

# Twin Hills Elementary School

October 2020

**“Students Today; Leaders Tomorrow!”**

Principal's Message

**“No effort is Failure!”** ~ Mrs. Madeline Banks, TH School Secretary

Under no circumstances is it ever a proposed practice to not try. Extending one's best effort does not ensure the desired outcome, but it certainly better the chances than if there is no attempt at all. The recent national and world events have laid before us the impediments to our mental, physical, and emotional health. It is always our responsibility to choose. Do we succumb to difficult times, or do we search ourselves for the fight to go forward? I have no gift to see into the future and cannot be sure about what is to come. What I do know is Twin Hills will continue to prioritize the needs of our children. This will be evidenced by an uncompromised commitment to high quality learning that is couched in love!

-Mrs. Nock-Lemans

## Attendance Matters at Twin Hills!

Twin Hills continues our commitment to students receiving the best learning experience possible. Research directly connects student attendance to academic performance. This means that learning begins with consistent attendance and punctuality. The month of September has been a challenging start with our student attendance at **85%, 10% below the state's goal of 95%**. Remember—the New Jersey School Performance Report defines a chronically absent student as a student who is not present for 10% of the school year **for any reason**.

TH Student Attendance as of 10-8-2020		
Gr	# of Students with ≥ 10% Absences	% of Students with ≥ 10% Absences
K	1	0.31%
1	12	3.75%
2	14	4.38%
3	13	4.06%
4	9	2.81%
	49	15.00%

## Virtual Student Attendance Assistance for Parents

Below is important information that has been shared regarding the district's plan for supporting parents in maintaining positive attendance and engagement for students during the pandemic:

- Students must log into their homeroom (through Google Meets) between 8:15 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. The homeroom teacher will record attendance. Students who do not log into homeroom, will be marked absent for the day.
- Students or parents/guardians must log into Genesis to record attendance after 8:30 a.m. and before 3:00 p.m. and click "Present-Tardy"
- All teachers will be required to maintain an Attendance Record Book for each class.
- A student whose attendance is marked "Present-Tardy" for the day is subject to have his/her attendance confirmed through a review of Attendance Record Books of all teachers assigned to the student.

Please reach out to following staff with questions or concerns related to your needs:

- Homeroom Teacher
- Ms. Purnell, School Guidance Counselor: [tpurnell@wboe.net](mailto:tpurnell@wboe.net)
- Ms. Mayers, Culture & Climate Specialist: [lmayer@wboe.net](mailto:lmayer@wboe.net)
- Ms. Simone, Child Study Team Case Manager (if applicable): [csimone@wboe.net](mailto:csimone@wboe.net)

## Guidance Word of the Month: R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

**Respect** is treating those around you the way that you want to be treated. Showing **respect** for others is one of the most important values in the world. It means showing care for another person or thing, like the environment.



## Collection for Ghana



During the 2019-2020 school year, Twin Hills' Student Council and Safeties spearheaded the collection of new eye wear, school supplies, sports items, science and technology materials, and books for the following two schools in Ghana, Africa:

- L and A Academy (Grades K-6)- Accra, Ghana
- Kumasi Wesley Girls' Senior High School (Grade 10-12)- Kumasi, Ghana

I am so enthused to announce that I received a letter and photos from one of the schools praising our efforts in supporting students around the world. As a part of our pursuits to develop citizens for the future, promoting service work is a key component. I can not thank Dr. Brita Theadford and Sisterhood, Inc. enough for allowing Twin Hills to be a part of such a worthwhile endeavor. Copies of the letter and the photos will be posted on our school website.

**“Service is the rent we pay for the privilege for living on this earth.”**

## Setting Students Up for Success During Distance Learning

The following excerpts were taken from the article “Help Parents and Caregivers Keep Kids Focused, Interested, and Balanced While Learning From Home”:

- **Make a space.** Create a special, personalized corner of a room dedicated to learning, creating, and reading. Use a movable box or crate if space is precious. Let your kid help prepare the space for school, even if that just means putting a decorated pencil box next to the device they'll be using. Getting the space ready will help them get ready to learn.
- **Set a routine.** Little kids need more structure, so make sure to let them know what to expect. You can create a visual schedule they can follow. Have them follow a routine as if they're going to school (getting dressed, brushing teeth, etc.) instead of lying in bed in their pajamas, which could lead to less learning. Breaks are really important, especially for kids with learning and attention issues, so make sure to build those in and break assignments into smaller pieces.
- **Review expectations.** Go over what the school and teachers expect around online learning. Set some expectations of your own as well. When can your kid expect to spend time with you? When should they avoid interrupting you? What can they do in their downtime? Come up with a list of "must dos" and "may dos" together to cover the essentials and activities of choice.
- **Keep them close.** When it's hard for your kid to focus, try to keep them close. Consider setting up nonverbal or one-word cues to help get them back on track. Depending on your circumstances, it may not be possible to keep your kid in sight all the time, but it'll definitely be harder to keep them on track if they're completely unsupervised. Try to make sure you or another family member has eyeballs on them as much as possible.
- **Encourage self-regulation.** Talk to kids about the connection between bodies and brains and what happens in their bodies when they feel frustrated, excited, or sad. This awareness helps kids recognize and manage their emotions. If you have other devices in your house, keep them out of your kid's workspace if possible. This can also mean shutting down phones, keeping phones in a designated place for the day, and putting away remotes if temptation takes over.

(Retrieved from <https://www.common sense.org/education/articles/parent-tips-and-tricks-for-distance-learning>)

## “Red Ribbon Week”

This is a drug awareness campaign that is observed annually in October across the country.

- **Mon, Oct. 26th:** Wear your Jersey- “Team up against drugs.”
- **Tues. Oct. 27th:** Wear neon colors- “Our future is bright against drugs.”
- **Wed. Oct. 28th:** Wear your shirt backwards- “We are turning our back against drugs.”
- **Thurs. Oct. 29th:** Wear a red shirt- “Team up against drugs.”
- **Fri. Oct. 30th:** Wear your favorite superhero shirt- “We are brave and heroes against drugs.”

## Reminders:

- ⇒ Do not forget to update Genesis if phone numbers, addresses, etc. change. Genesis can be updated via the Genesis Parent Portal.
- ⇒ Visit the WPS website to get up-to-date information on district's reopening plan.
- ⇒ Student Chromebook Support
- Need a device? Email a request to [chromebook@wboe.net](mailto:chromebook@wboe.net)
- For technological issues email a request for support to [techsupport@wboe.net](mailto:techsupport@wboe.net)

 <h1 style="margin: 0;">October 2020</h1> 						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 <b>Progress Reports</b>	9	10
<b>Respect Week</b>						
11	12 <b>In-Service Day Board Mtg @7pm</b>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 <b>WEA Trunk or Treat @ 6pm</b>	24
<b>Red Ribbon Week</b>						
25	26 <b>Board Mtg @7pm</b>	27	28	29 <b>No costumes please!</b>	30	31