

# Plato Learning Academy News!

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ 9/10 Lockdown Drill
- ◆ 9/13 Bus Evacuation Drill
- ◆ 9/13 Title I Parent Meeting
- ◆ 9/18 Evacuation Drill
- ◆ 9/28 Monthly Birthday Celebrations
- ◆ 9/28 Dress Down Day - Green
- ◆ Check website for updates

## Plato Learning Academy

*“Working Collaboratively, Thinking Critically, Achieving Academically”*

## Welcome Back!

We hope that you had a wonderful summer full of exciting opportunities and safe adventures.

As you know, we experienced some major changes during the final portion of last year and over the summer as continuously strive to provide the best possible educational experience for you and your students.

The biggest change was the merging of both buildings into one. While we know that not everyone agrees with this decision, a majority of our stakeholders shared our position. Your student’s safety is our priority and we felt that the move would provide a safer environment for your students as well as our staff.

## Blended Classrooms

We are excited to bring an innovative approach to instruction this year - blended classrooms.

We have grouped the following grades together - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Students have been assigned a room based on the test results from the Spring NWEA scores.

This approach to instruction allows teachers to focus on students’ areas of weakness and provide targeted lessons so that students are not either bored with something that they have already mastered or overly confused because

Additionally, this move allows our administrative staff to remain in one building and provide the focused supports needed for all students without splitting their time between groups.

Finally, by focusing our resources, both financial and material, we are better able to ensure that all students are able to have the necessary tools to be successful.

We understand that getting accustomed to change takes time but we are confident that with your continued support we will have an amazing school year!

the content is far greater than they are ready to learn.

We understand that a concern is that students will be tracked, or stuck in a particular group, but that is not the case with our program. After the Winter testing session, we will review student scores and re-assign where necessary.

We tested this approach last year with our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and saw tremendous gains in math. We believe that we can use this process so that ALL students are successful.

## It Takes A Village



Interested in playing an active role in your child's school? Please let us know!

We are in the process of identifying parents who can be part of our Parent Action Committee. These individuals will meet regularly with school personnel to both voice comments and concerns as well as receive vital information to share with other parents.

Additionally, we will be having monthly meetings for parents. Title I Parent Meetings are held every other month starting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Parent Empowerment Workshops are held every other month starting on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

For more information about these meetings or how you can play an active role in your child's school, please visit our website or contact the school.

## Communication Change



In an attempt to streamline our communication processes, we will be moving all of our school-based communication from Remind to Dojo.

This will ensure that you are only using one app to communicate with the school instead of two.

Dojo allows us to do all the things that we were able to do

with Remind but it also allows you to track your child's behavior performance while in class.

We plan to have all communication rolled over to Dojo by Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have not yet done so, please sign-up for your child's classroom.

## [www.platolearningacademy.org](http://www.platolearningacademy.org)



Have you seen our new and improved website?

We are consistently updating our website to bring you the most current information possible.

A few things you may find helpful is a Calendar of Events for the year (*updated frequently*),

Important Documents, Newsletters and information (*such as this*), High School Application Information, and even Staff Contacts.

We will often direct you to our website so please familiarize yourself with it as soon as possible.