

July 27, 2017

Dear CtRCS Middle School Families,

I hope this correspondence finds you all enjoying a holy and happy summer break! I am so looking forward to working together with you and our teachers as we embark on this first year of a complete middle school. How thrilling that in May of 2018 we will graduate our first 8th grade class at Christ the Redeemer Catholic School! With that said, I would like to make you aware of some exciting changes in our middle school program this year, along with some recent developments in staffing.

When your child returns in August, his/her school day will look a bit different. First of all, we have implemented a more traditional seven-period schedule Monday through Friday. As you will see in the most recent Crusader Chronicle, dismissal from school will now be at 3:15 every day, Monday through Friday. Students will rotate through five core classes along with two enrichment classes each day. Core classes include English language arts, math, science, theology and social studies. The two enrichment classes will include a combination of music, physical education (P.E.), art, library or foreign language each day.

In addition, we are excited to offer a more rigorous high school preparation program. This will include pre-algebra in 7th grade and algebra in 8th grade. We also will have earth science in 6th grade, life science in 7th grade, and physical science in 8th grade. All teachers, regardless of subject, will push all students to higher standards within this new curriculum as well as differentiate instruction to meet the needs of our students at all ability levels. Because of these changes, and due to the limited size of our student population, tracking our students into various ability groups, such as an honors-level group, is not part of this new program. Again, I want to ensure you that every effort will be made to meet each student where she or he is at, and prepare all of our students for the rigors they will face in high school.

With regard to foreign language, students will have the option to continue their independent study through Rosetta Stone, or they may choose to take part in a more traditional Spanish class. More information, along with a choice form, will be distributed at parent night.

Finally, while previous student experiences such as Friday service projects and clubs will no longer be available during the school day, we are currently looking at service

opportunities outside of the school day, along with furthering extracurricular activities available to all students.

With regard to staffing, on Wednesday of last week Mrs. Kassi Chase let me know that her husband's job was transferred to his office's Austin location. Therefore, Mrs. Chase had to resign her position at CtRCS. We are so grateful to her service to our community and wish her the best of luck as she starts her new life in Austin. On a related note, Mrs. Alison Clancy will now teach 6th grade science, 7th grade pre-algebra, and 8th grade algebra. Mr. Bob Landrum will now teach social studies in grades 6th through 8th, and Mr. Mark Dolce will remain our theology teacher in grades 6th through 8th. We have been actively interviewing candidates to be our 6th grade math, 7th grade life science, and 8th grade physical science teacher. I am confident we will find the right person.

I would like to end by announcing the newest member of our middle school family, Ms. Leslie Haugh. Ms. Haugh will be teaching English language arts to students in grades 6th - 8th. We were so excited about all she has to offer our middle school students, and I know when you get to know her you will be, too! In the meantime, please read more about her here: <http://www.ctrschool.com/people/leslie>.

I thank you for your attention, and wish you a blessed end to your summer!

Continued Blessings,

Daniel J. Courtney
Principal