



The Weekly Newsletter of Mr. Courchane

October 9, 2026

"Today and every day, be a peacemaker."

Dear 8th Grade Parents:

Conferences are next week. I emailed conference times and am sending those times home you're your student in his or her assignment notebook.

Having taught for 31 years and parented for almost as many, here are some tips for preparing for conferences.

- Talk to your child first: Check in with your middle schooler before the meeting to ask what subjects they feel best about, what feels challenging, and if there are specific questions or concerns they want you to bring up with their teachers.
- Review grades and assignments online or from assignments in the Friday folder: Review recent test scores, missing homework, and teacher feedback so you can target your limited time on areas that need the most attention.
- Prepare a prioritized list of questions: Write down a few targeted questions in advance—focusing not just on academics, but also on your child's social-emotional well-being and behavioral adjustment to the middle school environment.
- Remember, this is about the halfway point of Trimester One, so there is time to improve what needs to improve, strengthen the skills that are already present, and make any necessary changes.

In science students have begun building catapults using the six simple machines.

In religion we are exploring the Holy Spirit's interactions with humanity.

Important Dates

October 13 – CPR training for students

October 15 – Early Dismissal, Parent / Student / Teacher Conferences

October 16 – No School

October 20 – Symphony Field Trip

October 30 – Pumpkins Due.

Sincerely,

Mr. Courchane

8th Grade Homeroom

Middle School Science and Religion

