

Dear Parents and 8th Graders:

The upcoming year holds many exciting activities, such as 8th grade trip, 8th grade rings, Graduation, applying for high school, 8th grade pictures, 8th grade T-shirt, 8th Grade Scrapbook Video, baby pictures, and 8th grade luncheon. Correspondence is very important! Your child will be bringing things home that will need your prompt attention.

8th grade trip information - This will be made available in early September; the deposit will be due at the end of September. The deposit for the trip last year was \$350.00 (which was half of the total amount), and the balance is usually due in January. Each year the price is subject to change, but this should give you an idea of what to expect. As the paper work you will receive will explain, this includes room, tickets, hotel, transportation, and all meals but one. The exact itinerary for next year's trip has not been finalized; this is why last year's price was given. You and your child will receive more information as it becomes available.

8th Grade Ring - Information will go out in September. The deposit of (usually) \$20 is due with the order. The balance is (usually) due before the rings are delivered. Last year the ring cost was approximately \$50.00.

Applying to a High School - In late September you will receive a letter from Ms. Butera regarding counseling for applying. In October, each child's parents will have an opportunity to meet with the principal and discuss the high school best suited for their child. If you are unsure which high school is best for your child, this meeting will be very useful in making this very important decision. Usually, in late November the cards are given out for applying to the Catholic high schools. You will complete the card, return it to school for the principal's signature and we will send both the card and the transcript to the school of your choice. We only provide the transcripts for your child's years with Lake Castle, so if your child attended a school prior to Lake Castle, you will need to contact that school to obtain the required transcripts. There is a deadline for this information to be submitted, so please pay careful attention.

8th Grade Pictures - In December you will receive information from Loupe Photography for the 8th grade pictures. These pictures are in casual dress and are usually taken in January. The fee depends on your order. It is very important that each child keeps his/her appointment so that the composite (which is the 8th graders' "surprise" gift to Ms. Lydia) will be ready in time for graduation.

8th Grade T-Shirts - In September your child's 8th grade class will design their 8th grade t-shirt. The fee is in the \$10-12 range. The students wear these shirts over their regular school shirts. The design usually includes each student's name. These shirts are worn for 8th grade class pictures and the Disney Trip group picture.

8th Grade Graduation - In May you will receive information regarding graduation, such as graduation fees, how you would like your child's name to appear on the diploma, ticket information - for the ceremony and the reception, graduation rehearsal, and graduation video information. The boys will have the option of renting a tuxedo for the graduation; you will receive information in November.

8th Grade Video Scrapbook – This is something that has become a tradition, and the more participation we receive the better it will be!! A video scrapbook for the Graduating Class will be put together. Each student will need to bring in photos from their years at Lake Castle and from their early childhood; please put your child's name on the back. The more photos we have, the better it will be. Quality is very important, so when choosing the pictures you send us - remember QUALITY. Our goal is to include every student; please understand if you or your child fails to submit any pictures, your child may not be featured as often as you or we would like. All photos to be considered for this project must be in no later than **April 1**. The 8th Grade Luncheon photos will be accepted after this date.

8th Grade Luncheon – This is a luncheon attended by the students and hosted by the Interested Parents' Club. In May, your child will receive an invitation with the date, time, and place for the luncheon. The dress for the luncheon is casual, NO jeans – please.

We hope this information will be helpful in making you aware of the upcoming activities for your child's 8th grade year. Have a great summer! We look forward to a great and memorable year.