



Journey's School of Teton Science Schools

Academic Excellence · Extraordinary Relationships · Place-based Education · Global Citizenship

May 27, 2011

Dear Journey's School Parents:

Greetings from Coyote Canyon! As we approach the end of our 10th year of operation, I wanted to update the school community on our short term programmatic goals, strategic planning process, and hiring. The end of the year has brought many successes including two students selected all-state for soccer (one of whom was the Wyoming Player of the Year), two students awarded state level honors in Wyoming Young Authors and all 2nd, 5th, and 8th grade students presenting the results of a year of Capstone Research.

Our hiring process is coming to a close and we are in the finalist stages for all candidates. In order to find the best applicants, we do nationwide searches. Because of this we get many applicants for all of our positions. We review teaching videos, demonstration teaching, writing samples, and transcripts to determine finalists. Our finalists go through a number of interviews while we check background and references. Final decisions are based on the individuals who will bring the most to our students and the program. Over the next two weeks, we will announce the final hires.

Outside of great teachers, excellent schools depend on constant revision and evaluation of curriculum. As part of a short term curriculum project, the school is taking on a few specific objectives in addition to our work with International Baccalaureate. These include a curriculum mapping project, elementary school math program change, and an evaluation of how all of our assessments align with our curriculum. This healthy self-evaluation only means better education for your children and their teachers.

Finally, the strategic planning process for Journey's School is finished with the draft phase. With thoughtful and diligent efforts by the strategic planning committee over the last month, the document is ready for review by both faculty and parents. Once adopted, this document will present a road map for the next three to five years at Journey's School. The plan presents broad themes and specific objectives. The Teton Science Schools' board will vote to approve this plan in conjunction with the broader institutional plan during the July board meeting. The approved version will be given to the staff in order to determine action steps, accountability measures, and timelines. To provide feedback go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JS_Draft_Strategic_Plan and use the password "journeys".

As I find time to reflect at the end of an incredible decade, I know that the school is in the best place it has ever been. When we open in the fall, students and families will find an incredible faculty, an innovative and challenging curriculum, and an environment where children love learning and achieve to their full potential. I look forward with enthusiasm to the clear vision and extraordinary promise of next year.

Please mark your calendars for our **graduation and end of the year celebration at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, June 8th**. As always, feel free to contact me at any time with questions regarding the school.

Sincerely,

Nate McClennen
Head of School



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700 Coyote Canyon Road · Jackson, Wyoming 83001 · Ph. 307.733.3729
Fax 307.733.3340 · www.journeysschool.org · email: info@journeysschool.org

