

### **Uniform Information**

- Required uniform is to be worn on Mondays—See the Uniform Policy and Standards on the TCS website.
- PE uniforms are required for all students and may be purchased from Flynn and O’Hara.
- Be sure to get the correct length Blackwatch kilt, which is no shorter than 1” above the knee.
- The shoe policy has changed, please read the shoe policy carefully before shopping for shoes.

### **Summer Work**

Summer work packets have been given to students. Please be sure to read them carefully and have your child follow the directions. Students who do not follow the directions may have a difficult beginning of the school year because they may be asked to redo some of the summer work during the first weeks of school.

### **Textbooks**

Textbooks for middle and upper school classes are to be purchased by the students’ families. Please note the following:

- The middle school textbook list is available on the Community Life page of the website.
- All textbooks are available through Follett Virtual Bookstore. Links are provided on the TCS website.
- Many parents also find reasonably priced, used books through other online sellers.
- *Wordly Wise*, Latin and French workbooks, and the logic book need to be purchased new as they are workbooks. Do not purchase used copies of these.
- Have your child put his/her name in ink in the front cover of the books as soon as you get them. If the books are lost without a name written in them, anyone may claim them from the lost and found.

### **Club Expectations**

Information regarding clubs will be sent to families around the beginning of the school year. Most clubs are open to all students. Some of the clubs require students to bring in supplies, such as Fashion Club. Students may not “try” a club for a few weeks and then “try” another club for a few weeks, etc. They are to commit to their clubs for the year.

### **Advisory Groups**

Students in seventh and eighth grade are called upon to be leaders in their advisory groups for the sixth graders. Please pray about this over the summer and develop some ways in which your child can help to accomplish this. One idea is making sure that sixth graders in the advisory group are welcomed those first few days of school by older students waiting for them at their lockers. Older students can make a point to have sixth graders sit with them in advisory meetings and advisory pizza lunches.

## **Study Guides**

Faculty members are not required to give study guides for every quiz and/or test. Certain subjects, such as math, do not lend themselves well to study guides. Additionally, while study guides can help, they can also become a crutch for students and can impede a student's academic progress. Teachers are not required to include every question on a test on the accompanying study guide. If everything on a test was included in the study guide, we would not be able to measure the students' ability to apply the knowledge they have learned to a new situation, which is critical for developing thinking students. However, faculty members are required to provide thorough study guides for all semester exams.

## **Quizzes and Tests**

Middle school faculty maintain an internal, comprehensive calendar of all quizzes, tests, and project due dates in order to prevent too many of these assessments occurring on one day.

- We endeavor to have no more than two tests on a day, but this is not always possible. There will be days when sixth grade students will have more than two tests scheduled on the same day.
- When keeping track of the number of quizzes, tests, or projects due per day on the internal calendar, we count a quiz as one half of a test.
- Quizzes that occur every week on the same day for the whole year do not count towards this total. These include the weekly vocabulary quizzes, spelling quizzes, and memory verse quizzes.
- We are sensitive to the number of quizzes and tests that a student may have on the same day and in the course of a week, but we also need to be sure to have enough quizzes and tests in every class so that students' grades are a fair picture of their understanding of the material.
- If a teacher only gives a few quizzes or tests in a quarter, a student's grade can be dramatically affected by one bad score.
- It helps students to stay on top of their learning if they know that they will be quizzed on a regular basis.
- Students actually do better with more quizzes over less information than with fewer quizzes over more information.
- If you become concerned that there are too many quizzes and tests in a specific week, please notify the middle school principal immediately so that adjustments can be made, if necessary.
- We also invite students to talk to their teachers if they feel that they have too many tests and quizzes on one day.