



St. Joseph Middle School
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Appleton, WI 54911

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Principal: Brad Norcross sjms@acesys.org

April 16, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of Eighth Grade Students:

We would like to inform you of the details concerning the class retreat, Great America trip, and graduation.

Class Retreat

The eighth grade graduation retreat will be held Friday, May 30th at St. Joseph Middle School. Suitable clothing for retreat day is casual. Nice jeans are acceptable (or shorts if the weather is warm.) Lunch will be provided for this event. More detailed information will come later.

Class Trip to Great America

The class trip to Great America will be June 2nd. Students will be able to take part in the trip to Great America only if school work is satisfactorily completed and library materials returned by Wednesday, May 28th. **Students who do not complete their work will be supervised at school that day.** We will leave promptly at 7:00 a.m. on coach buses and arrive back at SJMS by 9:00 p.m. Please arrange to pick up your child promptly at school that evening. Students will need to wear appropriate clothing suitable for protection from sun and inclement weather. The dress guidelines which Great America enforces are:

“In keeping with a family oriented theme park, patrons of the park may not wear bikini tops, tube tops, or caps worn with the bill to the side (which is a gang symbol). All clothing must be appropriate and any patrons wearing shirts containing inappropriate graphics or profanity will be asked to change their clothes or leave the park. All patrons must wear shoes and shirts at all times.”

SJMS also expects students to follow SJMS guidelines for casual days. Modest length shorts will be permitted. Students may purchase food in the park during the day; however, it is expensive so buses will be open for one hour at lunchtime if students prefer to bring a lunch. If students bring cameras or iPod players they must assume responsibility for them. There is no secure place to keep such equipment.

Finals Exams

Eighth grade teachers will be giving final exams from May 22nd -29th. Please do not schedule appointments or vacations during this important time. Students may not attend the class trip until all late work and finals are complete.

Graduation

The 8th grade graduation ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4th. Our graduation is celebrated with a liturgy in the auditorium followed by a reception and dance in the cafeteria. The graduation /class trip fee is \$65.00. This fee covers the cost of coach buses to Great America and admission ticket, class picture, diploma, flowers, as well as other expenses for graduation. Please pay the graduation fee by Thursday, May 1st. Make checks payable to ACES Xavier. If the graduation fee presents a hardship for your family, please contact Mr. Norcross or a teacher for confidential arrangements.

If your child decides not to attend the class trip to Great America, this part of the fee (\$45) may be deducted.

On Tuesday, June 3rd, we will practice for the graduation ceremony and liturgy. If students satisfactorily complete this practice they will not be required to attend classes on graduation day, June 4th.

After a discussion with our School Parish Connection Committee, teachers, staff and students we have decided to hold the graduation ceremony in the SJMS auditorium. We discussed the pros and cons to each venue and felt that overall the auditorium provided the best environment for graduation. Due to space limitations all families will be given **three** (graduates are not counted) reserved seats for family members for the graduation ceremony. Seats will be randomly selected and assigned to each family. There will be a limited number of additional seats available. Please email Mr. Norcross (bnorcross@acesys.org) with your request for additional seats by May 9th. Requests will be randomly selected. If you have special seating needs to accommodate a guest with a physical limitation please call Mrs. Fisher at 730-8849 (ext 303).

Students should arrive at school between 5:45 and 6:15 pm for the ceremony. The graduation liturgy is a formal event so we require boys to wear dress pants (no cargoes), socks, appropriate shoes and a shirt with a tie. Girls are asked to wear a “dressy” dress or skirt of modest style and length. Please have shoulders covered with some type of cover-up for the liturgy. Immediately after the liturgy there will be a reception for students and their families in the cafeteria followed by a student dance. Graduates must remain in their graduation attire, but may bring comfortable shoes for dancing. The dance ends at 11:00 p.m. We ask you to pick up your child at the **NORTHLAND AVE. ENTRANCE** promptly at that time.

These last days at SJMS will be a memorable and meaningful time for your child. By helping your child follow our graduation guidelines, you assist us in bringing your child’s middle school experience to a wonderful conclusion.

Sincerely,

Brad Norcross, Principal
Eighth Grade Faculty & Staff

End of year events—8th Grade

April 17	Class photos taken, 8:00 am
May 1	Return graduation fee and permission forms; indicate if your child will be attending class trip
May 21	Wisconsin History field trip – Green Bay
May 22	Last day for 8 th grade AR tests
May 22-29	Final Exams
May 30	Retreat at SJMS; casual day for 8 th grade
June 2 nd	Class trip to Great America – 7:00 a.m. buses leave SJMS; arrive back at SJMS 9:00 p.m.
June 3	Graduation practice, classroom cleaning, farewell mass; casual day for 8 th grade; yearbook signing
June 4	No school if 8 th grade practice was successful. Graduation liturgy – 6:30 pm at SJMS Graduation reception/dance – 8:30 pm – 11:00 pm