



"Our vision is educational excellence in knowledge, skills, and character with strong parent-teacher-student partnerships."

Dear Wolverines,

Happy Snowy Friday! I hope you are staying warm today and enjoying the beautiful fresh snow.

As a reminder, students will be outside in the morning and at regular recess times when the temperature is above 15 degrees (including windchill.) Lunch recess can be 30 minutes long, so please be sure your students are dressed for the weather. Snow pants, boots, gloves, and a hat are highly recommended. When it is wet and snowy, students without boots are asked to stay on the blacktop.

Also, if you write your child's name in their belongings, we will hand deliver these at the end of the day. We always check for names before placing things in the Lost and Found. Thanks for your help with this!



Did you know?

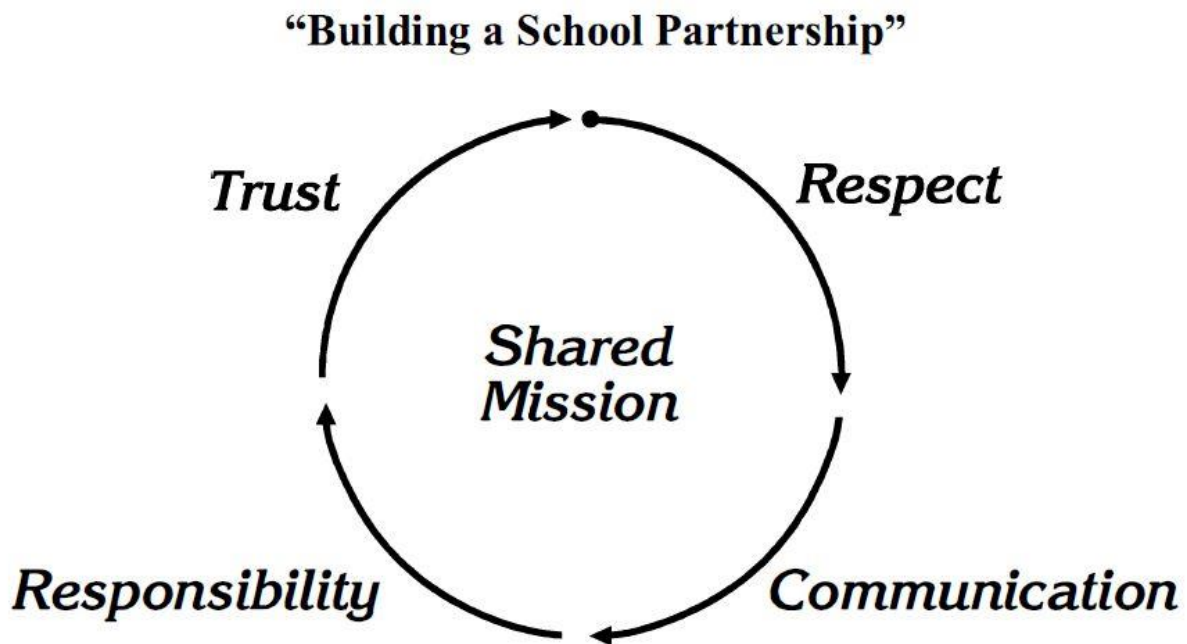
One of our 5 Key Pillars is ***Parent Partnership***. While each pillar is critically important, I do believe that our parent partnership model is the reason we enjoy such tremendous success for our students. The depth of learning we are able to provide is the direct result of the partnership model and the intentional instruction that teachers can provide when they have additional support in the classroom and at home.

A guiding document that beautifully articulates our partnership model, and its intersection with our Character Education pillar, is the [Hand-in-Hand Guidebook](#). Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing portions of this guide with our community. The goal is that we can all have a common vision and understand how things “work” at Traut, what to do when we have concerns, and how to ensure that our partnerships remain strong.

From the Guidebook:

“Our unique partnership model of school governance gives us the ability to deliver a rich educational experience for children, adding both breadth and depth to a child's education. The success and effectiveness of our partnership model is dependent upon the commitment, strength of character, and broad participation of all its partners. The purpose of this document is to describe effective working

relationships and to build strong parent/teacher/student partnerships at Traut Core Knowledge School. By applying the twelve Character Qualities to our interpersonal relationships, our goal is to sustain the shared mission and vision of the school community.”



I am so glad you chose to bring your students to Traut! We appreciate your partnership and we truly can't do it without you.

Families with incoming Kindergarten(2023-24) and outgoing 5th graders: IMPORTANT

The first-round school choice window is open now! Siblings who will attend Traut next year MUST submit a school of choice application. If your 5th grader plans to attend Kinard Middle School, you also MUST submit a school of choice application for Kinard.

Parents should submit school choice applications before December 15, 2022 for the first-round period. You can learn more about PSD's updated platform and the school choice process here: <https://www.psdschools.org/schools/school-choice-process>

Turkey-Round Up – Tour de Turkey!

Thank you so much to those who donated a turkey this year. Traut donated more than 600 pounds of turkey to the Larimer County Food Bank! Your kind generosity is going to make the Thanksgiving holiday special for many families.

Kinard 6th Grade Family Night

Incoming 6th Grade Family Night is designed for parents and 5th-grade students to learn more about the Core Knowledge curriculum sequence, Kinard's culture, character education, parent partnership, wellness, student leadership programs, world language, STEM opportunities, athletics, clubs, and more!

JOIN US: **Thursday, Dec. 1st** from 6:00 - 8:30 PM

For additional information on this and other events, please click [here](#)

A Note from Dr. D – SEL Teacher (Social/Emotional Learning)

Traut is very lucky to have Dr. Jon Davenport as our SEL (Social/Emotional Learning) teacher. Dr. D, as he is called by our students, is particularly passionate about the impact of “screen time” on our children. Jon wrote a piece about this, and with his permission, I am happy to share it with you all. I encourage you to take a couple of minutes to read Jon's thoughts on the topic.

[Is there evidence that screen time can impact students' behavior?](#)

Reminders: Late-Start, Early-Release, School Cancellation Procedures

With our first significant snowfall of the year, I have had several questions about what we do when PSD calls off school.

I have also been asked how the decision to cancel school (or activities) gets made. I think it is important to share that I have NOTHING to do with the decision-making process for closures due to inclement weather. To learn more about how those decisions are made, please click [here](#). Our superintendent, Brian Kingsley, makes the final decision.

School Closure:

- Decision made by 5:30 am
- Parents contacted by email and phone and on the PSD website
- If school is closed, all school activities are canceled, including AlphaBest

Late Start:

- Can be 1 or 2 hour delay
- Parents contacted by email and phone and on the PSD website
- No breakfast served
- School will begin at 9:25 or 10:25, depending on the delay (1 or 2 hours)
 - Supervision begins at 9:10 or 10:10, depending on the delay
- School dismissal at regular time: 3:05 pm

Early Release:

- An option for times when the weather becomes dangerous during the day
- Consider planning in advance for your student in case this happens unexpectedly
- Parents contacted by email and phone and on the PSD website
- AlphaBest will NOT be available during an early release

Important Dates

Fall Break – No School	11/21/22 – 11/25/22
Winter Break – No School	12/22/22 – 1/4/23
First Day of 2 nd Semester	1/5/2023

“Do something nice for yourself today. Find some quiet, sit in stillness, and breathe. Put your problems on pause. You deserve a break.”

— **Akiroq Brost**

I love working with your children, our amazing staff, and our dedicated parent partners. I also love getting a break now and then. A break can be therapeutic, reinvigorating, healing, energizing, and sometimes necessary.

I really do believe that we are able to be better at our work, including our work as parents, when we have been able to take care of ourselves. I have likely shared the analogy of putting on our oxygen masks first before helping others already if you're a regular reader of the Friday Notes. I think this is so true in education and the raising of elementary-age students. If we are not getting enough oxygen to think clearly, we can't be supportive, set a good example, or be particularly effective.

I hope that next week is an opportunity to put any problems you have "on pause" and enjoy your week. My wish for all of us busy parents is that we are able to enjoy a safe and healthy break that is full of exactly what we need, whether that is some good rest and relaxation, or some fun with family and friends.

With gratitude,

Dr. Kendall