

April 16, 2018

Dear Titan Parents,

It was a great week last week, and this week will be, as well. The students did an excellent job handling the modifications we made to movement in the building as a result of STAAR testing on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the students taking the tests did a great job, as well. A second round of STAAR testing will occur the week of May 14th. I want to give a shout-out to our **PALs** students and their teacher, **Coach Johnson**, as well as to our **broadcast students** and their teacher, **Ms. Larges**, for organizing a great dance for our 6th and 7th grade students on Friday. Fun was had by all, and it has been a long time since SLMS has hosted a dance. Thank you, also, to all the staff members who stayed after school to help chaperone! Last week was also **National Assistant Principals' Week**. I am so happy to have a great team of administrators to work alongside with and to support our students and teachers. If you haven't taken the time to do so yet, **please send your child's grade level assistant principal a thank you note or a note of encouragement**. AP's wear many hats, and they work hard to keep our school headed in the right direction. Here is a list of AP's by grade level, along with their email addresses:

- 6th Grade - Ms. Sarah Brown sarah.brown@fortbendisd.com
- 7th Grade - Mr. Luster Goodwin luster.goodwin@fortbendisd.com
- 8th Grade - Mrs. Monika Martin monika.martin@fortbendisd.com

If you have kept up with my weekly emails throughout the year you likely noticed that there is a recurring theme in them, which relates to personal devices and social media. This message is no exception. Increasingly, digital devices are becoming a distraction at SLMS. While they have their proper place and they are tools for this new digital age, it is up to us as adults, teachers and parents alike, to set boundaries for our children and to model proper use ourselves. We have had an increasing number of incidents where devices have been used to taunt and possibly bully students--cyberbullying--especially through the use of picture-based social media apps, such as Snapchat. **Please take some time to review positive social interactions with your child, as well as to review the media content on your child's device(s).**

An additional item to consider related to digital media is the game of **Fortnite**, which is available in app form for mobile devices, as well as for traditional computers. This past week, the **Today Show** aired a segment that demonstrates how easy it is to become addicted to this game and also how to tell how much time your child spends on any particular app. [To view the segment, visit this link.](#) Additionally, and in keeping with previous messages about digital devices, please take a moment to consider these recent articles:

- *Consumer Reports* - [Kids glued to smartphones, video games could signal addiction](#)
- World Health Organization (WHO) - [Gaming Disorder](#)
- American Academy of Pediatrics - [Children and Adolescents and Digital Media](#)

We are your family's partners in your child's education. We recognize that digital devices are here to stay, but we must model their proper use in time, place, and purpose, and we must also be bold enough to draw a line somewhere for our children. There will be a high price to pay if we

do not do this together. Students found to be using devices inappropriately or at times when they are not authorized will receive disciplinary action.

Items for This Week:

- **Pajama Day - Thursday, April 19th** - This is a fundraiser for the Cheerleaders. Wristbands will be sold for \$3 during lunches Monday through Wednesday in order to participate. Some guidelines for Pajama Day:
 - Pajamas must meet all aspects of the FBISD dress code
 - No "onesies" or pajamas with attached footwear
 - Proper footwear (i.e. no slippers, jandals, slides, character slippers, bunny slippers, opera slippers, etc.)
- **Student Holiday - Friday, April 20th**

Thank you for allowing us to serve your children. It is a responsibility that we don't take lightly. SLMS has great kids and great families, and I hope you have a wonderful week!

Sincerely,

Keith Fickel, SLMS Principal