

# John Dewey Parent Communication

## Mrs. Clotman, Assistant Principal

September 2017



### Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to a new school year! The great thing about education is that each year everyone gets a fresh start! Every fall each scholar engages in learning with a new teacher, meets new friends, and learns new content. Teachers look out on a sea of new smiling faces with whom he or she will spend a school year. As everyone settles into their new routine, it is our hope that the excitement and anticipation felt during the first few days of school will continue through May.

The staff at John Dewey believe that all of us – the school and the community – must work together in an extended family environment to insure success for all our scholars. We believe it is everyone's responsibility to empower children with the creative, intellectual, and decision-making skills necessary for them to become academically, socially, physically, and emotionally successful and responsible.

If I can ever be of assistance, please call me at (216) 755-8743 or email [Adrienne.Clotman@whcsd.org](mailto:Adrienne.Clotman@whcsd.org). It is through being a collaborative learning community with consistent, honest and open communication that I can best serve our scholars.

Educationally Yours,

*Adrienne Clotman*

Assistant Principal, John Dewey  
"One Team, One Vision, One Goal"

### Instructional Time is Very Important!

At John Dewey Elementary School, the instructional day begins at 9:00 a.m. for scholars in grades Kindergarten through First Grade. Please be prompt in arriving at school on time each and every morning. It is very important that scholars stay at school all day. Every minute counts ... even up to the last minute! Please give teachers the opportunity to teach your child. The school staff appreciates parent support of protecting instructional time in order to assure student success.

### Talking with your child is very important every day.

Get a sense of your child's life at school by asking questions that elicit more than a one-word response. The trick is to ask about things that are specific, but still open-ended. Move beyond "fine" and "nothing" by asking your child to describe his world. It's also great to start the conversation with an anecdote from your own day.

### Questions to Ask Your Kid Instead of "How Was Your Day?"

What did you eat for lunch?

What games did you play at recess?

What was the funniest thing that happened today?

Did anyone do anything super nice for you?

What was the nicest thing you did for someone else?

Who made you smile today?

What new fact did you learn today?

Who brought the best food in their lunch today? What was it?

What challenged you today?



## 5 Reasons You Should Read to Your Child Every Night

By the time you've tucked your kids away in bed you're usually ready for a well-earned rest! But before you plant that final kiss there's one more thing you need to do: read a bedtime story. Reading a bedtime story is a little like putting money into the bank and watching it grow. Five minutes of reading a night can make a pretty big difference, for your child, and for you. Here are five reasons you should be reading a story to your little one before turning out the light.

### 1 – Build A Stronger Relationship

Reading a chapter before bed is awesome one-on-one time. There's no E-mail, housework or television to create a distraction.

### 2 – Increase Vocabulary

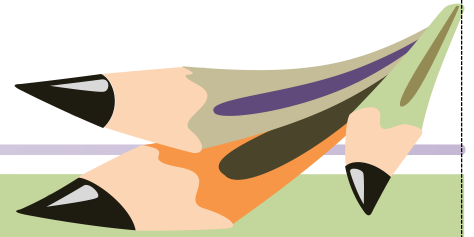
Exposing your child to language is proven to help expand their vocabulary. Your child will be introduced to new words and different ways to use the ones they already know. An increased vocabulary can improve confidence.

### 3 – Introduce Morals

Children's books love a good moral! Rabbits get bullied by pink elephants, a cheeky duckling learns the value of honesty, and the list goes endlessly on. Each night you're reading together, you're teaching your child the value of right and wrong.

### 4 – Fertilize Their Imagination

Escaping to new and fantastical worlds within the pages of their favorite book will help your child learn to use their imagination. Watch as the pages from a book come to life outside in the backyard, or in a carefully drawn crayon picture. Your child will learn to concentrate and listen closely to the descriptions you're reading in order to re-create the images in their mind.



### 5 – It's FUN!

You might have forgotten just how much fun it was to read about Fantastic Mr. Fox outwitting Farmer Boggis, Farmer Bunce, and Farmer Bean, but reading to your child each night will reintroduce you to all those wonderful classics *you* enjoyed so much as a child.

One of the most important jobs of a parent is to provide their children with the tools necessary to grow into a wonderful human being. Reading offers valuable educational, social and emotional learning tools that research has shown will provide your child a strong foundation to grow.

### Fun things to do around the area:

Great Lakes Science Center  
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
Greater Cleveland Aquarium  
Big Fun Toy Store  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
A Christmas Story House and Museum

