



St. Edmund's Academy
An Independent School

William L. Kindler, Ph.D.
Head of School

"Keeping In Touch"

October 22, 2007

Dear Parents,

I have completed my first Conference Day at St. Edmund's Academy. Throughout each conference I sat in on as part of my continuing learning about the SEA community; I was extremely pleased with the quality of the conversation shared between parent and teacher in support of the student. Yes, in some conferences, there were difficult issues to discuss, and differing points of view existed between teacher and parent as well as between parent and parent, but at ALL times I observed the essential requirements of successful partnerships; mutual respect, mutual confidence, and mutual trust. If any conference ended without this positive relationship in place, I respectfully ask the parent(s) and teacher to meet again to restore these essentials of a successful school partnership.

NOW, I must share with you a MAJOR CONCERN the SEA professional team and I experienced at the time of our 11:30 dismissal on Thursday --- Conference Day. Simply stated, **all-to-many parents failed to follow St. Edmund's Academy's dismissal procedures, which created needless departure delays in making sure that students were dismissed in properly authorized transportation and with properly authorized individuals. The number of compliance failures, placed the School and its responsibility for the safety and security of each student in a dangerous position.**

The most prevalent problem we faced resulted from parents making dismissal arrangements with their child(ren) and/or other parents without informing the School as required. Examples: "(student to teacher) My Mom told me to go home with....(another parent);" "(teacher to bus driver) I'm holding this bus until we locate....(student to the teacher) Oh, she went home with....;" "(parent to teacher) But, Mrs..... told me that I was to take....home with me;" "(young student to teacher) I don't know how I am going home." The Extended Day staff and other personnel supervised numerous students whom remained at the School until authorized departures were completed. Thankfully, all students eventually did leave safely.

Keeping this problem in perspective, I as Head of School must take responsibility for what happened. Somehow, our written communication regarding dismissal requirements must not have been clear enough for some, or lacked adequate emphasis for their importance to be followed by all. We are reviewing all arrival and dismissal policies and procedures, as we are still experiencing major parking problems in the morning. Within a week, a written copy will be sent to you again including the emphasis to check the SEA web site when in doubt, or to call the office for clarification. Working together we will ensure that all future arrivals and dismissals will be conducted with confidence.

Sincerely,

William L. Kindler

