



Welcome to Middle School at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School!

In all of my classes, I hope to teach students to think critically, see the world from other perspectives, and embrace creativity. I am enthusiastic about helping students make connections to classroom topics: to other topics they have learned, to their own experiences, and to the greater world around them. I love seeing the creativity, energy, and humor my students possess, whether it's through a class project, extracurricular activities, or stories about their lives. I hope to encourage them to learn more about themselves and to reach their highest potential.

CLASSROOM GOALS/EXPECTATIONS/HOMEWORK

I strongly believe that each student is responsible for his or her own learning. While I facilitate lecture, discussion, and activities in the classroom, it is the student's job to come to class prepared to learn and participate. This includes completing their homework on time. If students have questions or concerns at any time, I encourage them to talk to me during the school day or email me after school. I am here to help, but I can't do that without knowing if there's an issue.

Developing an organizational system is important for academic success. Please encourage your child to use his/her planner and accordion folder to keep track of daily assignments, projects, and tests. Homework will be assigned a couple times a week and in general is due the next day. Projects will allow for more time, and students are given guidance in completing their projects in a timely manner. All assignments must be properly headed, neat, in cursive and complete sentences, and turned in on time. I expect students to complete their homework with care and to take pride in their work. Therefore, students will receive partial credit if these expectations are not met, or they may be asked to redo an assignment.

Additionally, I expect student to be kind and respectful to one another at all times. In my classes, we will often discuss personal beliefs, opinions, and questions. I know that students come from diverse backgrounds and as such, their perspectives will vary. It is beneficial to each student's learning to be able to express themselves respectfully in an open environment without fear of judgment and ridicule. It is equally important for students to keep an open mind; one is never finished learning!

RULES/GUIDELINES

In general, Middle School students should follow three main rules:

Respect everyone in word and action

As described above, students should always treat others with kindness and respect. This includes what they say and how they act to each other, to teachers, and to guests in the school.

Respect property

This includes property of others (such as other students' supplies), as well as school property (such as textbooks and classroom furniture). Students should always ask permission before using something that is not theirs; once permission has been granted, they should use the item with care, returning it in as good (if not better) condition as it was received.

Come to class prepared and on time

Students are expected to come to class with their homework completed, and with the required supplies (textbook, planner, accordion folder, notes, writing utensils). They should also be ready to learn!

If a student is not meeting these expectations, I will typically discuss it directly with them first. I make it my goal to help students to learn and grow from their mistakes. I will also keep parents apprised of these situations so that we can work together to fix them. If problems continue, other consequences may apply.

CLASSROOM COMMUNICATIONS

Students and parents can keep up-to-date on their grades through Sycamore. I encourage checking this frequently! Please also refer to the *Redhawk* newsletter and the school Facebook page for information on what's happening at Saint Rose.

The best way to contact me directly is through my school e-mail (mdavisson@mysaintrose.net). I check my e-mail throughout the day and while I may not be able to respond immediately, I will generally reply within 24 hours. You may also reach me on my classroom phone at 651.357.1257, but please keep phone calls to outside class hours (before 7:45AM, after 2:15PM).

CELEBRATIONS

Middle School students traditionally bring a treat to share with their classmates at lunch. Please refer to the Student Birthdays and Wellness Policy sections of the Student/Parent Handbook for more information.

OTHER/EXPERIENCES:

Middle School students get some exciting experiences in Social Studies, including field trips to Minnesota Historical Society sites (such as Fort Snelling and the Minnesota History Center in sixth grade, and Festival of Nations in eighth grade.

Eighth grade is a particularly eventful year. As students prepare for their graduation, they host a Pancake Breakfast, attend an overnight retreat, and perform in their own play!

I am delighted to teach Middle School and to help each of my students achieve success!

Meghan Davisson

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