

Mann MS Parent Email 9.13.21

Good Evening Mann Parents!

Our fine arts and athletics programs have busy schedules this week: Football is playing against Wylie East (7th grade today at home and 8th grade tomorrow at Wylie), Cross Country is running tomorrow at Jim Ned, Volleyball plays Thursday at Mann against SA LoneStar and our band has their AHS parking lot concert tomorrow at 6. In addition, our journalism class has produced their first Mannouncement video and we already have artwork displayed in the hallways. There is so much great going on with staff and students! I hope I get to see you in the next few weeks at some of our student activities.

I want to make you aware of some online and social app programming that is targeting your child. Recently TikTok released a "challenge" for students to steal from school, record the item they stole (or record while they were stealing the item) and post it as a response to the challenge. Unfortunately, it has perpetuated vandalism and random acts of theft all over the world and at Mann MS. Please check with your children and look at their devices and their use of apps and most importantly, talk to them about your expectations for success at school. TikTok does not filter or have any limitations on what people can create, post or invite others to do. Anyone with an email address can join TikTok and many of our students have accounts with TikTok. Another TikTok challenge from 2 weeks ago was to mix KoolAide or another red substance with liquid and spray it in public (including school) bathrooms and video the vandalism and post it on TikTok. Middle School Students are in a stage of development in which risk taking is very prevalent and some of these TikTok challenges are encouraging kids to participate in activities they would never normally do and that are destructive to the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

I also want to make you aware that there are Zoom invitations to students providing passwords to open Zoom meetings in which people join and view horrible things. The kids don't know what they are joining when they join Zoom with these random word or suggested passwords. Please talk to your child about the dangers of joining anything online that is not someone that they know directly and that you know they are doing. The best way to keep your child safe is to be a part of every app that they use because you are on the app and you view what they do on the app. I appreciate your partnership and want to keep your children safe at school and the best way I know to do that with social media is to ask for your help in monitoring devices and apps.

We have 2 weeks until the end of our first six weeks and Saturday School will be held this Saturday from 9 to 11:45 a.m. at the Mann LRC. If your child needs extra time working on anything for this six weeks, please take advantage of this opportunity. Students and parents can request work from teachers and sign up with Mr. Fuller by Thursday afternoon to come and get help.

In accordance with TEA I need to report to you that 4 Mann Falcons tested positive for COVID19. Please see the district COVID dashboard for more information at abileneisd.org/covid19dashboard.

We are going to have a great week at Mann and I appreciate your partnership to support our Amazing Mann Falcons! Please let me know if I can help in any way.

Sincerely,
Kathy Walker, Your Mann MS Principal