

St. Mary of the Hills is a diverse Pre-K through Grade 8 Catholic school inspired by our love of Christ. By valuing innovation in education, our programs promote spiritual growth, personal academic excellence and social development in a safe and nurturing environment.

September 4, 2008

Dear Middle School Parents,

Over the past several weeks, the middle school teachers and I have met to discuss our middle school program. Our discussions were guided by our mission statement and we took great attention to what is age-appropriate for the Grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 student bodies when making decisions. We concluded our discussions with what our student behavioral expectations are at our middle school and as a result will implement detention.

Yesterday, the teachers and I met with the students to orient them towards life in the middle school. Some of the topics discussed were ACE and Honors awards, Student of the Week, monthly socials and/or dances, lockers, extra-help, Youth Group, and discipline. On Thursday, September 11 you are invited to attend Back to School Night where more information will be presented by the teachers and me regarding the NEW additions and OLD to our middle school program.

At this time I would like to inform you of our behavioral expectations for all Grade 5, 6, 7, and 8 students. Students who receive three violations for what we consider "minor" discipline infractions but very disrespectful to teachers and fellow students (cell phone or iPod, out of uniform, gum chewing, food in class or hallway, uncovered textbooks, etc.), will receive a detention. If a detention is issued, it will be communicated to the parent via an email from the Principal allowing sufficient time to arrange transportation. The detention itself will be monitored by a teacher on a Thursday afternoon from 3:00-4:00 pm. Please note that students who are not picked up at 4:00 pm will be sent to the Afterschool Program where a fee will be charged. Should the situation arise, students who continue to violate our behavioral expectations will not be allowed to attend socials, dances, field trips, and/or other extracurricular activities that occur during or after school.

Beginning today students in Grades 6-8 have been placed in one of two math courses: accelerated or honors. The St. Mary of the Hills Middle School curriculum is accelerated and our textbooks tend to be one year above those of the public schools in the area. The material, skills, and knowledge covered in both courses will remain the same but the math teacher now has the ability to plan the lesson according to the students within the class. This also enables student work to be compared to that of similar ability peers. There is also the freedom for mobility from one course placement to another. When deciding placement many factors were taken into account: past math performance from teacher, past math performance from report card, and Terra Nova test scores and/or IOWA test score (for new students).

We have a wonderful student body at our school, and this policy will not replace our continual efforts to work toward the development of conflict resolution skills, positive attitudes, and the enhancement of self-esteem. We are confident that our efforts will result in a more pleasant atmosphere for all students.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Fasano
Principal Grades 5-8

By signing below you are agreeing to abide by the “Middle School Detention Policy” as described at the Back to School Student Orientation and in the September 4 parent letter.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____