



11 September 2015

“I’m not going to yell, but I mean what I say.”

Being a parent is not an easy job; neither is being a teacher. In addition to teaching our children all the life skills they need to learn, it is our job to teach them to obey, to respect us as parents and teachers, and to expect consequences when they don’t.

Unfortunately, in many families, and in some classrooms, kids have learned that there will be no consequences, only words. Sometimes we tell our children or students that we are going to do something if they disobey, then forget to follow through. Many times, however, what we tell them is only a threat. And we repeat the threat louder and louder until they get tired of being yelled at and finally do what we ask. This kind of discipline produces young adults who grow up believing that they can do what they want and their authorities – employer, police, church leaders – will only get annoyed with them, not actually do anything.

God does not treat us that way. The apostle Paul writes to the Hebrews, “Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined . . . , then you are illegitimate children and not true sons” (Heb. 12:7-8 NIV). If we fail to discipline our kids, we are actually communicating to them that we don’t love them enough to make them behave.

Some ask, “Won’t correction hurt their feelings or wound their spirits?” No, in fact, exactly the opposite is true. Whether they admit it or not, kids want boundaries and appreciate those who set them and keep them. Paul writes further, “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it” (Heb. 13:11 NIV).

What kinds of consequences work? Probably every parent’s style is a bit different, But the most important thing is (1) establish appropriate boundaries, (2) clearly communicate consequences which will make a difference, then (3) making sure that you follow through when you promise a consequence. Sometimes, here at school I assign a penalty to a student during class, then, by the end of the day, forget both the offense and the penalty. Students quickly learn to ignore my correction as a result. Or I remember for some students and not for others; then they feel mistreated and discriminated against.

One of our primary goals here at FJS is to help you raise children who are a blessing to your family, to the school and community, and, most of all, to be a reflection of God himself. Loving, consistent, firm discipline is one of the ways we work together to achieve that goal.

News for a new year.

- 1) This envelope will come home every week. **If you don’t see it, ask for it!** These letters contain important information week-by-week about upcoming events and important announcements. Hopefully, they will also be available on the web site each week at www.fjschool.org.
- 2) The blue shirts have arrived. If you still need shirts for your child(ren), please see Miss Jen. All the shirts are \$12.00 each, regardless of size.
- 3) We have received a few more Tuition Assistance Applications, but still not all of them. If you are interested in receiving tuition assistance, the application form must be completed online and an interview scheduled with the principal and a school board member. If you have tried to complete it on the computer, but could not do so, please call us! You will also need to provide supporting documentations – last year’s tax return, the two (2) most recent pay stubs, Social Security benefits, food stamps, child support, the most recent quarter unemployment benefit report, and other assistance. These must be given to the secretary (we will make copies and return the originals to you) for use by the board in determining the level of assistance you will receive.

Have a great school year!
James E. Gochnauer, Principal