

AMHS Parent Newsletter – January 2012

Jay Hurder, Principal

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas Break. Although it is always nice to have some down time to relax, I also always find it nice to get back into the swing of things and into more of a routine again. It is nice to be back and to see the students at school again! I am looking forward to venturing into our second semester together and all that can lie ahead.

For those students who found last semester somewhat of a struggle academically, the good news is they will have a fresh start. I continue to encourage all of our students to come to school and work hard at reaching their academic potential, and to seek help when they have difficulty. It is my hope and desire that that every student can find that inner motivation that pushes them to excel and not just “get by”. I am also very proud of the students who come to school each and every day and take advantage of the opportunities available to them. We have a lot of those kinds of students here and they are doing great things! Although I am not really sure as to the authenticity of the following statements to students, which have been linked several years ago to Bill Gates, they resonate as true today as ever. I found them to be both poignant and funny, and thought, since we are constantly trying to encourage our students to excel while preparing them for the real world, I would share them. They are:

1. Life is not fair; get used to it.
2. The world will not care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself.
3. You will not make 50 thousand dollars and drive a Lexus right out of high school or college. You will not be an executive or vice president until you have earned it and proven yourself.
4. If you think your teacher is tough and has high expectations, wait until you have a boss.
5. Flipping burgers or washing cars is not below anyone’s dignity. Past generations called that opportunity.
6. If you mess up, it is not your parent’s or teacher’s fault. Don’t point fingers. Learn from your mistakes.
7. Before you were born, your parents were not as boring as they appear now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and rooms, running you all over the universe, and listening to you about how lame the adult generation is.
8. Political correctness may have, in many ways, done away with winners and losers, and then being given as many chances as you desire to get something right. However, that doesn’t have the slightest resemblance to anything in the real world.
9. Life is not divided into quarters and semesters with multiple weeks off. School is. Enjoy it while you have it, and take advantage of it.
10. Television is not real life. Very few people live that kind of entitled life-style and coffee is, and should always be, a two syllable word.

I would like to mention a couple school procedure concerns I have. First, if your student is driving to school, they need to display their parking permits on the rear view mirror. If we find cars parked in the student lot without them, they are subject to ticketing, towing at your expense, disciplinary action, or the loss of parking privileges. Please review this with your students and make sure they comply with our expectations. Also, the lane behind the teacher’s parking row is for drop-offs and pick-ups. This is not new and has worked for some time now. If you feel a need to park to wait for a student, **use a middle or back row** and not the front staff row. This will help eliminate any congestion or confrontations, which we, unfortunately, have recently had. I appreciate your help with these two issues.

Again, if you ever wish to chat, please call and/or make an appointment. I can be reached at 462-2338 or email me at jhurder@abingdon.k12.il.us. Also, please check in with Skyward often. It is a great communication tool!

As always, thanks for all you mean to the students of AMHS.