

Dear TJ Community,

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer either relaxing, spending time with family, traveling, or all three! ☐☐ Over the summer, the PTSA has been hard at work getting things ready for the upcoming year and continuing to provide ongoing support to our wonderful school. Along those lines, Dr. Glazer has asked if parents in our community would consider partnering with TJ in an effort to reach out to a local elementary school in their community that feeds into TJ. We would like to see students from a wide variety of participating area schools getting into TJ, as we know there are capable students in those schools who would benefit from our program.

Specifically, Dr. Glazer's vision would be to have a "TJ face in every elementary school", meaning that one TJ parent would have an ongoing relationship with their local elementary school. We would call this the TJ STEMBassadors program and parents would be called the elementary school's parent liaison.

As in any new program, we're still ironing out the details, but there is one crucial resource that we already know we need: parents! We are looking for parents who would consider signing up to form a relationship with their area elementary school.

In the fall, we will hold an orientation for all interested parents to go over the specifics, but in general, parents would be the TJ contact person for their local school. Volunteer duties would include identifying the elementary school's contact person, sharing information about TJ outreach events, answering TJ-related questions or directing them to the appropriate staff member as they arise, and providing resources, if they are requested.

For example, perhaps the local school would like some TJ students to judge a science fair. In this scenario, the parent liaison could either call upon their child and his/her friends to help in this effort,

they could contact TJ's NHS, or they could put a message on their local cluster google group to find interested students. There are always students in need of community service hours. Parent liaisons would also keep their chosen school informed about special programs that are going on at TJ that the younger students might be interested in.

Personally, I've spoken with parents who would like to give back to their communities, some which are minimally represented at TJ. This would be a perfect way to do so, and at the same time, help spread the " TJ good will" and sense of community that we all know exists within our own community, to others who would greatly benefit from our help and support.

If you are interested in becoming a parent liaison, please email Amy Shaw, who will be the program's coordinator at vp2@wyolum.com and let her know your name, and the name of the school you'd be interested in partnering with, along with the number of your cluster. Please note that Amy will be responding to your emails after she returns from vacation on August 1st.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Shaw, the TJ STEMbassadors program coordinator, and a PTSA Vice President, at the email address above, or Denise Bunting, PTSA President at bunting.denise@gmail.com.

Thank you for being part of such a special and dynamic community. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and get ready for the new school year by joining us at our annual TJHSST Back-to-School Bash sponsored by Student Activities, the PTSA and the SGA, on September 1st from 4:30 to 7:00pm, followed by our first home Varsity Football game of the season against Falls Church HS at 7:30pm.

Denise Bunting TJ PTSA President