

RICE

Memorial High School

A Message from the Principal

December 11, 2020

Dear Rice Families,

As we head into the 3rd week of Advent, I wish to highlight the significance of this week: Gaudete week. Gaudete means “rejoice.” The only rose-colored candle is lit on the Advent wreath and the priest wears rose vestments - rose to signify a joyful tone in contrast to the purple which is more somber. What are we rejoicing? That the Lord is near. The Lord is coming and He does not delay.



These words echo the longing in every person's heart for hope. We hope for God to bring healing to our loved ones, to bring better times during a pandemic, to release us from oppression and injustices - the list goes on and is unique to each individual. However, in our waiting lies a secret - God is already with us! He dwells with us, and hears us. We may not always see Him, but I invite each of you to stop and look around you. There is much good in our lives if we choose to see it and where there is good **there is God**. There is much to rejoice in! I say it again, rejoice! For the Lord is near and loves each and every one of you.

Christmas Spirit Week:

In the spirit of rejoicing, next week, we will celebrate Christmas Spirit Week! While we are doing extraordinarily well making school as normal as possible during a pandemic, we are missing the opportunities to build community and friendships, and make memories. I hope next week's events help and inspire a spirit of rejoicing.

We invite you to join us from afar in this celebration, even down to the dress-down days (provided your bosses will permit it!). Additional details will follow next week.

Christmas Spirit Trivia

Every day except Wednesday will feature a Christmas trivia competition. Twice a day, everyone will be able to access two timed trivia contests with prizes! Throughout the competition, participants will immediately see how well they are doing against each other. At the end of each day, we draw daily winners from a lottery of the top competitors for that day. At the end of the week, the top competitors throughout the week will be entered into a final lottery for the *grand* prizes.

Trivia questions will be in two categories (in case you want to study up over the weekend!):

- *Christmas Spirit (Hint: Listen carefully to the Gospel passage during morning prayer!)*
- *Christmas Savvy (Hint: Everything Christmas-related)*

Scavenger Hunt

Each day, students will be told about three (3) items hidden throughout the school. When a student finds one or more of these items (only during permissible hall passing time), they will enter their findings in an app (Crowdpurr) and be eligible for a prize at the end of the day. And, yes, someone could possibly win more than one drawing.

Dress Down Themes

Sponsored by Student Council in collaboration with Administration (aka Mission Christmas Spirit)

Monday: Red and Green Day

Tuesday: Dress as your favorite Christmas character: Santa, Elf, Reindeer, etc.

Thursday: Ugly Sweater Day

Friday: Christmas Pajamas Day

We have a few more fun things up our sleeves, but in the spirit of Christmas, we will keep those a surprise!

In celebration,

Lisa Lorenz