

UUAA 9.22.19

Up Up And Away - Notes from the Upper School Director

September 22, 2019

Next week we will be sending out progress reports for all Upper School students. These reports are unofficial snapshots of how students are faring at the midpoint in the first trimester. The reports contain current grades for both core and enrichment classes. Core classes receive letter grades (ABC scale), while enrichment classes are now graded on an ESN scale.

Like coaches at halftime, parents may want to huddle up with their children to discuss the marks on the progress report and how the students are facing the challenges of their coursework. It is early in the year still, but certainly not too early to make adjustments if needed.

Students who have more than two grades below a C- at the time of the progress report will be placed on “Academic Warning,” which necessitates a parent conference and mandatory after-school study hall attendance at least twice a week. Grades of C- or below will also be accompanied by comments from the respective teachers with suggested strategies for improvement. If you’re concerned about your child’s academic progress, please don’t hesitate to contact me or your child’s advisor.

This is also a good moment to remember the bigger picture questions. What is your child most curious about? Which classes or teachers are inspiring your child to dig deeper into the subject matter? Which courses are introducing new or challenging ideas? Which ones may be causing concern or anxiety? What is your child most proud of so far? Progress can be measured in ways far beyond mere letters on paper!

Events This Week:

● Our first “**Fee Dress**” Day is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 25. Upper School students who contribute \$2 are allowed to have relaxed dress for that day (following the rules for such attire stated at the bottom of page 16 of the [Parent-Student Handbook](#)). Participation is absolutely voluntary.

- This week in sports:

Co-ed Flag Football

Wednesday, 9/25 - away at Casas Christian (A team early release at 2:25; game at 4:00; B team game at 5:00)

Girls' Volleyball

Wednesday, 9/25 - away at Lemay Marana (A team early release at 2:25; game at 4:00; B team game at 5:00)

Thursday, 9/26 - home vs. Desert Christian (A game at 4:00; B game at 5:00)

Intramurals (soccer) for 4th and 5th graders continue this week.

- Our **Mass collection** for the World Wildlife Fund continues. Please remind your kids to bring donations on Thursdays.

- In our efforts to build our alumni community, we are excited to hold the very first **St. Michael's Freshmen Fun Night** on Sunday, September 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Student Center. The event will be an informal, fun-filled gathering for our Class of 2019 graduates to talk about how things are going in their first semester of high school. We are hoping that many will be able to join us. Ms. Gould is organizing this evening as part of her new duties in Alumni Engagement, and Mrs. Thiltges is returning to help co-host the event! We've invited a few of our older St. Michael's alums who are now seniors in high school to join in and share some advice on how to juggle successfully the demands of high school. Please pass along news of the event to last year's graduates.

Events Beyond This Week:

- Thanks to 8th Grade Community Service **Team Three**, who made an enormous and delicious meal to feed the patrons of Primavera Men's Shelter this past Saturday. Next up: the same group travels to Casa Maria Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, October 1, to prepare and serve a meal there.

● “**Frozen Fridays**” are wrapping up this coming Friday—they have been terrifically successful. There’s a **Chipotle fundraiser** scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at 6501 E. Grant Rd. to support 8th Grade graduation as well.

● Our **New Parent Welcome** event is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Smith Parish Center. We’d love to see many of our fabulous new families that night!

● **Fall Break** will be here before you know it: October 7-11.

● Our beloved **Grandparents’ Day** event is scheduled for Fri. Oct. 18, from 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. That evening, the annual Upper School **Coffee Cabaret** musical performance will be held from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. so grandparents and other loved ones in town that day might catch both!

● The first middle school (grades 6–8) **dance** of the year is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 25, from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Students are certainly not required to attend and should feel no pressure to do so. Moreover, we have eliminated slow songs to ease the tension and unnecessary drama those moments sometimes create. It can be “wonderful tonight” even without Eric Clapton playing!

Best wishes,

Alex Hawes
Upper School Division Director
ahawes@stmichael.net

Links of Note:

[Main School Website](#)
[School Facebook page](#)
[School Instagram page](#)
[PlusPortals](#)
[Google Classroom](#)

[School Uniforms](#)
[Hot Lunch Ordering](#)
[Student-Parent Handbook](#)

[SMA Volunteer Page](#)

[Main School Calendar](#)

[5th Grade Test Calendar](#)

[6th Grade Test Calendar](#)

[7th Grade Test Calendar](#)

[8th Grade Test Calendar](#)