Edith Teter Elementary

2019-2020

Welcome to another school year for Edith Teter Elementary! As we begin this year, I reflect on the successes we have had the last few years. My goal is to always focus on my students and find better ways to prepare them for a bright future. At Edith Teter, we do this in several different ways. We began a theme for the year last year and will continue this theme this year as well. IT MATTERS! We try to center everything we do on those words.

**Instruction matters!** We continually assess our current instructional materials and approaches. This year, our focus is on engaging structures within the classroom. Teachers were trained at the beginning of the year in various ways to engage students and promote collaborative working structures for students. We know students will not learn if they are not engaged. We are also piloting a couple of different literacy programs, as we will be updating our literacy curriculum next year. We will carefully analyze these programs to ensure we land on the best program for our students.

**Emotional health matters!** We know when student walk through the doors with emotional needs or trauma in their lives, they cannot learn. At ETE, we implemented Tribes Learning Communities, four years ago. Since that time, we continually train new staff and strengthen our knowledge around community building for our students. All ETE classes have a time during the day for community circles. This is the teachers’ opportunity to check in with all students and connect with them as well. Teachers work with their classes on our four agreements, 1. Mutual Respect, 2. Attentive Listening, 3. Right to Participate/Pass, 4. Appreciations/No Put-downs. All of our behavior expectations center on these four agreements. This year we will also train the entire staff on Trauma Informed Care. This training will help our staff be aware of signs that children are experiencing trauma of some kind and how to address or help them work through this.

**Physical Health Matters!** We want all students to live healthy lives. This is why we promote healthy snacks and lunches. Please take the time to read about this in the ETE Student Handbook on the website. It is important that children are eating right in order to sustain our long days and have the energy to stay alert for instruction.

**Communication Matters!** This year we have formed a parent email group in which we will use for the majority of our communication. Homeroom teachers will communicate via email, student planners, and texting so please let them know your preference. For whole school communication, the office will send an email every Thursday with important information.

Thank you for sending your child to us every day. We will do our very best to make sure they are receiving quality education and we will definitely love them and care for them while they are here.

Cindy Bear, Principal