



TLJA TIMES

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

December 2020-Newsletter



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,

We are presently approaching the semester break for the 2020-2021 school year. Many of you committed to a semester of virtual instruction. We are preparing for the second semester. If you would like to have your child return to in-person instruction starting Jan. 3rd, please contact the school so we can reserve their spot. We know things are still concerning in the world right now. We are following all of the safety protocols to insure a safe school environment. Please let us know how we can be a support to you during these times.

If your child/children are returning from virtual instruction, we need to know as soon as possible so we can prepare for their transition back to in-person instruction. Please call us at 260-441-8727.

We appreciate all you do!! Thank you for your partnership with us!!
Dawn Starks, TLJA Superintendent /School Leader

To all virtual scholars-breakfast and lunch meals are available each day. Please call if you are interested. 260-441-8727

Students have started taking our middle of year assessments. We are reviewing skills and test taking strategies. Please encourage your child to do their personal best!! Be sure your child is doing their homework!!



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



The following tips are from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

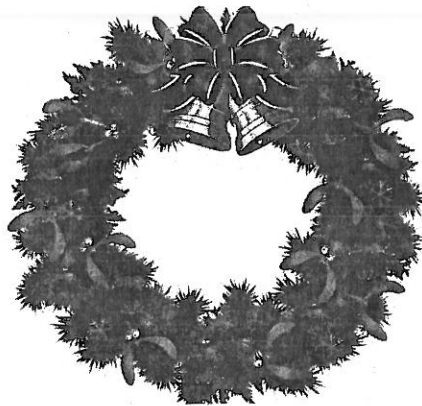
1. I will clean up my toys, and keep my room in good order.
2. I will brush my teeth twice a day and wash my hands before eating and after the bathroom.
3. I won't tease dogs, even friendly ones – and keep my hands and face away from their mouths.
4. I will drink more milk and water and limit soda and fruity drinks.
5. I will apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
6. I will find a sport or activity that I like and do it at least three times a week.
7. I will always wear a helmet when bicycling or boarding.
8. I will wear my seat belt every time I get in the car.
9. I'll be nice to others and friendly to kids who need friends – like someone shy or new to school.
10. I'll never give out personal information or pictures of myself to strangers or over the internet.

WARM CLOTHING NEEDED?

If your child needs warm clothing for proper protection and none is available to you, please call the school at 441-8727 for assistance. We want to help ensure our TLJA students have the warm clothing necessary for the winter season.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- December**
- 12/18 Teacher Professional Development Day
NO SCHOOL**
- 12/21-1/1 Holiday Break
NO SCHOOL
OFFICE CLOSED**
- 1/4/21 School and Bus Schedules Resume at Regular Times**
- 1/18 Martin Luther King Day
NO SCHOOL**



TO OUR TIMOTHY L. JOHNSON FAMILIES
The staff of Timothy L. Johnson Academy wish for each of you a restful and happy holiday season. Please stay safe and healthy and enjoy the time with your families. We look forward to our students returning to school on January 4th ready to go forward into the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

MAKE HEALTH YOUR RESOLUTION

Healthy You: Make healthy food choices, be active, make an appointment for a check - up, vaccination, or screening. Know your numbers – weight, blood pressure, cholesterol. Wash your hands often. Be smoke free. Get enough sleep. Learn and practice a new health tip each week. Make a new friend.

Healthy Family: Plan to eat more meals together as a family. Encourage and support physical activity. Put together a family health history. Know where to go for health care in town if you do not have insurance. Keep pets vaccinated and healthy. Add a health related web site to your favorites list, and check weekly updates. Spend more time together. Be courteous and practice good manners.

Healthy Home: Go green. Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Install smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide alarms on every level. Keep cleaning products and medications away from children. Have a winter weather emergency plan, and stock your home and car with necessary supplies. Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and hypothermia. Never use generators, grills, camp stoves, or similar devices indoors.

Healthy Community: Volunteer at your church, school, or one of the many community centers needing help or an extra hand. If you have received help from others, try to repeat the gesture. Extend a common courtesy wherever you are – they are always appreciated and hopefully duplicated.

Healthy Workplace: Stay home if you are sick. Wash your hands often. Participate in healthy workplace programs. Take steps to prevent job stress, reduce work injuries and practice good body mechanics.

DECEMBER FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
	1	2 Yellow Cherry Tomatoes	3	4 Kiwi
7 Cauliflower	8	9 Black Seedless Grapes	10	11 Carrot Snax
14	15 Lemon	16	17 Leftovers	18 NO SCHOOL

Helping Children Learn®

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



December 2020

Timothy L. Johnson Academy

Offer your child different ways to practice writing every day

Just like reading and math, writing is a skill that takes practice to learn. That's why experts recommend that elementary schoolers spend time writing every day, for a variety of purposes.

Encouraging your child to write at home for at least 15 minutes each day will build his writing skills and ability to express himself. And research shows that writing by hand, rather than on a keyboard, can also improve his reading fluency.

To add writing time to your child's day, ask him to:

- **Help you write.** When you write a letter, make a grocery list or decide on the dinner menu, dictate it to your child and have him write it down.
- **Copy.** Encourage your child to write down the words to favorite songs, or copy down quotations or poems he likes.
- **Record.** When you take your child out, ask him to bring a notebook. In it, he can describe what he sees and experiences. Views from the car window or the sights and sounds of a walk in nature are great places to start.
- **Keep a journal.** Suggest that your child write about things that happen to him and how he feels about them.



Source: B. MacKenzie, "How to Teach Handwriting—and Why It Matters," Edutopia, [niswc.com/hand-write](https://www.niswc.com/hand-write).



A buddy system can enrich study time

In a class, your child can learn a lot by listening to other students. At home, having a study buddy can be an effective way for her to master challenging material and learn about working with others.

A study buddy can be a classmate, friend or sibling your child meets with in person, over the phone or via video chat. Your child and her buddy can help each other practice math facts or prepare for presentations. They can test each other to see what they know—and don't know.

To make sure your child gets the most out of studying with a buddy, help her:

- **Choose someone** responsible who is focused on learning.
- **Understand the purpose.** Both kids should agree that studying is the goal—not socializing or playing games.
- **Create a schedule** of meetings.
- **Decide what** the buddies will cover in each study session—and stick to it!

Take stock of your child's school participation

The halfway point of the school year is approaching, so it's a good time to check on your child's engagement and schoolwork. How many in-person or remote classes has he missed this year? How many assignments? If you're not sure, contact the school to find out. It's not too late to get your child back on track for a successful year.

Help your child discover the pleasure of giving

Will your family be exchanging gifts this month? Giving will have more meaning for your child if she puts her time and love into the gifts she gives. Your child could:

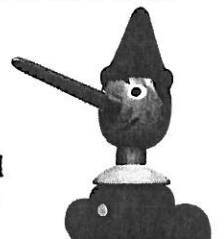
- **Draw a picture** or write a poem about a special person.
- **Create a playlist** with a bunch of her favorite songs to share.
- **Record herself** reading a book for a younger sibling to listen to.
- **Decorate a homemade frame** for a photo of herself with a loved one.



Be specific about cheating

Elementary schoolers are often confused about cheating. Although they believe it is wrong, they also think it might be OK in some situations. Talk to your child about cheating. Tell him that:

- **Cheating** is lying and it's *always* wrong.
- **You care** more that he is working hard and being honest than you do about his grades.
- **It's never OK** to cheat because a friend asks him to. Role-play ways your child can say *no* in those situations.



Q&A My child is better at starting than finishing. What helps?

Q: My daughter is always enthusiastic about starting a new project. But she usually loses interest half-way through. Then she wants to switch gears and start on something else. What should I do?

A: Some children are always on the lookout for variety and excitement. For them, starting is always more fun than finishing. But in school—and life—there are many things that have to be done even when they aren't exciting.



The key is to channel your child's energy productively without dampening her enthusiasm. Help her organize her efforts. When she starts a project:

- **Help her think** about everything she'll need to do. Be sure to remind her of details that tend to slip her mind. When are you available to help her get the supplies she needs? Will anything need time to grow or dry?
- **Show her how** to break the project down into parts. Since your child's attention span is short, seeing a long project as a series of small ones can help. Set a deadline for each step and write it on the calendar.
- **Sustain her interest** by having her plan little rewards she can give herself when she completes a "boring" part of the assignment. "When I finish my bibliography, I can take 10 minutes and call my friend."

Parent Quiz

Are you showing that math counts?

Research shows that parents' attitudes about math affect how well their children do in the subject. Are you modeling a positive attitude about math for your child? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- ___ **1. Do you tell** your child you know he can do well in math, and encourage him to give it his best effort?
- ___ **2. Do you avoid** saying negative things like "I never liked math when I was in school"?
- ___ **3. Do you play** games for fun with your child that involve math skills like keeping score?
- ___ **4. Do you talk** about the math skills you use in your life? "I'm calculating the room's area to figure out how much carpet we need."

- ___ **5. Do you create** opportunities for your child to use "grown-up" math, such as doubling a recipe?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are teaching your child to value math. For each no, try that idea.

"A good example has twice the value of good advice."

—attributed to Albert Schweitzer

Use summaries to boost reading comprehension

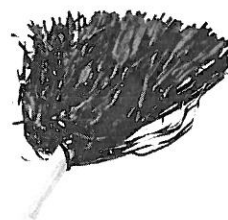
One way to make sure your child has understood a reading assignment is to have her summarize it. Choose a summary format that fits the content. You might ask her to:

- **Summarize the three** most important points in her own words.
- **Describe the people** or characters and what's important about each.
- **Explain what happened** and why.

It's OK if she needs to reread the material. Knowing she'll have to summarize it will make her read it more carefully. Over time, she'll get the knack of summarizing—and a better understanding of what she reads.

Cheer your student on!

What can you do when your child is trying to learn something and you aren't sure how to help? Be a cheerleader! Encourage your child with phrases like:



- *You're making great progress! Keep at it, I know you will get it.*
- *It will get better when you get the hang of it.*
- *If it doesn't work that way, try another way.*

Character is built, not born

Your child's character is a work in progress. Help him strengthen the traits that support school success. Here are four to focus on:

- 1. Responsibility.** Teach him that he has control over his choices and actions.
- 2. Flexibility.** Model listening, negotiation and compromise for your child.
- 3. Empathy.** Ask your child to imagine how others might feel.
- 4. Respect.** Discuss what respectful behavior looks like, at home and in class.

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Daily Learning Planner

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

Timothy L. Johnson Academy



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

December • January • February 2020-2021

December 2020

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

- 1. Create and keep a family journal. Everyone can share thoughts, reminders and accomplishments.
- 2. Count down to a special event. Use paper strips to make a chain, with one link for every day. Let your child remove one link each night.
- 3. Ask your child to write your shopping list before you go to the grocery store.
- 4. Make today Dictionary Day. Talk with your child about new words that she thinks should be in the dictionary.
- 5. Ask your child to choose a country and learn more about it.
- 6. Make an "I Am Special" scrapbook with your child.
- 7. Build a house of cards with your child. Challenge him to make the base as stable as possible.
- 8. Ask your child to name a low-cost activity that she would like to make an annual family tradition. Then start it!
- 9. Have an indoor snowball fight with cotton balls.
- 10. Holidays have you stressed? Ask your child to help. As kids share the responsibility, they appreciate the outcome even more.
- 11. Let your child blow up a balloon and then pop it. Together, research why it makes a loud noise.
- 12. Give your child a piece of paper to decorate using paint and sponges. Use his finished design to wrap a gift for a loved one.
- 13. Look online or at the library for a chart of the phases of the moon. Together, compare what you see each night to the chart.
- 14. Help your child clean out her closet and pass on gently-used toys or clothes to other families.
- 15. Have your child design a new cover for a much-loved book.
- 16. Ask your child to name his favorite thing about you.
- 17. Teach your child how to change the batteries in a flashlight.
- 18. Wash hands with your child before each meal. Talk about the importance of frequent hand washing.
- 19. Help your child make flash cards for vocabulary words.
- 20. Talk about how animals survive the winter months. What do bears do? How about birds?
- 21. Discuss ways you use numbers at home every day, such as when paying bills or setting the kitchen timer.
- 22. Tell your child a story about yourself when you were her age.
- 23. Challenge your child to make music by strumming on stretched rubber bands.
- 24. Create a word search by hiding words in a grid and surrounding them with random letters. Let your child find the words.
- 25. Listen to music in the dark together and concentrate on the sounds.
- 26. Emphasize the importance of writing thank-you notes for gifts.
- 27. Learn a tongue twister. At dinner, challenge everyone to repeat it three times fast.
- 28. Discourage sibling arguments by having your children switch sides when they disagree.
- 29. Ask your child *how* and *why* questions to give him experience answering questions that require reasoning.
- 30. Ask family members, "If you were an animal, which animal would you be and why?"
- 31. Measure your child. How much did she grow this year?

January 2021

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

- 1. Help your child set a goal for 2021 and plan how to achieve it.
- 2. Pick a word from the dictionary and draw a picture of it. See if your child can guess the word. Then switch roles.
- 3. Ask your child how he feels today. Talk about feelings.
- 4. Encourage your child to start a diary or journal this year.
- 5. Ask your child to do some real-life math. If your car has a 14-gallon gas tank and can go 336 miles per tankful, how far can it go on one gallon?
- 6. Help your child go online to research events that occurred on the day she was born.
- 7. Find an item small enough to fit in your child's pocket. Have him write a story about it.
- 8. Talk with your child about the importance of telling an adult when a person is being bullied.
- 9. Ask a librarian to recommend some award-winning books for children your child's age.
- 10. Have everyone in the family spend 30 minutes picking up the house. Many hands make light work.
- 11. Make an "emergency reading kit" for the car. Pack books and magazines your child can read when she has to wait somewhere.
- 12. Good report card? High grade on a test? Crown your achiever "Monarch for a Day."
- 13. Discuss your child's courage. List times when he tackled challenges bravely, such as learning to ride a bike.
- 14. When shopping, have your child compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the better buy?
- 15. Let your child pick what to wear and where to study today.
- 16. Have family members make a list of their strengths. Read them aloud. Add to one another's lists.
- 17. Help your child set up dominoes in a pattern and then let her knock them down.
- 18. Keep screen devices turned off today. Have your child choose some alternative activities.
- 19. Show your child which way is *north, south, east* and *west*.
- 20. Find pictures of people doing things. Ask your child to write captions.
- 21. Ask your child to pick five *adjectives* to describe himself.
- 22. Watch a TV show together. Have your child track the time spent on commercials vs. the program.
- 23. Help your child plan ahead. Talk about next weekend. What needs to be done to prepare for a family activity?
- 24. Talk with your child about mistakes. How can people learn from them?
- 25. Practice estimating. How many cookies in the package? How many carrots in the bag?
- 26. Today, have your child keep track of everything she eats. What one change would make her diet more nutritious?
- 27. Set aside a half hour for writing with your child today.
- 28. Discuss the people your child admires. Ask why he admires them.
- 29. Make a chore chart with your child. List chores she's responsible for and when they should be completed.
- 30. Teach your child how to take his pulse. Then have him jump up and down 50 times and take it again.
- 31. Ask your child how she helped others today.

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February 2021

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

- 1. Solve math problems with yummy treats. Use raisins or mini marshmallows for adding and subtracting.
- 2. Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to a favorite school staff member this month.
- 3. Pick a new word out of the dictionary. Everyone try to use that word at least three times today.
- 4. When your child asks a question you can't answer, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up later.
- 5. Set a timer and see if your child can "beat the clock" while completing a household task.
- 6. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz one another at the dinner table.
- 7. Ask your child to create a comic strip of a story he knows.
- 8. Discuss the meaning of a *dozen* and *half a dozen*. What things are often sold in dozens?
- 9. With your child, read the same news story in two different publications. Compare the versions.
- 10. Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. For example, if you are a runner, take your child for a short jog.
- 11. Give your child the responsibility of putting her clean clothes away.
- 12. Begin telling your child a story. When you get to an exciting part, stop talking and let him make up the rest.
- 13. Put three items in a bag. Have your child and a friend use them as props for a five-minute skit.
- 14. Learn how to say "I love you" in at least three other languages. Share this with your child.
- 15. Ask your child to tell you her favorite time of year.
- 16. Ask each person in your family to write a noun or adjective. Challenge your child to use all the words in one sentence.
- 17. Allow a few minutes after the light is off at bedtime for quiet conversation with your child.
- 18. Play a board game with your child. Encourage him to be a humble winner and a gracious loser.
- 19. List three of your child's successes this week. List three of your own. Look at the list whenever one of you is feeling down.
- 20. Help your child interview people working in career fields that interest her. What is a typical day like in their job?
- 21. Ask your child to read you a review of a movie he would like to see.
- 22. With your child, fold paper to make different types of airplanes. Predict which ones will fly the best, then test and see.
- 23. Challenge family members to write, eat or do other activities with the hand they don't favor.
- 24. Play Concentration with homemade flash cards. Math problems with the same answer make a pair (9×2 and $15 + 3$).
- 25. In the kitchen, have your child look for certain letters or words on food packages.
- 26. Ask your child to complete this sentence: "If I had one wish, it would be"
- 27. Help your child pick two books to check out from the library. Choose some books for yourself, too!
- 28. Talk with your child about laws. Why do we need them? What would happen if we didn't have them?

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