



John Dewey Parent Communication

Mrs. Clotman, Assistant Principal
November/December 2017



Dear John Dewey Families:

I would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful start to the Holiday Season. Parents, thank you for actively participating in your child's education. It is important that your child sees you proactive and involved in their education.

At school, kids can show stress by crying, acting out, becoming aggressive, or shutting down completely. We find that many times children lack the words to describe their emotions, and that makes it hard for them to know how to handle them. We spend a lot of time talking and helping children learn how to manage feelings. Feelings are a part of who we are. We each experience a wide range of emotions and that's a good thing! The challenge comes when we aren't sure how to manage feelings like anger, disappointment, and frustration. Please be sure to talk to your child's teacher if you have any special concerns regarding your child's ability to manage feelings. We are here to help!

As always thank you for supporting John Dewey Elementary. Our staff is committed to all of our scholars' success and we appreciate your continued assistance.

Educationally Yours,

Mrs. Clotman

One Team, One Vision, One Goal!

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS:

By making your child's school attendance a priority, you will be taking an important step in supporting your child's school success, and setting a good example.

Did You Know?

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

What You Can Do:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make he/she feel comfortable and excited about learning.

- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up.

Call a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.

- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success-both in school and in life.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Just a reminder as colder weather begins to roll in, students will be going outside if temperatures are over 32 degrees. Dressing your child appropriately for the weather is important. Students will be sent outdoors for recess, weather permitting. It is important for the students to go out in the fresh air and exercise.

As fall turns to winter, please be sure your child has a winter coat, gloves or mittens and hat. For your child's comfort please include boots, snow pants and an extra pair of dry socks when there is snow on the ground.

Websites for Educational Games

There's no denying the appeal that online games have for kids. The following are educational gaming sites on the web.

Funbrain- Not only does this site cover a variety of subjects, it also caters to K-8th graders.

Game Classroom- Excellent, safe, teacher-approved, state-standard-aligned games for grades K-6.

Gameaquarium- Great site for games for kids K-6 in all types of subjects.

Braineos- Nice site where games are based on flash cards.

Tucoola- Wonderful site for skill-building games for younger kids where parents can track their progress.

Upcoming Important Dates:

November 22nd – 26th Thanksgiving Break

November 27th – Parent Teacher Conference

December 7th – 1st Grade Field Trip

December 25th – January 8th Winter Break

January 15th – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Technology

With the rise in tech devices, social media, and online activities, the way kids are spending their time after school has drastically changed. Society as a whole is navigating the new landscape of children's free time in a high-tech world, and parents are often left wondering: What is the best way to let my kids use and learn from technology, while also keeping them safe? Check out this article for tools you can use to supervise and limit technology use in your house. <https://morethanatech.com/2017/10/24/limits-locks-learning>

Sight Word Challenge

Knowing a sight word means that your child is able to recognize the word by sight within 3 seconds. Below are some suggestions of how you can help your child master their sight words.

- Choose about 5-10 sight words to work on per week.
- Make flashcards with these words and quiz your child.
- Play memory using the flashcards.
- Have your child write the sight word 3 times, then read them back to you.
- Have a competition with sight words with a sibling or friend.
- Celebrate their success when they learn their sight words.
- Encourage them to work hard and keep trying when they are having difficulty. Remember learning is **HARD WORK** and takes a lot of **EFFORT**.

If you have any questions in regards to helping your child be successful, please talk with your child's teacher.