

August 18, 2017

Academy Parent Newsletter

Greeting, Academy Parents!

We have been in session just four days, but in some ways it feels like we have a rhythm that only time can give! The Titans are getting to know their way around, becoming familiar with some friendly faces and names, finding their way from place to place, and gaining some confidence in being part of their new school. With this said, lockers and arrival times, patterns and logistics are a lot to learn and truly only sink-in with experience, so we continue to encourage and model, and in no time we will be surrounded by Titan “professionals”!

The Titans are off to a good start, and you are reading this newsletter, which means YOU, too, are off to a good start! Ninety-nine percent of our information is conveyed through our weekly newsletters and a few other random emails, so it is important to peruse them when they arrive. If you are reading this because a friend told you it was on line, not because you received an email alerting you to read it, please let me know so we can be sure your email address is correctly put into our system.



Parent Meeting & Trip Expo – Thursday, August 24

Attending our Parent Meeting next Thursday, August 24, from 6-8:00 p.m. is highly recommended as it will ensure that you have a good handle on our day-to-day doings, methods and understandings. The information shared during this event is all geared to what you, as parents of our Titans, need to know about their days here at SJJA, and it is this information that will help you assist them in success!

The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. in the McQuade Theater, which is in the Carty Fox Commons area. You should enter through the Carty Fox Commons doors where you will be greeted and led to the theater.

When the meeting portion is completed, parents of our sixth graders will stay in the theater to learn details of the 2+2+2 program, while the parents of our seventh and eighth graders will head to the CFC (Carty Fox Commons), where they will learn about the various excursions offered and talk with teachers about the ones they are interested in. This is strictly an informational opportunity and no commitments or deposits are made at this time.

P.S. – As many of you are asking, the Titan Bookstore WILL be open! ☺



Mini-Class Night – Wednesday, September 6

Hinging on the above information about Parent Information & Trip Expo night, this seems like a good place to give you an FYI:

SAVE THE DATE - MINI-CLASS NIGHT

Mini Class Night will be held on Wednesday, September 6 at 6 pm, concluding before 8:30 pm. This is for parents only. You will have the opportunity to follow your son's schedule, meet his teachers and learn about his classes. This is the most effective way of learning how your Titan navigates his way through a school day, who his teachers are, what they expect in their classes and how to best communicate with each one. More details and information to come!



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Baseball Outing – Sunday, September 3

As you are aware, our first outing, a trip to Comerica Park for a Tigers vs. Indians baseball game, is just two weeks off. If you are interested in joining, refer to the details in our first newsletter. If you are having trouble accessing the FACTS page to register on, please call me and we can walk through it together---it might take some getting used to!



How to access past newsletters:

Go to:

www.sjtitans.org

Click on Academy (found gold bar across the top)

Scroll to last choice: Academy News

Scroll down and click on desired newsletter (only one to choose from so far!)



Solar Eclipse – Monday, August 21

The solar eclipse takes place primarily during our school day on Monday, with a portion still in action after our Titans are dismissed at 3:08. According to Timeanddate.com, this is the schedule:

Global Event: [Total Solar Eclipse](#)

Local Type: [Partial Solar Eclipse](#), in Toledo

Begins: [Mon, Aug 21, 2017 at 1:02 pm](#)

Maximum: Mon, Aug 21, 2017 at 2:27 pm [0.85 Magnitude](#)

Ends: Mon, Aug 21, 2017 at 3:48 pm

Duration: 2 hours, 46 minutes

As a school, we are very excited to share this _____ experience with our students. While there are a wide array of ways to do this, we are also first concerned with the safety of our Titans. With this said, we do want our Academy to experience and learn the scientific phenomena that is taking place, but are limiting their exposure to “*the great outdoors*” between 1:02 p.m. and 3:48 p.m.

We gathered as an Academy Friday afternoon to go over what a solar eclipse is, with an emphasis of the inherent dangers of looking directly at the sun during its close-to-three-hour duration (below is more information regarding the dangers). This site has a video that clearly explains some of the dangers – just copy/paste it into your search bar:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2017/08/15/the-worst-things-that-could-go-wrong-during-the-total-solar-eclipse-and-how-to-be-prepared/?utm_term=.ef5fe734af75

As a result, we have made plans to gather our Titans in the McQuade Theater from approximately 2:15-3:00 p.m. to watch the NASA Eclipse Live-Feed. This will give our students the safest and still-accurate experience of the eclipse while not tempting them to intentionally or accidentally look into the sun.

Some families have purchased solar-glasses and are hoping for their sons to use them during the eclipse. We completely support you and will allow your sons to go outside and experience the eclipse with the glasses he brings in. We also will have a few pairs of approved glasses for students to use, as well. **IMPORTANT:** Regardless of whether your son is using his own glasses or the glasses we will provide, a signed permission slip **MUST** be brought in Monday morning. This will ensure that parents are aware of both the dangers as well as the beautiful aspects of witnessing the eclipse through approved glasses. (

Our school day ends at 3:08, which is 40 minutes before the solar eclipse concludes. The students are on their own time at that point. Our building is available and students who are not heading home on a bus or a ride can stay inside, but this is a conversation you will want to have with your son, as he will need to be responsible for his own eye-safety during this time period.

**Feel free to call anytime, even over the weekend, if you have questions.
(Brenda Knight 419-389-7628)**



Where Do I Find a Permission Slip?

We have a printable permission slip on our website, and directions will follow. Most often you will fill out your permission slip through your FACTS account. Unfortunately, we cannot accept a hand-written note of approval on a random sheet of paper – it is necessary for our SJJ form to be filled out in order for students to be granted permission for an activity.

To access permission slip:

Go to www.sjjtitans.org

Click on Academy (in gold bar across top of page)

Scroll down to fifth choice, ACTIVITIES

First choice on page is the permission slip



Attendance

There will be times when your son is going to be out of school due to illness, be late for a pre-planned reason, or need to leave early for an appointment.

All attendance issues for Academy students go through the Academy. We do have a high school attendance line, but it is for the high school office to record their students.

Alert me through:

Desk: 419-720-0742

Cell: 419-389-7629

Text: 419-389-7628

Email: bknight@sjtitans.org

Hand written note



Birthday Celebrations

We celebrate our Titan's birthdays – half-birthdays if they have summer birthdays – during our Monday morning group meetings in the McQuade Theater. We bless the birthday students and give them a "jeans pass", which allows them to wear jeans to school on their birthday.

Some students like to bring in a snack/treat to share, and that is surely welcomed! We suggest that he does this through his Mentor Group, which includes 15-17 students and takes place before lunch. If it is ever decided that you want to expand from that group, we suggest that the snack is shared during lunch, but it must include your son's entire class, which for 6th grade would be under 40 and for 7th & 8th would be under 63. This is obviously a bigger undertaking, which is why Mentor Group is an ideal time to celebrate – and always enjoyed, as they are STARVING by then! 😊



Tissue Contribution

If you have not been able to send in three boxes of tissue yet, no worries! Tissues are needed throughout the year, so just send them in as you can.



Academy Class Polos

Attached is an Academy Class Polo order form. As you know through a previous email, we allow our students to wear a Class Polo on the day of any given school week, which is normally Fridays. This replaces their shirt and tie, but not their school pant, belt and school shoes. Until the polo orders are in, ALL students may wear their class polo, an SJJ t-shirt or any polo they own on the last day of the school week. After the orders are in, and the students will know this, only class polos or the shirt and tie will be acceptable.

The Titan Bookstore will be open for the Parent Meeting this coming Thursday, so you will be able to stop in if you want to see sizes. The order closes on Friday, but we will have another order session closer to Christmas.

There has been a lot of information in this newsletter, and yet I am sure there are plenty of unanswered questions. Attending our Parent Information Night, as well as Mini-Class Night will help you understand the details of Academy-life, and other questions are just an email away!

Enjoy your weekend and we are looking forward to our first full week with the 2017018 Academy students!

See Attachment:

Academy Polo Order Form



A.M.D.G.

