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Parent  
 Connect



*"Persistence and resilience only come from having been given the chance to work through difficult problems."  
 -Gever Tulley*

**October 2023**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Individual School Pictures  Picture Day!	3 Annual Dessert Fundraiser Kick-Off 	4	5	6 Student Council Meeting, 7:30-8:00	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Student Council Meeting, 7:30-8:00	14
15	16 Homecoming Week Spirit Day: Teacher/Student Swap - Dress Like Your Teacher Day!	17 Dessert Fundraiser ENDS - MONEY AND ORDERS DUE!  Homecoming Week Spirit Day: Hawaiian Day - Dress in your favorite Hawaiian clothes	18 Student Council Meeting, 7:30-8:00  Homecoming Week Color Wars: Preschool: Pink Kindergarten: Purple 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade: Red 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade: Yellow 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade: Green 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade: Blue 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade: Brown 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade: Black	19 No School! Parent/Teacher Conferences, 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. 	20 No School  Homecoming Parade, 1:30-2:00 in Ovid	21
22	23	24 Gifted and Talented STEM Day at NJC	25	26	27 Student Council Meeting, 7:30-8:00	28
29	30	31 Halloween Celebration Activities! 				

**PowerSchool Parent Portal Registration Reminder:**

- PowerSchool Parent Portal Forms - Parents, you should have received a letter from the school describing the process to sign up for the PowerSchool Parent Portal. We wanted to make sure every parent/guardian had access to the Parent Portal by Monday, August 28th. For those families who have not created a portal and/or filled out all required forms, we will send your password letters again and will also have them available at parent/teacher conferences where we will have you stay just a bit longer to complete the required forms. Please let us know if you are having difficulty filling this out.

### **Individual Picture Day**

Individual school pictures will take place on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. You will receive a photo order form. If you choose to purchase photos of your child, please fill out the form and return no later than October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Annual Dessert Fundraiser**

Our annual dessert fundraiser will kick off with a student assembly on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Money raised from this fundraiser will go toward field trips, student materials, and our after-school clubs. Students will be receiving a fundraiser packet. We DO NOT want student selling door to door as that is not safe. We will instruct students who participate in the fundraiser to sell to people they know and/or to have their parents assist them in selling items. The fundraiser ends on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Orders will be pre-grouped and will arrive before Thanksgiving. We will communicate a day and time for families to pick up these items. Thank you in advance for your support of our students.

### **ACCELERATED READER CHALLENGE**

It's back with popular demand! We have brought back our Accelerated Reader program and are kicking off our 2023-2024 Accelerated Reader Challenge. The purpose behind this challenge is to build a love of reading and expose students to all types of genres of literature (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, biographies, etc.) while also supporting the area of comprehension and understanding of what they reading. Teachers are preparing our students as we speak for that challenge which includes expectations as well as what they earn as a result of meeting their goals. Here is some information for you as parents/guardians:

#### A.R. Requirements:

- Students are expected to read at or above their grade level (or as assigned through IEP or READ/Title Plan), meet their required points, and pass with a minimum of 85% by the end of each trimester.

#### A.R. Incentives:

- Students who meet their required points at the end of each trimester will participate in a fun day and an award at the end of each trimester.

#### A.R. Rules:

- Tests must be taken at school from 8:00-3:30
- All tests will be taken independently by the student.
- Students must remain on the A.R. site during testing.
- Students can use the A.R. book as the only resource while taking the test if the teacher determines this is appropriate.
- All books must be verified and found in our school library, on EPIC, purchased from our book order, and/or from our Readers Read Book Nook.

#### A.R. Incentive Rules:

- Academic dishonesty can result in loss of points and/or school disciplinary action.
- Students who are academically dishonest will not be allowed to participate in the grade level or end of year award for A.R.

#### Point Goals by Trimester:

##### K/1st:

- First Trimester - 5 Points
- Second Trimester - 5 Points
- Third Trimester - 5 Points

##### 2nd/3rd:

- First Trimester - 6 Points
- Second Trimester - 6 Points
- Third Trimester - 6 Points

##### 4th-6th:

- First Trimester - 7 Points
- Second Trimester - 7 Points
- Third Trimester - 7 Points

Reward Levels:

1<sup>st</sup> Trimester Points Earned - Black Lion Award

2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Plus 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester Earned - Purple Lion Award

3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Plus 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Plus 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester - Golden Lion Award and Entry To The "Mane" Event (Surprise Reward)

There is a SURPRISE end of year award for students meeting all three trimester goals. Our students are already excited to find out what that is! We will continue to keep parents informed and will steadily post pictures and updates of those students who have and are meeting their goals. Happy reading!

**9 tips to make the most of your parent-teacher conference**

Resource: <https://www.understood.org/en/articles/tips-successful-parent-teacher-conference>

Trynia Kaufman, MS

**Before the conference**

**1. Look over schoolwork.**

Take some time to look over your child's homework, essays, reading logs, and other schoolwork. How does it look like your child is doing? Is the homework too easy or too hard? Does your child need help?

Review report cards, too. What are your child's grades like? You can also look over any emails or newsletter updates the teacher has sent.

**2. Talk with your child.**

Get a sense from your child about how school is going. What's most and least enjoyable? Does your child feel unsure about school? Who are the kids your child talks with most in class? (For more ideas, see this list of [questions to ask your child](#).)

Ask your child if there's anything you should talk to the teacher about. Mention that every family has a conference, so your child doesn't worry about what this meeting means.

**3. Make a list of questions.**

Now that you've talked with your child and reviewed schoolwork, make a list of questions. If you're stumped, use this [list of questions to ask teachers](#). Think through anything you want to make sure the teacher knows. Are there specific things that helped your child thrive in school in the past? Have there been any big changes in your family or living situation? Are there holidays you'll be away? Talk with other family members to make sure you cover everything. Once you have your list, put questions and concerns in order of importance, so you can cover the biggest things first. Use this [parent-teacher conference worksheet](#) to get organized.

**At the conference**

**4. Be on time.**

Double-check the time slot for your conference. Then plan to be ready about five minutes before your assigned time. This way, you won't miss any of your time with the teacher.

**5. Stay calm.**

It's important to keep your emotions in check during the conference, even if your child is struggling with something. Taking a few deep breaths can help. Using a respectful tone will also help you and the teacher work together to find solutions for your child.

At the same time, if you disagree with the teacher, be sure to speak up. If you don't say something, the teacher may assume you don't have concerns. **The teacher is here to help your child be as successful as possible, so if the teacher explains any areas of concern or challenges your child may be experiencing, accept this information gracefully and know the teacher is being open and honest and truly wants what is best for your child. It is at this time, your child will go over strategies he/she will use to support your child and will offer suggestions for support at home.**

**6. Ask the most important questions first.**

Remember that you only have a short time. Try to cover your most important questions and concerns first. (Use your list of questions if you had time to make one.) Try not to worry if you don't get to everything. You can still ask for a follow-up meeting with the teacher to discuss anything you couldn't get to. And if you don't understand something the teacher says, ask for an explanation.

**7. Figure out next steps.**

Save a few minutes at the end of the conference for next steps. Depending on what you've talked about, here's what you might suggest:

- Staying in touch: "How can we keep talking about this? Could I get weekly feedback for the next month — maybe a quick email on Fridays?"
- In-class help: "We talked about giving my child more support in class. What should we look for in the coming weeks to decide if it's working or not?"
- School services: "I'd like to meet with the school to talk about extra reading instruction. What information should we gather before that meeting?"

### **After the conference**

#### **8. Update your child.**

Talk to your child about what happened. It's important to share anything positive that you and the teacher discussed. But it's also important not to shy away from problems or challenges. If there are next steps, make sure your child knows what they are.

#### **9. Follow up.**

If you and the teacher agreed on next steps, follow up in the next week or so to see how things are working out. It's useful to have check-ins before the next conference. At each check-in, ask for an update. Also be ready to share what you've been doing on any action steps. Although parent-teacher conferences are short, they're a good time to learn more about your child's school experience.

