

Twin Hills Elementary School



“Students Today; Leaders Tomorrow!”

February 2022

Principal's Message...

“I always wondered why someone doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody.” ~Lily Tomlin

Have you ever overheard people talking endlessly about what should, could, and would happen if... Those prompts often end with a description of expectations for someone else to take an action. Maybe, you yourself have been the speaker of such thoughts. There is nothing wrong with setting expectations for people in our lives, professionally and personally. But, the ultimate responsibility for making ‘something’ happen emanates from within. I am a firm believer that the time spent waiting for someone else to make a change or difference on our behalf, would be better spent idealizing ways to manifest our deepest wants and needs. Mahatma Ghandi urged us to begin from within when he said, “Be the Change you wish to see in the world.” During Black History Month, I humbly honor all of the courageous black men and women who ‘*did*’, passing the baton for me to do all that I can do! ~Dr. Nock

Attendance Matters at Twin Hills!

Concerns about fluctuating transmission rates and symptom requirements can make it difficult to consistently attend school. School personnel understand the concerns families experience when faced with the decision to send their child to school or keep them home due to symptoms, as we share those concerns for our families. It is important to remember the governor only allows schools to offer virtual instruction when a student is quarantined by the school. We ask that parents do that they can to ensure students are present in school, or logged in when they are assigned virtual instruction by the district!

The New Jersey School Performance Report still defines a chronically absent student as a student who is not present for 10% of the school year **for any reason**. Remember– being present and punctual is a life goal that children begin learning in school.

TH Student Attendance as of 1-31-2022

Gr	# of Students with ≥ 10% Absences	% of Students with ≥ 10% Absences
K	0	0.00%
1	29	8.60%
2	31	9.20%
3	28	8.30%
4	16	4.70%
	104	30.80%



Student Safety Patrols' Day of Service

Twin Hills Safety Patrol Officers, under the direction Ms. Gregory, led a school-wide collection efforts for our community. The following reflect their service efforts:

- Collected, sorted, and counted 700 food items
- Three families received food baskets from the collected items
- Coats, gloves, scarves, and hats were collected and shared with Twin Hills students and Sisterhood Inc.

In addition to the holiday service projects, student safeties also designed door handle decorations for residents at the Brookdale Senior Living Facility.

TH Student Council Represents at a School Board Meeting

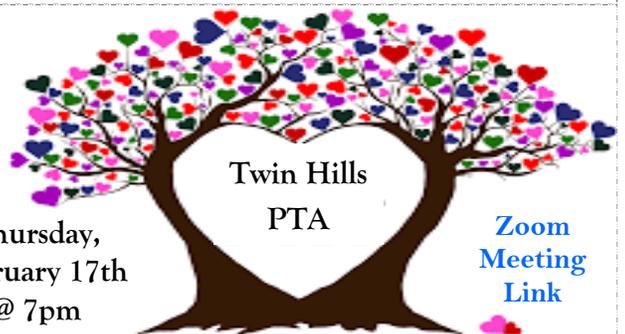


Leadership is a verb. On Monday, February 28th @ 7pm, Twin Hills Student Council President, Skyler Harris, will lead the board presentation on behalf of Twin Hills Superstars. Please join us as we support Skyler, the Student Council leadership, NEHS candidates, Safety Patrol officers, and staff advisors in sharing the happenings ‘on the hill’.

Zeta Phi Beta Donates 1000 Books to Twin Hills Students



The women of the Zeta Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., followed up their “Day of Reading” initiative by gifting our Superstar students **1,000 books** to begin, or add to, their personal libraries. Student Council, NEHS, and Safety Patrol Officers will assist in the sorting and labeling the books for school-wide distribution.



Thursday,
February 17th
@ 7pm

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

A Family of Advocates for ALL Children!

February's Words of the Month: Resilience is the ability to bounce back after challenges and tough times. Resilient children can recover from setbacks and get back to living life. Resilience develops when children experience challenges and learn to deal with them positively.

From Ms. Simone- Child Study Team Case Manager...

Here is some information if you are questioning if your child may need Special Education Services. There's no doubt the last two years have been tough for school-age children, especially when keeping up with their academics. Many students have missed out on a significant amount of instruction and/or struggled with virtual learning. This can make it difficult to tell whether a student has a learning problem, or if they just need some extra support to catch up. If you suspect that your child has a learning disability you are within your rights to submit a referral to the Child Study Team for evaluations, however here are a few steps that you should consider taking first:

- 1. Talk to your child's teacher.** Your child's teacher can tell you not only how your child is doing academically, but how they are doing in comparison to other students in the classroom. Teachers are able to identify when students are struggling and work with students in smaller groups according to their needs. Teachers keep track of student progress to make sure they are learning at an expected rate. When teachers have concerns about a student's academic progress they can refer the student to Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS).
- 2. Submit a referral to Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS).** When you submit a referral to I&RS, a meeting will be held with you and the I&RS team which typically includes your child's teacher(s), the school counselor, the climate and culture specialist, the school psychologist, and sometimes the school principal. The I&RS team will review your concerns and the concerns of the teacher. They will work together to create an intervention plan with strategies and interventions that can be implemented at home and in the classroom to help your child make progress. The teacher will take notes and collect data on your child's performance in the classroom. After 6-12 weeks, the team will meet again to see if progress has been made. If the team feels that your child has not made sufficient progress, they will refer your child to the Child Study Team (CST).
- 3. Submit a referral to the Child Study Team (CST).** Once you have submitted a referral to the CST, they will have 20 days to schedule a meeting. The meeting will include you, a school psychologist, school social worker, and learning disabilities teacher consultant (LDT-C) as well as your child's teacher. Depending on the nature of the referral, the speech and language therapist may also be present. It is important to provide data, history, and any pertinent medical history at this time. The CST will meet to determine whether a disability is suspected, and if there is enough evidence to suspect a disability the team will request consent to evaluate your child. The Child Study Team does not typically evaluate students if there have not been interventions attempted in the classroom or if there is no significant medical or historical evidence to signify a disability. If the team does not feel that evaluations are warranted at the time of the meeting, they may refer your child to I&RS.
4. Here at Twin Hills, we take pride in our ability to work together as a team to ensure student success. If you have any questions about special education services, please reach out to Christene Simone at csimone@wboe.net. You can also access the Parental Rights in Special Education document at <https://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/form/prise/>.

“Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.” ~Dr. Mae Jemison

		<h2 style="text-align: center;">February 2022</h2>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
		1	2	3	4	5		
6	7 Marking Period End Title 1 Mtg @ 3:45pm	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14 School Board Mtg @7pm	15 Report Cards Disseminated	16	17 PTA Mtg. @ 7 pm	18	19		
20	21 President's Day- School Closed	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28 School Board Mtg @7pm							