



HOPE
Learning Academy of Toledo

"The Perfect place for exceptional children with Learning Differences"

From the School Leader's Desk...

HOPE Learning Academy Families

It seems that Jack Frost refuses to go home this winter. In spite of the cold weather we have had 12 consecutive days of school. I am so excited our students are able to get back into a routine of learning. Spirit week has been a blast! I enjoyed seeing the students and staff in their Hawaiian attire yesterday. Today everyone arrived in their fancy dress-up clothes and walked on the "Red Carpet" for glamour shots. Thank you families for your hard work and dedication to your student and HOPE.

CONGRATULATIONS: HOPE is happy to announce that our own Superintendent Daniel LaValley has been nominated for the *Toledo-Area 2014 Jefferson Award*. The Jefferson Awards were established in 1972 to nationally recognize outstanding individuals who are committed to public service.

HOPE "FAMILIES SERVING FAMILIES": The HOPE: FSF will be sponsoring a "Dollar Jeans" day every first Friday of the month. Please support our parents by allowing your students to participate. Students must wear school uniform top with jeans. It is **NOT** a full dress down day. –see flier

STAFF LUNCH: The HOPE staff would like to thank the FSF parents for providing the wonderful and tasty "Chili Lunch" yesterday. It was quite a treat and thoughtful. Thank You!

NEW STUDENTS: The HOPE Family continues to grow thanks to our community spreading the word. We want to welcome the Henderson and Hannah families to HOPE.

DRESS CODE: Parents please be mindful of the appropriate school uniform dress code. Many students have been arriving to school out of uniform. Students who are out of uniform will receive lunch detentions according to the Handbook. Please, refer to your Student/Parent Handbook for guidance.

Also, parents if your child is wearing boots to school please remember to send them with appropriate school shoes to change into. Thank you!

Important Dates

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| February 28th | Box Tops/Labels Dress Down Day |
| March 5th | Year Book Club 3:30-4:30 |
| March 6th | 100 th Day of School/ \$1 Jeans Day |
| March 7th | NO SCHOOL~ Staff Development |
| March 11th | FSF Meeting 6-8 Cafeteria |

THE HOPE PROMISE: HOPE Learning Academy of Toledo is committed to providing a rigorous academic education for the exceptional child with specialized learning needs in a non-traditional classroom setting that cultivates "self-reliance, critical thinking, and problem solving skills" through research proven curriculum infused with social growth, sensory integration, and art enrichment.

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES: How to Outwit Your Child's Mid-Year Slump

Many students are feeling the slump during the mid-school year but parents can help students get rejuvenated and gear up for the second half of the year.

Key points in how to get your student back in the groove of learning....

“The Work is Getting Tougher!”

- *You need to know what knowledge or skills your child is missing in order to help him acquire them:*
 - Processes: Are basic processes to a task or assignment? Help him with extra one-on-one work.
 - Content: Are there difficult abstract ideas and details your child isn't grasping? If so, your child should revisit concepts until they're clear.
 - Stress Mastery: Your child should not move-on until he has mastered the skill. If not, he'll need to relearn or review the content. Use flash cards or vocabulary words to build or retain information.

“I'm Bored!”

- *The students who need repetition to crystalize new ideas or skills are usually the same ones who crave novelty and change:*
 - Do things different: Do homework in a new setting like in the dining room or library, with a friend or study group.

Forgot Your Book, Assignment, or Lunch....Again?

- *“Practice makes perfect, but poor practice creates a big mess.” Check on good habits that were set in the beginning of the school year. And sharpen them where needed.*
 - Get back to routines: Establish or re-establish good habits and routings –planner use, homework structure, or breaking down large assignments into smaller ones – to make things easier.

“I'm Feeling Brained Drained”

- *School can wear down students, especially those with learning challenges. Often burnout looks like lethargy, irritability, or work avoidance. Over time, a student's frustration can lead to behavioral or motivational problems.*
 - Recharge his batteries: Encourage him to step outside. According to a 2008 study at the University of Michigan, 20 minutes of exposure to nature “resets” our attention and helps us to refocus.

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