

September 19, 2011

Hello Eighth Grade Parents!

We've now had a test in every subject. Grades are also now online. Please come back and check these often as they will show you what your son or daughter is missing and how he or she is doing.

**OPI News:**

You should be working on fund-raising ideas as we have only to January to raise the tuition and transportation costs. We will have to raise the goal this year as we have seen an increase in transportation and tuition. I will let you know as soon as I get an estimate from our charter company, but I believe this year's total cost will be \$415 per student. I will have some information and will be speaking to you about OPI at back to school night.

**Some Dates:**

9/22: Mass at 8:30

9/23: Speeches for Student Council at 8:30 in the gym

9/27: Vote today for Student Council

TBA: 8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat

**8th Grade Religion**

This week's class will focus on the very early Church. We will look at some of the heretical controversies that erupted during this time period. We will also discuss the Church's Jewish roots.

This year in religion, I will be sharing each Sunday's readings with the students on Fridays. This will be a much more powerful lesson if you could please make an effort to take your sons and daughters to Mass on Saturday night or Sunday. I know how busy weekends can get, but as Catholics, the Liturgy is such an important part of who we are as people. We need to give this love of the Eucharist to our children.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade History**

Our first test is Tuesday on early America. We will be moving onto the study of the migration across the Atlantic. The students have been very active with questions in class. We have had some great conversations.

**8th Grade Algebra**

The results of our first test are in. I was hoping for a more positive result. I think the students are a bit intimidated at this time, but I have no doubt we will work our way out

of this. Please encourage studying as this year's pace is quite rapid. I will slow down as needed, but we need to cover certain things so the students are ready for high school.

Algebra class will require daily attention at home. Our students have been very successful on the Prep placement exams because of the willingness of our students and their families to work so hard at their studies. Algebra will be challenging, but I am committed assist each student in reaching her or his goals.