



St. Cyril of Alexandria School

*Creating Tomorrow's Leaders
Through Inspiration and Innovation*

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"We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures that we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open." Jawaharlal Nehru

March 8, 2017

Dear 8th Grade Parents:

The eighth grade experience to northern Arizona is an exciting trip for the students; all those who have exemplified the behavior and academic achievement of a St. Cyril Cougar will be invited. Students have been hearing from all their teachers that all aspects of the school day are considered; tardiness, discipline issues (demerits, suspensions and other incidents), bullying incidents and academic achievement (grades).

Discipline issues have been reviewed on an individual basis. There is no certain number of demerits chosen as the cut-off, but each student's behavioral pattern has been assessed. Does the student make the same mistake repeatedly? Does the student decide which rules to follow and which rules to ignore? Even perceivably small rules such as dress code and gum chewing must be followed. Does the student treat students and adults respectfully? We are looking for students who can be trusted to do as they are asked regardless of the company around them. At times, students will be alone in rooms with each other, and we must know that we can trust them. All rules, regardless of a student's opinion or point of view, must be followed. There will be no, "I was just joking," or "I didn't think it was a big deal." Trust is a must.

Students who have had a pattern of bullying behavior do not belong on a class trip. This time is one the students will treasure forever, and people with the intention of hurting others do not belong with the group. Students often return from this trip knowing other classmates in a new manner and comment on the fact they wish they knew each other sooner. Again, each student's situation has been assessed on an individual basis.

Timeliness is imperative. This is not a family vacation where a few minutes here and there do not matter. We have a schedule to keep, and we travel with a group of forty to fifty; punctuality is a must. A student's individual record will be reviewed. Does the student repetitively doddle and arrive to class late? Does the student lack the forethought to plan ahead and devise a plan on completing a task in a timely manner (i.e. getting books from his/her locker for class translates to getting showered, dressed and downstairs on the trip)? When a departure time is given, all students must be present and ready to leave at that exact time. Arriving a couple minutes early is recommended.

A student's devotional focus to their academic career is a requirement as this trip is a reward for his/her time here at school. Students who have shown hard work, persistence and dedication towards their school work on a consistent basis will be invited to participate in the eighth grade experience. It's not the letter grade that is the determinant; it is their pattern of work ethic and attitude towards the classroom.

Students will be receiving either an invitation or a contingent invitation based on the expectations outlined above. The invitations are included in this week's School Express.

This trip is fantastic, and each year students come home elated with the time they spent with their classmates in one of God's most beautiful terrain. The sights they will see are truly unrivaled. We look forward to sharing these four memorable days with your student.

Respectfully,
Junior High Department