



Principal Message

September 25, 2020

Dear Judah Families,

It is already fall and we are nearly a month into virtual learning and as each day passes, we will continue to grow and get better at virtual teaching and learning. Over the past week or so, there has been a lot of dialogue on social media about when we will return to school and the negatives of on-line learning. As we are working diligently to provide a safe and welcoming on-line experience, I encourage you to not forget the positive things that are occurring as well. I know for me, living in a space of negativity doesn't feed my soul, or bring me much joy.

While these conversations are SO important for our community to have (and get answers to), it is extremely important for you to understand that the Judah staff continue to stay focused around teaching and learning. Our number one goal as a school is to ensure that our students participate in quality virtual instruction with the least amount of distractions as possible (technology issues, schedule concerns, communication) until the time finally comes to enter back into the building. When that day does arrive, rest assured that our staff will be ready. In the meantime, continue to provide your child's teacher with feedback on how your child is doing in the current environment, so we can know how they are doing, and continue to improve our virtual instruction.

As we are about to round off a month of virtual learning, our focus has also been about how to move forward with our Enrichment Programs while following the guidelines of SB98. PE is mandated prep time for teachers per the SCTA contract and therefore has to be embedded in our students weekly schedules for grade 1-6. I am working with our Enrichment coordinators to see how we can provide some instruction while continuing to follow guidelines. Hopefully, we will have that worked out soon.

Please make note that your teachers are to have scheduled office hours each day for your support and the support of your child if needed. This gives you an opportunity to discuss any concerns or challenges you might be experiencing. Please reach out to them by email to set up a necessary time to meet. School begins daily at 8am daily and students should be ready to greet their teachers at that time daily. Also, if you haven't done so, please consider joining our PTA. This is always a great opportunity to build community, and foster new relationships in a safe and inclusive environment.

On a sad note, someone has destroyed our little library out front near our Peace Garden. This library was a special project that was spearheaded by a group of compassionate Judah parents and donated funds. I encourage those of you who do reside around the school campus to always report anything you see that may be suspicious.

I respectfully thank our families for continuing to show incredible respect and grace to our faculty and staff. We are doing all we can to support our Judah family during virtual learning and appreciate everything our parent volunteers, room parents, PTA, and so much more are doing to help carry out our vision for virtual learning during this time. No matter your thoughts on our current situation, please continue to stay positive with your children.

Until next week,

Dr. Troy Holding

Proud Principal