

Weekly Eagle News – Middle School

Hello Middle School Community,

As a former history teacher, I relish the opportunity to share lessons from the past (see last week's Weekly Eagle as an example). This week, a quote from President James A. Garfield* has been resonating with me in light of some behavior issues we navigated recently: "The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable."

Earlier this year, I spoke with a young man who made a mistake and wrote something inappropriate in a note that ended up in a teacher's hands. When I confronted him, he immediately confessed, admitted his mistake, and asked for forgiveness. While he still faced a consequence, I was able to affirm to his parents how proud I was of him for the maturity he showed in accepting responsibility for his actions.

Unfortunately, this week, a few middle school students chose to make excuses, blame others, or flat out lie to avoid the consequences of their actions. In the end, they not only faced more significant consequences, but they also lost my trust. It is my hope that when students misbehave, that they speak the truth when confronted, accept the consequences, and learn from their mistakes. If I were to make a small addition to President Garfield's, quote, it would read, "The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable, and lying will make you even more miserable!"

And now for a few notes, reminders, and key dates:

- This past week we hosted nearly 70 prospective families at our Middle School Preview night. The campus was buzzing with excitement thanks to the joy and energy of our MS teachers and the organization of Jannae Thompson and our admissions team. 8th Grade families: the upper school is hosting their own preview night this Thursday evening. [Click here](#) to RSVP and come explore our high school experience at ACA.
- Ski Club – first trip this Friday, 1/26
- Fine Arts Festival: one of my favorite events of the year is approaching fast! Come support our musicians and actors on February 8 and 9. Note the early dismissal time listed below. Students that advance will perform at the Regional Fine Arts Festival in Chino on February 29.
- Mark your Calendars! Grandparents Day is coming February 15! We are excited to host grandparents and grand-"friends" from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM where they can enjoy chapel, band, and choir performances, and interactive classroom experiences. Follow this [LINK](#) for more details.
- Upcoming Special Dismissal Times
 - Friday, February 9 – NOON Dismissal (middle school campus only) for Local Fine Arts Festival which runs from 1:00-5:00 PM on our campus.
 - Thursday, February 15 – NOON Dismissal for Grandparents Day (middle school campus only); 5th Grade Middle School Experience 1-2:45pm on our campus.
- Presidents Day – February 19: NO SCHOOL
- Cornerstone Gala – March 2
- 8th Grade Washington DC Trip – March 16-23
- Spring Break – March 22 – April 1 (Easter Monday)

*And since I know I will get a lot of emails...yes, I do have a great book recommendation to learn more about the life (and tragic death) of President Garfield! *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President* by Candice Millard

Have a fantastic week,
Matt Wiers
MS Principal