

# DOLORES SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Parent Monday Memo--September 24, 2018

## THEME OF THE WEEK: EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE--ACT AND ADJUST

The key thoughts in this week's theme are: start small, take action, fail forward and learn.

As you talk with your students this week, remember that the idea behind the growth mindset is that failure leads to success AS LONG AS we adjust. We need to start small, but we have to start. Little bets lead to big rewards. How can you help your student learn this?

- Encourage him/her to break assignments down into small pieces, so that the assignment doesn't seem overwhelming
- Help him/her create a plan for each day. I really like the four-quadrant model taught by Stephen Covey. I created one of these for each of my kiddos by purchasing a cheap black plastic picture frame for \$1.97 at Walmart. Using a permanent marker, I divided the frame into four sections, as described in the video below. They now use a dry erase marker to prioritize the things they need to accomplish. A great way to use this is to sit with them once weekly to plan out the upcoming week.
- [Covey's 4 Quadrant Week Plan](#)

## REACH OUT TO TEACHERS

We are now just past the midpoint of the first quarter. Time is flying! Your children's teachers want to hear from you with questions, concerns, and celebrations. Please feel free to leave a voicemail for any teacher at any time, or shoot them an email. They will respond to answer questions and give feedback.

If you are not sure how to access your students' grades through the PowerSchool parent portal, please get in touch with Susan, and she can get you to the right place.

## SPIRIT POINTS UPDATE

With Homecoming, Seniors pulled ahead, and now lead with 380 points.

2nd place: 7th grade

3rd place: (tie) 8th and 9th grade

4th place: 11th grade

5th place: 10th grade

This week, students will earn points through attendance, behavior, grades, and attendance at MS volleyball and HS football on Thursday.

**One week remains in the monthly contest...whoever is ahead on Monday will receive treats in advisory on Tuesday!**

## **A NEW PLACE TO ACCESS ALL DOLORES PUBLIC ACTIVITIES...**

Susan, our fearless Administrative Assistant in the Secondary School, has been hard at work making sure that all events are posted on our District Calendar on the website.

### [DOLORES CALENDARS](#)

## **UPDATE ON JOEY**

Joey has been moved to the Pediatric ICU, and has been taken off the paralytic drugs. He is still being sedated, but is starting to respond to stimuli such as noise and heat. These are good signs! A benefit dinner is being planned for October 13. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Kristin Pejsa at [kpejsa@dolores.k12.co.us](mailto:kpejsa@dolores.k12.co.us).

## **AND FINALLY...A WORD ABOUT ATTENDANCE**

Below is information from the Student Handbook regarding attendance. Please note that we can not, by law and by policy, excuse absences for any other reasons than those listed below, even if you call in.

- Absences Excused: Parents/guardians must verify a student's absence within 24 hours of their return to school. Parent(s) may call the office at 882-7288 between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. If excused absences become excessive (at or before ten days), the school may require a meeting with the student and parent to develop an Attendance Responsibility Plan.
  - The Principal or designee may require proof regarding excused absences, including statements from medical sources.
  - Board-approved reasons for excused absences include the following:
    - Illness/injury/death/family emergency/discipline/court
    - Approved appointments/school sanctioned activities and/or prior arrangements initiated by the parents/guardians and approved by the Principal or designee. **Pre-arranged absence requests MUST BE submitted in writing one week prior to the absence.** Students are responsible for collecting homework for any pre-arranged absence PRIOR to the absence, and submitting it upon return to class.



\*\*Hunting season is coming up. If your student will be missing school for hunting, please complete the pre-arranged absence form available in the office.\*\*

