

# TRENTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Children come first, Los niños son primero"

# **Districtwide Newsletter**





















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## Communications

#### **Reminders:**

- June 6 NJ Primary Election: There are 11 schools within our district that are designated polling locations and will be operating in a virtual environment on Tuesday, June 6. To view the list of schools that are polling locations, click here.
- **2023-24 Intermediate School Hours Change:** Effective Thursday, Sept. 7, all intermediate schools (grades 4-6) within the Trenton Public School District will start at 8 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. For more information on the time change, click here.

#### **Important Dates to Remember**: <u>https://bit.ly/3DEj1B2</u>

- June 06: 11 Schools Virtual for NJ Primary Elections: http://bit.ly/45icusQ
- June 07: Reduced Day/Staff PD
- June 15: Reduced Day/Staff PD
- June 16: Reduced Day/Staff PD
- June 19: Juneteenth/CLOSED
- June 20: Daylight-Twilight High School Graduation (War Memorial)
- June 21: Last Day of School for Staff and Students
- June 23: Trenton Central High School Graduation (Cure Arena)
- June 30: Last day for 10 1/2 Month Employees
- July 3-4: Independence Day/CLOSED
- July 6: First Day of Trenton Transformers Summer Program

#### **School Year Calendars**

The Trenton Board of Education approved the 2023-24 School Year calendar at the May 22 meeting. Please see the school year calendars below.

- English
  - 2022-23 School Year Calendar
  - 2023-24 School Year Calendar

## **TRENTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Districtwide Newsletter: Summer 2023 Issue



- Español (Spanish)
  - 2022-23 Calendario del Año Escolar
  - 2023-24 Calendario del Año Escolar
- Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)
- 2023-24 Kalandriye ane Lekòl
- District Events Calendar

**Communication:** Are you receiving communication from the district and your school(s) via phone, email, and text? The district needs to ensure all students have updated parent/guardian information in <u>PowerSchool</u>.

- Please confirm you have created a <u>PowerSchool account</u> and your information is up-to-date.
- Questions on how we communicate? Please go to our <u>communications website</u> for more information on how we will communicate various events and emergencies.
- For information regarding the TPS SchoolMessenger notification system, processes for general school information, emergencies, and more please see the attached documents below.
  - TPS SMS Text Opt In Flyer | Mensaje de texto TPS Registrese

## Registration

Registration for the 2023-24 school year will be done virtually and by appointment only at the Trenton Board of Education Central Office. For more registration information, please click here.



#### Important Updates:

- Kindergarten Registration for the 2023-24 School Year is now open. <u>Please click here for kindergarten registration information</u>.
- Online registration for grades 1-12 will open on July 5.
- Preschool Registration is open (for children ages 3 or 4 years old by Oct. 1, 2023), click <u>here</u> or call (609) 656-4900; 5667. Check out the <u>Office of Early Childhood's</u> <u>website</u> for more information and the <u>list of providers</u>.

#### Kindergarten Registration Information:

- View the full Kindergarten Kick-Off Flyer in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, by clicking here.
- Links and Information in English
  - English PowerSchool Online Enrollment Information
  - English Online Enrollment Link
- Links and Information in Español (Spanish)
  - Español: Inscripción en línea de PowerSchool
    - Español: Enlace de inscripción en línea
- Links and Information in Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)
  - <u>Kreyòl Ayisyen PowerSchool Enskripsyon sou</u> <u>Entènèt</u>
  - Kreyòl Ayisyen Lyen Enskripsyon sou Entènèt



onk12.org/students\_and\_fo



## Technology

**Introduction to Apple Edu Initiative:** We are excited to announce a partnership with

Apple Edu! As we move forward toward a true integration of technology to leverage teaching and learning, the technology department has developed a plan to roll out a 1:1 iPad initiative for grades K-8 for the start of the 2023-24 school year. All students and teachers in grades K-8 will receive an iPad in conjunction with professional development to support teaching and learning, as well as support administrators with one-to-one leadership coaching and support throughout the school year.

All students in grades K-8 will be issued an iPad for educational use as part of our 1:1 program. Students will bring their device home and to school daily. The iPads will allow for easy use of digital materials,



student collaboration tools, and individualized instruction in all subject areas to enhance student learning. For more information on this initiative, please click here.

# **School News**

**Cadwalader Canines Care for Kids Program:** Students at Cadwalader Elementary School have the opportunity to experience therapy with Sailor. Sailor is a certified therapy dog trained to enhance the work we are doing with trauma-informed care and healing-centered engagement. Principal Costanza has noticed a decrease in office referrals on Therapy Thursdays and an overall positive atmosphere at school with staff and students. The activities students take part in include cooperative games, reading, caring for Sailor, and taking care of his environment.

**Food Smarts Kids Program**: Students at PJ Hill Elementary School show off their fruit pizzas created as part of the Food Smarts Kids program. PJ Hill was featured in an <u>article by</u> <u>Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative</u> <u>Extension of Mercer County</u>. This series is an interactive, learner-centered curriculum that focuses on helping children make healthy choices and to think about why they make the food choices they make.

**Hedgepeth-Williams Intermediate School Overnight Trip**: In partnership with Howard's Healthy Choices Organization, students from Hedgepeth-Williams Intermediate School attended an overnight trip to Princeton Blairstown Center. This 30-hour residential program provides students with inquiry-based, hands-on environmental education and social-emotional learning sessions that aim to help students engage more deeply with science and the scientific method, understand that









science is fun, and provide opportunities to explore future STEM careers.

**Child Wellness Gala:** TPS Partner, The Child Wellness Institute, awarded two \$2,500 scholarships to TCHS students at their 4th Anniversary Gala. Seniors Tymir Fennell and Taniya Ellerbe were the proud recipients of the Teen Resilience Scholarships. Fennell will be attending Norfolk State University, and Ellerbe will be attending Montclair State University. Both students were selected as their personal stories exemplified resilience and made a tremendous impact on the scholarship committee.

**Drop Everything and Yoga**: Gregory Elementary School launched a schoolwide mid-day yoga reset period. The school community engages in 10 minutes of yoga three days a week. Yoga instruction provides the students with another strategy and tool to use for self-regulation. Research has shown that yoga and mindfulness improve both physical and mental health in school-age children. The 10-minute yoga reset helps to provide students and staff with strategies to use for self-regulation.

**Science Circus:** McKnight's K-3 students recently had the opportunity to learn about scientific concepts during their assembly with the Liberty Science Center. During the event, students were introduced to the basics of electricity, air, and the three states of matter.

**Intermediate School Basketball League:** the district collaborated with the TCHS Alumni Basketball Association to host a grade 4-6 intermediate school basketball league. Parents and community members came out every Saturday in April and May to cheer on their school during the basketball games. Cheerleaders and dance teams from grades 4-6 joined and performed at halftime.

### **Parent Connect**

**Extravaganza:** TPS is excited to host its 8th Annual Back to School Extravaganza. Families can interact and receive resources from school staff, community, and health agencies. Mobile health vans will be on-site to offer free school-mandated immunizations, eye exams, dental, and other health screenings. Students can receive free backpacks filled with school supplies, school uniforms, and much more while supplies last.

The Back to School Extravaganza will be held on Friday, Aug. 25, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Trenton Board of Education parking lot at 108 N. Clinton Ave Trenton, NJ 08609.

**Parent Survey:** Please take two minutes to complete the survey below. Your feedback makes a difference in elevating the quality of educational services. TPS would like to receive parental feedback to make improvements in the following areas: student achievement, parent/community engagement, developing the whole child, facilities/infrastructure, and staff development. Please take a few minutes to











complete the survey in an effort to help make school/district improvements: <u>https://tinyurl.com/TPSparentsasleaders</u>

#### Resources

- Parent Connect Website
- Homeless Services
- Everyday Matters Attendance Project

### **Human Resources**

The human resources team at TPS is working to reduce staffing shortages within the school district by expanding its recruiting efforts. The HR team is participating in in-person and virtual career fairs allowing the district to recruit candidates from all over the country.

**Hiring Event:** You are invited to the district's on-the-spot-hiring event on Friday, June 2, at TCHS (400 Chambers Street) at 3:30 p.m. for teacher, counselor, social worker, nurse, and psychologist positions. <u>Click here for more information and to register.</u>

For more information, please go to the TPS Human Resources website.



## **Teaching & Learning**

#### ESL/Bilingual

**Professional Development**: New teachers in the district attended a Novice Teacher Professional Development session focusing on best instructional practices for our Multilingual Learners (MLs). The focus of the session was placed on instructional strategies for MLs to meet individual language needs. Our session modeled a "Make-and-Take" structure, where teachers could take away two to three instructional practices that could easily be implemented into their classrooms to support and foster interaction among students to strengthen speaking and listening skills.

**Biliteracy and Bilingualism:** On June 15, TPS will celebrate 102 students receiving the New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy Award. Graduating seniors voluntarily take the test

funded by TPS. The languages represented this year are Spanish, French, Haitian Creole, and Urdu. The State of New Jersey established the State Seal of Biliteracy in 2016 to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more foreign languages in addition to English.

The purpose of this award is to encourage students to study languages; to certify attainment of biliteracy; to provide employers with a method of identifying people with language and biliteracy





skills; to provide universities with a method to recognize and award academic credit to applicants seeking admission; to prepare students with 21st-century skills; to recognize and promote foreign language instruction in public schools; and to strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a community. To date, TPS has awarded 307 NJ State Seal of Biliteracy Awards.

#### Social Studies

The Social Studies department launched a series of professional development on **Inquiry Design Model (IDM)**. **IDM** provides an integral opportunity to empower students through the integration of interdisciplinary instructional strategies and practices within the Social Studies context.

**Inquiry** provides students with the opportunity to learn how to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society and in the world.



#### **Mathematics**

The elementary math department will adopt two new math programs for the 2023-24 school year, <u>Bridges in Mathematics</u> for our kindergarten students and <u>enVision Math</u> for grades 1-6.

- **Kindergarten Bridges in Mathematics** is a comprehensive curriculum that equips teachers to fully address state standards in a rigorous, engaging, and accessible manner. Students gain a deep understanding of concepts, proficiency with key skills, and the ability to solve complex problems.
- **K-8 enVision Math** focuses on student understanding with Problem-Based Learning (PBL), where students must think critically about a real-world math problem, evaluate options, collaborate, and present solutions. Students in grades 6-8 learned using enVision Math this past school year.
- **Grades 9-12:** Our high school students began using <u>Reveal's Algebra</u> or <u>Geometry</u> (by McGraw-Hill) for the first time this school year.

#### Career Readiness

Within the Career Readiness Department, we continued to have students earn college credits in pre-med and pre-nursing in our Allied Health program. This year, high school students were able to participate in the carpenters' union and others have continued to earn industry certifications in various programs.

For the 2023-24 school year, students will be able to take part in engineering and manufacturing programs. The district will be adding a certification course to become a Black Seal Operator. Students will have the opportunity to learn about Project Lead the Way, which is nationally recognized by colleges and employers. Students at both TCHS and DTHS will have the opportunity to take aviation courses to become pilots, air traffic controllers, and airplane technicians.

# Public Schools

#### English & World Language Departments

In the K-8 ELA classrooms, we have successfully implemented a pilot of a new core resource in reading and writing. Schoolwide focuses on best literacy practices with a focus on the "I Do (Instruct), We Do (Model), You Do (Independent Work)" model of instruction. It helps foster student identities as readers and writers and celebrates collaboration through highly engaging lessons and activities. In Grades 9-12 ELA, AP, and NJSLA testing was completed. Teachers focused on student engagement and <u>academic discourse</u> throughout the year.



Student Goal Setting: This teacher had students move themselves through daily goals for themselves for the writing unit.

## **TPS Mission Statement**

All students will graduate with a vision for their future, motivated to learn continually, and prepared to succeed in their choice of college or career.

## **Stay Connected to our District**



# **Trenton Public School District**

108 North Clinton Avenue Trenton, NJ 08609 609-656-4900 <u>www.trentonk12.org</u>