

# Saint Theresa Catholic Middle School

Welcome to Middle School! Please use this presentation as a way to familiarize yourself with many of the guiding expectations for our students. Teachers believe that our best successes rise from high expectations, a partnership with parents, and continual communication between home and school. Thank you for sharing your students with us!

# WINN time

*“What I Need Now”*

M: Tier One/ Band

T/W: Tier Two/ Choir

TH: Exploratory/Band

2:28-3:08

Middle School teachers are in the second year of implementing a diocesan-wide initiative to increase student achievement. WINN time is a collaboration of teachers who are evaluating data, implementing interventions or extensions so that all students can participate in high level learning.

Intervention: Tier One: All students and Tier Two: Students with targeted needs

# WINN

WINN class period is at the end of the day, after 7th period.

WINN is NOT study hall.

WINN is a time for teachers to provide targeted interventions in Math and Literacy with the goal of raising student achievement to grade level or beyond.

# Academic Expectations

## Homework

- St. Theresa Catholic School Middle School students are expected to complete homework daily and on time.

# Academic Assistance

- Academic Assistance is required when work is NOT completed on time.
- Students must fill out the incomplete work slip and turn it in to their teacher. Teachers will email parents notifying them of the 7:30 requirement.

**Incomplete Work Contract**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

**Missing Assignment:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

According to MS policy, I will report to school at 7:20am on the next school day morning for *Academic Assistance* which may include finishing late work and/or working with a teacher on a plan to finish work on time.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Academic Assistance

- Academic Assistance is in Mrs. Siembieda's classroom.
- Sessions begin at 7:30 AM on Mon/Tues/Wed/Thur
- Student will CONTINUE to come in at 7:30 until assignment is complete.
- Please enter using the kindergarten doors. The office doors are locked.

# Test Retakes

- You may retake a test if you get below a 70% on one test per subject area in a trimester. Students with academic plans may retake as allowed according to the plan.
- You have 5 days to request to retake with a teacher.
- Retakes are scheduled before school.
- The teacher will require study/review sessions prior to the retake.
- Please reach out to specific teachers for guidance on test retakes. There may be exceptions in some subject areas like math.

# JMC GRADES

- Middle School teachers will update grades on JMC at least once every two weeks.
- Students are encouraged to check their grades often! Please invite your student to give you an online tour of JMC grading site.
- Familiarize yourself with assignment marks like “late” “exempt” “missing”



# Uniforms

- Every day students should be in uniform
- Uniform polos must be green, white, or navy
- Pants can be navy or khaki. Skirts can be navy, khaki or plaid.
- Shorts and Skirts should be mid thigh or longer. Skirts require leggings after November 1st.
- Green Polos are required on Mass days.

# Spirit Days

- Green, white, Dowling, or Saint Theresa clothing may be worn.
- Shorts should be MID THIGH or longer.
- No leggings, yoga pants or cargo shorts.

# Eligibility

- **When grades fall below 70%** in a class, students are required to participate in morning 7:30 Academic Assistance until their grade returns to 70% or higher.
- Students will NOT be able to participate in any STCS sponsored extracurricular activities while ineligible. Students should be attending all practices and meetings while you work to improve your grade.
- By the end of the week, students will need to either come in for up to three 7:30 sessions OR improve your grade to at least 70%.
- Once a student's grade returns to 70%, the student does not have to attend Academic Assistance at 7:30 am and is eligible.
- Students with academic plans are excluded from eligibility rules.

# Behavior Levels

- Levels are reminders that your behavior is inhibiting your learning or those in your classroom OR your behavior is against the rules.
- Levels will be recorded for each student in each class throughout day when appropriate.
- Levels helps with communication between teachers and families.
- Levels are immediate feedback on how students can improve and/or holds students accountable for behavior choices.
- Each day all students begin with a clean slate ☺

# Behavior Reflections (BR)

- Behavior Reflections are a communication tool between home and school.
- When a student has received 3 levels in one day, a BR is given to the student.
- The BR form needs to be completely filled out and discussed together and then signed by a parent.
- The BR must be returned the following day to the teacher handed the form to you.
- The BR will be kept in the teacher's files.

# Office Discipline Referral (ODR)

- A teacher will assign a student an ODR if the student engages in a Level 4 behaviors or when a student's daily levels add up to 4 levels in one day. If a student comes home with an ODR, then parents should be aware that behavior had escalated *after* the BR was given and so an ODR was given (the BR is no longer applicable).
- An ODR can also be given for repeated behavior.
- The ODR needs to be signed & returned the NEXT day.
- ODR's may require a visit with Mrs. Watznauer.
- An ODR signed form will remain in the office.

# Parent and Teacher Communication about Student Behavior

When a student's behavior choices result in a BR or an ODR, parents will receive a paper copy of document for you to review and sign with your student. In addition, when possible, a teacher will email/ or call the parent so they are aware of the behavior that triggered an ODR or BR.

The BR and/or ODR must be returned the following day to the teacher who assigned the BR/ODR.

# Parent and Teacher Communication about Student Academic Progress

**Late Assignments:** Once a student fills out the “white paper contract” that states the class, date and missing assignment, parents will receive an email from school reminding the parent/student of the 7:30 academic assistance requirement. Even if the student “finishes” their homework prior to the 7:30 session, attendance is required

**Eligibility:** Mr. O’Connor will email parents when grades trigger ineligibility. Classroom teachers will also send a paper letter home explaining the responsibilities for students who grades fall below 70%.



# Reward Days

- Middle school reward days are:
  - 1 each trimester
  - All students are eligible to attend Reward Days at the start of every new trimester.
  - Reward days will be *based on behavior choices* NOT academic performance.
  - Students will NOT attend the reward trip if they have more than three Behavior Reflections (BR) and/or more than one Office Discipline Referral (ODR).

# Houses are Back!

- Houses help develop leadership skills for all students
- Houses lend themselves to continued interaction between 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.
- Houses promote community within middle school
- Houses are a mix of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> grader students
- Houses are guided by classroom teachers
- Each House has a specific color, symbol and leadership trait
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders serve a House Leaders

# House Activities

- House time is every morning from 8:15-8:20 plus the following:
  - Month Activity with Megs
  - House meetings /activities
  - House Competitions
  - Service Activities (within and outside school)

# MS Teacher Contact Info

Teri Siembieda: [tsiembieda@stsdsm](mailto:tsiembieda@stsdsm) (ELA 7th)

Ronda McCarthy: [romccarthy@stsdsm.com](mailto:romccarthy@stsdsm.com) (6,7,8 Science)

Ashley Mitchell: [amitchell@stsdsm.com](mailto:amitchell@stsdsm.com) (6,7,8 Math)

Katie White: [kwhite@stsdsm.com](mailto:kwhite@stsdsm.com) (6th, 8th ELA)

Patrick Williams: [pwilliams@stsdsm.com](mailto:pwilliams@stsdsm.com) (6,7,8 Social Studies)

Ron O'Connor: [roconnor@stsdsm.com](mailto:roconnor@stsdsm.com) (6,7,8 PE)

Jane Ann Becicka: [jbecicka@stsdsm.com](mailto:jbecicka@stsdsm.com) (6,7,8 Faith Formation)

Elaine Ourslet: [eoursler@stsdsm.com](mailto:eoursler@stsdsm.com) (6, 7, 8 Chimes)

Jennie Gervais: [jgervais@stsdsm.com](mailto:jgervais@stsdsm.com) (6, 7,8 General Music and Band)

Tory Tyrell: [ttyrell@stsdsm.com](mailto:ttyrell@stsdsm.com) (6,7,8, Art)

Marcy Custer: [mcuster@stsdsm.com](mailto:mcuster@stsdsm.com) (6,7,8 Guidance and Counselor)

Please contact us with questions! We are honored to partner with you this year.