



Eighth-Grade End-of-Year Items

May 11, 2021

Dear Eighth Grade Parents,

Please carefully read and review the eighth-grade events for the last two weeks of school. You can email the room parents or eighth-grade teacher with questions.

Retreat- Thursday, June 3rd

The eighth-grade retreat will be held at Camp Lutherwood (Lake Samish area) with Joan Williamson as the retreat leader. She has done this for many years for us and does a great job connecting with students and preparing them for the transition to public high school. The retreat will start at 9 am and parents will need to drop off their children that morning at Camp Lutherwood. If you choose to carpool, students should wear masks in the cars and you should stick to your “quarantine circles” as much as possible. Students should bring a bag lunch since we can't prepare food there, but we will be ordering pizzas for them to share at dinnertime. Please share any special dietary needs with the teachers before the retreat. It will end with dinner, Mass, and a campfire. Parents will need to pick up their children from Camp Lutherwood at 9 pm. (We know this is late, but since they can't spend the night we wanted it to be a full day with activities.)

*Please send a “letter of affirmation” to the office through the Wednesday Envelope system no later than May 28th. This is a letter that you will write to your children telling them how special they are and affirming their growth and character. The kids will open these letters and read them at the retreat.

Graduation Dinner- Wednesday, June 9th at 6 pm

Typically, the seventh graders plan and serve the eighth graders breakfast or lunch at their awards assembly the morning of graduation. This year, we are instead planning a special dinner for the graduates and their parents at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club the night before their graduation (Wednesday, June 9th) starting at 6 pm. This is a very special circumstance since we are not allowed to serve food in the gym, and it is not something we will likely do in the future. However, with the money raised in the two large fundraisers (Thank you!) and because the kids have missed so much this year, we thought this would be a special sendoff. Because of the cost, only the graduate and his/her parents can attend the dinner (no siblings, grandparents, etc.). Each graduate will have three places reserved at the club. Please let us know if you will NOT be attending the dinner so that we can let the club know. If we don't hear from you, we are assuming you will attend. This will also be the awards ceremony at which time we will present all student awards. Parent awards and recognition of parents will be done at the actual graduation. The eighth-grade end-of-year slideshow will be played this evening and again after graduation. (We are still searching for a parent willing to put this slideshow together. If you are interested, please contact the office this week.)

*Please note that this day, **Wednesday, June 9th**, is the 8th graders' last full day of school.*

Graduation Rehearsal- Thursday June 10th at 8:30 am

Please have your child at the church on Thursday at 8:30 am for the graduation rehearsal. (If they have younger siblings, 8th graders can wait in their classroom until 8:30 am. We expect this will take approximately 1 ½ hours. Please pick them up at 10 am in front of the gym. There is no school for them this day, and they should return by 4:30 pm for graduation.

Graduation- Thursday, June 10th at 5 pm

Eighth-grade graduation will begin at 5 pm on Thursday, June 10th starting with Mass and ending with the ceremony and diplomas. Each family will be given one pew to fill (eight can fit in a pew) and the graduates will be sitting with their families. Students will be alphabetical by first name. Teachers and staff will be sitting separately (where most have been vaccinated) in the south transept. Because of space in the pews, each graduate may invite up to seven (7) guests to fit in the pew with him/her.

Special notes...

In preparing for Thursday's graduation and celebration, we want to remind you of a few items.

Graduation- Mass begins at 5 PM, but students should arrive no later than 4:30 PM and go directly to the Stafford Room with their graduation gowns. Families should go directly to the church (pews will be marked with the family name).

Pictures- Lee Eberhardt will be taking photos of the graduates receiving their diplomas. We ask that to preserve the formality of the evening, parents only take photos from where they are seated. Following the graduation, the gym will be open and decorations will be displayed from the dinner, but there is no reception provided since we cannot have food in the gym. Students' legacy projects and saint portraits will be on display and the eighth-grade slideshow will be playing in the gym.

Dress code- Students will be wearing their gowns over their dress clothes for the Mass, but if the girls' dresses are low-back or have spaghetti straps, please have them bring a shawl or sweater for after the gowns have been returned. Remember that shoes will be showing, so they should be in good condition. Special leis, stoles, or accessories are permitted over the gown with prior approval.

Yearbooks- These will arrive on Monday, June 7th. Eighth graders will receive them that day with all other students and will have the chance to get signatures on Monday and Tuesday with the rest of the student population.

Diplomas- Your child will be receiving a beautiful, but empty envelope at the graduation ceremony. Diplomas can be picked up any time from Friday, June 11th in the school office. Report cards will also be printed and ready to pick up with the diplomas.

We are looking forward to a wonderful evening of celebrating graduates and their families.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eusebio and Mrs. Demry