

October 6, 2010

To: Smitty

From: Monty Aldrich

THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT OFFICE...

Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up on Monday, October 18. There is no student attendance that day but parents/guardians are invited to make appointments for conferences with teachers. The conferences will be held from 12 noon to 7:30 p.m. to accommodate working parents. While conferences are extremely important, do not forget that you can make appointments and come in anytime throughout the year to check on the progress of your children.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are “the way of the world”. At school, these devices (especially cell phones) continue to be a disruption. While there are many good uses for the phones, I want to alert you of many bad experiences. Cell phones can be used to take pictures of tests then forward to other students who will take those tests later. This is very hard to monitor even when circulating the classroom. Students also know how to text messages to others while having phones concealed. Perhaps my biggest fear is that cell phones could be taken into a restroom or locker room and a student could take inappropriate pictures of another. This could then be forwarded to others, on the internet, etc. and can never be retrieved. While there are rules governing the phones, it is difficult to be everywhere. We do have a video surveillance system but obviously not in those areas of the buildings. While interviewing some students recently, most that we asked said they would send on the average of 100-300 texts per day.

I know I’m not in charge of your child, but here is some free advice regarding cell phones:

1. Unless your child needs a cell phone at school, don’t allow him/her to bring one.
2. Remember: Camera phones are not allowed in school. It’s hard to purchase a phone now without a camera installed. Remember, according to the student handbook, these cameras can and will be confiscated.
3. Check your child’s cell phone at random. You might be surprised at what you will find even if you don’t think your child is capable.
4. Many students leave cell phones in unlocked lockers, in coat pockets, etc. If you lose it, I would imagine it’s not cheap.
5. Students carrying cell phones in school must have the phone turned “off”. Vibration noise against a chair or desk doesn’t constitute “off”.
6. Many students are on Facebook now (which really scares me). Most phones purchased now can get on any internet site including Facebook. You may want to check and/or disable those features.
7. Some parents take cell phones away before their child goes to bed for the night. Good idea...this seems to be when they do most of their texting. Another good time for texting is when they tell you they are doing their homework.

Want to help the school make some money and have it not cost you anything? We have a new program here at North Clay that is very easy to do and won’t cost you anything more than those things you would normally purchase. Many of us use online shopping for our purchases. You can now go to our school website at www.northclayschools.com, click on the fundraising link to

1StepFundraiser.com, and shop at over 250 online stores carrying the things you ordinarily purchase.

When you purchase things on this link, North Clay will get a percentage of the purchase money back. Whether you are buying school supplies, downloading songs, purchasing a gift, booking a hotel or flight, or shopping for Christmas, you can be helping to better the education of our students. The prices aren't higher due to this. It's just an agreement we have made with these merchants. PLEASE be sure to tell your friends and family about this. Every little bit helps!

Please remember that when you have a question, concern, complaint, etc. concerning your child, please start with a solution by contacting the most immediate staff member involved. Our chain of command is posted on our website at www.northclayschools.com. Please review this and follow it for best results in solving issues. I hope everyone is well and we hope to see you out at the Louisville Fall Festival on Oct. 29 & 30. The Kiddie Parade begins at 2:00 p.m. (hopefully on the Square) on Friday, Oct. 29.