

Counselor's Corner

"Strengthening Our Academic Team"

Labor Day might be over, but the real labor is starting for students and parents! Gone are the days of sleeping in, staying up late, and having few cares. Now, it is time to set some goals and figure out how to achieve them.

First, stay on top of things. Many tools are provided to parents and students that are not always used. Start by putting your **school calendar** in a prominent place, and consider making multiple copies to take to work or hang in the rooms of children. This 10-month guide is as accurate as it can get, barring emergencies. At the same time, students need to use their planners from day one!

Read the weekly "**School Scope**" that comes out every Thursday to refine and expand the master calendar. The "School Scope" contains valuable information, including but not limited to upcoming events, out of uniform days, opportunities to volunteer, lunch forms, and the latest from the principal and counselor. This will help you stay ahead of the game, and will help eliminate confusion in uniform policies and schedules. Hang it next to the master calendar.

Listen to the **Sunday night calls** from Mrs. Kraetke. They are Saint Anselm's 'breaking news' as of 6:45 P.M. Sunday night.

Second, **get to know your child's teachers**. Attend all open houses and conferences, and read the biographies of teachers. Work with them. You have entrusted your children to them for most of their waking hours. Check teacher websites daily. This a necessary proactive step. You can keep your eye on homework, classwork, and grades. If something doesn't look right, talk to your child first, and then contact the teacher for clarification as soon as possible. Nothing is worse than finding out your child is not doing well at the end of a quarter when there were opportunities to monitor progress or lack of from the start. This is a reminder of what is available to you.

Third, **know the protocol for making contact** with the school. We have two wonderful secretaries who can answer most general questions that need clarification if the website, calendar, "School Scope," or Sunday night calls are not clear. When academic issues arise, the teacher is always the first point of contact. Since teachers are in classrooms all day, the best way to ask for clarification, for a call, or to set up an appointment is via email. If academic issues are more severe, the parent and teacher may need to contact the counselor who will make suggestions and keep the principal apprised.

The Stag teams are interesting and varied, and we support them all. However, we need to recognize that the most important is the academic team, consisting of administrators, teachers, parents, the counselor, and the students, all supported by our pastor, Monsignor Moloney. When we work together, show care and concern, we all win! GO TEAM!

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