

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of second semester. We are looking forward to having a successful remainder of our year. As your children returned from break, they may have had changes to their schedule, particularly in the area of electives. We gave students a new copy of their schedule when they returned on January 5.

We are beginning the registration process for the 2017-2018 school year. All students will be completing online registration at home between January 17 and January 24 through Parent Portal (current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders) and Career Cruising (current 8<sup>th</sup> graders). Grade level counselors have been meeting with students to discuss how this process works. Please ask your child about this information. You can check the FHSD website for a link to online registration and additional details. We will have help available for those families who do not have access to the technology needed to complete the online registration or who have questions about the online registration process on Tuesday, January 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Bryan Middle School computer lab. We will certainly try to honor student requests for electives in this process; however, there are times when not all students get their first choice due to their combination of classes not working out in the schedule. Thank you for your understanding.

Additionally, I want to let you know about an upcoming opportunity for current 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents to learn about and discuss challenge courses and courses students can take in 8<sup>th</sup> grade to earn high school credit. We will host an Academic Night for current 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students on January 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium to review the expectations for those classes.

We will kick-off our spring student fundraiser on Thursday, March 2. Thank you in advance for your generous support – the money raised is used to support our students and teachers in a variety of ways. We are always in need of technology that goes beyond what the district can support. Additionally, we make every effort to bring innovative learning activities to the classroom as well as events such as assemblies to the school. We will be selling yummy Otis Spunkmeyer, Auntie Anne's and Cinnabon treats. Any support you can provide is wonderful!

Our second semester Student Led Conferences will take place on Thursday, March 2 and Tuesday, March 7 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This process is a research-based best practice. Teachers help students prepare for their conference. This format allows students to take ownership and be accountable for their work. We know that conferences will be a productive way for your child to share their progress. If you need to schedule a meeting directly with a teacher, please contact that teacher, and they will be happy to make those arrangements.

I want to personally thank our entire school community for rallying around several causes and charities during first semester. We had a successful "Dodge For A Cure" dodgeball tournament raising nearly \$5,000 to benefit the American Heart Association. In addition, we had a group of students collect 332 books to donate to Ready To Learn STL. National Junior Honor Society led the "Toys For Tots" campaign collecting 175 toys. Finally, we came together as a school community to raise money for "The Giving Tree" which helps less fortunate families throughout the school year. These opportunities continue to demonstrate our students' compassion for others in time of need. We certainly appreciate your support and thank you again for encouraging all our children to take part in supporting their community.

With Patriot Pride,

Dr. Suzanne M. Chester, Principal