Taft Families and Community Members,

As Principal of Taft Elementary School, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2022-23 school year. We are excited to introduce some changes and improvements we have made over the summer at Taft Elementary. At Taft, we have a fantastic staff who have been working hard to prepare for the new school year. With this hard work, we brought new opportunities to the students at Taft. Within the first few days of school, your child will learn what it takes to be a "Taft Hero" in all of the environments throughout the building. A Taft Hero is Honorable, Engaged, Respectful, Orderly & Safe. A building Matrix is included in the QR code at the bottom of this letter.

We are also excited to introduce Second Step, focusing on skills like creating academic and behavioral goals, managing strong emotions, empathy and kindness, and problem-solving. We will engage in these activities with students once a week and hope to begin building a community that revolves around respect and honor. Classroom teachers will start the school year focusing on our Taft "Hero" matrix and will be focusing on the community inside their classrooms.

Here at Taft, we welcome open communication and believe in being honest, open, and approachable to everyone. Please feel free to contact the front office to set up an appointment with a teacher, staff member, or administrator. Monthly, an e-mail with a calendar of events will be sent. Please be sure the front office has your e-mail address and you are signed up for those newsletters. Phone calls will be sent out periodically and are used for emergencies or urgent matters such as snow days.

I hope to see you at Taft parent events such as our Fall Fest, parent/teacher conferences, PTO meetings, or after-school activities. I am honored to serve as the principal of Taft Elementary.

Yours in education,

Matthew R. Jacobs
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