

August 1, 2008

Dear Eighth Grade Advisees and Parents,

Welcome to your culminating year at Rowland Hall-St. Mark's Middle School! This mailing will include a packet of materials, some to fill out and return to school, and many more to read. As your advisors, we will see you everyday; our advisory groups will meet first thing in the morning. During that time we will have announcements, discuss topics, complete activities, plan celebrations and community service activities, clean out lockers, and even conduct last-minute reviews for tests. We are the ones you and your parents will call with questions and/or concerns, and we will keep track of your progress through team meetings with the other teachers, in order to report back to you and your parents. Please let your parents know that if they have any questions regarding school issues or your progress, or if they need to let someone know about an upcoming absence or event, they should call us. Advisory information is on the back of this letter.

Our first official school event will be Orientation on Tuesday, August 26 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Middle School Commons. We will have some brief introductions, and then you will meet with your advisor to get your schedules and locker assignments. If you are not able to attend orientation, we will give you that information when you arrive at school.

The first day of school is the next day, Wednesday, August 27. You will need to be here when the first bell rings at 8:15, and you will be dismissed at 3:40 p.m. If you have any questions, please call the main office at 355-0272.

In addition to knowing the dates of our back-to school season, please mark your calendars for the eighth grade class trip. Middle School class trips are an annual tradition in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. All students are expected to participate, and the experience is socially and academically rich, full of lasting memories for all. The following list estimates the costs associated with the eighth grade trip for the 2008-2009 school year. These costs will be charged directly to the student's family. In the case of an emergency, please know that any parents needing to cancel within four weeks of the departure date may risk being charged.

Eighth Grade Camp Ocean Pines

Monday, September 22 through Friday, September 26	\$555.00
Camp Ocean Pines Fee	\$300.00
Air Transportation & Ground Transportation	\$245.00
T-Shirt	\$10.00

This will be our second year at Camp Ocean Pines in Cambria, California. The students will fly from SLC to Los Angeles on Monday, September 22, and will then be bussed an hour up the coast to the camp. The students will spend five days examining tidal pools, restoring hiking trails, and forming new and lasting friendships. They will return on Friday, September 26. We are excited to see every student on the trip and get to know each other better.

We look forward to seeing you at Orientation on Tuesday, August 26!

Sincerely,

Betsy Caldwell, Aaron Hinton, Mike Roberts, Bill Tatomer, and Sarah Young