

September 11, 2016

Dear Valued St. Marcus Parents:

Greetings in the Lord! I hope and pray that your 2016-2017 school year is off to a great start. We remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in your child's education during their formative years. Many thanks to everyone who attended the M-House BBQ on Saturday evening - it was a great party with fine food, beverages and plenty of dancing courtesy of Mrs. Richter, DJ Vinson, and the North Campus Team.

The school year is *humming* along but there are three issues with which we *REALLY* need your help:

1. Unannounced early pick-ups - way too many!!! Parents **MUST** call in before 12pm to arrange an early pick up. This sounds silly, but an announced early pick up is highly disruptive!! Teachers are teaching, students are learning, and administrators cannot afford time to run around to find children and get them packed up and ready to go early. They really do have more important work to be doing. We are averaging 3-4 a day!! I have asked directors to deny all unannounced early pick up requests. Sorry for the inconvenience and thanks for your understanding!
2. Cell phones!! As I mentioned at the mandatory parent meetings, cell phones in schools and social media outside of school are wreaking HAVOC on the educational process. Please do not send your child to school with a cell phone unless arrangements have been made in advance and you have signed the necessary paperwork. All cell phones must be turned in at the beginning of the school day for safe-keeping and to avoid disruption.
3. Loss of funding - program cuts!!! As of today, over 60 families have not turned in their Household Income Form. These forms are used by the state to determine how much Title funding St. Marcus receives. Title funding has to be used, by law, to provide additional services to students who are struggling in reading and math. When every form is turned in, St. Marcus will receive its fair share of funding. When forms are not turned in, the funding goes to children in other schools. If this sentence has been highlighted, your Household Income Form has not been received. For your convenience, we have enclosed another copy with this letter. Please fill it out and return it to the business office or in the folder of your youngest child tomorrow. Thank you!

As you know, educating children in Milwaukee is HARD. That's why fewer than 15% of our city's kiddos can read or write at grade level. Your strong support (even if you don't agree!) will make St. Marcus a better, more effective school for all our children.

Thank you parents and God Bless!

Henry Tyson

Superintendent