



December 9, 2022

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

Dear Wolverines,

Happy Friday!

Today we hosted our annual 4th Grade Medieval Festival. This is one of my favorite events. I love watching history and learning come to life in this culminating activity. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help support this amazing event; we couldn't do it without our Parent Partners! Thanks, also, to our incredible fourth-grade team. They worked so hard to make this special for our students, and it was a resounding success.



As you know, I have been sharing portions of our [Hand-in-Hand Guidebook](#), highlighting the importance of our Parent Partnership pillar.

So far, we've looked at "Step 1" – Unity in a shared mission and vision and "Step 2" – The fundamental importance of mutual respect.

Today, we will look at Step 3 – The essential element of communication.

From the guidebook:

"Partnerships at TCKS require an array of different methods to maintain effective communication. It is even more important with these close-working situations that the communication remains positive and encouraging to everyone involved."

Through kindness, honesty, humility, and cooperation, we can solve any problem that may arise, and always keep students' needs at the front of our thinking and decision making.

FINAL REMINDER: 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>

Reminder: If your student is already enrolled at Traut, we are their school through 5th grade. You do NOT need to re-enroll or sign up through the lottery again.

Hat & Mitten Tree

Our Student Advisory Board (SAB) is excited to host the annual Hat & Mitten Tree again this year. Please donate new hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, or other winter weather gear to children in need. All collected items will go directly to *Realities for Children*, a local non-profit organization, and are distributed to children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, or are at-risk.

Donations can be made any time between now and December 21st. Thank you for your kind generosity!

Correction – Chessmates Competition

I wanted to add a correction from last week. Jenna Y., second grade won 2nd place in the 2-3 grade group at the competition. Congratulations, Jenna!

Guidelines for Cell Phones, Smart Watches, etc.

Traut has specific guidelines for student use of cell phones, smartwatches, and other personal interactive electronic devices. More and more students have their own phones, and we understand the importance of being able to reach your student in case of an emergency or to share carpool changes at the end of the day.

However, we also have found that having these devices in the classroom is highly distracting and disruptive at times. For this reason, we do ask that students keep

these devices in their backpacks throughout the school day. (Exceptions may be made by the classroom teacher for individual, extenuating circumstances.)

If you need to contact your students, please call the office or classroom phone and we will make sure you are able to talk to your child.

To read the guidelines in their entirety, please click [here](#).

Absence Reporting

Please be sure to let the office know if your child is going to be absent! Whether it is for a trip, appointment, or illness, it is important that we know when your child is not at school.

You can call the attendance line at 970-488-7503 24 hours/day to report an absence. When students are not at school and we have not heard from a parent or guardian, we do have to reach out to make sure that they are safe and accounted for. Calling the attendance line makes our job a whole lot easier and really cuts down on the number of phone calls we need to make.

Thank you very much for your help with this!

Spelling Bee – Coming Soon!

- TCKS Spelling Bee competition for 3rd – 5th graders only, will begin on Thursday, Jan. 5th @ 3:15 p.m.
- Competition will resume each afternoon until a winner is determined. (Jan. 6th, 9th, & 10th if needed.)
- To be held in Mrs. Whitcomb's classroom- Room 219

- Spelling List link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tTsGiLrg5JtcRzlvE0-LjB-BPyA1fkqa/view?usp=sharing>

Important Dates

Winter Break – No School	12/22/22 – 1/4/23
First Day of 2 nd Semester	1/5/2023
MJK, Jr. Day – No School	1/16/2023

"Today was a GREAT DAY, mom!" ~Current 4th grader, in full Medieval costume.

It was such a treat to see students celebrating their learning. I am reminded that I work at an amazing school with incredible teachers and parent partners who make sure we are able to provide meaningful opportunities for our students. I am starting the weekend feeling grateful.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend with family and friends!

Dr. Kendall