



**La Salle Institute**  
ESTABLISHED 1850

Middle School families,

This week's Character Challenge - "Greetings & Salutations" is a personal favorite. So many times our young people will look to begin conversations and discussions without using a greeting. We discussed with the boys the importance of starting discussions with "Good Morning," "Nice to see you," or "Do you have a moment?" I believe that this challenge is trickier today because of the way that technology (text messaging, social media) has shaped our language. Additionally, we also talked with the boys about proper hygiene. Using deodorant, combing hair, tying shoes and brushing teeth were all topics that came up.

Our faculty enjoyed seeing many of you at Parent/Teacher conferences last week. Please continue to stay in contact with our teachers about your son's progress. Like every year - all of our students are improving and all are progressing nicely. I personally enjoy watching our students win those "small" victories as they seem to generate the most excitement. Remember to keep talking about goals and goal setting with your son. Have him write them down and put them in a place where everyone in the house can see them.

A few reminders to parents as we head towards mid February:

-Even though it is convenient - texting/calling your son on his cell phone during the school day can potentially put him and our teachers in a unique position. A reminder that cell phones are not permitted to be used in the building between 8:04 AM and 2:30 PM by all students.

-Students who are sick or feel sick need to see the nurse before being dismissed. Should our nurse feel that your son needs to go home or has a concern about your son's health - she will contact you. Parents showing up at the school to pick up their son because he is sick puts our nurse and staff in a difficult position. We have addressed this issue with our students - asking them to see the nurse if they feel sick before calling/texting home.

-As I do every year, I strongly encourage all parents to check your son's cell phone, text messaging and/or social media activity. From my experience, some of the bigger problems take place over the group chat function and using the Snapchat application. It is always a good idea to keep very close tabs on technology usage. Doing so can and will prevent many issues and problems from arising.

Please continue to spread the word about the Middle School. We're looking forward to our March Open House and hope to continue seeing high levels of interest in the school. The absolute best advertising that we can get is positive word of mouth advertising from our families. Share those special stories and those witnessed moments of growth. As we did before, any parents wishing to share a testimonial that we can share on our Facebook page about the Middle School would be appreciated - please send any testimonial to me and I thank you in advance for your words!

I welcome any questions or concerns that you may have. Please let me know what you or your son may need. Keep me posted on his happiness levels in the school and inform me of things that I can do to help him continue his growth. I continue to thank you for trusting in La Salle to educate your son!

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