

Weekly Eagle News – Middle School

Hello Middle School Community,

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is the only federal holiday that is set aside as a National Day of Service. Two months before Dr. King's tragic assassination, he gave a sermon entitled "The Drum Major Instinct" based on the passage in Mark 10 when James and John ask to sit at Jesus' right and left as the greatest in the Kingdom. That "drum major instinct" to be out front and to lead and to be the greatest can be a wonderful thing, but it must be motivated by love and by service. Here is an excerpt from that sermon:

"... Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness. If you want to be important—wonderful. If you want to be recognized—wonderful. If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness. And this morning, the thing that I like about it: by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant."

Middle school students can sometimes fall into that temptation of wanting to be the greatest, the smartest, the most athletic, the most popular, the funniest, the best musician/actor, and so on. It is easy to praise and acknowledge these types of students, but some of our *greatest* middle schoolers are those that serve others. Students like Grace, Serena, and Hunter who I have seen cleaning up other people's trash during lunch. Students like Sophia, Cody, Norah, Johnny, Chloe, Hannah, and JC who gave up their time to help our new international students figure out their schedules and Chromebooks. And all the students --- too many to name -- who hold open doors, thank teachers for what they do, befriend new students, and are generally kind and caring people. Thank you to all students who are Christlike examples of service...you are truly GREAT!

A few reminders:

- **PLEASE** do NOT turn left out of the parking lot at drop off and pick up time – it is extremely dangerous! I recognize the inconvenience this may cause you, but a traffic collision is not worth saving a few minutes of commute time.
- Students are not permitted to hang out at the upper school after school. If they are not picked up by 3:00pm (Mon- Thurs), then they need head back to the middle school and check into extended care. On Friday, because upper school dismissal is 30 minutes earlier than middle school, only 8th Graders and their MS siblings head to the upper school for pick up. After 1:45 on Friday, students must return to the middle school for extended care.
- In an effort to improve classroom behavior, we are launching "The Academic and Behavior Sheet" (TABS). On this shared spreadsheet, teachers will document student behaviors and missing assignments so our admin team can intervene sooner to help our struggling students and also provide earlier communication with parents. Now you will know what it means if your student happens to have something listed on their TABS.
- Unfortunately, the entire middle school community was not able reach our tardy/dress code goal to earn a pajama day next Friday. Starting next week, the competition will be by grade level (two of our grades were actually on track this week!)

In closing, to truly appreciate and experience [Martin Luther King's "Drum Major Instinct" sermon](#), it must be listened to!

Have a fantastic week,
Matt Wiers
MS Principal