

# The Eagle Newsletter

Sept. 2014

Taylor's Crossing Public Charter School, (208) 552-0397

www.tceagles.com

#### A Parent's To-Do List:

- Fill out Free/Reduced Lunch application if you have not done so already
- Sign up for PowerSchool alerts
- Send current immunization and allergy information to the school

## **Sync Your Calendar:**

Sept. 22-26 — HS Spirit Week

**Sept. 24** — School picture day

**Sept. 24 — 6:30 p.m.** PFA meeting

**Sept. 26 — 8:30 a.m.** Citizen of the Month Assembly

Sept. 27 — 7:00 p.m. High School Harvest Dance, school parking lot

Oct. 2-3 — No School Teacher inservice days

Oct. 6-10 — No School Fall break

Oct. 8 — 7:30 p.m. School Board Meeting

Oct. 15 — 8:00 a.m. High school PSAT test

Just a friendly reminder that in order to be courteous to our neighbors, we ask our families to please use Wood River Road (via Lincoln Road, north of the school) when coming to and from the school. Please avoid driving through the surrounding community.

### Superintendent's Message

We are through a month of school already! Wow, where has the time gone?

The school board approved the construction of a **bus lane and parking lot** north of the school. This will help with parking issues and the congestion in the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up of students. The construction will hopefully be done around Thanksgiving time. We are so excited about this and looking forward to completion.

Our school is located in a **residential neighborhood** with wonderful neighbors. When the school was being considered, our neighbors were concerned about extra traffic through the neighborhood. Our founders assured them that we would do all we could to ensure people traveling to or from the school would not travel through the neighborhood. Please respect the wishes of our neighbors and come to school from Lincoln Road and then turn on Wood River Drive.

I would also like to stress the importance of **safety during drop off and pick up**. Parents, please make sure that you drop off your children in the mornings along the fire lane or along the sidewalk. Please don't double park when you drop your children off as this forces students to walk across traffic, which is always dangerous. In the afternoon when you pick your children up, please do so in the line through the parking lot. It is not safe for children to walk to the road to be picked up. Thanks for your attention to this.

**Parent volunteers** are a wonderful addition to our school. We have a PFA (Parent Faculty Association) which has been very involved in positive school projects. Please e-mail pfa@tceagles.com to join this organization and share your talents. Our teachers would also enjoy having you volunteer in their classrooms. Please contact them to find out what you can do to help.

TCPCS is trying to go paperless this year. You can help make this happen by giving us a **current e-mail address** for you so that you receive important communications —like this e-mail. We would also ask you to make sure we have your **current cell phone number** and that you have logged in to PowerSchool so that we can send important texts about the school to your phone. If you have questions about how to do this, our wonderful office staff would love to help if you call them at 552-0397.

I would also like to emphasize **attendance**. The policy states that students who are not in attendance 96% of the time are subject to the following:

- Parents/guardians will be notified in writing of the 4th absence from class during a semester and the potential loss of credit.
- Parents/guardians will be notified in writing of the 5th absence from class during a semester, the student's possible loss of credit, and the appeals process.

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# Cafeteria Corner

A big welcome back to our students! We are so happy to be back making healthy, nutritious meals for your children. A few items of business we need to take care of right at the first of the school year.

- **1. Free and Reduced Applications**. If you have not filled one out and believe you are eligible, please get one in before the end of September. As of October 1st anyone who has not filled out the form or received notice from the School Food Service will automatically be charged for full paid meals. The price of the school lunch has gone up again: K-6 is \$2.60, 7-12 is \$2.65.
- **2. Second Entrees.** We have some children who would like to buy a second entree on certain days. If you

are ok with your child buying seconds please send a note from home. The second entree does cost \$2.00 no matter what your child's status is. We would like that paid for on the day they want a second. Turn their money into the front office to Mrs. Newell.

**3. Doctor Notes**. I need new notes for any child who has an allergy to food. It is required to receive a new note each school year.

I appreciate your help! I also want to thank our High School students for keeping the common area cleaned each day. A big thanks goes out to our 7th and 8th grade students for helping serve in the Cafeteria.

— Beth Long, Child Nutrition Supervisor

### Did you know?

Lunch menus can be found on the school web site. Visit tceagles.com, then go to "Students and Families" at the top, and click on Cafeteria. Breakfast and lunch menu links will be updated each month.



# **High School Happenings**

# September Back to School Activity

Our high school welcomed back students with a back-to-school bonfire night, filled with fun and friends! They gathered Sept.  $5^{th}$  for an evening of fun, and all who attended had a great time.

## Celebrate High School Spirit Week! Sept. 22-26

The high school will be holding Spirit Week September 22<sup>nd</sup> – September 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a week of fun dress-up days, concluding with an assembly during lunch on Friday. The first dance of the year, **Under the Harvest Moon**, will be held Saturday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the school. Admission is \$5 per person or \$7 per couple. Casual dress.

Dress Up Days: Monday — Pajama Day Tuesday — Decade Day Wednesday — Character Day





Thursday — Redneck & Reality TV Day Friday — Crazy Class Colors Day (each class will choose a color)



## **Gym Shoes**

Dear parents, take a look at the bottom of your child's shoe. Does it have a nonmarking sole? We encourage kids to wear shoes with non-marking soles when they are in the gym to avoid leaving skid marks on the floor.

## Parents are the Key!

At the start of a new school year, all parents hope their children will have a great educational experience and will make considerable progress. But did you know that YOU, the parent, are the most important factor in your child having a great year? Research shows:

- School age children spend 70% of their waking hours (including weekends and holidays) outside of school.
- The earlier in a child's educational process parent involvement begins, the more powerful the effects.
- Lack of parental involvement is the biggest problem facing public schools.\*

Here are some ideas on how you can be a better influence in your child's education, as well as ideas on how they apply particularly at Taylor's Crossing (TCPCS).

\* Source: Parent Involvement Fact Sheet, Michigan Department of Education, http://michigan.gov/documents/Final\_Parent\_Involvement\_Fact\_Sheet\_14732\_7.pdf

Six ways to be more influential in your child's education		
Establish a daily family routine	Provide time and a quiet place to study, assign responsibility for household chores, be firm about bedtime and have dinner together.	At TCPCS: Schedule time to complete daily/weekly homework, in a place free from TV, cell phones, or other distractions.
Monitor out-of- school activities	Set limits on TV watching, check up on children when parents are not home, arrange for after-school activities and supervised care, and don't overschedule extracurricular activities.	At TCPCS: Make sure doctor's appointments, vacations, etc. are scheduled after school or during school breaks.
Model the value of learning, self- discipline, and hard work	Communicate through questioning and conversation, and demonstrate that achievement comes from working hard.	At TCPCS: Ask daily about the "high" and "low" of the day, and encourage a positive attitude, as expressed in the poem, "The Bottom Line."
Express high but realistic expectations for achievement	Set goals and standards that are appropriate for children's age and maturity, recognize and encourage special talents, and inform friends and family about successes.	At TCPCS: Expect students to make progress for Hall of Fame achievements—then brag about them!
Encourage children's development/ progress in school	Maintain a warm and supportive home, show interest in children's progress at school, help with homework, discuss the value of a good education and possible career options, and stay in touch with teachers and school staff.	At TCPCS: Make sure your email and cell phone/texting information is recorded in PowerSchool. Download the PowerSchool app.
Encourage reading, writing, and discussion	Read, listen to children read, and talk about what is being read.	At TCPCS: Talk about what book they checked out from the library, and help them make time to read it.



#### **PFA News**

A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make sure the playground equipment was installed before the start of school! We especially thank Brady Belliston, Rylee Baird (Eagle Scout Project), the Bonneville County Work Detail Program, and Deputy Palmer.

As we consider upcoming projects, we are looking for people with knowledge, or resources, in sprinkler and lawn installation. If you, or someone you know, can help, please contact: amyscarr@cableone.net. We also have Eagle Scout projects available if you know a scout looking for a project.

## **Upcoming Events**

#### **PFA** meeting

Place: High School Commons Date: Sept. 24, 6:00 p.m.

#### **Halloween Carnival**

Place: School

Date: Oct. 24, 6-9:00 p.m.



We need volunteers! Help make the school carnival the most fun school event of the year! Please contact trumpet26@hotmail.com to help.

#### PowerSchool Helps You Stay in Touch

Check out PowerSchool, an online service that allows you to see your child's grades, their lunch balance, attendance record, and more! Be sure to select the features under Power Announcement. You can input your email, cell phone, or home phone, and choose to be alerted by any of those 3 avenues if there are closures, emergencies, or other announcements. To log in, go to the Students & Families tab on the school web site, then click on Grade Access. If this is your first time, you will need an access password from the school. Contact itoop@tceagles.com to get one or call 552-0397.

Superintendent's message, continued from page 1

- On the 6th absence from class during a semester, the administrator will meet with the student and parents to discuss the TCPCS attendance policy.
- On the 7th absence from class during a semester, the student will lose credit for that class.
   Students may appeal to the administrator if extenuating circumstances exist. Students may appeal the administrator's decision to the Board for final determination. Extenuating circumstances will be handled by the administrator and/or Board on a case-by-case basis when based on situations beyond the student's control.
- If a student has been absent from school 10 total days during a semester, the student may be administratively withdrawn in accordance with this policy.

Parents and students are responsible for keeping track of student attendance. Not receiving notification for an absence does not excuse the student from the consequences of this policy.

The school calendar at Taylor's Crossing Public Charter School is designed to be friendly to families who want to take vacations during the school year. We have a week in October, November, and December, plus 2 weeks in March. It is so important that our students are in attendance and I would ask all to schedule vacations during these ample break times.

Finally, I would like to comment that the climate and atmosphere of Taylor's Crossing Public Charter School is wonderful. Our students are respectful. Our students are kind to each other. We have great teachers. Our school is a wonderful experience for those who are used to regular public education. It truly is a great opportunity to work with TCPCS because of the great things which are happening. Thanks to all of you for your efforts to help us make our school great!

Daniel Wendt, principal & superintendent

#### News from the Board

We are excited to have new board members serving this year. New to the board are Scott Gruwell (grant writing/fundraising/safety), David Montgomery (policy and regulation), Cameron Taylor (community outreach), and Jared Taylor (treasurer). We appreciate their many volunteer hours spent making our school successful!

