Carriel Jr High
December 4, 2024

12 Days of Kindness

We would like to invite our school community to participate in our 12 days of kindness. Starting December 5, we will announce a daily task that will take less than a minute; the tasks are:

Day 1: Smile at everyone you see
Day 2: Pick up some trash and throw it away
Day 3: Write a positive message to someone
Day 4: Let someone go first
Day 5: Give your parent/guardian a hug
Day 6: Do an unexpected chore/errand
Day 7: Forgive someone
Day 8: Shift a negative conversation to a positive
Day 9: Give a compliment to three people
Day 10: Think positively in every situation
Day 11: Make yourself laugh, exercise or dance
Day 12: Say thank you to someone that does something you take for granted (teacher, custodian, lunch staff, bus driver, etc.)

Monitoring Social Media

Be aware of content created and named under the false premises of representing schools, or individuals. Also, be aware that kids may not always download apps. They may bypass the app and use a browser to log-in. This is a much more discrete way and at times can go unnoticed.

Importantly, content created outside of school may lead to disruptions when brought into the school environment. As a community, we must prioritize monitoring social media. Look for content connected to CJHS, block and report harmful posts.

It takes a long time to build someone up using words; it takes only a moment to tear them down using our words. Together, we can maintain a supportive environment for all students. Thank you for your partnership!

Positive Conversations: Grades

As we approach the end of the second quarter on Friday, December 20, it's a great time to check in on your student's progress and talk about grades in a constructive way. How we discuss grades can shape a student's mindset, so it's important to approach these conversations thoughtfully.

Grades are a form of feedback. Students should reflect on their understanding of the content, their effort, and areas for growth. Viewing grades as an opportunity to improve will foster a positive and resilient attitude. Here are a few talking points to guide conversations:

Encourage Ownership: Ask your student to show you their current grades on Skyward. This promotes accountability and keeps them engaged in their own progress.

Check Google Classroom: Reviewing assignments and teacher feedback together can provide insights into their strengths and areas for improvement.

Focus on Effort and Learning: Discuss the actions and habits that led to their successes and challenges. For example, "What strategies helped you in this subject?" or "What could we change to make this easier next quarter?"

Set Goals Together: Encourage your student to set realistic goals for the next quarter, focusing on growth and effort rather than perfection.

Growth Area: Attendance

Ensure you call in to report your child's absence from school. **Tip for Success:** Support your child's health by encouraging frequent handwashing and avoiding the sharing of food or drinks.

Second Semester Preparation

With the extended holiday break just around the corner, it's a perfect time to reset and prepare for the second semester. Taking a little time to reorganize now can set the stage for successful habits in the new year. Here are some helpful tips to get started:

Reestablish Routines - As the school year progresses, it's common for routines to slip. Use this time to reset: Choose a consistent time each day for homework, end the day by packing backpacks, and prioritize a good night's sleep.

Refocus on Organization Tools - If missing assignments have been a challenge: Encourage your student to use their agenda for tracking assignments, and use a designated folder to keep papers organized.

Declutter and Simplify - A clutter-free workspace promotes focus and efficiency: Go through backpacks, folders, and pencil cases to remove unnecessary items.

Boat Race Set for December 19th

During 2nd quarter students have been working with their branch classes to design and build boats from recycled cardboard and duct tape. On December 19, our 8th graders will travel to the O'Fallon YMCA to race their boats the length of the indoor pool. Due to the capacity of the YMCA, we are limited on the number of volunteer chaperones that may attend. We plan to livestream the races on Youtube and will provide a schedule of race times in advance. A special thank you to the O'Fallon YMCA for hosting this event and donating space to support us.

Lost and Found

Please check the two tables in the main hallway for lost and found items. Our lunch staff will also be bringing items into the lunch room in the coming weeks. All items will be removed during our winter break.

Cold Weather Reminders

Please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather, as we will go outdoors for recess whenever possible. Students will go outside if the real-feel temperature is 15 degrees or higher, so they should dress accordingly.

Additionally:

- Pajamas are not acceptable for school.
- Coats should not be worn inside the building but can be carried to and from lunch and recess.
- We recommend avoiding "Croc-like" shoes, as they can be problematic on slick surfaces and stairs.

December PTO Meeting: Canceled

Due to the Carriel Choir Concert on the same night and other conflicting events other nights, the Board has agreed to cancel our December PTO meeting. See you in January!

Important Dates:

Be sure to check out the calendar on the **Carriel Website** for a complete list of upcoming events.

- December 5: BBB vs Collinsville @ 4:30
- December 7: Breakfast with Santa @ 8:00
- December 11: Band Concert @ Milburn
- December 17: BBB vs Shiloh @ 4:30
- December 18: Choir Concert @ Milburn
- December 19: YMCA Boat Race
- December 20: End of 2nd Quarter
- Dec 23-Jan 06: No School - Winter Break
- January 07: School Resumes

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Dr. Foehrkolb, Principal