



"When you start a new trail equipped with courage, strength and conviction, the only thing that can stop you is you!"
- Ruby Bridges, Civil Rights Activist

September 20, 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Mr. Jones, our new Math Teacher, recently shared the message with students that *"there is never 'nothing to do!'"* Motivation is high in Room 103 and throughout the schoolhouse. Recent days have been full and fruitful as we "live into" the schedule, adjust to all students back on campus 8am-3:15pm (plus Choir, TUP, and ISEE 8th grade test prep), build classroom community, and begin our daily teaching and learning. There is always something we can do to further challenge our students, support our families and one another, and take our school community to the next level.

Family Orientation - Thank you for attending. Please remember to create healthy habits with your child as we all get used to being back on campus for full schedule days for the first time in 19 months - we have much catching up to do! My personal favorites from the list of *Top Ten habits*:

1. Nine (9) hours of sleep per night
2. Arrive on time (before 8:00 AM) and in full uniform (students are limited to <15 absences or <15 lates per year). Being on time and strong attendance is a MAJOR goal this year!
3. Check the Monday *Black Excellence* family folder each week
4. Check that your child completes homework and reads each night
5. Monitor screen time

Permission forms: Thank you to families who have already signed and returned forms. If you have not, please be sure to sign and return the following forms sent home in the *Black Excellence* Family folder:

- CORA form for Math support, Reading support, and counseling support
- Family-School agreement form
- School Based Health Center form
- Field trip form - Grades 6,7,8 will be travelling to the Discovery Center next week (Tues & Wed)

Enrichments: due to COVID precautions, the only Enrichments happening now between 3:15-5:00pm are Choir, Tune Up Philly, and ISEE test prep (8th grade). All other Enrichments are on pause for now.

Vaccinations: All students are required to have a complete vaccination history on file the first week of school. The Wellness Center requires all medications, documents and other information important to your child.

COVID 19 Vaccination: We encourage vaccination against COVID 19. Pfizer vaccine is now FDA approved for everyone 12 years and older. Approval for children ages 6-11 is expected by November this year. Vaccination reduces severity of infection, hospitalization rates, death and lingering health

issues. It also helps prevent emergency and ICU services from being overwhelmed. Insurance covers pediatric and adult vaccinations.

Flu Vaccine: A tough flu season is expected this year. The COVID-19 surge is expected to continue into winter, overlapping flu season, and increasing health risks. Masks and social distance have been helpful to prevent flu.

Vaccination Clinics on Clearfield Street: There will be a Sayre Community Health service visit in mid to late October. Please call Nurse Ayton, extension 118, to make an appointment.

Vaccine sites are listed at www.phila.org, and www.blackdoctorsconsortium.com, which offers a calendar of walk-in clinics. Sayre Community Health Clinic (215) 474-4444, CVS and Rite Aid also provide vaccinations.

Asthma and Allergy Care: All students who need EPIPENS and/or ALBUTEROL, or other allergy medication at school must have documentation and new prescription medications including the RX LABEL from the pharmacy. We have NO student EPIPENS at school- they have expired and need to be replaced immediately!

Ronald McDonald Mobile Dental Van will come to St James School on October 6th and 27th. Sign-up and consent forms will be completely online this year! Please use this link to register:

<https://towerhealth.org/ronald-mcdonald-care-mobile-dental-program>

Uniforms: Students look sharp! All students must be in full uniform each day, especially wearing a belt and dress shoes (not black sneakers). Even though there is no PE right now, students may choose to wear their PE uniform on Wednesdays (provides a laundry day midweek!). Sneakers on Wednesday may be any color.

Student Breakfast: Student breakfast is served under the tent from 7:30-7:50 daily. Please make sure your student arrives in that window if they are in need of breakfast.

Welcome Table - Saturday from 9am-12pm and by appointment. Simply call the school at 215.226.1276.

Sincerely,

Mr. McDonough
215-226-1276