



March 23, 2017

Dear Parents,

I wanted to address some questions that I received after the grade reports were distributed last week concerning the Honor Roll and Christian Values. As stated in the handbook that you reviewed at the beginning of the school year in order to make the Honor Roll students must have a "P" or "E" in all area of Christian Values to be on the Honor Roll.

We know that each student is a work in progress, and it is our job to help them to become responsible young men and women during their time here at St. Margaret Mary School. This is true in both academics and in character development. As we guide them on the right path, we utilize a variety of consequences when they digress, such as friendly reminders, reflect and correct forms, academic and behavior detentions and verbal redirection and correction. Not every infraction is worthy of a written reprimand, and the determination of whether a student receives an "I" in a particular area is based on the observation, interaction and redirection of the homeroom teachers, subject area teachers, specialty area teachers as well as the recess staff and the principal. When students are given verbal redirection and correction it is designed to help them grow so that they can take the external guidance from the teacher or principal and turn that into an internal guidance that they can monitor within themselves. This will allow them to be able to self-monitor behaviors so they act appropriately for the setting and follow the rules of home, the classroom, on a basketball court or ball field, in a club activity and even eventually at their workplace. When a student receives an "I" in the area of Christian Values, it simply means that they need to give more attention to working on changing those external redirections from a teacher to internal ones. They are in progress of that goal but just are not proficient yet.

In order to help you understand how the teachers arrive at who receives an "I" we have added some new items in the discipline tab on MMS for grades 5-8. Although it is impossible to document every time that a student is redirected or corrected, the teachers will be noting these types of things in that area on MMS. Teachers will be making notations on a weekly or biweekly basis under the discipline tab on MMS for students who are making choices that may negatively impact their grades in the area of Christian Values. This way you can address these choices with your child at home as well.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jean Fennessy

