



13A San Marcos Loop
Santa Fe NM 87508
505 986 4000
www.ttschool.org

Summer 2018

Dear TTCS parents and community:

The 18-19-school year is shaping up to be a significant year for our community. The reality of expanding our school to include middle school is upon us. We are simultaneously expanding the PreK-5 elementary school by adding a 4th section of Kindergarten and you can anticipate that each grade will subsequently add a section for the next few years until we have approximately 500 students in the K-5 school. Our new middle school starts on August 13th with 7 staff members and 60 students in 7th grade and in 2019, we will have our 6th grade exit this building and join the 7th and 8th grade making a middle school of 180 students at another location, perhaps at the Boys and Girls club "Zona Del Sol" campus. (Across from the Southside library on Jaguar Street). This expansion is exciting, and keeping all of us in administration very busy as we work on the details to successfully launch this expansion in both elementary and mid school divisions.

The expansion has added numerous new teachers and staff members. I am very confident we will look back on 2018 as the year we significantly improved our staff in quality and experiences. We are bringing very talented people to our school this August. Attached to this letter is a summary of the people that will be joining our school for the upcoming year. Teacher bios will be posted on our website for all to see as we are very proud that our school is attracting such high quality talent.

GET THE APP!

One of our significant school goals for this upcoming year is to have a better communication system for parents, students and teachers. TTCS is working to catch up with technology. The days of sending notes home in backpacks is now behind us and as everyone now has a phone or access to the internet, we are expecting a 100% conversion to a new system with all of our parents and older students having the TTCS School Messenger app on their phone. You must get this set up immediately. Instructions to connect with us via the School Messenger app are included in this communication. As a matter of fact, about half of our parents are already getting this letter via the app!

Permission forms, school emergencies, snow days, important announcements, school closures; all will come to you immediately through your phone. Grades, progress reports, student assignments, lunch menus, bus changes and every other school announcement will be immediately available to you through this new system, so please get connected today. It's FREE and takes just a few minutes.

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TTCS Facilities

Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS) has not let up in its “saber rattling” about the facility issue you may have heard about. Our position has not changed and we intend to stay in the current elementary school facility. We believe we have a strong legal position and we are not going anywhere. Our legal team has started the process to clarify our position to SFPS. If you are interested in joining our action group, “The TTCS 100”, please contact Francesca Margaritondo at fmargaritondo@ttschool.org. We may call on you to participate in one of many group actions that could help our position.

Buses

We will be offering the same 5 bus routes for the upcoming school year with minor variations in times and pickup locations. Sign up now! Bus service is offered to students on a first-come, first-served basis for your child to ride the bus. The forms can be found through the TTCS School Messenger app. Some buses will be very full and you don't want to have your child on a wait list to ride the bus. If you don't fill out the forms, your child will be sent to Aftercare and you will be billed.

School Safety improvements

You may not know that we have a school safety and wellness committee. We are looking for parents to join this committee to help us provide a needed perspective on all of the efforts that are being made to make our school safer for our students and teachers. Changes to building access are taking place this summer. The front doors of the school will now have security cameras and a buzz-in system, so parents and visitors will no longer be allowed to just walk into the building. All staff members will be taking a turn assisting visitors at the entrance of the building as ALL access points to the school will be locked at all times. School safety and security in schools is an evolving issue and we welcome your ideas and input on this very important modern school era issue.

Gathering of the Pack

This annual all-school gathering to get ready for the start of the school year will be on **Thursday August 9th, 4:30pm class lists will be posted, 5:00pm PTO meeting, 5:30pm classroom meetings**; this required event is for all families from grades PreK-7. It will be held at the TTCS main campus. Learn whom your child's main teacher will be, or in 6th and 7th grade who their advisor will be. Additionally you have a chance to talk to teachers about supplies, what to bring to school in the first week, how lunches and buses work, as well as how to sign up for band or after school activities. There will be grade level meetings for Pre-K to schedule home visits, Kindergarten to sign up for conferences and 5th, 6th and 7th to discuss our new schedules and goals for the year. You will receive a message through the School Messenger app with details for these grade levels.

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PTO

Good schools need active and participating parents. Without an active, large group of volunteer parents we have less events for students and less money for teacher supplies and field trips. Come to the Gathering of the Pack to meet our new PTO leaders and volunteer to help with our many events and fundraisers. TTCS does a good job with our currently active parents but we certainly need MORE parents and an increase in participation. We also need a whole new group for our middle school.

Aftercare Programs.

Sign up at the Gathering of the Pack for all after school programs including our well established Aftercare program, our 6-week clubs and our semester activities. Middle school parents will have the chance to sign-up up for semester programs at the Boys and Girls club as well as programs offered for older students at the TTCS main campus (*drama club, jazz band, robotics, future cities and so on*).

Summer Homework

Many teachers have assigned summer homework; please check school messenger and/or Google classroom for more information.

FIRST day of school

The First day of school for all grades (**except Pre-K and Kindergarten**) is **Monday, August 13**. The school calendar is on the website www.ttschool.org

Pre-K and Kindergarten start classes on Wednesday August 15th.

School starts promptly at 7:50, we have too many tardies and there will be more official consequences for lateness, please be on time.

As you can see we have many plans for a very exciting year! See you all very soon at **the Gathering of the Pack**. If you have any questions, please call the Front Desk at 505-986-4000. If it's a middle school question, you will still call the same number and we can connect you to the Mid School secretary (TBA) or the middle school principal Sharyn Gray (sgray@tschool.org)

Enjoy the rest of the beautiful New Mexico summer and we will see you in August.

Dr. Ray Griffin
Head Administrator
TTCS Elementary and Middle School Divisions