

Dear Parents,

Setting expectations is essential to success. Our faculty is working on the establishment of clear expectations at Christ the King. It is important to set goals for both teachers and students. This is why there are common standards in all fields. As you know, your occupation has its own set of standards. We all appreciate guidelines that are understandable and clear to follow, just as we appreciate our guidebook for how we should live our lives as Catholics and the example we have in Christ Jesus.

As educators, we have a framework for common expectations for teaching. This framework is used to assess teachers' planning and classroom instruction. Of course, we also have standards for student learning. These standards have been established over the years in each content area. Like all schools, CKS also formulates behavioral expectations for our students. Having clear expectations in all these areas is important and necessary, and as I said at the beginning of the year, focusing on goals is a goal for us this year!

This week we are reviewing and reinforcing behavioral expectations in the hallways and in common areas. Teachers are reviewing procedures, which include where students should be in the halls and appropriate voice levels they should be using. Next week, we will review cafeteria behaviors. How we communicate these goals and expectations is also important. They should be well defined so students can easily understand them and have success in meeting them.

We want the same for learning, as well. In the classroom, teachers set learning targets for each lesson. These targets are based on the standards, and are written from a student perspective with user-friendly vocabulary that allows students to grasp the purpose of the lesson. The goal is to hit the target, and the target should be measurable and specific, allowing students to perceive the outcome of their learning. A couple of examples of a learning target are: "Describe characteristics of the solar system," and "I can identify triangles."

Using learning targets paves the way for intentional learning. Making those targets clear to our students helps to move students closer to the skill we want them to master. You can't hit a target if you don't know what it is. Targets are posted in consistent locations in the classroom, and are repeatedly referenced during the lesson. When you ask your child "What did you learned today at school?", you should hear them repeat those targets back to you, such as "I can write a persuasive paragraph."

We are here to serve our families and our mission, and to provide our students with an excellent educational experience. Working to connect targets and properly to assess our students will lead us to the accomplishment of our goals. We thank you for your support and encouragement in our work.

Many Blessings,

Paula Smith, Ed.S.
Principal