



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Dear Talawanda Parent:

Let me take this moment to wish everyone in our Talawanda family a wonderful and happy holiday season! I hope everyone has time to recharge and spend quality time with the important people in their lives. We all need it, as we have had a very active first semester of school!

The Talawanda community has been working together this past year to help Talawanda grow and create the best environment and programs that we can TOGETHER for our students! Last spring many parents and community members met many times to discuss athletics and extra-curricular programs, and although there were some tough conversations during the process, we came out on the other side with some good outcomes. In an effort to help Talawanda families the Board of Education voted to eliminate the pay-to-participate program. We believe this will help families financially and also encourage student participation. Just this past week the district announced that Larry Cox, formerly the football coach of Lakota West would be coming to THS to lead our football program. We are very excited about the growth and opportunities we have in store for our students in the near future!

Talawanda has also added key support personnel this school year with the addition of school social workers and additional school resource officers. Talawanda is working on developing a partnership with Primary Health solutions to provide medical and behavioral supports to students in need. Our students have been trained in peer mediation and work with our students to resolve conflicts peacefully. Talawanda recently gained recognition from the state of Ohio for a grant that will provide support for suicide prevention work in our schools, and we also have received a grant from the state of Ohio that will provide money to support our ongoing safety plans for Talawanda Schools. Keeping students safe and providing a caring educational environment are key elements to the Talawanda program.

Talawanda recently kicked off a new strategic planning process that will lead the TSD employees, students and their families through a process to help identify our values around education in this community so that we can create goals and action steps to lead us forward. Two teams are meeting throughout this coming semester on this very important initiative. Stay tuned for more information as progress is made.

Students are excited that the break is upon us. We have had an amazing first half of the school year. Again, we wish you the most happy and safe holiday break. Thank you for your support!

**In Education,
Dr. Edward Theroux**