Welcome back to our returning Cardinal families and a big “Cardinal” hello to our new families! I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my role as Dean of Students.

Many ask, what is the role of the Dean of Students? – besides imparting discipline. Certainly, evaluating and, if necessary, imposing consequences for inappropriate student conduct is one aspect. But, the more enjoyable part, and by far that part which takes up the majority of my time as 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. Yes, indeed I talk to students constantly about choices they have made, alternatives to consider, and ways they can simply “do better” but I 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, perhaps choice of attire, or the importance of time management to their academic classes, 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, in fact I do encourage teachers to let me know of situations where student choices perhaps give rise to those formational opportunities, not because I want to “impose” a consequence but, rather, because I want to be able to assist both the teacher and student, if need be, in the student’s formational process. Additionally, notifications to me by the teacher allows me, as the Dean 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 the school needs 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 teacher’s to communicate with parents seeking parental support and counseling even what may seem like minor incidents. Please understand that I’m often copied on those types of communications you may receive from a teacher for one of the reasons mentioned above, not because I’m going to impose a consequence, but for knowledge and support for both the teacher and student.

I hope you have found the above information helpful and I encourage you to contact me anytime you have a question. The school is here to guide your child through the school, and support you with any concerns you may have, as well.

ON A COUPLE OF MORE ROUTINE MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST:

BDHS Parents please be aware of the following…

Summer Service Hours:

Students who volunteered at a non-profit during the summer break need to submit their SUMMER community service hours by Friday, August 30th. Summer hours will not be accepted after this date. A new form for the Fall Semester will be available for students starting September 3rd. Students are required to complete 25 hours of community service each school year.

School Parking Lot:

If you are dropping off your son/daughter please pull to the curb, not the middle of the road, this will help the traffic flow. Keep in mind, first period tardies are unexcused. Students need to be at school in class by 8:20am. It’s highly recommended students arrive by 8:00am to ensure enough time for your son and/or daughter to get their academic materials from their locker and to lock up with athletic gear in the locker room.
Parking Permits: New Date:

All students driving themselves to school will need a parking permit from Mrs. Callow. There is no charge for the parking permit. If a student already has a parking permit from last year, the student must show Mrs. Callow to record the permit # along with vehicle make, model and license plate. The parking permit must be displayed at all times; cars may be towed if there is no permit. In addition students are not allowed to park in the back parking lot, this is reserved for faculty and staff. Students must have a parking permit by Friday, August 30th.

Medication and Cold Season:

With the start of the new school year and the upcoming cold season students may need medications during the school day. A reminder all medications (even for a cold) need to be given to Mrs. Callow in the front office with a note from the parent and/or Doctor. Medications should not be with the student. The student has access to his or her medicine during the day. Also, if your student exhibits flu-like symptoms, with a fever, they should not return to school until 24 hours after the fever has subsided.

Welcome and Go Cardinals,
Ms. Carr

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Dean of Students
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