

Principal's Log 2.28

Dear TMS Families,

Phew, we made it through another week! Together we are keeping students actively learning and safe. These are challenging times, but we are Tuckahoe strong! Today I am writing to keep you informed on a number of issues and update you on the middle school e-learning initiative.

We are continuing to wait for guidance from the Governor's office and The New York State Education Department concerning a number of matters including when we will be able to reopen our schools and possible changes to the school calendar. We do know that the District will be closed for Spring Break 4/6/2020 - 4/14/2020. You will be updated as soon as we know more. In case you have not heard, all NYS Intermediate Level Standardized Tests have been suspended. This includes, 6-8 ELA, 6-8 math, and 8th grade science. We have not been given any information pertaining to the Algebra 1 or Earth Science Regents exams. I will let you know when I hear more.

Meanwhile, our fantastic, dedicated, and incredibly flexible teachers are working very hard. Yesterday we held a Zoom video conference faculty meeting and it is very clear that they miss the students tremendously. They miss their smiles, their stories and their laughter. Our teachers feed on the moments when young people learn something new and these moments have been transformed. E- learning is much different than in person learning. However, it is clear that they are dedicated to making it the best that it can possibly be.

We are learning how to implement new tools and the students are learning how to utilize them. From my vantage point it is a true learning community in action. We will make mistakes, there will be technological glitches, but we will always press forward keeping our students' best interests in mind. I have been invited to Google Classes and I enter them in the same way that I would visit an actual classroom, looking through the eyes of a student. I see teachers learning alongside the youngsters. They are posting lessons with video and audio content. They are giving students thoughtful real-time and delayed feedback. They are learning the skills to teach in a new frontier. It's all a bit scary and very exciting, so we ask for your continued patience.

Lastly, I must update you on our new attendance procedures. We are required to continue to take attendance through our student management system, Powerschool. If a student is not able to participate in their E- learning activities assigned by teachers on a particular day, we are requesting for parents/guardians to notify the school so we can properly record the absence and communicate this information with our teachers, as well as provide any needed support to the best of our abilities.

Effective Monday, March 30, 2020, we are asking for families to email our Attendance Office, tms-thsattendance@tuckahoeschools.org, if your student is not able

to participate in their assigned E-Learning lessons for the day. **Please include your student's name, grade and reason for absence in your email.** If you have any questions, please contact our Attendance Secretary Ms. Christine Lorenz, tms-thsattendance@tuckahoeschools.org, or Mr. Scott DeBellis, debelliss@tuckahoeschools.org.

Thank you and be well.
Greg Stiefel, Principal
<https://twitter.com/GregStiefel>

Be sure to check out our website for PTA flyers, calendar snapshots, and other reminders. http://tms.tuckahoeschools.org/201718_weekly_enewsletter