



ST. JAMES SCHOOL

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Tues., Sept 1, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

Hello and welcome back to another school year at St. James School, Seaforth. I would like to personally welcome all students to the grade 7/8 classroom, and provide both parents and students with some information pertaining to the up-coming school year.

Your son and/or daughter is in one of the two grade 7/8 classes here at St. James School. This year promises to be fun-filled, exciting, and educational, both for the grade 7's and grade 8's. Being in two separate grades there will be specific tasks and expectations for each grade as well as some combined learning and activities

In order to establish student responsibility for their materials, homework, and assignments homework slips have been created in our classroom. The slips are designed to record any late work, incomplete work, or ill preparation for an assigned task. When a student does not complete a given task as required they will record the task, date, and reason for not taking responsibility for completing the task. Slips will be signed by me and then sent home for a parent's signature. I would ask that all slips be signed and returned in order to ensure parents have been given the opportunity to see and discuss missed work with their child. At the end of the month students will complete a Learning Skills Self-Evaluation form to also let you know how they feel they are doing in school.

By completing these tasks I hope to establish a good communication system between home and school, while allowing parents to be aware of events and activities in the classroom. Attached is a copy of the weekly timetable in Gr. 7/8, outlining the daily routine in our classroom. As you will note on the timetable the typical day at St. James School looks slightly different this year, with the afternoon focused on instruction and the day ending with recess, I look forward to the changes in the schedule and would like to remind both students and parents that the school day still ends at 3:25pm and students will not be permitted to leave school during the last recess break. I have also attached a calendar listing some up-coming dates and events, a new calendar will be sent home each month with any events, tests, assignment dates, etc. that are happening in our classroom. I encourage any feedback regarding student performance, expectations, and communication, and this can be done via email or a call to the school.

The grade 7/8 students will also be participating in a variety of activities, both within the school and the surrounding community. Some of these events will be specifically for the grade 8 students, while others will be specifically for the grade 7 students. Some of these activities include the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (separate programs for 7 and 8), a variety of sporting events and health related activities, Confirmation, Students Parliament, Dance Instruction, the Amazing Race, CASI, Fundraising Activities, Swimming, a year-end trip, and many other educational experiences. With each of these events students will be given the opportunity to explore and experience new and interesting activities while having fun doing so. It is expected that all students participate in both in and out of school activities with a positive attitude and conscientious effort, as they are all based on curriculum expectations and will be evaluated for final assessment.

Overall this year looks promising and exciting and I look forward to the teaching and learning experiences in which I will embark on with the twenty-four students within the classroom. Thank you for taking the time to review the materials attached. I look forward to seeing and meeting you all at the schools up-coming Open House (stay tuned for the date and time!)

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jill McLlwain
Gr. 8 Teacher