

TMS Times

Issue 2

October 2017

Greetings TMS Families:

The first month of school has flown by. Our staff and students have settled into their routines and are working very hard on achieving our building goals. I am proud of the progress we have made in such short time. Please know you are welcome to visit anytime to see the great things happening at TMS.

Please be reminded that we serve breakfast at TMS beginning at 7:35 a.m. each day. On delay days, breakfast will not be served. Menu items consist of muffins or cold cereal, milk, and fruit. Breakfast costs \$1.25 per student with the reduced price set at \$.30. Students who are eligible for free and reduced lunches are also eligible for free and reduced breakfast. Please encourage your child to eat a nutritious breakfast whether that takes place at home or TMS. Eating breakfast provides students the necessary energy and focus to perform at their best.

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 2nd and Thursday, November 9th from 3:15-6:45. Additional information regarding conferences will be sent home closer to the date. If you have questions, please contact our main office at 419-447-3358.

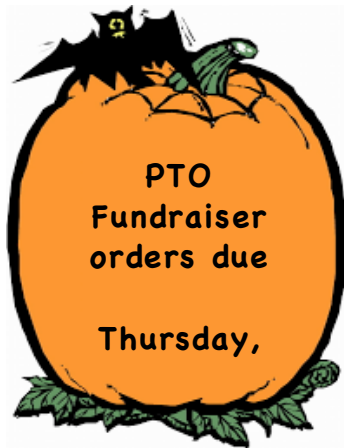
Midterm reports were mailed home on Friday, September 22nd. If you did not receive one, please contact the TMS office. Also, please remember that all TMS parents have access to their child's grades through Progressbook. Progressbook is a great resource to help you track your child's academic standing in each class.

Thank you to our 7th and 8th grade families who were able to attend our open house. We appreciate your time spent with us. For those that couldn't join us, please know our doors are always open. Don't hesitate to contact us regarding your child's progress.

Lastly, if I can be of assistance at any time, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am happy to help in any way. You can reach me at 419-447-3358 and/or by email at shawn_murphy@tiffincityschools.org.

Have a great October!





Health Partners of Western Ohio – Dental Team

A Dental Team from Health Partners of Western Ohio, Tiffin Community Health Center, will be at TMS offering dental exams, teeth cleanings, fluoride treatments, and dental sealants to students on October 9, 10 and 11.



Forms were sent home for your signature if you choose to have your child visit the dentist. No child will be seen without parental permission. Additional forms are available in the office.

Medicaid and private insurance will be billed by them, but there is no out of pocket expense for parents. If your child has no health coverage, there will be no charge. The program is open to all children.



Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday, November 2 - 3:15 - 6:45pm

Thursday, November 9 - 3:15 - 6:45pm

More details will be sent home mid October.

Grade Cards and School Fees

First quarter grade cards and school fees will be mailed home on Friday, October 27.



Parents, please note that any outstanding school fees from prior years and prior buildings will be carried over each year until paid. These outstanding fees will also carry over to Columbian High School.

If your child is now approved for free lunches, but the fees were assigned in a school year prior to being designated as free, the balance is still owed.

The invoice you receive will show fees still owed from past years as well as the amount owed for this year.

October, 2017



Dear Middle School Teachers, Restaurant Owners and Community Members,

The Seneca County Bullying Prevention Coalition is committed to make Seneca County a BULLY FREE ZONE by promoting kindness and awareness on anti-bullying strategies within Seneca County. Our first community project is to offer a logo design contest to students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

We will be purchasing t-shirts to spread our message. We are conducting the contest to determine the designs of the t-shirts. The contest is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders in Seneca County. The winning design will be reproduced on the t-shirt, along with the name of the student and school. In addition to the t-shirts, prizes will be awarded to winning students.

Enclosed you will find a packet of entry forms.

All entries must be received by October 31, 2017.

Please mail entries or return in person to:

Jodie Reinbolt: Tiffin Community Foundation 68 S Washington St, Tiffin, OH 44883
Any school building in Fostoria, Old Fort, Seneca East, Hopewell-Loudon, or Tiffin.
Any Firelands Counseling and Recovery building in Seneca County.

Please remind your students to be creative with their designs. The logo should be focused on how a BULLY FREE ZONE would look like. Designs that make use of any copyrighted material will be disqualified. The artwork will be judged on creativity, incorporation of anti-bullying, and incorporation of large areas of color that will reproduce well. Please use markers, crayons or colored pencils. Artwork with three dimensional pieces attached or computer aided designs will not be accepted. Additionally, designs with misspelled words will be disqualified.

We are looking forward to your students' designs. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 419-448-4940.

Your Partner in Bully Prevention,

Michelle Clinger, Ph.D., LPCC
Licensed Psychologist
Licensed Professional Clinical Services
Site Director Tiffin/Upper Sandusky
Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services

**Deadline is
October 31**

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

In the loop

You can stay involved in your tween's education from inside your own home. How? Make what's happening at school a regular topic of conversation. Visit the school website often, and check emails from teachers and the school district. Bring up subjects mentioned, such as school assemblies, or comment on photos that are posted.

DID YOU KNOW?

Having good posture in class will help your middle schooler concentrate. Plus, it puts less strain on his back and lets him breathe better—increasing blood flow to his brain. He could practice while doing homework. Encourage him to sit up straight with his back touching the chair and his knees bent at a right angle.

Fun historical facts

Want to spark your middle grader's interest in history? She could look in library books or online to find unusual stories about the people she studies. *Example:* Before the Civil War, Harriet Tubman once escaped capture by pretending to chase a flock of chickens.

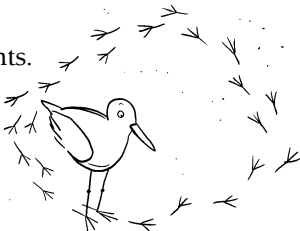
Worth quoting

"Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul." *Pamela Vaull Starr*

Just for fun

Q: "The more of me you make, the more of me you leave behind. What am I?"

A: Footprints.



Tween push-and-pull

Your middle grader lets you into her world one minute, then seems to put up a "Keep Out" sign the next. She needs you—but at the same time, she's pushing away to figure out who she is and to become more independent. Try these ideas for handling classic "now I need you, now I don't" tween behavior.

Challenge: *Your child no longer tells you all about her life.*

Solution: Instead of pressing her for information, wait until she's in the mood to chat. If she opens up as you're heading to bed, consider staying up longer. Then, listen closely instead of immediately offering your opinion or ways to fix problems.

Challenge: *Your tween spends more time with friends and less time with family.*

Solution: It's normal for her to want to be with friends. To encourage family time, look for opportunities that appeal to her. Maybe you'll have breakfast together on weekdays or let her do your nails after she does hers.



Challenge: *Your middle grader is embarrassed by whatever you do.*

Solution: At this age, children want to fit in and are sensitive to what their peers think. Try not to take it personally, and remember that she'll outgrow it. In the meantime, notice what embarrasses your tween, and work around it if possible. For instance, if she doesn't like you hugging her good-bye in front of others, you might say "Love you" and walk away. 👍

Musical learning

Most tweens love listening to music! Use your child's interest to boost his learning.

1. Be a critic. Suggest that he write reviews of favorite songs. He could bring songs to life with *similes*, or figures of speech that compare two things in an interesting way. *Example:* "The upbeat tempo is as thrilling as a roller coaster ride."

2. Think like a songwriter. Picking out the main message in the lyrics—the *theme*—will give your middle grader practice with a key reading skill. What message does the songwriter want to share? Invite your tween to search for songs with similar themes.

3. Find the math. Ask your child to choose a popular song. Can he detect a *pattern* in the lyrics (verse, chorus, verse) or the rhythm (say, the drumbeat)? How many times does the pattern repeat? 👍



Stellar study techniques

Regularly reviewing textbooks and class notes helps information sink in and prepares your tween for tests without last-minute stress. Here are interesting ways he can study.



Then, he could add graphics to illustrate the information. Using both words *and* drawings is a great way to cement information in his brain. *Tip:* He might hang finished posters on a wall for easy review.

Game show

Have your child and his study buddies write review questions on separate slips of paper and put them in a bowl. A “host” can draw and ask questions. Players “buzz in” to answer

Poster perfect

Suggest that your middle grader summarize a chapter’s most important points on poster board or construction paper. Perhaps he’ll model the lunar cycle for science or outline events in the Peloponnesian War for social studies.

by tapping the table. If the first person answers correctly, he earns a point. If not, the other players buzz in again. (*Note:* The host should consult the textbook or study guide to check answers.) Give everyone a turn as host, using a new set of questions each round. 👍

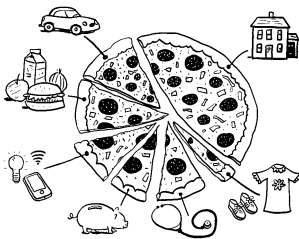


Parent to Parent

Financial sense

My 13-year-old, Alice, complained that she wanted the same clothes her friends have. But they’re too expensive, and I wanted her to understand how we make financial decisions.

I had Alice draw a circle and told her to imagine it was a pizza. Then, I asked her to divide it into slices to represent our budget.



I explained that about $\frac{1}{3}$ of our money goes to rent and almost $\frac{1}{5}$ is for car expenses.

After Alice finished dividing up the pizza, she was surprised by how little was left for clothing. She realized that to spend more on clothes, she’d have to take something from another slice—and there really wasn’t anyplace to do that.

Alice still wishes she could buy more clothes, but now she understands the reason. I hope this lesson helps when she has to manage her own money “pizza” someday. 👍

Living in a diverse world

In school, in college, or on the job, your child will meet and work with people of various backgrounds and abilities. Share these strategies for embracing diversity:

- Point out that cultural differences make life more interesting. A classmate from another heritage might invite her to participate in a tradition with her family or introduce her to foods that taste and smell different. Then, have your tween do the same to share her background.
- Encourage your middle grader to connect with classmates who speak other languages. She can ask them to teach her words and phrases and then try using them in conversation.
- Let your tween know you expect her to show respect toward everyone. She could sit down to chat with a student in a wheelchair (rather than towering over the person). Also, she should smile and say hello when walking by people with disabilities—the same way she would with anyone else—rather than ignoring them. 👍



Q & A Sticking with it

Q My son gets frustrated when schoolwork isn’t easy for him.

How could I motivate him to keep trying?

A It’s important for your son to believe he can succeed when something is difficult.

First, have him think of a situation where he struggled and then made progress. Maybe he became a better Little League pitcher from one season to the next. Ask him what steps he took to accomplish that.

He might recall that a coach gave him feedback on his stance and that he practiced hard until he improved.

In the same way, he can overcome obstacles with schoolwork. To understand a tough science concept, he might ask his teacher for extra help and look up fun related experiments to try at home.

Finally, suggest phrases he could say to himself to stay motivated, such as, “I’ll get this if I keep at it.” 👍




OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,
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128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
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October

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	WRE, 2:50-3:50 VB @ Willard		Gr. 8 to Heidelberg presentation	Fundraiser orders due Computer Club, 2:45-3:45 FB @ Sandusky VB vs Bellevue	No school for students	Storybook Festival, 8:00-2:00, café & gym
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Health Partners Dental Team WRE, 2:50-3:50 SADD, 2:45-4:00 VB @ Shelby PTO Mtg, 6:00		Candidates Night, 7:00, cafe	Computer Club, 2:45-3:45 FB @ Clyde VB @ McPherson		VB, open date CC, open date
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	WRE, 2:50-3:50			Computer Club, 2:45-3:45 FB vs Norwalk	Fall dance, 3:00-4:30	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Spirit Wear sale begins End of 1 st quarter WRE, 2:50-3:50 SADD, 2:45-4:00	TCS Board Mtg, 7:00, cafe		Computer Club, 2:45-3:45	Grade cards mailed home	
29	30	31				
	WRE, 2:50-3:50	Picture retakes and group pictures				

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