

NEWSLETTER

Feb 2019

Principal's Message: Time is Important

Dear parents,

Every weekday morning, I enjoy greeting students with a big smile and giving high-fives. My day begins on a positive note with children literally running to school and saying "good morning" to me. By 8:30 AM, school starts and students are to be in class. Unfortunately, some students arrive late.

Tardiness is defined as missing time over a course of a school day. For that reason, researchers reckon it as a chronic problem, noting that some students who turn up late every other day show signs of lethargy and disengagement from school. Researchers also say that students have problems with lateness for many reasons including distractions, cultural differences, skill deficiencies and poor motivation. A student may be also late because he or she lacks adult help to wake up and prepare for school each day. This is where I may need your help.



Several studies have shown that school tardiness has a negative impact on learning outcomes. Some of the researches mentioned that students who are tardy tend to achieve lower grades compared to others and sleeping late is the main reason. By the mere nature of arriving late and missing school hours, students receive fewer hours of instruction than students who are in class when the bell sounds. But not only does a student who is consistently arriving late to school establish bad punctuality habits, their tardiness also disrupts the learning of other students in their classes.

A study by the Hammill Institute on Disabilities looked at tardiness in primary schools. The researchers found that students who are frequently late to school often miss out on important opening announcements and academic activities. "Teachers can become frustrated as late students disrupt instruction, often requiring re-teaching of what they have missed. Tardy behavior can also negatively affect the overall classroom environment," the study says. Moreover, late students are unlikely to feel organized and prepared when they enter the class after a lesson begins. The student may be embarrassed for his or her classroom disruption upon entering late and may not be able to take out necessary materials without causing further disruption. Also, that student may not know what page the classroom is reading in a textbook, for example, or whether there will be a quiz on the material the class is examining.

While many students will be tardy at some point during the year, chronic tardiness can become a real problem. An excused tardy could be used for medical appointments that run longer or an accident that could not have been avoided. The unexcused tardy may occur when a student overslept or, very simply, time is not considered an important issue.

Therefore, an effective tardy policy will soon be implemented. We will be asking a late student (with or without parent) to come to the office, sign a register, and pick up a late notice before going to class. The student will give that late notice to the teacher and the teacher will record the tardiness in his or her record book. Warnings will be given, at first, followed by a meeting with the teacher and/or principal. Other measures will be considered based on the severity of the tardiness and age of the child.

Our weekday school hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Students should be arriving to school during the first 30 minutes of school (8:00-8:30 AM).

We understand that parents have busy schedules, but chronic tardiness generates academic problems for the late student. Please make sure your child arrives on time because punctuality is an important social skill for all children to know. Moreover, arriving on time demonstrates responsibility to your children.

Sincerely yours,
Larry Synclair
Principal



SIS's aquatic programs have started.

For KIK students, this is the opportunity for them to enjoy being in the water and learn how to be safe around water. Two small pools will be available on campus and time will be set aside for each class to participate in fun water activities. Students will benefit from activities that emphasize water adjustment, safety, and swimming readiness skills. Meantime, SIS students will be transferred once a week to a community pool near Can Tho campus. Instructors have been hired to teach students about total body submerging, glides, coordinated breathing, and multiple stroke techniques including the front crawl swim.



Tran Cong Vinh

Vinh is our Student of the Month. This Year 4 student has been doing well academically. Comfortable speaking English with ease, Vinh is also very active in sports such as soccer and badminton.



Good times at SIS...

