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**Principal Friday Blast**

October 2, 2020

Dear Judah Families,

Happy October to all of you. I can’t believe how quickly September went by. I am so proud of all of our young scholars for all their hard work and engagement over the last few weeks. We are definitely in learning “mode.”

Children learning from home while teachers are in another location is a new concept for everyone, and it’s essential to a child’s success that parents and teachers work collaboratively to help them during these brand-new times. It also important to remember that children have not yet developed all the executive functioning skills needed to manage the tasks that teachers would typically assist with at school. We will all be working on these skills throughout the school year to help children with organizational strategies, work habits, and managing school during these unprecedented times. The important thing is to have them ready and logged in to their classrooms on time, each and every day. Let’s remember that you “promote what you permit.” We continue to learn and grow together, and I wanted to share a few tips that parents might find helpful.

* Dedicate a space for your child when they are at home. Open spaces in view of adults that are home are ideal when possible so that a glance or reminder can be provided if/when necessary. Remember though that whatever is going on in the background of your child’s learning is also in view of the other students in class. Please be cognizant of what you are doing, wearing or not wearing for that matter as this could be a distraction for others.
* Set out supplies in the sequence of your child’s day so that they know what is needed as the day progresses. For example, if math is the first subject of the day, put math materials first.
* We would prefer that cameras remain on during instruction unless the teacher directs the child to turn off or ask permission. This allows the teacher to monitor from school and engage with the child as needed.
* When a child needs help at home, check with child’s teacher to see if they are using the “participant hand raise,” in Zoom, rather than raising their physical hand. This varies from teacher to teacher.
* Headphones are great to help with noise and keeping children on task and focused.
* And remember, anything new takes time. Be patient while encouraging.

Students are still being held accountable for following our district policies regarding behaviors while online. All incidents that occur are situational and will be dealt with appropriately following the district’s progress discipline protocols. If you are experiencing any concerns, please reach out to your child’s teacher first for purposeful conversation. The core values for our students at Judah are always to be Respectful, Responsible, Kind, Safe and a Learner. That is our principal’s “High Five.”

We are excited that our enrichments are at some capacity being embedded back into our program. Each class has been assigned Music class with Mr. Keedy and teacher during their instructional days. They must be present during that time as this falls within our SB98 mandated minutes. Music certainly contributes to our children’s social emotional needs. All classrooms will be provided music 2x a month. Art and Garden/Science lessons will be provided to teachers via instructional links to be added to their classrooms for students to participate in as well. Thank you to all our families, coordinators and teachers for their feedback on keeping our programs “ALIVE.”

Our SEL theme for the month talks about having “Confidence.” Attached you will find a parent newsletter that I have provided with activities, vocabulary and support around this theme. Please take some time to look it over. I would love to start receiving some pictures of our young scholars at work.

Teachers in all grade levels are in the process of conducting unit as well as district benchmark assessments. These assessments will provide us with data for each child individually as well as school-wide data. This data will determine where our learning gaps are and help us drive instruction to fill in those gaps. At any time, you may set up a meeting with your child’s teacher during their office hours to discuss student progress. We will be having our first round of formal P/T conferences at the beginning of December.

We are all dealing with this pandemic together. We are all dealing with different emotions, trauma, anxiety and frustrations, but we all want what is best for our young scholars. Leaning on each other for support is more important now than ever. Many are wondering when/if we will be returning to school in some type of hybrid any time soon. I don’t have any information about that as of today, but continue to look on the district website for any updates.

In closing, know that you are not alone. We are here for you always. Please remain healthy, happy, and humble. Show gratitude to one another. Sometimes all you need is for someone to say, “I am here for you!”

**Song for your weekend**

[**Golden: Jill Scott**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QCXr79Rkcw) **(click and enjoy)**

All my best,

Dr. Troy Holding/Proud Principal