



## SPARTAN NEWS - January 2019

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Dear Seven Oak Families,

Happy 2019!! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends, and that the new year is off to a great start. We are excited to be back in the building after the winter break and are working hard to ensure that all of our students have a successful finish to the first semester. On that note, please take a few minutes to ask your student about their current grades and make sure they are on track to pass their classes for this semester, which ends on Thursday, January 24th. Middle school is a great time to develop the academic skills and healthy habits necessary for high school and postsecondary success, and we appreciate your partnership in helping all of our students do their best work here at Seven Oak.

Another habit we are helping our students develop as they take responsibility for their learning is being on time to class, ready to learn. To that end we have updated the tardy procedure in our student handbook. In an effort to minimize missed class time, students will no longer be required to get an admit slip from the in-school suspension room when tardy to class, instead they will go directly to their next class. We still want to express the importance of being punctual, so consequences in the new policy are as follows:

- 3+ tardies in a week results in a lunch detention
- 6+ tardies in a week results in a Wednesday School (1:40 to 3:40 after school on Wednesdays)
- 9+ tardies in a week results in lunch detention for the week, Wednesday School, and alternate passing times.

Students with an excused tardy should still bring a note from their teacher excusing the tardy. Students late at the beginning of the school day still need to check in at the main office.

### **Counselors' corner**

- Seven Oak is pleased to announce that we are partnering with Jackson Street Youth Services to offer some impactful group opportunities for our students! The first no-cost group opportunity being offered is a Girls Circle group that will focus on skill-building and empowerment. If you have any questions, please contact our Counseling Team!
- A fresh year and a fresh start! The SOK counseling team is taking the opportunity to start 2019 off by reintroducing how powerful kindness can be. The power of kindness impacts others as well as oneself. By reminding students about the qualities of being friendly, generous, and considerate we hope to continue building a safe, supportive, and inclusive school culture where all students feel ready and able to learn. No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

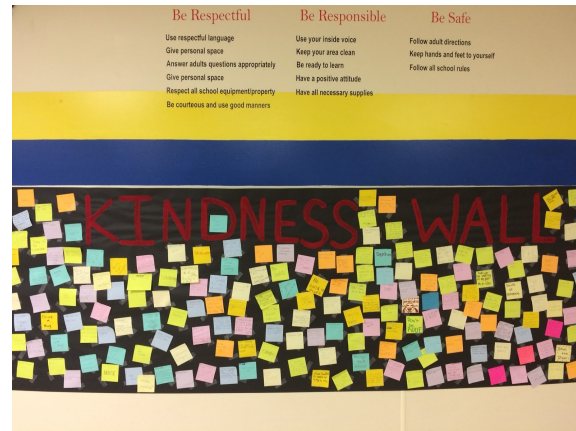
-Mrs. Beth Seagrave (last names A-L) & Mrs. Laura Martin (last names M-Z)

One example of our focus on kindness this month is the Kindness Wall (see picture below), which was created by our leadership students, and is an opportunity for all students to share acts of kindness - both what they have experienced, and ideas for practicing kindness towards others. This is one of the most important skills we can teach our students, and a great reminder for all of us!



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*Kindness Wall, Seven Oak Middle School - January 2019*

### Additional announcements / important dates

- Attention parents and guardians of 6th grade students: Outdoor School 2019 is coming!! Our 6th grade class will be attending Outdoor School from **March 13-15, 2019** at Camp Tadmor. Please be sure your student returns the signed parent packet to their Spartan Time teacher as soon as possible - thank you!!
- State testing will be happening again this spring for all of our students, please check our website to access the 2018-19 Annual Notice for Statewide Tests from the Oregon Department of Education. We will be sharing more information and specific testing dates as we move into the 2nd semester.
- Immunization reminder: Tdap vaccine helps boost protection against three diseases: Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis.(whooping cough). Oregon law states that students after the age of 11 or by 7th grade must receive this shot to stay in school. Exclusion day is February 20th. If your student has not received this shot please do so by **February 20, 2019**.
- Parenting Today Forward / Collaborative Problem Solving Winter 2019 parenting classes - more information can be found here: <http://www.parentingtogether.us/>
- **Monday, January 21st** - No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- **Thursday, January 24th** - End of 1st semester
- **Friday, January 25th and Monday, January 28th** - No School - Staff Preparation days
- **Tuesday, January 29th** - 2nd Semester begins!!
- **Saturday, February 9th** - 8<sup>th</sup> graders Annual Spaghetti Feed and Silent Auction fundraiser for DC/NY trip

Happy New Year and Let's go SPARTANS!!