

The SoJo Spotlight

December 2019

South Jordan Middle December 2019 Newsletter

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Let's **Be the Good**, SoJo!

Message From the Principal,

SOJO NATION,

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!! from the teachers and staff of South Jordan Middle School.

We hope that your holidays are safe and rewarding. The 2019-20 school year is quickly moving forward, and the semester will end January 17, 2020. The first semester has been successful as both students and teachers have been working hard to learn content through study, projects, practice, and assessments.

We have terrific students here at SOJO, and we want to continue to challenge them to excel.

I wish to issue a challenge to our parents and students as we progress in the school year when it comes to cell phones.

The SOJO Cell Phone Challenge:

1. Have students leave their cell phone home for one school day
2. Have students leave their cell phone home for multiple school days
3. Have discussions with your student about proper phone etiquette and proper communication
4. Have discussions with your student about the proper use of social media (know what your students are doing on social media)
5. Have discussions with your student about interacting with people face to face and not always over the phones

SoJo Calendar

December

Dec. 4-13 Sub for Santa
Dec. 10 Choir Concert 7pm
Dec. 11 PTSA Meeting 9am / Winter Orchestra Concert 6:30pm @ BHS
Dec. 12 Holiday Band Concert 7pm @ BHS
Dec. 16 Author Visit – Neal Shusterman 9th Grade 8am
Dec. 18 Ugly Sweater Day
Dec. 19 Winter Dance Concert 7pm
Dec. 21-Jan. 5 – Winter Recess, No School

Looking Ahead ...

January

Jan. 6 – Back to School

Message From the Principal Continued,

I found this narrative that another school in the state is using and wanted to share it with you:

"We highly recommend students to leave their phones, headphones, earbuds, and video games at home. We understand that we live in a digital world. We have several classes that use technology and we are making sure that we provide it ourselves if and when students need it. However, much of the anxiety, depression, fear of missing out, along with distractions and relationship problems (bullying, friends being mean) that young people deal with today start with student access to screens.

The phone can be a crutch that allows students to disengage with some uncomfortable social situations at school. If they don't have the opportunity to go through that in middle school, where will they learn it? We have strict policies that disallow phone use during instruction time, but your student will really thrive if they just leave their devices at home. If you are afraid of having access to your child during school, try thinking back to what your parents would do if they needed to get a hold of you at school."

We need to work together to support our students in the daily challenges they are facing. Less screen time can help stimulate more face-to-face interactions and also allow our students opportunities to work through challenges and awkward situations. Together we can help our students to learn essential skills like determination, grit, stick-to-itiveness, problem solving, and a growth mindset.

We love our SOJO students and truly appreciate the great parents and guardians who share their students with us every day.

-Principal McLeod

School Community Council Update

SOJO LAND Trust Money Update:

2019-20 School Year

Allotment = \$156,335.00

Uses:

\$90,000

-helps pay for instructional aides, substitute teachers for teachers to attend conferences/workshops/trainings for professional development, additional class sections to help reduce class sizes, after school tutoring sessions.

\$8,000

-helps to pay for conference registration fees, costs associated with attending professional development conferences with parking/travel/food, and professional organization membership fees.

\$58,000

-Computer equipment for student use. Chrome books and charging carts/stations.

Additional uses for 2019-20 budget money: summer work days for teachers to build curriculum, summer classes, coaching and training opportunities during summer, lunch school, reading aides, classroom aides, computer lab aides, study skills classes, data aides, and field trips.

If you have any questions regarding the use of our TRUST Land money, please contact the School Community Council chairperson, Teresa Atherley, by leaving a message with our school's main office.



Snow Leopard Performances...

SJMS Music

Don't miss our winter performances!

Choir Concert - December 10th - 7:00 p.m. at SOJO

Orchestra Concert - December 11th - 6:30 p.m. at BHS

Band Concert - December 12th - 7:00 p.m. at BHS

Dance Concert - December 19th - 7:00 p.m. at SOJO

School Spirit Nights

No Spirit Nights planned.

Check back for future school spirit nights.

Keep Your Skyward Account Up To Date

We email important information, including upcoming events, which parents need to know. When an email is returned as undeliverable, we know the email address may not be accurate and up to date in Skyward. To update your email do the following. Open your student's Skyward account. Go to the *My Account* tab located at the top right of the page. This is where you can update your email address or change your password. Know the latest school information by keeping your email address current. Contact the Counseling Center for Help or a Skyward password.

New Open Enrollment

The school choice open enrollment (permit) window for the 2020-2021 school year will open on December 2, 2019. All applications submitted during the month of December will be part of the permit lottery.

Students currently on a school choice permit will NOT need to reapply for a permit if they are remaining at the same school for the 2020-2021 school year.

Students who are changing schools, or any student currently on the waitlist without a permit, must reapply to be considered for a 2020-2021 permit.

The 2020-2021 school choice application will be available beginning December 2, 2019 at planning.jordandistrict.org/enrollment/schoolchoice/.

You may also view the school choice permit procedures by visiting the link above.

If you have any questions you can call: (801) 412-2903.

Counselors Corner

9th Grade Planning/PCCRs:

Our school counselors will begin meeting with all 9th grade students and their parents for our yearly "Plan for College and Career Readiness" (PCCR) conferences starting December 2, 2019. These conferences last about 40 minutes and help students navigate the challenges of high school and college.



Jordan Family Education Center

Parenting Classes and Counseling Services Offered to JSD Families

The Jordan Family Education Center (JFEC), housed at Rivers Edge School (11000 South 319 West), is again offering short-term counseling to families throughout the school year. The JFEC is a Jordan School District program. Individual counselors can offer invaluable support and assistance for up to ten weeks to address family problems, issues with depression or anxiety, improve family communication, or other short-term problems. Establishing an appointment with an intake specialist will help determine school district or community resources that could maximally assist families.

Classes are offered three times a year. JFEC offerings may include classes on parenting ADHD children; a seminar for parents that addresses bullying, substance abuse, suicide prevention, and internet addiction; helping children deal with depression or anxiety; groups for dealing with divorce or relationship break-up; a friendship class; and dealing with conflicts at home. Throughout the year, we continuously offer anger management classes for elementary, middle, and high school aged children as well as for adults. Support classes for parents of children with Autism and social skills classes for high functioning autistic children are featured. Please refer to the class schedule on the district web site or contact the JFEC directly. The SoJo Counseling Center has flyers.

There is **no cost** for counseling and classes; however, registration is required for classes (801-565-7442). Intake appointments are available for short-term child-centered family counseling. Counseling can be scheduled throughout the school year by directly contacting JFEC. Please call for more information or for an intake appointment (801-565-7442).

