS Principal