

**February 15, 2019**

**From the Headmaster**



This past week was highlighted by fun activities in the various classes for St. Valentine's Day. Our 7th and 8th grade classes delivered valentines to residents at St. Paul Hermitage and had lunch with

them. Thanks to all the teachers who organized special activities and to the parents who helped out with Pizza Day and St. Valentine's Day.

Our high school students toured the Indiana State Police forensics lab on Wednesday. Thanks to Mr. Rob Roller for facilitating and leading the tour.

We've had a good week, the school year is going well, and we are already working hard to prepare for next year. We entrust our school and all our students, teachers, and families to God's loving Providence. Let's all continue to pray daily for our school and for each other.

### **Focusing on Better Behavior and Demeanor**

With a few months left in the school year, I'd like to make a focused effort to hold students to higher standards of behavior and demeanor. Teachers are doing a good job overall of setting and maintaining expectations, but now is a good time to raise the bar. Our students are good, but they can be better.

On Tuesday, I'm going to meet with students in grades 3-8 to communicate our expectations. I want to share with you just a few of the points about respect and manners that I'll cover with the students so you can help reinforce them with your children. (We're also going to be talking to students about class discipline and behavior in the halls and in church.)

As we have done all year, we will emphasize the importance of respectful behavior. We will not tolerate any form of disrespect toward any teacher or student.

I will talk to students about unkindness and gossip. I have asked teachers, as much as possible, to get on top of situations where students are being mean or excluding others.

We will continue to work on common courtesy and consideration for others:

- looking people in the eye when talking with them
- saying hello, please, thank you, bless you
- opening doors for others and not cutting in front of them
- cleaning up after yourself, picking up trash on the floor, and flushing the toilet

We will make it clear that students should always stand as an adult enters the classroom. I admit that I have not been clear about this, and we need to establish a consistent practice.

### **Cell Phones**

I also need to clarify our policy on cell phones.

Most elementary school students don't need to have a cell phone at all, and those who do are discouraged from bringing them to school. No student in any grade at Lumen Christi should have a cell phone at any time during the school day (that includes after school care and extracurricular activities).

High school students should follow the policy in Section 6.7 of the handbook. In the elementary school, Section 3.11 says that students should hand in their cell phones to the homeroom teacher, but this is not working well, and we need a different approach.

If a student absolutely has to have a cell phone at school, it must be turned off and stored away out of sight for the entire time the student is here. If the student absolutely has to make a call, they may take out the phone only with the explicit permission and direct supervision of a teacher.

In the elementary school, if any teacher sees a cell phone during the day, they will take it and give it to me, and I will ask parents to pick it up and to keep it at home.

***I hope students and teachers have an enjoyable three-day weekend!***

*Teaching the unity of faith and reason, through the Light that is Christ Jesus, for the formation of young Catholics in truth and virtue.*