

Script for call on 8-19-2020

Good evening, parents.

I want to begin by thanking each of you for your support and your assistance as we have finished our pre-enrollment activities, and we are now officially ready to start the 2020-2021 school year. Through the pre-enrollment process, we have had over 30% of our students who have opted to start the school year in virtual enrollment. To those families with students enrolled virtually, we thank you for giving us this opportunity to serve your children in a different way than teachers in our district have ever served them before. During the first few weeks of the school year as we transition to this new style of teaching and learning, we ask for your patience as our teachers adapt their teaching styles and acclimate to this new learning option. For those families who have opted to send your children to school starting tomorrow morning, we want to thank you for the opportunity to provide in-person learning to your children this year, and we want you to know that our teachers are very excited to begin the year with ALL of our students!

To our parents of virtual students, we have been working with the vendor of our learning management system on a daily basis over the past six weeks to bring our system online. This was part of the reason that we decided to push back the first day of school for a week. Unfortunately, at this time, we have not yet been able to finalize the production of our Canvas website, so we will not be able to begin our work on the online Canvas learning management system with our virtual or in-person students tomorrow. Please know that we will continue to work with our implementation team every day to bring the system online as soon as possible and will communicate updates to you regularly.

Since Canvas is the primary teaching method for our virtual students, this means that we will not be able to begin the synchronous teaching that we had hoped for tomorrow on our first day of school through that program. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you via email tomorrow by the end of the school day with a beginning-of-school welcome that will help your child be prepared with the same information that students attending in the classroom will receive. This will include information from the teachers' classroom expectations and procedures, and, for older students, major project due dates as well.

Also, for parents of our virtual students who have filled out the online survey to pick up grab-and-go lunch meals, please know that we will begin this program next Monday, August 23rd. You can pick up your child's lunch meal between 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM at Cross Timbers Elementary School located at 1111 W. Highland Street. Please look for the orange safety cones on the east side of the building to find the location where the lunch meal can be picked up. Remember that the prices for the meals will be \$1.95 for elementary students and \$2.10 for secondary students at the full price plan and 40 cents each for students at the reduced price plan. If you have not yet signed up for this service and would like to do so, please fill out the form located on our school website.

We are excited about the start of the school year, and we hope that you are too! We know that there will be hurdles and challenges this year. We will work hard to communicate with you on a regular basis as these challenges arise. We appreciate your help in completing the health assessment each morning before sending your students to school. We thank you for sending your student to school each day with his/her charged device. We appreciate you for working to come up with a 30 Minute Plan with our school staff to pick up your child should he or she become ill while at school.

We want to keep your children safe and healthy, so some of our procedures will change at all of our sites. We ask for your patience and flexibility. Please work with us to keep your child and all of our students and staff members as safe as possible. As your child has questions or needs, please communicate with us.

Once again, thank you for entrusting us to teach your children this school year! We are excited for the opportunities that ALL of our students will have in the year to come.

As always, thank you for your support of Tecumseh Public Schools.