



The Bear Essentials

Theodore Judah Elementary Newsletter
March, 2018

A MESSAGE FROM Mr. Holding

Dear Theodore Judah Families,

I know that safety has been on everyone's mind lately and for good reason. Whether it is traffic safety, public safety, or another form of safety, we are all noticing increased levels of awareness in our community. The threat of gun violence is an important concern to many of us. Students, parents and community members across the country are still mourning the loss of innocent lives lost in Florida and are rightfully asking questions about what more can be done to protect our students. This event was very personal to me, because I was a former teacher and administrator in Broward County for 12 years. My dear friend and colleague lost her daughter in the shooting.

While I understand there are multiple safety concerns in our community now, I want to remind you that we, and the families we serve, are resilient and will not allow external factors deter our efforts to ensure that every student at Judah is safe and academically successful. Despite all the adversity we have been facing, I have been able to witness so much positive work being done by our staff and students. I was privileged to visit and read for 1st grade classrooms during "Read Across America Day". I was able to see the amazing history projects during our intermediate "Social Study" night. During my daily walkthroughs, I am proud to see such great math instruction with our focus on SMP.

The other day, one of neighbors approached me to tell me that every day she sees our students coming to school and she notices how happy they are. This makes me such a proud principal. We will always have challenges. We will always need to work on things to continue to grow and become better, but one thing I am sure of and that is we are a community that consist of empathy, compassion and integrity. We will always do what is best for our children...together!

Sincerest Regards,
Mr. Holding

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 3/9 Fire Drill
- 3/16-3/23 P/T Conferences
- 3/26- 3/30 Spring Break

Theodore Judah Spirit Days

Show your school spirit every Friday by wearing the following:

- Your favorite TJ shirt ("Bear Wear")
- Blue or Gold (our school colors)
- Bear Wear order forms will be coming out soon!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Beginning March 16th-23rd students will be on a minimum day schedule due to P/T conferences. Teachers will be reaching out to families to set up times and dates with those in need of a conference.

Arrival/Dismissal

Student safety is important. At Judah, you can help by following the procedures for drop off and pick-up. Recently Traffic Enforcement was on campus ticketing those who are not adhering to the signs and making u-turns in the school zone. PLEASE do your part!

- NO Supervision on campus until 7:45 am
- The front left of the school in the morning allows for a few parking spots. The right of the entrance is a drop-off area only! Have

your children ready to exit when you arrive so that others may pull in behind you.

- Please pull your car all the way forward. There is plenty of sidewalk.
- The street is not a drop off area. It is not safe
- The staff parking lot is for staff parking only and this is absolutely not a drop off area.
- Students need to come through the pedestrian gate and walk along the path.
- Please don't make u-turns where children are present. This is not safe.
- Don't get mad or angry if you are told to move your car. This is in the best interest of the school and the safety of our children.
- Please be on time to pick up your children from school. They will not be supervised after dismissal.
- If children are not in one of our after-school programs or on campus participating in an enrichment activity they are asked to leave campus and return home safely.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated

Character Counts

The goal of character education at Theodore Judah Elementary is to develop socially responsible citizens as evidenced by kind, respectful, responsible, and safe student behaviors, so they can be the best learners each and every day. We call this the “**Principal High-Five**”. As a school community, we focus on five school-wide expectations, educate the students about kindness through our “Kindness Program”, promote and celebrate positive student behaviors and deliver a strong anti-bullying message through education and ongoing development of a safe and respectful learning environment. We try and use a lot of our supports through the PBIS and Love and Logic model. It is always our goal to provide opportunities for every student to be recognized for making good choices throughout the school day.

Over the next few weeks, both teachers and myself, will be meeting with each grade level individually in order to review, remind and reset. This in-house field-trip we give us all an opportunity to revisit the school wide expectations and behaviors. We will be visiting different areas of the school to discuss the expectations here at Judah. Please help support at home as well.

Contact Information Changes



PLEASE NOTE THE
NEW ADDRESS &
PHONE NUMBER

Your contact information is very important to us in case of an emergency. If any information should change, please notify the school office so that we can update the information in our system.

PTA Funded Enrichment Programs

Students are attending Science Alive, Garden, Music and Art classes as part of the many enrichments that Judah offers at your neighborhood school. Check out all the great artwork on our hallway bulletin boards throughout our campus. These programs are fully sponsored by all the hard work and efforts of our school PTA. We appreciate all that you do!

March's Citizenship Theme: Adaptable

Students will learn to look at problems as challenges rather than obstacles.

Daily Attendance is Important

One of the basic foundations for success in school is regular school attendance.

Additionally, teaching our children that regular attendance to school is important helps send the message that education is important. It also teaches the importance of keeping one's responsibilities. Our monthly attendance goal is 97%.

To that end, please be sure to stay home only when truly ill, or due to a real family need. See the attendance section in our school handbook for additional guidance. Remember to schedule appointments outside of the school day when possible, or to return to school when finished. Minimize early dismissals. Family vacations are not excused absences. Thanks to everyone for supporting daily attendance!