

# Tinora Elementary School

## Board Members

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Superintendent

05751 Domersville Road  
Defiance, OH 43512  
419-497-1022



Mr. Eric Tipton  
Elementary Principal

Mrs. Kim Phipps  
Elementary Guidance

Mrs. Barb Varner  
Elementary Secretary

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TES Parents & Students,

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and back to school time is here! I hope that everyone had an extraordinarily wonderful summer full of memory-making opportunities with family and friends!

With that said, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Tinora Elementary principal. My name is Eric Tipton and I am starting my 15th year working in the Northeastern Local School District. I spent my first 10 years teaching 4th grade at TES and spent the last four years as the principal at Tinora High School. I am looking forward to working with you and all of our young Rams!

The last 18 months have been like no other in the history of Northeastern Local Schools. Although we are still not out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are hoping to provide our students with an appropriate learning environment that will meet their needs and keep them as safe as possible. Just as during the 2020-2021 school year, we will have measures in place to try to help us continue face-to-face instruction at TES.

## **ABSENCES**

Please make sure to contact the Tinora Elementary office by 8:15 each morning that your child will be absent. The phone number for the TES office is 419-497-1022. If nobody is available to answer the phone, you will hear an option to report your child absent. Please take the time to do so as the safety and well being of your child is of the utmost importance to us.

## **ARRIVAL TIME**

The doors to Tinora Elementary will open at 7:50 AM. Students are expected to not enter the building until this time. If students need to enter the building before 8:00 AM, they will be expected to report to the elementary cafeteria where they will be monitored by school staff. They will not be allowed to go to their classroom until 8:00 AM.

## **BIRTHDAY TREATS**

We will allow students to bring in birthday treats to celebrate their birthday. If at all possible, please choose to send in prepackaged treats. Prepackaged treats do include homemade treats sent in bags. Items such as cakes, pies, pizzas, etc. will not be acceptable treats.

## **BREAKFAST**

Breakfast will begin during the 2nd week of school. Just as last year, student breakfast and lunch will be free of charge through a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. Breakfast will be served to each child in their homeroom class after attendance is taken.

## **BUSSING**

Northeastern Local Schools will continue to offer bussing to all students located throughout our district. With that said, in accordance with the formally enacted federal COVID-19 mandate, students must wear masks on all public transportation vehicles until September 13th. At this time, this mandate will be revisited at the federal level. Any and all updates will be shared with the Northeastern Local School District community. Please contact Northeastern Local School Transportation Supervisor, Angie Bussing, at 419-497-9919 if you have any questions.

## **CLASS ROSTERS**

Tinora Elementary has an outstanding teaching staff. Therefore, teacher requests will not be honored. Class rosters were created last year and were shared with the public today. These lists are posted in the windows of the TES entrance and available online at [www.tinora.org](http://www.tinora.org).

## **CLEANING PROCEDURES**

Just as last year, Northeastern Local Schools will take additional cleaning measures to try to decrease the spread of COVID-19 within our school. Extra cleaning throughout the day will occur and extra PPE equipment will be available in the elementary office for those students wishing to use it.

## **DISMISSAL**

Tinora Elementary will dismiss on a staggered schedule just as last year. Teachers will help to assist students get to their assigned dismissal locations. For security purposes, parents are not allowed to enter the school building at the beginning or end of the school day. If parents do need to enter for emergency reasons, they must report to the TES office.

## **DRINKING FOUNTAINS**

Once again this year, drinking fountains will be turned off to begin the year. We will have water bottle filling stations available for students just as last year. With that said, we encourage students to bring a water bottle each day. Please only place water in the bottle as all other liquids are prohibited during the school day.

## **FIELD TRIPS/ASSEMBLIES**

The plan is for Tinora Elementary to resume field trips and/or assemblies at the discretion of the building principal. If we feel our students can safely participate in a unique activity outside of school, we will encourage them to do so as outside of the classroom activities can be extraordinarily valuable to our student's education. If you are not comfortable in allowing your child to participate in a scheduled trip, please contact the TES office so that we can formulate alternative arrangements for your child.

## **FINAL FORMS**

Students are required to have school forms filled out in our Final Forms program. This is a new program for the 2021-2022 school year that will take the place of the PowerSchool program that we have used in years past. In order to update student forms, please go to [www.tinora.org](http://www.tinora.org), click on "Menu", click on "Parents", and then click on "FinalForms". We would like to have all student forms completed by the beginning of the school year. If you have any questions, please contact the TES office at 419-497-1022.

## **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

The first day of school for Tinora Elementary students in Grades 1-4 will be on Tuesday, August 31st. Kindergarten students will need to refer to the letter that was sent to them last week providing a half hour screening time on either Tuesday, August 31st or Wednesday, September 1st.

### **FREE/REDUCED LUNCH FORMS**

Although school breakfasts and lunches will still be free this year through a grant from the USDA, it is extremely important for Northeastern Local Schools to still collect information from all families that qualify for Free/Reduced lunches. Failure to do so results in Northeastern Local Schools forfeiting valuable funding that is very vital to the daily operations of running our school district. If you have any questions concerning Free/Reduced lunches, please contact the TES office at 419-497-1022.

### **MASKS**

The Ohio Department of Health and the Defiance County Health Department recommends and encourages everyone to wear facial coverings. With that said, at this time, Northeastern Local Schools will give parents the ability to decide whether or not their child will wear a mask during the school day. Please note that all COVID protocols are subject to change at any time or any day. We will do our best to keep you informed of any policy changes as soon as they are shared with us.

### **MEALSPLUS LUNCH PROGRAM**

All student lunches and breakfasts will be provided free of charge once again this year due to a federal grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. However, these lunches must still be tracked in order for Northeastern Local Schools to secure this federal funding. To do this, NELS utilizes the MealsPlus Program. Please be reminded that payments to these accounts go directly to a specific student and are not family accounts. You will need to specify how much each child is to receive in their account if you have multiple students in the district. Money in this account can be used for extra helpings of food, extra milk, or milk if the child is packing and does not have a beverage. Please note that all families need to register online so that you can receive notifications through email/texts when the account is in need of a payment. There is an online option to make payments, but there is a \$1.95 fee associated with each transaction. However, monetary payments can still be made by sending cash in with your child. If you are already registered from last school year, you will NOT need to register again. Please go to [K12PaymentCenter.com](http://K12PaymentCenter.com) to register and set up an account. You will need your child's student ID number and make sure to use Northeastern Local Schools as the name of the district.

### **OPEN HOUSE**

The annual Tinora Elementary Open House will be held on Monday, August 30th from 4:00 to 5:30. This is a great opportunity for students to come meet their teacher and tour the elementary school. Students are also encouraged to bring in school supplies so that they will not need to bring them with them on the first day of school.

### **PICTURE DAY**

Tinora Elementary Picture Day will be on Friday, September 10th. Picture forms will be placed in student folders that will be distributed during the TES Open House or on the first day of school.

### **PTO**

The Tinora Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization plays a vital role in providing TES students and teachers with vital resources and experiences. Some examples of prior PTO purchases include field trip expenses, playground equipment, classroom materials, and many other educational resources. The Tinora Elementary PTO meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the TES cafeteria. We encourage all interested parents to come join us!

### **QUARANTINED STUDENTS**

If students happen to have to be quarantined under the current Defiance County Health Department guidelines, students will be expected to complete school work. Please contact the TES office to provide all essential details and documentation associated with the quarantine. If you have any questions, please contact the TES office and ask to speak to the school nurse, Carol Hesterman.

## **RECESS**

Students will participate in multiple recess opportunities throughout the school day. When the outside temperature is above 60 degrees, students will be able to wear short sleeve shirts. When the temperature is between 45 and 59 degrees, students will be required to wear some sort of long sleeve shirt such as a sweatshirt or coat. When the temperature is between 20 and 44 degrees, students will be required to wear a coat. If the temperature is below 20 degrees, students will have inside recess. It is a good idea for your child to have a long sleeve garment stored in their locker in case they forget to bring one to school. Finally, if it snows, students will be required to have boots and snow pants in order to play in the snow to try to keep them from getting their clothes wet.

## **SCHOOL FEES**

Tinora Elementary school fees are \$65.00 per student. Checks should be made payable to either Tinora Elementary or Northeastern Local Schools. These fees can be paid during Open House or at any point throughout the school year. If you fill out Free/Reduced lunch forms and qualify for Free lunches, your school fees will be waived. However, if you qualify for Reduced lunches or do not qualify based on family income, you will be required to pay the \$65.00.

## **SEATING CHARTS**

Due to quarantine guidelines, students will have assigned seats in all classes and lunch in order to be able to provide accurate information to the Defiance County Health Department.

## **SICKNESS SCREENING**

Parents are asked to screen their children for sickness each morning. If children are showing symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, etc, parents are encouraged to keep those children home from school and seek the advice of a qualified health professional.

## **TRANSPORTATION CHANGES**

If your child's means of transportation will be changed for any reason, please send a note to the TES office or send an email to TES Secretary, Barb Varner at [bvarner@tinora.org](mailto:bvarner@tinora.org) by 11:00 AM on the day of the change. Northeastern Local Schools will not be able to make transportation changes after this time. If an emergency arises, please contact Mrs. Varner as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

Also, students are not permitted to ride the bus home with another student once again this year. If your child is going to another student's house, students must find alternate transportation not involving Northeastern Local busses. If you have any questions concerning this, please contact Northeastern Local School Transportation Supervisor, Angie Bussing, at 419-497-9919.

## **VISITORS**

Tinora Elementary will accept visitors on a limited basis. All visitors must be approved by the building principal and check in at the TES office upon arrival. Visitors will be strongly encouraged to wear masks and keep social distancing rules in mind when working with staff and students.

If you happen to have any more questions concerning the 2021-2022 school year, please do not hesitate to contact the Tinora Elementary office at 419-497-1022. The TES staff is looking forward to another outstanding school year! We look forward to seeing you in a few days! Go Rams!

Yours in Education,

*Eric Tipton*

Eric Tipton, Tinora Elementary Principal