



Joe Walker Middle School STEALTH Academy

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Good Afternoon Joe Walker Parents,

This is Steve Wood, Principal of Joe Walker Middle School, with your weekly updates from campus. First of all, if you were able to join us at Back to School Night last night, I want to say thank you for participating and hope that your experience was both positive and informative.

Now that we have navigated the first two weeks of school in this unique virtual environment, I wanted to take a minute to remind all parents that school is provided from 8:00-1:55 daily. Which means that your child is required to attend each class according to the schedule in its entirety. One of the things that we've experienced these past two weeks is that students are logging into their classes at the start time, completing the attendance check-in, turning off their microphone and camera, and then mentally or physically checking out for the remainder of the class period. In fact, many teachers have expressed concern that when they called on students to turn their microphone and camera on, the students did not respond to the requests, thereby leading the teacher to believe that the student wasn't actually present during class. Please understand that your child is required to participate in the live instruction throughout the class period just as if we were in school. Therefore, teachers are unable to mark a student present if they are not actively participating in class. Please be sure that your child is refraining from doing non-school related activities during school time, is fully engaged in class, and actively participating in virtual instruction throughout the day.

Lastly, I wanted to share a tip for tracking your child's grades and attendance each day. While the students receive assignments and instruction through Google Classroom, the actual recording of grades and attendance is found within PowerSchool. It is vitally important for each parent to have set up their PowerSchool account at this point. If you haven't set up your account, please do so immediately. Once your PowerSchool account is set up, I highly encourage each parent to set up your "email notifications" on the left hand side of the parent portal. Within this setting, you have the ability to determine how often you want to receive notifications on your child's grades, attendance, and school announcements. Hopefully, this tip will help you stay better connected with your child's school progress.

Thank you very much and have a great weekend.

Steve Wood

Principal