

Guidelines for Memory Boxes for the Senior Retreat

Dear Parent/Guardian

I would first like to express to you my admiration for all that you do and have done as a parent of a high school student. I think for just brief moments about my own kids when they get to be that age and have even more appreciation for all of you. The theme and purpose of the Senior retreat is to remind the Seniors how important it is to enjoy each and every moment. Much of what we do for the retreat that day we try to keep quiet, including this activity. There is often confusion with the “Memory Box” for the Senior Retreat and the “Mission Statements” that the Seniors do in Religion class – they are 2 different activities ☹️.

An important aspect of this retreat is called "The Memory Box." This is a symbolic suitcase. For example, use a shoebox and decorate it however you wish. **Make sure that your child's name is clearly marked on the box and then pack it as follows** (you may add additional items if you wish):

1. If you could tell him/her your fondest memories, what would they be? Please try to come up with **at least four memories** of your child. We would like you to symbolize these memories - perhaps a picture, or an article, a poem they wrote that you hid away in your dresser drawer...anything that tells the story of that memory. Feel free to write the story if the symbol doesn't explain itself, or write the story so they can save it for a rainy day.
2. What gifts or characteristics do you presently value in your son or daughter? Pack at least **two symbols of these positive qualities**.
3. If you could pack a suitcase for their future, what would you include? Please try to come up with at least **two things you would pack for them**. It can be a dream, a hope, some advice for life, a thought, something practical like a toothbrush, something sentimental like a photo album, something humorous like a stuffed animal. The sky is really the limit. Feel free to "pack" whatever you wish and explain it in any way that makes sense to you. You can list it, create it, buy it, make it - whatever you wish. Be creative! If these suggestions seem vague or you want some additional guidance, please feel free to call!

This is a **SECRET** and your child shouldn't know about it. If he/she happens to hear about it, please ask them not to share. It is very important that every student receives a box. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email danielleswise@blanchetcatholicschool.com. **The boxes are due Friday May 17th, 2024.** Please bring the boxes to **the front office** where we will hopefully be able to keep them out of view from any seniors.

The best retreat in the world can be planned, but the greatest impact comes from the gifts they receive from you. This requires a whole different thinking cap. I appreciate your patience, support, and enthusiasm as we create this memorable experience for your child. Thank you in advance!!!!

By Courage and Faith, with *great* appreciation,

Danielle Wise