



TUCKAHOE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Preparing Every Student for Excellence

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Mr. Mark Barnett
Principal

Mr. Scott DeBellis
Assistant Principal

March 9, 2018

Dear Tuckahoe Middle School Parents and Guardians,

Student Government

This week our Student Government Organization kicked off their annual fundraiser, Pennies for Patients. This initiative raises funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by accepting small donations of spare change (although bills are welcome) from as many people as possible. The G.O. has set a fundraising goal of \$2018.

Language Selection (6th grade only)

It is time for parents of sixth grade students to indicate a preference for language study. Students have the option of enrolling in Spanish or Italian. When considering this, remember that the decision is a two year commitment. Students will study the same language in 7th and 8th grade. Successful completion of this two year sequence results in 1 credit toward high school graduation requirements. Click [here](#) to fill out the language preference form.

NYS Testing Information

The NYS English Language Arts testing is scheduled for April 11 and April 12. The Math testing is scheduled for May 1 and May 2. The purpose and format of these exams has changed considerably in the last 5 years, largely due to suggestions made by parents and educators. The upcoming tests are two days, not three. The tests do not have time limits. The results are not used for student course placements or for teacher evaluations.

Test results are used by educators to identify building trends, grade level trends, and strengths or weaknesses in our curriculum. I also see these tests as an opportunity for students to engage with standardized testing in a low pressure situation (results will not impact the student), before students begin to take Regents, AP, and college entrance exams. The message that I will send to students is simple: as you should do on every challenge you face, give the test your best effort.

8th Grade Trip

The 8th grade trip to Pocono Valley is scheduled for Thursday, May 24. Deposits of \$50.00 are due no later than March 15.

Science Olympiad

Our Science Olympiad team competed in the Lower Hudson Valley Regional Science Olympiad Competition last weekend. Eighteen students from TMS competed against dozens of local schools. Our students took home medals in 4 events. Congratulations to those who attended!

After School Program

The PTA has partnered with Curious on Hudson to offer a Science and Engineering Challenge course this spring. Registration opens on March 13. Class size is limited to 15 students. Please contact the PTA for more information.

The 2018-19 district calendar is now available on the district website.

Upcoming events:

March 15 - 8th grade trip deposit due

March 16 - School in session for all students

March 21 - PTA sponsored Taste of Tuckahoe - during student lunches

April 6 - School in session for all students

May 1 - TMS Tiger contest entries due (information [here](#))

May 25 - School in session for all students

Yearbook information can be found [HERE](#).

Sincerely,

Mark Barnett
Principal