

May 10, 2019



Ada Christian School
Faith. Strong.

Dear Parents of Sixth Grade Students:

Ada Christian School is committed to nurturing the whole child - mind, body and soul - in Christian community. To support this mission, the sixth grade curriculum includes an intentional focus on preparing for the physical, social and emotional changes that occur when students reach adolescence. During the week of May 20, we will take some time to think carefully about changes that students can expect as they reach adolescence. It is important for students to know about the many changes that happen at this age and it is our role and privilege to partner with you to help them think carefully about how they can best respond to these changes.

The book we use to guide our conversations at school is *Preparing for Adolescence* by Dr. James Dobson. This book is addressed to students between the ages of eleven and fourteen, so it is appropriate for sixth graders. We acknowledge that it has parts which sound dated; but the book has lasting value because of its focus on healthy relationships, self-image, and physical development.

Each student will receive a copy of the book at school next week. Please ask your child for the book, and **read chapters 1 and 2 together**. These chapters discuss healthy Christian self-esteem and how to respond to conformity pressures. If you haven't read through this book before, please also read chapters 3 and 4 on your own to have an awareness of the additional content we will cover in class. After talking through chapters 1 and 2 with your child, please send the book **back to school no later than Monday, May 20**.

For 3 class periods during the week of May 20, Mrs. Koetje and Mrs. Westrate will meet with the sixth grade girls while Mr. Kiser and Mr. Hapner meet with the sixth grade boys. We will discuss chapters 1 and 2 and will go through parts of chapter 3 and 4 together. We will carefully follow the subject matter that Dr. Dobson discusses and will answer questions your child may have. In our discussions, we will be skipping page 83 (p. 68 in the red edition) as individual families may have different stances on this than the book shares. Chapters 5 and 6 will not be discussed in class, but you may wish to discuss the issues raised in chapters 5 and 6 with your own child.

As Christian teachers, we value this opportunity to partner with you and your child as they continue to mature emotionally, physically, spiritually and socially. We hope that as you review the material, you will enjoy this time with your child as well.

Your partners in Christian Education,

Bethany Koetje, Heather Westrate, Nate Kiser and Jim Hapner