

January 29, 2012

Dear SLES Fifth Grade Parent:

With the first semester of our school year behind us we find ourselves well into the second half of our year while at the same time preparing for the 2012–2013 school year. Our teachers and directors have already had many discussions regarding next year, but I feel it important to keep you well informed and assist you in becoming more familiar with the University Campus, our Middle School, and particularly our 6th grade.

In experiencing my own children's move from one campus to another, while simultaneously entering middle school, I remember well the apprehensions I had for my child's transition from elementary school to middle school. Even though I was very familiar with this transition as a teacher and principal, as a parent I wanted my children's experience to be a positive and enjoyable time for them.

Having spent many years in middle school and as a middle school principal, I feel that I can contribute in a positive way to this time in your child's life as well as help you better understand the changes that will take place. Some of you have already experienced this move with one or more of your children. I feel that it is still important that you are well informed as we are consistently assessing our school culture and environment to make improvements and offer our students an excellent educational experience.

As always, each newly arriving 6th grade class comes to us with its own unique personality and challenges. It is our responsibility to be ready for your child and to offer them the best environment possible for their development. To provide a positive middle school experience it is important that we plan around the students' needs.

We enjoyed having 5th grade students visit our campus this past January 12th when they had lunch with us and attended the Geography Bee. It was great to have several parents accompany them. I would like to invite all 5th grade parents to attend a parent night, "Leaping Into Middle School", on either of two dates. We will host the first night this Thursday, Feb. 2nd, at 6:00 PM, and the second session on Thursday, Feb. 9th, at 7:00 PM. Both parent nights will take place in the University Library. The presentation for both nights is the same. We are offering two sessions in hope to accommodate your schedule.

Please contact me if you would like to meet with me prior to these dates or if I may provide information to you in any way. I look forward to meeting you and learning how I may best help you and your child as they enter middle school. Each child is unique to us.

Sincerely,

Patsy Horn
Middle / Upper School Director
St. Luke's Episcopal School
phorn@stlukemobile.com
Phone 666–2991