



TUCKAHOE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Preparing Every Student for Excellence

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Mr. Mark Barnett
Principal

Mr. Scott DeBellis
Assistant Principal

September 15, 2017

Dear Tuckahoe Middle School Parents and Guardians,

Students at TMS have hit the ground running this week. At the end of our first full week of school I'm pleased to report that Chromebooks are in students' hands, lunch and recess are running smoothly, and students are digging in to curriculum in all of their classes.

At TMS and THS we practice a number of safety procedures, and conduct a variety of drills. In the coming weeks we will conduct a number of fire drills and we will practice evacuating and locking down the building. We will, of course, keep you informed as these drills approach.

I would like to update and clarify the TMS policy for students carrying book bags during the school day. The goal with this update is to balance the need for student safety with the need to bring supplies to class. There are a number of concerns with middle school students carrying backpacks. One is that many of our students' backpacks, when loaded, are quite heavy and make navigating the building stairs unsafe. Also, I have observed full-sized backpacks become a tripping hazard in our classrooms.

For these reasons, large backpacks should not be carried from class to class, and are not permitted in classrooms or the cafeteria. However, smaller bags are permitted. A "small" bag is one that fits neatly under students' chairs. Drawstring bags, small mesh bags, or other small bags are acceptable. We will ease into the implementation of this policy for the duration of September, and will adhere to it strictly beginning in October.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have questions. Financial assistance is available if needed.

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

September 26 - Back to School Night, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

October 6 - Quarter 1 progress monitoring (halfway through the first quarter)

Be sure to check out our website for PTA flyers, calendar snapshots, and other reminders

http://tms.tuckahoeschools.org/201718_weekly_enewsletter

Next week is a three day school week. School will be closed on Thursday, September 21 and Friday, September 22.

Sincerely,

Mark Barnett
Principal