



October 2021 Newsletter

I recently read a commentary concerning the impact of cell phones on children today and the effects that are manifesting in the classroom. Technology is an amazing thing and has made our lives so much better in so many ways but, like anything else, there is a downside to all things good, when and if they are misused.

It has been about fourteen years since we have had these “computers in our pockets”. In his book *“Hollowed Out: A Warning about America’s Next Generation”*, Jeremy Adams, a civics teacher of 24 years, discusses things he is seeing in the classroom and how he believes technology is negatively affecting the younger generation. Here are a few of the things he believes cell phones and other technological “advancements” have had a negative impact on our children:

1. **Students are embracing a value system that is completely untethered to adult values.** Do they understand the value of work? Do they understand childhood is preparation for adulthood? Do they have a desire for relationships, marriage, or family?
2. **Students seem to be less patriotic than ever before.** Do they understand that our freedoms are the result of the sacrifices of those who fought to keep America free? Do they understand what it means to be an American and what American values are, such as hard work, self-government, and the right to own private property?
3. **Students seem to be more unhappy, lonely, and isolated than generations before them.** Adams says today’s youth seem much more radically individualistic than previous generations. Rising suicide rates are just one result of this problem. Are they going out and socializing? Do they have real friends?

Adams believes, and so do I, that the reason for much of this falls on the adult generation. We have given young people freedom but haven’t necessarily taught them the values, knowledge or insight needed to use that freedom well. Failing to teach our youth that with freedom comes great responsibility leads them to see freedom as tantamount to indulgence or licentiousness. Neither of these connect to the important things in life.

There is still time to turn this situation around, though. Everyone wants to do better and that is a great place to start. Young people know they are addicted to their phones and need to live differently. Parents know they need to do things differently, too, like insisting on more family time, getting more involved in their neighborhood or community, and maybe even going to a church, synagogue, or mosque. According to Adams, parents and teachers need to start “adulting” again, which means putting ourselves in the physical, intellectual, and moral spaces of young people. Things don’t generally change for the better until we make changes in ourselves. We know from history and from personal experience that things never get better by doing nothing.



Friday, October 8 is the end of the first grading period. Students will be dismissed at noon on this day. If your student needs to stay until 2:30pm to make up assignments before report cards go out, you will be contacted by their teacher(s). *Arrangements must be made prior to 10/8 for students who need to remain after school.*



Monday, October 11 is Columbus Day and school will be closed.



Report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, October 13.

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October is our Fall Parent/Teacher conference month. If you have not yet set up a conference, please contact Mrs. Lynam to set an appointment. Due to the number of conferences being scheduled we have allotted 15-20 minutes for each meeting. Available MAP test results will be discussed. (Kindly contact the office if you are not able to keep your appointment or if you need to reschedule.)



We will observe Red Ribbon Week the week of October 25th through 29th. During this week, teachers will be discussing the dangers of drugs and alcohol and the impact they have on the lives of students and families.

Our next All Pro Dad meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26 at 7:30am. Team up with other dads and students for a quick, fun breakfast meeting led by Mr. Stone. Take away great tips and resources to strengthen your relationship with your child. (Mom's or grandparents are welcome to attend if dad is not able to participate.) Visit www.AllProDad.com to learn more.



Students will be permitted to dress in school appropriate costumes on Friday, October 29, according to the following guidelines:



- No scary, bloody or vulgar costumes
- No weapons
- Masks may only be worn when students are outside
- Face paint is permitted, but nothing bloody or vulgar

Please discuss these guidelines with your child and plan accordingly. It is recommended that you send a change of clothes for your child in case they become uncomfortable during the day, or in case they are asked to remove their costume. Mr. Stone will have the final say regarding students wearing anything that is questionable.

We care what you think! Please take a few moments to complete our [Parent Survey](#) and share your feedback about Center Academy - Riverview.

Mr. Stone
Director

"You cannot subsidize irresponsibility and expect people to become more responsible." - Thomas Sowell