Communication and Support.

Many ask, what does the Dean of Students do?? – besides imparting discipline. Certainly, evaluating and, if necessary, imposing consequences for inappropriate student conduct is one aspect of the job description. But, the more enjoyable part, and by far that part which takes up the majority of the time as a Dean, is seeking to utilize interaction with students – no matter whether it is interaction through referral, casual communication or requested intervention – as formational opportunities to help our young people grow in character, spirit, and maturity. And yes, indeed communication with students constantly about choices they have made, alternatives to consider, and ways they can simply “do better” but we also strive to connect those choices and actions to the formational objectives and core values of the school. By way of example, even simple choices, such as the decision when to have a phone out during class time or during a test or perhaps choice of attire, avails itself of the opportunity to enhance awareness of things like respecting the classroom environment and teacher, showing maturity in demonstrating focus while delaying gratification, and simply abiding by community standards…awareness that will hopefully help a student make appropriate decisions in the context of college or perhaps a future job.

And, so you know, teachers are encourage to let the Dean (and other school administration) know of situations where student choices perhaps give rise to those formational opportunities, not to “punish” a student but, rather, be able to assist both the teacher and student, if need be, in the student’s formational process. Additionally, notifications by teachers allows us to track both positive and negative behaviors that are occurring which helps identify what intervention or consequences, if any, are appropriate (e.g. for a student’s repeated failure to show respect for example) as well as perhaps assist school leadership and faculty in identifying areas of student behavior where we need to
focus or even clarify a policy or standard. Knowing the key role that you, the parents, play in this important process is also the reason we encourage teachers to communicate with parents seeking parental support and counsel in even what may seem like minor incidents. So, again please understand that we are often copied on those types of communications you may receive from a teacher for one of the reasons mentioned above, not because we are going to impose a consequence on a student.

Bishop Diego High School is here to guide your child through the school, and support you with any concerns you may have, as well. The school encourages you to contact us anytime you have a question.

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