**7th Grade Religion 2018-2019: Seeking the Good, the True, and the Beautiful**

**Key Activities and Dates**

1. **Baptismal Certificate, First Communion Certificate – on file at school**
2. **Mon, October 15, 2018: Parent/Candidate Meeting with DRE and Pastor (time TBD)**
3. **Fri, Nov 9, 2018: 1st Saint Paragraph Due**
4. **Thurs, November 12 - November 13, 2018: Parent-Teacher Conferences**
5. **Wed, November 21 - Sun, November 25, 2018: Thanksgiving Break**
6. **Fri, November 30, 2018: 1st Trimester Ends**
7. **Sun, December 2, 2018: 1st Sunday of Advent**
8. **Fri, December 7, 2018 : 2nd Saint Paragraph Due; Geography Bee**
9. **Fri, December 14, 2018 (evening): Advent Concert**
10. **Mon, December 24 – Wed, Jan 2, 2019: Christmas Holiday**
11. **Sun, January 6, 2019: Epiphany**
12. **Fri, Jan 11, 2019: 3rd Saint Paragraph Due**
13. **Fri, January 18, 2019: March for Life**
14. **Fri, Feb 8, 2019: 4th Saint Paragraph Due**
15. **February March 6, 2019: Ash Wednesday**
16. **Fri, March 8, 2019: 5th Saint Paragraph Due; 2nd Trimester Ends**
17. **Fri, Mar 15, 2019: Confirmation Saint Identified**
18. **Sun, March 17, 2019: Contract of Investiture Mass at 8:15 am (arrive school hall at 7:30 am)**
19. **Fri, Apr 12, 2019: Saint Report Due**
20. **Thurs, April 18, 2019: Holy Thursday**
21. **Fri, April 19, 2019: Good Friday**
22. **Sat, April 20, 2019: Holy Saturday**
23. **Sun, April 21, 2019: Easter Sunday**
24. **Thurs, April 18 – Sun, April 28, 2019: Easter Break**
25. **Wed, May 15, 2019: May Procession**
26. **Wed, June 12, 2019: Last Day of School; 3rd Trimester Ends**

**Middle School 2018-2019: Seeking the Good, the True, and the Beautiful**

**Raising Virtuous Middle Schoolers**

**Our children’s vocation right now….**

1. **Child of God**
2. **Member of the Family (son/daughter, brother/sister, friend, etc.)**
3. **Student**
4. **Everything else comes after the above 3…**

**Spiritual Development**

* **PRAY as a family AND PRAY individually**
* **POWERFUL PRAYERS to say as a family: Divine Mercy Chaplet and The Holy Rosary**
* **Attend SUNDAY MASS together AND CONFESSION frequently together (every 2-4 weeks)**
* **Read SACRED SCRIPTURE**
* **Discuss THE FAITH**

**Emotional Development**

* **Connect as a family everyday: TALK about your day, eat dinner together, review homework and agendas, etc.**
* **Remember that….1 minute they are still little kids, and the next minute…becoming young adults – they are all over the map! We remember, right?**
* **Not all students have access to phones, iPods, social media, etc. Different rules for different families. Honestly evaluate the need for your middle school child to have a phone/device.**
* **“Unplug” and help them create boundaries …If your child has a cell phone or other device…**
  + **No cell phone or social media use before the school day begins**
  + **No cell phone or social media use during homework**
  + **Consider…..cell phone or social media use in the common areas of the house, only**
  + **Consider…..limiting cell phone and social media use in general, as they are still being “formed” - they are fragile (lacking in maturity, temperance, self control, etc.)**
  + **“Friending”, “following them”, and “seeing everything” they do on cell phones and social media, does not prevent the disaster**
    - **Would you drop them off in Times Square in NYC and watch what happens?**
    - **Would you give them the keys to the car if they weren’t ready? Because following them won’t prevent the crash…**

**Physical Development**

* **8+ hours of sleep AND Daily Showers**
* **Exercise/backyard activity**
* **Limit screen time**
* **On time to school, ready with our backpack and lunch the night before (perhaps)**
* **Not just wearing the appropriate uniform, but wearing it WELL**
* **Reinforcing that inner beauty is far more important that outer beauty, and that there are many different versions of outer beauty - and they are beautiful just as they are!**