



SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA SCHOOL



“EDUCATING STUDENTS FOR THEIR LIFE’S JOURNEY HOME TO GOD”

Thursday, September 29, 2011

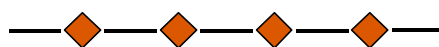
To: Parents
From: Doug Lonneman
Re: Out of Recess

At the September School Committee Meeting, a concern was voiced regarding removing students from recess for academic and behavioral reasons. Parents argued that students need recess time for exercise and to “burn off some energy”. The issue was discussed by teachers and school administrator in great length at the faculty meeting the following week. The following is a summary of key points.

- The majority of students who are out of recess do so because they either have work that was not completed in class or teachers are working with them one on one or in a small group.
- Most of the students coming in are doing work that they did not finish in class due to lack of time or lack of focus and effort on their part.
- Teachers feel that all of the work done during the day is important and should be completed within the school day if possible.
- Incomplete work could be sent home but teachers felt that in many cases, this would add to the amount of homework already given and be too much for some students. This procedure also causes additional time for teachers tracking and sorting classwork that is sent home and returned at a later time.
- Teachers stated that class work that is done at home, with parent help, cannot be used to accurately gauge student understanding of a concept (the reason for classwork).
- Students who need additional help on material can be seen during recess time instead of before or after school which adds to the length of their school day.
- The most important thing for a student is being able to master a skill that is taught. If this does not happen, recess time allows teachers to work with one or a small group of students giving them a second chance to learn a concept that they may not have grasped during the regular class instruction.
- Teachers are willing to give up their own lunch time to work with students because they feel it is important.

Out of recess was also discussed in regards to use as part of the discipline process. Since a discipline measure is meant to deter bad behavior, it is vital that it be something that is important to students. Since students like and want to go to recess, it is an effective deterrent and therefore an important part of the discipline process. Teachers felt that this was the case and could think of nothing else that would work as well.

In all cases, the parent should be aware of the circumstances in which a child may be taken out of recess. Parents should be contacted and specific reasons given if their child will be taken out of recess on a regular basis.



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