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September 29, 2017

We have had a great start to the school year with so many exciting things happening in our classrooms. Please be sure to login into Schoology (info for help below). I will send out a letter every month or two in an attempt to answer questions and give valuable information about what is occurring at the KISMS. Before I get into that information in this letter, I want to offer a very big THANK YOU to the MS PTO and all of the support our parents give to our students and to KIS as a school.

First PTO Meeting of the year

September 12th was our first MS PTO meeting of the year. It was great to see so many parents in attendance. We discussed a number of topics, but you may also [CLICK ON THIS LINK](#) to see the slides I used during my portion of the presentation. We talked about learning from mistakes and praising the effort and work ethic of our students. Our next PTO meeting will be on October 24th. We hope to see you there.

School Pictures on October 23rd and 24th

On October 23rd and 24th, students will be having their school pictures taken during their PE classes. Depending on which day they have PE (23rd- ABCD, 24th- EFGH) students will go to the mini-auditorium to update their pictures. If you would like to purchase school photographs, more information will be available soon.

Experiential Education (EE) opportunities- closing soon

We will continue to offer our in-country EE trips both in the fall and the spring, but we are continuing to focus on optional opportunities for our students with 6th/7th grade trips to Fiji and Vietnam and an 8th grade celebration trip to Thailand during Spring Break. We are continuing our partnership with Rustic Pathways to give our students these incredible opportunities. All of these trips have a sign-up deadline of October 31st so click on the links below to get more information and sign up your students. The Fiji and Vietnam trips are filled on a first come, first served basis.

[Thailand](#)

[Vietnam](#)

[Fiji](#)

What is Schoology?

Schoology is an information platform where our teachers and the school communicate with parents, students, and staff. It is critical that you are signed up for Schoology and watch for updates. This will allow you to have all of the information you need to support your child in being successful. If you need help setting up your account, please come by the 3rd floor of the G building and visit the Ed Tech Office. They will help you set the account up and make sure you can log in.

Questions about a class?

At KISMS, we want to urge all parents to contact teachers if there are questions or concerns pertaining to any of the classes their child is taking. All of the teachers will gladly respond as soon as they are able to any emails or phone calls. Please remember that communication is key to a successful school system.

Parent Teacher Conferences

The first grading period is coming to an end and we would like to invite you to the fall Parent Teacher Conferences. The goal of this event is to provide an opportunity to meet and discuss every aspect of your child's performance both within the classroom and overall middle school experience. Please take advantage of this drop-in session to understand the social and academic progress of your child.

The Parent Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, October 19th from 1:00 to 5:30 and Friday, October 20th from 8:00 to 2:00 (all staff will have lunch from 12:00-12:45 and will be unavailable to meet at that time). The conferences will be in the Elementary or Lower Gym in B3, easily accessible from the B3 parking garage. For more detailed information [CLICK HERE](#).

End of the Quarter and Powerschool View CLOSED

From October 11th through October 17th, the Parent/Student view in Powerschool will be close for MS grading and comments. On the afternoon of October 17th, the window will be reopened for both parents and students to see the first quarter grades and comments. This is useful information that will be valuable in our Parent Teacher conferences on October 19th and 20th.

What to do if my student has an issue or trouble in a class?

Dr. Elethia Rhoden is our MS Counselor and she is here to support all of our students and parents if there is a challenging time. We also believe it is important for our students to address issues that come up by speaking directly to their teachers (Dr. Rhoden or our administration can help with this conversation) so they can take responsibility for their own education. Our administrative and counseling offices are open and accessible so please encourage your student to connect with us anytime.

After school activities and athletics

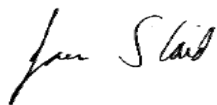
Our MS athletics and activities are now in full swing, providing students with a number of opportunities to try something new and get to know other students in a different setting. Cross country and soccer are going strong. Also, second semester jamboree registration will take place in January. Swimming Jamboree will have its first practice on October 17th and KIS will host on Saturday, November 18th. KIS will host the Fall KAIAC Chess Tournament on Saturday, October 21st. Keep up to date with the MS Athletics and Activities Schoology page and if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Hernandez. He is the KISMS Athletic Director and can be reached at jhernandez@kis.or.kr.

Lockers

All students are assigned a locker and have access during the school day. If you have concerns about students carrying too many items each day, please work with your students to use their locker. If there are issues with any of the lockers, please have your student contact Mr. Hernandez.

Let's continue with the great start we are having here at KIS. We hope you have a great break. As always, if there are questions or concerns, please contact us at anytime.

Sincerely,



Jim Slaid
Middle School Principal
Korea International
School