

December 13, 2019

Dear Parents,

Upcoming Dates:

Thursday, December 19th- Student Out of Uniform Day- Wear Green, White and Red with your favorite Christmas sweater.

Friday, December 20th- Last Day of School before Christmas break

Monday, January 6th- Return to school

News:

- The Catholic Education Foundation for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will once again be able to offer \$2,000,000 in tuition assistance grants for the 2020- 2021 school year. Please visit www.CatholicBestChoice.org for more details and instructions on how to apply. A handout will be given to your child to share with you. It will also be posted on the website under School News at the bottom of the front page.
- The results of the kindergarten survey using the Ultimate Question: On a scale of one (very unlikely) to 10 (very likely), how likely is it that you would recommend the St. Chris Kindergarten to a friend or family member? **The performance indicator score was 9.35.** This is an incredible score that shows great satisfaction with our K program.
- National Geographic Geography Bee Winner- Congrats to 7th grader Zach Wolking!
- Congratulations to the Robotic Raptor team from St. Christopher that won the Regional competition last Saturday- Lily Bihl, AnneMarie Honious, Paige Hartman, Ryan Mitchell, Anthony Schneider, Grace Schneider, and Alex Tompkins
- Our band students will have a new Director starting immediately. Josclynn Garrison will be taking over the program. Most of our students have met and worked with her before, so she will not be a stranger.
- I would invite you to follow the St. Chris Facebook page. This week we featured the kindergarten teachers and the activities that take place in their classrooms. The St. Chris Advantage starts early for our students. Our school and students are blessed to have Mrs. Dunkle and Ms. Dahlinghaus as their kindergarten teachers.
- Mr. Beyerle and Mrs. Wade met with the Student Council on December 9th to discuss the plan to phase out "Out of Uniform Passes".

Rationale: 1) There are an abundance of passes that have been handed out with students stockpiling these passes. 2) There is not one given day when all students are in proper uniform. 3) The sense of doing acts of kindness, service or voluntary actions for the greater good of the community needs to be the essential reason why we do such acts, not because we receive something for doing it. 4) We want to stress good stewardship and the virtue of selflessness and that the reward should be doing something to help and assist our St. Chris community simply because it is a good deed. 5) There is no administrative control over the passes so guidelines need to be enacted.

New Plan:

- 1) First Friday of the month will remain as a once a month out of uniform day for the entire school.
- 2) Spirit Days or Special Days (Team Jersey Day, Hat Day, Ugly Christmas Sweater Day etc.) may be added at the discretion of the principal. Spirit Day means students can wear St. Chris Spirit wear with the uniform pant. We will be striving to establish a stronger dress code and distinguish between Dress Code Wear and Spirit Wear. Please note that any changes in the Dress Code Policy will be for 2020-21. A joint committee of parents, teachers and the principal will work together to strengthen our dress code
- 3) Each trimester an assigned out of uniform day will be available for those students who make the Principal's list, A Honor Roll or have Perfect Attendance. **(This idea came from our discussion with the Student Council)**

Resolution:

- 1) Teachers no longer hand out these passes. In effect new passes will not be honored.
- 2) Students with Out of Uniform passes have until March 1, 2020 to use their current passes.
- 3) Buy- back program. Tuesday, December 17th 2019, \$1.00 will be donated to the non-profit organization- Brigid's Path for every "Out of Uniform Pass" turned into their homeroom teacher on this day. Brigid's Path is a medical care unit for baby's who have been exposed to and impacted by the addiction habits of their mother. The organization "offers grace for the past, support for the present, and hope for the future." If students wish they can make a \$1.00 contribution to the cause.
- 4) Student Council members will share this plan with the student body and class meetings will also be held.

Highlights of the Week:

- Witnessing the excitement and joy of our kindergarten class as they began selling the seeds from the Teaching Garden at lunch. We have some emerging entrepreneurs in our school.
- A young primary age student sharing a message her mom left in her lunchbox. "I'm praying for you." Love, Mom
- Observing the outstanding teaching practices that our students benefit from each day in their St. Chris education.
- Quote shared in the 8th grade Religion class- "The Church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints."
- Sacrament of Reconciliation service today with 8 local priests, with a special symbolic event back in school upon the students return to the building. The main hallway is dark and a large strand of unlit bulbs is extended down the hallway. When the students return to class there is a bulb for each student to light which indicates going from the darkness of sin to the grace and light of Christ. Well done faculty and students.

Testimonial of the Week:

"I think St. Chris had a part in my development because I was pushed to be the best ME by my teachers. I was also pushed to act with love and care towards everyone."

Dylan Snyder- St. Chris Class of 2016