



Dear Parents,

This year we are launching a social-emotional character development called JOI Friendzy. This program teaches life skills to our students with the emphasis on building strong healthy friendships. Social emotional learning (SEL) is critical to our student's success in school and in life! SEL is the process through which people learn to recognize and manage emotions, care about others, make good decisions, behave ethically and responsibly, develop positive relationships, and avoid negative behaviors.

THIS MONTH /// Our first JOI Friendzy unit starts this week and we are excited! This month, students focus on the idea that as a class and as a school **We Need Each Other**. We will discuss and dive into God's Word and learn how important friendship is and how to build others up. Each JOI Friendzy unit is based on key verses and the students learn a catchphrase that helps them recall the key verses and main points of the unit. Here is an overview of what your student will learn in this first unit:

Catchphrase (main point for students to catch onto):
“We Need Each Other”

Key Verses (Biblical anchor points):
“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for man to be alone.’ Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up!” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

As we focus on this at school. We encourage you to **Continue the Conversation** with your student at home! Here are the main points your student will learn in Unit 1:

1. **God designed us for friendship.** We are not meant to be alone (Genesis 2:18).
2. **We are stronger together.** Friendships are stronger when we encourage and build each other up instead of tearing one another down. We need each other. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
3. **We are better together.** We each have an important part to play and a team needs every one of its players to succeed.
4. **Cheer for your friends!** We are going to practice encouraging and building each other up all year.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE /// When we encourage one another we have the power to change the atmosphere. What if this unit is a launching pad for changing the

atmosphere in your home? Encourage your child to share when someone encouraged them and built them up. This may be a good conversation to have around the table over a meal. It also provides a great opportunity to encourage your child in areas of struggle and affirm them in areas of strength. When given the opportunity to encourage and affirm you as their parent, I'm sure they would be happy to share the blessings you have been to their life.

Over the next few weeks, the goal is for every student is to begin to use this unit's catchphrase: "**We Need Each Other**" in their everyday life. You can help by beginning to use this in your conversations at home. This is the main point that we want the students to remember and use over and over.

THANK YOU /// Thank you for partnering in JOI Friendzy with us! It is a joy to teach your student the importance of friendship. Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or celebrations to report as we move through the JOI Friendzy curriculum.

When kids learn friendship, they learn it for life!

Blessings,