



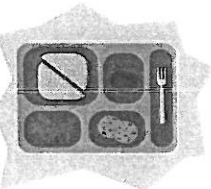
TLJATIMES

A newsletter for Timothy L. Johnson Academy parents and families.
Timothy L. Johnson Academy 4615 Werling Dr., Fort Wayne, In 46806 (260) 441-8727

May 2021



We are here to serve you and your family! If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 441-8727.



Breakfast & Lunch

All students attending TLJA will receive free school meals. Timothy L. Johnson Academy has been approved to implement the Community Eligibility Provision for breakfast and lunch. This means that parents will not need to fill out the long meal application.

Dear TLJA Family,

It is so hard to believe that this will be our last newsletter for the year. This school year has gone by so fast.. We are wrapping up this year and we are already making plans for next year. We are enrolling families that are on our waiting list as well as re-enrolling your child for the 2021-2022 school year. We are growing and expanding. Great things are in store for next year.

As always, we appreciate your feedback. A parent survey was sent home with your child. We ask that you please take the time to fill it out. We value your comments. Thank you for all you do to support Timothy L. Johnson Academy.

Blessings!!
Dawn Starks
School Leader



Students will be able to function better at school with the proper rest. Please insure your child is sleeping at least 8 hours a night.

Need Transportation?

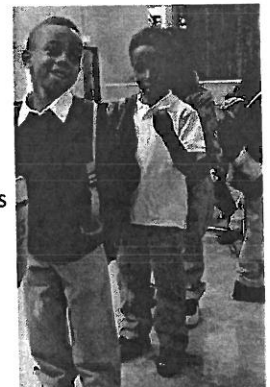
If you haven't been contacted regarding your transportation needs, please contact the school office at 441-8727. We provide transportation for all students!!

Student Dress Code

TLJA students are to be in dress code every day.

- **Shirts** must have a collar and be **light blue, navy, black or white**. Shirts must be solid color with no stripes, prints, or labels.
- **Pants, shorts, and skirts** must be **khaki, navy, or black**. Students are not to wear jeans, denim, leggings, or sweats. No sagging allowed!
- **Belts** are to be worn if necessary.
- **Sweaters** worn inside must be light blue, navy, black, or white and have no prints or logos. Students are not to wear outdoor jackets and coats inside.
- **Shoes** should totally enclose the student's foot. No sandals or backless shoes.

Any questions regarding the dress code should be referred to the school office or your child's teacher.



Please be sure to read with your child at least 20 minutes every night!!

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS
OR
PHONE NUMBER?**

If you have moved or have a new telephone or cell phone number, please call the school with updates over the summer so we will have the information needed to notify you of any school changes or any new information.

The school office telephone number is (260)441-8727. Please leave a message and someone will get back with you.

THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, MAY 14TH DUE TO THE LAST MAKE-UP DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. SCHOOL WILL RESUME ON MONDAY, MAY 17TH. THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY 25TH



**READY FOR
KINDERGARTEN?**

If you have a son or daughter who will be five (5) by August 1, 2021, he/she is eligible to attend our Kindergarten classes. We are excited to welcome new students to our Kindergarten classes.

Please bring to school your child's birth certificate as well as his/her immunization records and request an enrollment application for the 2021-2022 school year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office at 441-8727.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
May**

**5/14 NO SCHOOL
LAST MAKE-UP
DAY**

**5/25 LAST DAY OF
20-21 SCHOOL YEAR**

August

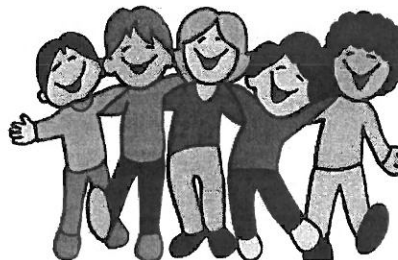
**8/9 FIRST DAY OF
21-22 SCHOOL YEAR**



It is with heartfelt "thanks" to all of our wonderful families and students as we worked through the pandemic-driven school year. The Timothy L. Johnson Academies have an amazing group of families, and the support you have given to the teachers and staff as we have had to adjust our schedules and normal activities during the school year has been outstanding. Without your cooperation and patience, the job of educating your children would have been much more difficult.

We are planning to assume normal activities once again as we head into the 2021-2022 school.

**SCHOOL'S OUT
5/25**



**MAY
ASTHMA AND ALLERGY
AWARENESS MONTH!**

It's now peak season for allergy and asthma sufferers, and a perfect time to recognize the causes of asthma and allergies to best prevent and treat attacks. Make sure your child's teachers are aware of your child's asthma so they can provide the necessary help.

If you suffer from allergies, you know the symptoms: coughing, sneezing, itchy eyes, runny nose, and scratchy throat. Common allergens and irritants found in and around the home are pollen, dust mites, mold, insect droppings, pet dander and secondhand smoke. Exposure to these allergens can even bring about a serious asthma attack.

During an Asthma attack, airways become narrowed and breathing can become extremely difficult. Other asthma triggers include: respiratory infections, pollen (trees, grasses, weeds) air pollution, food, allergies, cleaning products, perfumes, exercise and cold air exposure. Common asthma symptoms include wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and coughing. Asthma cannot be cured but it can be controlled.

Clear your home of allergy/asthma triggers – choose not to smoke-keep bed linens clean –keep pets out of the bedrooms –clean up the mold and get rid of excess moisture – fix leaky plumbing –limit use of pesticide sprays.

Dust and vacuum regularly and use air conditioning when possible.

Parents Do Your Homework - Please make a list of allergies, triggers, medications, and phone numbers and be sure the school has a copy of it. Talk to your pediatrician about the best daily management for your child's symptoms. For more helpful information check out - www.schoolasthmaallergy.com

End-of-Year Parent Survey

Thank you for entrusting your child to me this year! Together, I believe we have achieved a lot and grown even more. However, there is always room for improvement. Please help me by completing the following survey and returning it to me.

5=strongly agree 4=agree 3=unsure/neutral 2=disagree 1=strongly disagree

My child felt happy in the classroom

5 4 3 2 1
Comments:

My child was motivated to learn

5 4 3 2 1
Comments:

My child feels safe at school

5 4 3 2 1
Comments:

I am satisfied with my child's progress this year

5 4 3 2 1
Comments:

I am satisfied with the amount of homework my child received

5 4 3 2 1
Comments:

I am satisfied with the overall discipline at my child's school

5 4 3 2 1
Comments:

I am satisfied with my communication with the teacher

5 4 3 2 1
Comments:

The best thing about this year for me was:

The best thing about this year for my child was:

In the future, please keep in mind:

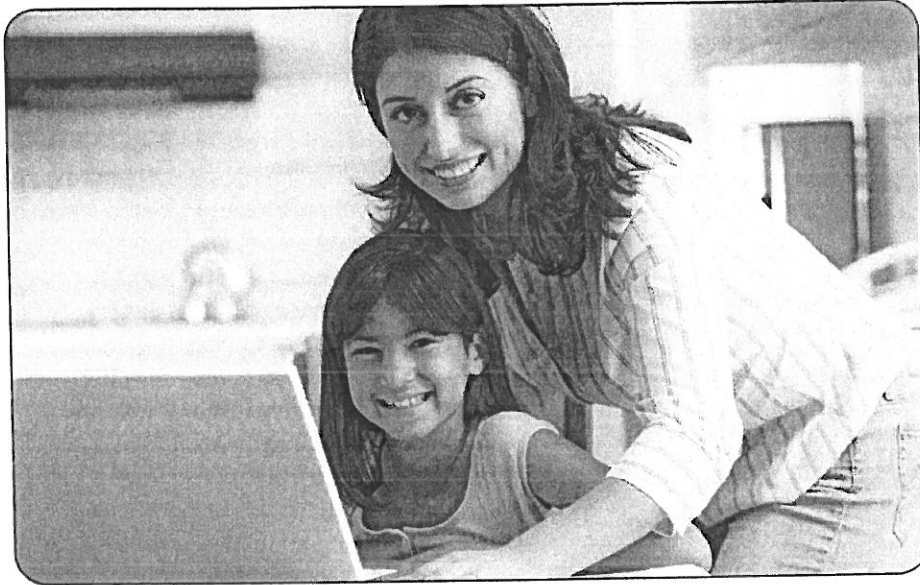
Thank you for taking time to provide valuable feedback that will help me as I plan for next year's class! If you need to discuss any of this with me in person, please contact me to set up an appointment.

Attached is the Parent End of Year Survey. Please complete for each of your children and their unique classroom experience. Every classroom that has 100% returned will have an ice cream party. Thank you for a great year.

Mrs. Starks

Elementary School Parents[®] *make the difference!*

Timothy L. Johnson Academy



Review the school year with your child and set new goals

We are nearing the end of an unprecedented school year. Your child has navigated learning challenges, read new books and mastered new skills. Now is the perfect time to talk about everything she's learned.

During your talk:

- **Take a look back.** What was your child's favorite school project this year? How did she manage to overcome obstacles? What goals did she accomplish?
Help your child see the ways she has grown. "You worked hard to master division this year. You can do challenging things when you put in the time and effort!"
- **Take a look forward.** What is your child looking forward to this summer? What is she excited about for next year? Is there a subject or an area she'd like to improve in next year? Are there books she would like to read? Encourage her to make a list of everything she hopes to accomplish in the months to come.
- **Discuss how learning doesn't stop at the end of the school year.** One of the great things about the summer is that it offers the opportunity to learn new things. Help your child think about something she'd like to learn. Would she like to learn a new sport? Would she like to teach herself how to paint? Would she like to learn a new language? Together, make a plan to help her achieve her learning goal.

Turn off the screens and turn on the fun



Many kids spend hours staring at a TV screen, a computer screen, a tablet or a cell phone for entertainment. During the summer, those hours typically increase.

That's why it's critical for families to set limits on screen time. Experts say the easiest way to do that is by replacing screen time with other fun activities.

Here are some ideas:

- **Learn to juggle.** Search online for a tutorial on juggling and see if you and your child can figure out how to do it!
- **Get a hula hoop.** Even indoors, a hula hoop offers an easy way to get exercise. Besides spinning the hoop at his waist, your child can also use it as a jump rope.
- **Explore outdoor parks.** They offer a number of ways for your child to let off steam—and build muscles.
- **Draw a hopscotch game** on a sidewalk or driveway. Take turns playing.
- **Do yoga.** Yoga positions stretch and strengthen every part of the body. They enhance balance and coordination.

Help your child prepare for and finish end-of-year projects



School isn't over yet! Teachers often assign large projects toward the end of the year. To help your child tackle a big assignment or project:

- 1. Make a plan.** Sit down with your child to help her develop a plan for completing the project. Have her write the due date on the calendar. Ask questions about the steps she'll need to take to get ready. "Will you need to do research? Have you allowed time to write an outline? Do we have the supplies you'll need to make the poster?"
- 2. Make a schedule.** Now help your child figure out *when* she's going to complete each step. Having several smaller deadlines is much easier than trying to meet one big one.

Have her write these dates on the calendar.

- 3. Celebrate successes.** Each time your child completes a step and reaches a goal, help her figure out a reward. This should be small (a favorite snack, not a trip to an amusement park) and something she can mostly do for herself.
- 4. Check in.** You'll need to see how she is progressing to help her stay on track. Schedule regular meetings to touch base and brainstorm solutions to any problems.

"Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now."

—Alan Lakein

Five strategies can keep children reading through summer months



Students who don't read over the summer months can lose months of growth in reading skills. Those who keep reading often

experience gains.

The more your child reads, the easier reading will be for him—and the more he'll want to read. See that he reads for at least 30 minutes every day.

Try these activities to make reading enjoyable:

- 1. Read the newspaper together.** Give your child the comics to read. Ask him which one's the funniest. Discuss sports, the weather, letters to the editor, travel destinations, etc.
- 2. Read aloud together.** You read a line or page of a book. Then your

child does. Or you read the narrative and let your child read what the characters say.

- 3. Dramatize what you read.** Select a simple scene from one of your child's books. Assign character roles. Discuss what happens first, second, next. Then act it out, adding lots of dialogue.
- 4. Promote practical reading.** Ask your child to read the recipe while you bake cookies. Involve him in reading instructions to build or repair something.
- 5. Create reading-related jobs.** Ask your child to recopy damaged recipes. He could also organize the family bookshelf or kitchen spices in alphabetical order.

Are you helping your child be a confident reader?



When your child starts reading, he will probably ask you to listen to him.



How you do this can affect his motivation to read—

and his progress.

Are you listening in ways that can boost your child's reading confidence? Answer *yes* or *no* to each question below to find out:

- 1. Do you encourage** your child to read books aloud that have pictures, predictable stories and repetitive words and phrases?
- 2. Are you a good listener?** Don't interrupt your child to correct him or insist that he keep trying to sound out a word until he gets it. Just enjoy the story.
- 3. Do you give lots of praise and encouragement** when your child reads?
- 4. Do you avoid criticizing?** If your child gets discouraged, he can lose his confidence and desire to read.
- 5. Do you encourage your child** to retell the story from memory after reading?

How well are you doing?

Each *yes* means you are boosting your child's reading confidence. For *no* answers, try those ideas.

Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

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Brainstorming is the solution for your child's writer's block



Some kids don't like to write because they think it's boring. Others find it too challenging. They get frustrated trying

to think of ideas.

You can't force a child to *love* writing. But you can turn a reluctant writer around with brainstorming.

Brainstorming is fun and boosts creativity. It reduces stress and can help your child break through writer's block.

Brainstorming also teaches other skills that help with writing. By creating lists, for example, your child learns to break down complex ideas into smaller components. She can use brainstorming to figure out a topic for a paper or to think of ideas for a short story.

The next time your child can't think of what to write about, have her:

- **Make lists.** Here are a few topics to help her get started: *Things I love. My favorite animals, places, toys or food. Things I know a lot about. Scary characters. Things adults say.*
- **Imagine.** Ask your child some questions that will spark new ways to think about people, events and scenes. "What would it feel like to be a car, a house or a dog? What would life be like if you had four hands?"
- **Use visual images.** Have your child look at a picture and write down what it brings to mind. Or she can take a walk and make notes about what she sees.
- **Think about actions** she could add to her ideas: What will happen next? How quickly?

Source: D.B. Reeves, Ph.D., *Reason to Write: Help Your Child in School and in Life Through Better Reasoning and Clear Communication—Elementary School Edition*, Kaplan Publishing.

Simple everyday activities can bolster your child's math skills



Math is a vital life-long skill, so it's important to involve your child in everyday math activities. You can have your child

help you:

- **Make a meal.** Put him in charge of weighing and measuring. Discuss sizes, shapes and fractions. Ask him questions such as, "How could we double this recipe?" and "When we add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup to $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, what do we get?"
- **Save money.** Ask your child to choose a goal, such as saving for a book. How much does he need to save each week? How long will it take him to reach the total? Help
- him track his progress on a chart. Then have fun shopping together!
- **Plan a trip.** Before leaving, ask your child to measure the air pressure in your car or bike tires. Calculate how many miles you'll go. If you are driving, how much gas will you use? As you travel, say a number between 1 and 10. Who can find a license plate with numbers that add up to the number you called out?
- **Start a family project.** Planning to paint a bedroom? Involve your child in figuring out how much paint you will need to do the job.
- **Play games.** There are lots of fun math games you can play together. Try dominoes, Uno and Connect 4.

Q: My daughter had a difficult time this year in fourth grade. She will pass—but just barely. I don't have money to hire a tutor. But I know she needs help or next year will be worse. What can I do over the summer to help my child catch up so she can keep up next year?

Questions & Answers

A: It sounds like your child has had a rough year. But there are ways to make sure she doesn't repeat it in fifth grade.

Here are some strategies to help you get your daughter back on track:

- **Meet with your child's teacher** before the end of the year. Together, lay out a summer learning plan. If your child is struggling in math, find out exactly what seems to give her trouble—fractions? Multiplication? Ask the teacher to suggest any resources she thinks could help your child.
- **Take care of the basics.** Have your child's vision and hearing tested. It may be that she can't see to read the board or the screen, or that she can't hear the teacher. It's important to rule out these types of problems early.
- **Set learning goals.** How many books will she read over the summer, for example? Make a list of her goals and post it where your child will see it daily.
- **Set aside time each day** to work on school skills. Use any resources the teacher provided to structure your child's daily learning time.
- **Have fun together.** Learning doesn't have to be drudgery! Go on a virtual tour of a zoo or a museum. Head outside for a nature walk. All these are ways to keep learning alive!

It Matters: Summer Learning

Community service builds character



Social distancing can disconnect parents and children from the community.

Volunteering as a family is a great way to change that. It also teaches children about responsibility, compassion, generosity and more.

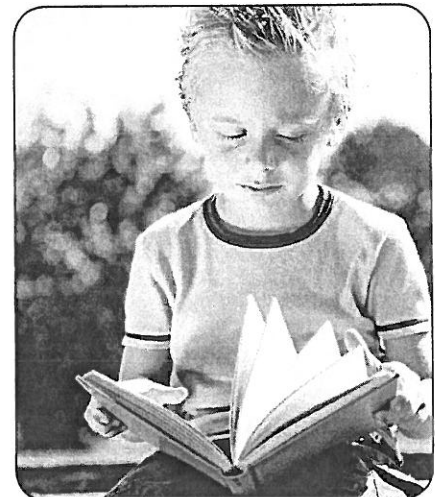
When making summer plans, include a few volunteer activities. Your family might:

- **Clean a favorite spot.** Inspect places your family spends time, such as your street, a park or the beach. You may be surprised by how much trash and debris is there. Supervise as your family fills garbage and recycling bags.
- **Provide shelter.** Many groups build or improve housing for others. Find one that welcomes kids' help. Your child might sweep, carry items or hand out nails while you hammer.
- **Provide food.** Community food banks are always in need of groceries and helpers. Homeless shelters and meal-delivery programs often need supplies. Your child may be able to collect food and supplies or even make sandwiches.
- **Care for animals.** Call an animal shelter to learn about its needs. If you and your child can't work directly with pets, consider other ideas, such as raising awareness about animal adoption.
- **Make cards.** Find a charity that serves elderly or homebound citizens. A letter from a child may be more uplifting than anything else.

Maintain a consistent schedule over the summer months

Summer is a time to relax—but not a time to relax important routines. Routines help your child cooperate, develop responsibility and become self-disciplined. They also make it easier to adjust when school starts again. Maintain routines for:

- **Sleep.** When school is out, your child's bedtime and rising time may be later than usual. Once you choose a reasonable sleep schedule, however, stick with it.
- **Reading.** Schedule time for it. Keep your home stocked with reading material and encourage reading every day, including in fun spots, such as the pool or the park.
- **Meals.** Make it a priority to have at least one meal as a family each day. This is a chance to catch up and enjoy one another's company.



- **Screen time.** Extra free time should not mean more time for screen media. Maintain healthy limits for the amount of time your child spends in front of screens.

Three activities will keep your child learning all summer long



Your child is as ripe for learning during the summer as she is throughout the rest of the year. So don't miss out on chances to boost her smarts during the warmer months. If you make them fun, she'll never suspect she's learning!

Here are three brain-building activities to enjoy this summer:

1. **Plant a garden.** Involve your child in the entire process. She'll have a real-world chance to use her reasoning and math skills. "We have a 10-foot by 4-foot plot in the yard. If tomatoes need to be

planted at least two feet apart, how many should we buy? What else should we plant?"

2. **Host a family game night.** Set aside one evening each week to play board games together. Classics like Scrabble and Boggle are good for keeping language skills sharp. And more complex games like Monopoly and chess require your child to use reasoning and think critically.
3. **Participate in a library program.** Virtual and in person summer reading programs are terrific. Many libraries offer science and math activities, too.

Helping Children Learn®

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Timothy L. Johnson Academy



May 2021

Communicate directions, discipline with four effective strategies

Communication between you and your child supports learning. For example, having daily conversations about what your child is doing and thinking in class shows her that you care about her and that her education is a priority.

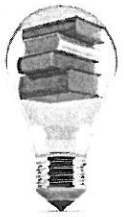


But when it comes to telling children what to do, many parents find themselves talking on and on—while their children listen less and less. When communicating about tasks, rules and discipline, experts recommend that parents:

- 1. Make infrequent requests.** As much as possible, help your child develop routines for doing things like schoolwork and chores.
- 2. Speak at a normal volume.** Your child will not hear you any more clearly if you yell. In fact, she is more likely to tune you out.
- 3. Keep it short.** When you give directions, limit the number of words you use. Instead of saying, "Alice, you know there's no TV until your work is done. I need you to finish your math. And you really should take a shower" try, "It's time for math. Then a shower—and then you can have TV."
- 4. Focus on the positive.** Roughly 85 percent your discipline should encourage the behavior you want to see. That leaves just 15 percent of the time for correcting negative behavior.

Issue a writing challenge

Books all start in the same way—inside a writer's head. Raise this idea with your child. Say, "I bet you could write a book! You'd have the whole summer to do it." To get her thinking, have her pretend to be different characters. Then interview her. "What do you look like? What do you like to do?" Have her set aside regular writing time. Later she can design a cover and "publish" her book by making copies for friends.



Respectful students make it easier to teach and learn

In today's society, children see examples of disrespect everywhere. So it's vital to instill the importance of behaving respectfully in your child. To promote respect:

- **Name it** when you see others showing it.
- **Praise it** when your child shows it.
- **Correct** disrespect privately. "Remember what we said about interrupting?"
- **Pass compliments** along. If someone tells you your child was polite, let him know how proud you are of his behavior.



Plan ways to make reading a fun and frequent summer activity

Maintaining your child's reading skills and habits over the summer is an important way to make sure he will be prepared for the next school year. To avoid a reading setback this summer:

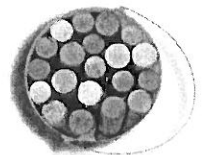
- **Discuss your child's interests.** Is there something he'd like to learn about when he has more time over break? Maybe he wants to know how power plants work, or how to identify snakes.
- **Pair fiction and nonfiction.** If your child reads a story about knights, he might enjoy reading an article about the sport of jousting as it's practiced today.
- **Be creative** about reading materials. All kinds of reading—joke books, hobby magazines, graphic novels, cookbooks—can help your child practice reading skills.
- **Look for reading contests** locally and online that your child can participate in. Ask a librarian for a list.

Source: "Summer Reading," Reading Rockets, niswc.com/summerreading.

Head outdoors for math

Grab some chalk and enjoy some math activities on the sidewalk with your child!

- **Puddle watch.** After a rain, have your child trace around two puddles, one in the sun and one in the shade. Every hour, have her chart how much each puddle has changed and compare the rate of change.
- **Add it up.** Draw a large three by three grid. In each square, write a number from one to nine. Take turns tossing two stones into the grid and adding the two numbers. Write the answers down. After five rounds, who has the highest score?





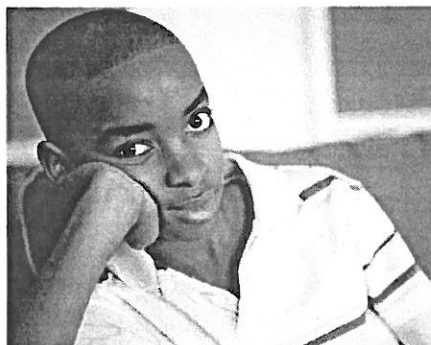
Q&A Can anxiety about middle school cause bad behavior?

Q: My 11-year-old's behavior has been fine until this spring. Now he's acting out in class and with the family. I know he's anxious about going to middle school next fall. Could that be why? What can I do?

A: Anxious children tend to act out with the people they feel the closest to—usually parents and teachers.

The middle school transition can indeed bring out anxiety. Your child may have many worries: Will he be able to handle the work? See his friends? Will the virus still be changing how school works? If these fears are behind your child's behavior change, getting them out in the open will be a first step in dealing with them. Here's how:

- **Start the conversation.** See if you can get him to express his fears out loud. A low-key approach usually works best. You might say, "I bet you're wondering about who will be in your classes next year."
- **Discuss his concerns** with his teacher. Perhaps the teacher can lead a few class discussions about life in middle school. She may also be able to suggest a middle schooler your child could talk to about what it's like.
- **Remind him that he has coped** with the past year's changes, and you will help him cope next year. Then say that being worried is not an excuse to misbehave. He still needs to follow the school and family rules.



Parent Quiz

Are you connecting history to life?

One of the best ways to ignite children's interest in learning history is to make them feel connected to it. Sharing family information can do that. Are you teaching your child how she fits into history? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

- ___ **1. Do you show** your child old family photos and talk about the people in them?
- ___ **2. Do you look** at maps with your child to find the countries her ancestors came from and the routes they traveled?
- ___ **3. Do you encourage** your child to ask older relatives questions about their lives?
- ___ **4. Do you ask** your child to help you make scrapbooks to preserve family history?
- ___ **5. Do you cook** family recipes with your child?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are giving your child roots in family history. For each no, try that idea.

"... the attraction of history is in our human nature. What makes us tick? Why do we do what we do? How much is luck the deciding factor?"
—David McCullough

Don't let up on attendance

Studies show that students who miss just 10 percent of the school year in the early grades are still behind their peers when they reach high school. That's one reason attendance is critical right through the last day of school.

Teachers are still teaching new content. By taking part in class every day, your child won't miss anything. And she'll learn to be dependable—a quality that will help her throughout her school career.

Source: A. Ansari, R.C. Pianta, "School absenteeism in the first decade of education and outcomes in adolescence," *Journal of School Psychology*, Elsevier.

Reflect on the year's course

When people think of the 2020-2021 school year, many will remember its challenges. But don't lose sight of your child's successes! Sit down together and talk about:

- **Things that went well.** Did he persist despite difficulties? What new skills did he build? Celebrate his accomplishments!
- **Learning goals** for the summer. Ask the teacher what your child should work on to start the next year strong.

Plan for family adventure

To prevent boredom and promote learning over the summer, plan some local family field trips. Consider outdoor sites such as:

- **A garden center** or nursery. Observe workers planting, watering and pruning. Learn about natural pest controls, such as ladybugs and praying mantises.
- **An airport.** See if your child can spot the control tower or planes taking off and landing.
- **A historic battlefield.** Before you go, read about the battle together.
- **A state or national park.** Bring a nature guide and maybe some binoculars and check out the hiking trails.



Helping Children Learn®

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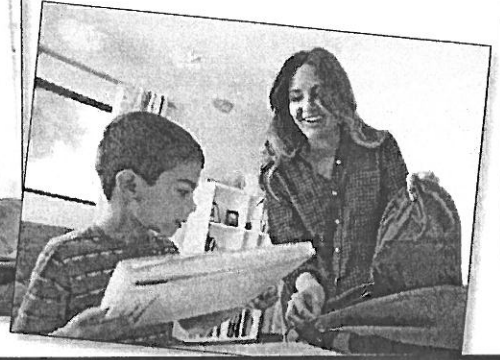
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Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help children
do well in school*

Timothy L. Johnson Academy



THE
PARENT
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June • July • August 2021

June 2021

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Make a list of 10 things your child has learned in this school year. Post it on the refrigerator.
- 2. Praise your child for something she did today. Make your praise as specific as possible.
- 3. Take a fraction walk with your child. What fraction of the cars you see are red? What fraction of the rooftops are black?
- 4. Ask your child to make a list of items your family can reuse, repurpose or recycle.
- 5. Help your child organize his room.
- 6. Some time today, exchange notes with your child instead of talking. (This also works when things get noisy!)
- 7. Ask your child to help you make an I'm Bored Box. Fill it with things to read, games to play and art supplies.
- 8. With your child, learn how to count to 10 in at least three different languages.
- 9. Plan an indoor "camp out" with your child.
- 10. Make a list of five fun things to do as a family this summer.
- 11. Teach your child how to disagree respectfully.
- 12. Show your child pictures of different dark green vegetables. Let her choose one. Find a recipe and give it a try.
- 13. Challenge your child to turn a newspaper headline into a question. Then read the article together. Does it answer the question?
- 14. Ask your child to alphabetize your books or the spices in your cupboard.
- 15. Practice making decisions as a family. Let everyone have a say.
- 16. Ask your child to tell you about something he loves.
- 17. Does your child have a summer reading list? Post it in a special place. Check off books as she finishes reading them.
- 18. Start a sentence-a-day story. In a notebook, have your child write the first sentence of a story. Take turns adding a sentence each day.
- 19. Ask your child to help you prepare a family favorite breakfast at home. Make this a regular habit.
- 20. Let your child use medicine droppers and water colored with food coloring to experiment with mixing colors.
- 21. Review simple first-aid skills with your child today.
- 22. Have your child write a thank-you letter to someone who made the school experience better for him this year.
- 23. Sponsor a summer-long contest. Who in your family can read the most books?
- 24. Watch part of a TV show or video with the sound muted. Ask family members to make up the dialogue.
- 25. Help your child plan three healthy meals.
- 26. Have your child decorate a box for photos and other small keepsakes this summer. In August, use them to make a scrapbook.
- 27. Review math facts with your child.
- 28. On a sunny day, trace your shadows on the sidewalk with chalk.
- 29. Read a story about persistence with your child, such as *The Little Engine That Could*.
- 30. Teach your child how to sew on a button or patch today.

July 2021

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Have a treasure hunt outside. Challenge your child to find five specific items (leaf, grass, pinecone, etc.).
- 2. Have your child close his eyes and tell you everything he hears.
- 3. Show your child a picture of a painting of flowers. Then find some flowers, and see if your child can paint a picture in the artist's style.
- 4. Talk to your child about what it means to be *free*.
- 5. Ask your child to write a poem about her favorite thing to do.
- 6. Serve your child a new food. Then have him write and act out his own commercial for it.
- 7. With your child, estimate the number of socks in her drawer. Then count to find out the exact number.
- 8. Is your child turning into a summer couch potato? Limit screen time and encourage outdoor play.
- 9. Plan an activity for the weekend that the whole family will enjoy.
- 10. Talk to your child about peer group pressure. It's not too soon to talk about ways to say *no* to drugs and alcohol.
- 11. Turn a muffin tin upside down. Let your child paint the bottoms of the cups. Press a piece of paper over the paint to make a print.
- 12. Help your child make a fruit salad. Include at least one new or unfamiliar fruit.
- 13. Have your child comb his hair. Use the static electricity in the comb to pick up paper confetti.
- 14. Give your child a spiral notebook to use as a journal. Ask her to write in it for 10 minutes each day.
- 15. Have your child place a leaf (vein side up) on newspaper. Cover it with thin paper and have him rub with a crayon.
- 16. Tonight, take a walk with your child. See how many stars you can see.
- 17. Plan an outdoor adventure day. Take a hike or visit a park or playground.
- 18. Help your child interview family members and write a family newsletter based on what she learns.
- 19. Monitor which websites your child is visiting. Discuss online safety.
- 20. Will your child need a physical exam for school this fall? If so, make an appointment now.
- 21. Go on a map search through a newspaper. How many maps can your child find?
- 22. Talk about favorite songs. Why does your child like his favorite song?
- 23. How many farm animals can your child name?
- 24. Set aside some time to spend one-on-one with your child today.
- 25. Have a "power out" night. Use flashlights. Avoid using electronic devices.
- 26. Look at the weather forecast with your child today. Compare where you live to the rest of the country.
- 27. Read an article to your child. Ask her to summarize the main points.
- 28. Look at photos from a year ago. Your child will be amazed at how much he has grown!
- 29. Review emergency contacts with your child. Does she know the phone numbers to call?
- 30. Issue a Geography Challenge. Take turns naming a state, province or country. Who can call out the capital first?
- 31. Talk to your child about how name-calling hurts everyone.

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August 2021

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- 1. Give your child a measuring tape. Ask him to measure dimensions of objects in your house.
- 2. For five minutes, both you and your child write a story. Then switch and finish each other's story.
- 3. If your child could be a famous person, who would she be? Why?
- 4. Make math flash cards together to help keep your child's math skills sharp.
- 5. Talk about tricky pairs of letters. Help your child distinguish between *w* and *m*, *n* and *u*, *b* and *d*, *i* and *l*.
- 6. Listen to a new kind of music with your child. Discuss how it makes you feel.
- 7. Write down a long word and see how many smaller words your child can create using only the letters in the long word.
- 8. Help your child check out a book about a career of interest from the library.
- 9. Ask your child to help you look through the ads and find the best prices for school supplies.
- 10. Dissolve some salt in a glass of water. Watch for a few days. Talk about what happens.
- 11. Get your child back into a school-year bedtime routine.
- 12. Have your child draw a picture. Ask him to make up a story about it and tell it to somebody.
- 13. Take turns as a family naming different parts of the body. Who can name the most?
- 14. Help your child make a list of things she would like to learn in the coming school year.
- 15. Ask your child to listen for a certain word as you read. Have him say it aloud when he hears it.
- 16. Put a leafy stalk of celery into colored water. Watch the color rise into the stalk over the next week.
- 17. Encourage writing by helping your child make her own stationery.
- 18. Stock a box or basket with supplies such as paper, pencils and glue sticks. Keep it in your child's study area.
- 19. Have a silent chat with your child. Draw what you want to say.
- 20. Put various objects on a tray. Have your child examine them, then close his eyes and name as many as he can remember.
- 21. Have a summer clean-up day. Choose a room and have your child help you clean it.
- 22. Ask your child to tell you the three best things about herself.
- 23. Tonight at bedtime, allow a few minutes after the light is off for quiet conversation with your child.
- 24. Have your child write and mail a letter to a friend.
- 25. Read a book about families together. Talk about your own family.
- 26. Ask your child to find the coldest place in the nation today and the warmest. What's the difference between the two temperatures?
- 27. Look at the school's website and social media pages with your child.
- 28. Have each family member look through a newspaper and pick an article of interest. Share the articles at dinner.
- 29. Ask your child what he enjoyed most this summer.
- 30. Play a favorite family board game tonight.
- 31. Review respectful school behavior with your child.

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