## Video Games and Children - Parent/Guardian Night:

Studies of children exposed to violent media have shown that they may become numb to violence, imitate the violence, and show more aggressive behavior. Younger children and those with emotional, behavioral or learning problems may be more influenced by violent images (American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry).

As a school, we have noticed an increase in students’ use of video games that are not developmentally appropriate for the child. In collaboration with the Child Advocacy Center, we are planning a parent-night aimed at getting parents/guardians the information they need to protect their children from developmentally inappropriate content. **Please stay tuned for dates and times.**

### Tips for Parents

Parents can help their children enjoy video games appropriately and avoid problems by:

- Avoiding video games in preschool-aged children
- Checking the ESRB ratings to select appropriate games—both in content and level of development
- Playing videogames with their children to share the experience and discuss the game’s content
- Setting clear rules about game content and playing time, both in and outside the home
- Monitoring online interactions and warning children about potential dangers of Internet contacts while playing games online

## Chronic Tardy/Absent Letters Being Sent Home Before Thanksgiving Break:

As part of our practice and in our efforts to have strong communication between family and home, we will be sending out this school year’s first batch of letters addressing chronic tardiness and/or absenteeism. We will send these letters out prior to Thanksgiving break.

In order to fall into the “chronic” category, a student has to be tardy or absent 10% or more of the time school has been in session. At this time of the year, that 10% mark falls right over 4 days. We will be sending letters out to those families who have a student(s) who has been absent or tardy 5 or more times already this school year.

An absence is marked as “excused” if a student is on the “not cleared” list and/or the family has sent the student into school with a note from a doctor. Without a note from a doctor, even if your child is sick, an absence is marked as “unexcused.”

Attendance and student success are directly correlated. It is imperative that students are attending school in order to meet both academic and social and emotional learning standards. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact administration directly.

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- Allowing video game playing only in public areas of the home, not in the child's bedroom
- Remembering that you are a role model for your children including which video games you play and how long you play them
- Enforcing total screen time limits
- Ensuring video games are only played after homework and chores are done
- Encouraging participation in other activities, particularly physical activities

If you continue to have concerns about your child’s gaming habits or if your child is having difficulty with mood or behavior, ask your child’s pediatrician, family physician or school counselor to help arrange a referral to a trained and qualified mental health professional.

You may also reach out to our School Adjustment Counselors for support, guidance and information.

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**Cell Phones at School**

Silvia School does NOT have “Bring Your Own Technology” in our school. This means, there is no need for students to have cell phones or personal devices at school. In addition, and based on FRPS policy, students when accessing online data, must be logged into FRPS internet. Any personal device being used on campus by a student is breaking this policy.

We understand some families send their children to school with a cell phone for communication purposes. If you need to reach your child during school hours, please call the office and any message you want your child to receive will be passed on to that child.

Cell phones and personal devices must stay in a student’s bag and within that student’s locker or cubby. If a student has his/her cell phone out during school hours, then the cell phone will be taken by the teacher/administrator. We will then call home and have a parent or guardian pick up the cell phone. Progressive discipline will be applied as well.

We ask families to review this practice with their children, especially if you are sending them to school with a device. If you have questions related to this topic, please do not hesitate to contact administration directly.

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**Celebration of Learning Night for Families - November 8th:**

We are inviting all PreK - 5 families to join us at Silvia for our Celebration of Learning on November 8th from 5:30 - 7:00. We did not have an in person Open House this year with the plan being to have families join us later in the year for Celebration of Learning. The night will be used to illustrate and highlight for families some of the exciting learning the students have been engaged in so far this school year. We will also be given tips and pointers on how you can better support learning at home.

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**Calendar:**

- November 8th from 5:30 - 7 is our Celebration of Success
- November 11, 2021 is NO SCHOOL for students and staff
- November 24, 2021 is a half-day for students and staff
- November 25th and 26th is NO SCHOOL for students and staff
- Find Silvia’s calendar **HERE**

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Arrival Procedures:

We continue to get better and better with arrival and as a result students are getting the most out of time on learning.

One issue that I need to address is that we need **ALL CARS TO FOLLOW THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC.** Unfortunately, we have cars cutting in line and others dropping kids off in the parking lot to avoid exiting with the flow of traffic. **Please do not drop students off in the parking lot. Students are then having to cross in front of traffic.**

We have placed cones to direct cars all in the same direction. This is important for the flow of traffic to be most successful. Please do not disregard cones and/or move them as it is a safety concern and also not in the best interest of our students.

“**We read to know that we are not alone.”**
— C.S. Lewis

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Headphones for School:

We are asking that families send their child(ren) into school with headphones. The students will use the headphones to access virtual resources.

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Fostering a LOVE for Reading:

We continue to put **fostering a love for reading and learning** at the top of our priorities here at Silvia. We understand that without intrinsic motivation, students may not transfer their learning from school to the real world. See a few pictures below of Mrs. Carvalho’s third grade classroom engaging in Readers’ Workshop where students engage in grade-level text, independent reading titles, application of comprehension strategies, book discussions, and writing about books. Make sure to ask your child what book they are currently reading and about elements of stories that motivate them to read.

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