

October 24, 2019

Dear Parents:

I am indeed grateful that another year is underway, and I am back on campus and available to the St. Anne's community. As part of my work with lower school this year, I have begun my classroom curriculum. Beginning with kindergarten through third grade, class talks generally focus on teacher-generated topics related to feelings, friendship, and current events in the students' world (including here on campus and the larger world around them). These talks many times involve the character power themes and typically focus on how to manage emotions and behave as a positive community member.

In fourth grade, I offer a class series on the developing brain. These classes focus on topics related to cognitive "soft skills" such as Executive Functioning, emotional well-being and social support. They are intended to provide support, self-understanding, and empowerment for students in this transition year.

Starting in fifth grade, I begin participating as part of the FOCUS team along with Father Al and Mr. Clough. My class talks relate to the emotions and demands of being older, understanding different types of intelligence, and a spring series on media awareness (i.e., looking at images and ideas presented to us in contemporary culture). Topics in this last series focus on increasing general awareness of marketing to children/adolescents, as well as increasing specific awareness around tobacco, and body image.

All my class talks come from a brain basis and the three main areas of the social brain: President, Emotional Factory and the Mirror of Nonverbal Processing. These concepts are the basis for my book *Wired and Connected: Brain-Based Solutions To Ensure Your Child's Social and Emotional Success*. **Click [HERE](#) to view the outline for my lower school curriculum.**

In addition to classroom talks, I am also available to meet with students individually as well as with parents for brief consultations around school and family issues. If you would like to meet with me, simply call Kris Buckley in the main office for scheduling. You may also talk with your child's teacher regarding scheduling an individual child visit. In visiting with a child individually, I do need parents to sign a permission slip prior to our meeting. **Click [HERE](#) for a copy of the permission/disclosure form.** Consultations of any extended duration need to be arranged on a private basis.

In closing, I'm very aware this fall of the joy and positive energy which you and your children bring to this community and all the blessings I've been enriched by over the last twenty plus years. I was especially thankful to have my official book launch at St. Anne's this September. I welcome your call should your family benefit from a consultation. As always, you are also welcome to call should you ever have questions or thoughts related to my classroom discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig A. Knippenberg', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig A. Knippenberg, LCSW, M.Div.