

# Trenton Public School District

## NEWSLETTER

### Welcome to the 2023-24 School Year!

I hope you all have had an exciting and eventful summer with family and friends. TPS had a very productive summer keeping students connected to school and encouraging fun in our summer programs: Extended School Year (ESY) Program, Transformers Program, and Summer School Credit Recovery Program. District staff had many opportunities this summer to participate in high-quality training sessions on instructional strategies, reviewing instructional resources, implementing our 1:1 Apple Initiative, reviewing trauma-informed care, and restorative practices. Thank you to our teachers, paraprofessionals, one-to-one aides, supervisors, and directors for leadership in creating these opportunities for learning and to our buildings and grounds team for keeping our buildings safe and clean.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are committed to building meaningful relationships with staff and students. We will continue our work in implementing the 5-Year Strategic Plan focused on the following goal areas: Academic Achievement, Parent and Community Partnerships, Developing the Whole Child, Staff Development and Well-Being, and Facilities and Infrastructure. Our work implementing these strategies will help us continue to build strong social, emotional, and academic foundations for our students to be successful while they are in Trenton and when they graduate.

We look forward to welcoming our new and returning students to school on Thursday, Sept. 7.

Best wishes during the 2023-24 school year. We can't wait to see all that our students will accomplish.

James Earle  
Superintendent  
Trenton Public School District

### Important Dates to Remember

- Sept. 04: District Offices Closed for Labor Day
- Sept. 07: First Day of School
- Sept. 13: Reduced Day/Staff PD
- Sept. 14: ECC Back to School Night/Reduced Day
- Sept. 18: Grades K-3 Back to School Night/Reduced Day
- Sept. 19: Grades 4-6 Back to School Night/Reduced Day
- Sept. 20: Grades 7-8 Back to School Night/Reduced Day
- Sept. 21: Grades 9-12 Back to School Night/Reduced Day
- [Click here for the 2023-24 School Year Calendar](#)

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### 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 PowerSchool.
- Please confirm you have created a PowerSchool account and your information is up-to-date.

#### Questions on [how we communicate?](#)

- Please go to our [communications website](#) for more information on how we will communicate various events and emergencies.
- Opt-In for TPS Text Messaging: Just Text "Y" or "Yes" to 67587 or scan the QR code →
  - [TPS SMS Text Opt-In Flyer](#)
  - [Mensaje de texto TPS Registrese](#)



# DISTRICT NEWS

## PARENT CONNECT

The FACE Department, Health Services, and NJ Family Care have teamed up to host a series of Medicaid Enrollment Events. All New Jersey children are eligible to receive medical coverage. A benefit enrollment specialist will be onsite to help families get their children enrolled. The flyer outlines what parents will need to bring to enroll students.

Join us at 108 N. Clinton Ave. from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on the Wednesdays listed below:

- Sept. 27
- Oct. 25
- Nov. 1
- Dec. 6

**MEDICAID ENROLLMENT  
EVENTS**

[For more information, please click here.](#)

## THE TRENTON LITERACY MOVEMENT (TTLM)

Second-grade students can participate in an afterschool program to receive academic support in reading on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year from October through May. Information will be sent to district families closer to the program launch. If you have questions, please contact your school.

## CENTRAL REGISTRATION

On July 5, TPS pivoted to online registration and opened the central registration office. Central registration is located in the basement of the Trenton Board of Education office, families are able to register their child(ren) and meet with other departments and community resources.

This summer we have registered over 2,100 students!

## BACK TO SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA



TPS hosted its 8th annual Back to School Extravaganza on Thursday, Aug. 31. Originally, the district planned to host the extravaganza on Aug. 25 but, due to weather, had to postpone. Families had the opportunity to interact and receive resources from school staff, community, and health agencies. Mobile health vans were on-site and offered free school-mandated immunizations, eye exams, and other health screenings.

Thank you, Aramark, Horizon, Aetna, Amerigroup, Capital Health, Bayada, Bank of America, Janssen, Credit Union of NJ, Taiho Oncology, Grounds for Sculpture, Shine & Inspire, Comcast and Locally Grown, Locally Made for all of your donations!





# SUMMER RECAP



TRENTON TRANSFORMERS

SUMMER 2023

## TRENTON TRANSFORMERS

Students enjoyed the Trenton Transformers Summer Program which ended with a celebration at MLK Middle School. Students displayed their Project-Based Learning (PBL) artifacts as part of showcasing their final projects, which integrated Science and Social Studies content.

Selected students communicated their ideas about how Trenton can be transformed and posed thoughtful questions directly to our guests, including Trenton Mayor Gusciora, Former Mayor Doug Palmer and City Council President Teska Frisby.



SUMMER BRIDGE

GREGORY 2023



SUMMER BRIDGE

GREGORY 2023

## SUMMER BRIDGE AT GREGORY

Over 60 students in grades K-3 participated in Gregory's Summer Bridge 2023, an extension of Mercer Street Friends' year-round Community Schools initiative.

Mornings were spent in the classroom with TPS educators (current and retired), teaching math and reading. Afternoons were filled with sports, STEAM, yoga, hands-on art activities, tennis, gardening and more.

Educators incorporated yoga as a way of modeling techniques for the children to regulate their breathing and their emotions, and learn to remain calm.



TRENTON TRANSFORMERS

SUMMER 2023



TCHS & DTHS

SUMMER GRADUATION



Extended School year

Summer 2023



EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

SUMMER 2023

## HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Daylight/Twilight High School and Trenton Central High School celebrated 32 seniors at the Summer Graduation Ceremony on Aug. 10.



TCHS & DTHS

SUMMER GRADUATION



TCHS & DTHS

SUMMER GRADUATION

## EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

Students with IEPs from in-district programs and preschool providers attended ESY at PJ Hill for four weeks this summer.

ESY's summer theme was "Under the Sea" with thematic units taking place throughout their lessons. A trip to Howell Living History Farm provided students with more hands-on learning, along with the end of the program "fun" day on Aug. 3.

ESY K-8 students and staff had an early kick-off into the district's new [Apple iPad Initiative!](#)

# Teaching and Learning (T&L)

In preparation for the new year, several instructional initiatives and programs are being planned. All K-8 schools will now have consistent English Language Arts (ELA) core resources and Math resources (grades 1-8). TPS is excited to announce the adoption of a new kindergarten-specific curriculum, Bridges, which is designed to be developmentally and instructionally appropriate for our kindergarten students. In the secondary grades, we will implement a new English resource aligning the instructional model and philosophy of the district.

T&L will continue to prioritize visiting classrooms and schools throughout the school year to engage in important conversations with teachers and staff. The department is prioritizing teacher learning and support throughout the school year. The T&L office looks forward to starting the new year!

## Early Childhood

The Office of Early Childhood completed Self Assessment Validation System (SAVS) Monitoring with the New Jersey Department of Education at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

The SAVS experience affords a reflective opportunity conducted statewide by school districts to provide the NJDOE with an analysis of the district's strengths and weaknesses relative to preschool program implementation and the district's plans for continuous quality.

During the SAVS, NJDOE Representatives visited Kids R First Preschool (Greenwood Ave.) to experience teaching, learning, and family support. Representatives were provided a wide range of evidence during the full-day visit (photos, videos, reports, survey data).

Early Childhood is awaiting the final report from the NJDOE. However, the verbal dialog received at the close of the session provided positive feedback and favored the programming by the Office of Early Childhood during the 2022-23 school year.

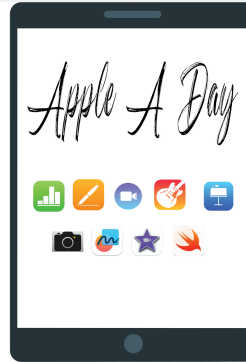
## Dual Language Immersion

The TPS Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program continues to expand with the addition of a new school to the DLI family, Mott Elementary. The 2023-24 school year program will open with 40 Dual Language Partner teachers who will work in unison to deliver all instruction in Spanish and English in all content areas, elevating students' understanding and appreciation of academic rigor and cultural competence.

This year, our incoming kindergarteners will experience a Two-Way immersion experience where native Spanish speakers and Native English speakers will learn and grow together while supporting each other in the opposite language as peer helpers. Much of the research on Two-Way immersion programs is based on the following:

1. The stronger language minority students become in their native language, the more proficient they will become in their new language.
2. English speakers develop proficiency in a new language, while their English skills are strengthened by this additional cognitive process of learning a second language.





## POWERSCHOOL

All parents/guardians need to complete the returning student yearly verification process in PowerSchool for each enrolled child.

Unique codes were handed out at the Back to School Extravaganza and sent to the email address on file in PowerSchool.

Once you have your child(ren)'s code(s), sign off on ALL mandatory forms in the PowerSchool/Returning Student Verification Portal

- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Media Release](#)
- [Acceptable Use Policy](#)

If you did not receive an email with your child(ren)'s code, please reach out to your school's main office for assistance.

*Please note: If you have multiple children in the district, you should receive a separate email with each child's code.*

## APPLE INITIATIVE

The Technology and Innovation Department hosted "Apple A Day" training sessions this summer for teachers and administrators to earn their Apple Recognition Certificate. Congratulations to the over 80 teachers who earned their Apple Certificate with the district's new Apple Professional Learning Specialist.

This fall over 11,000 K-8 students and staff will receive their 1:1 iPads. Students and staff will engage with the curriculum in innovative ways utilizing their new devices.

TPS is working to develop innovation labs within the schools starting with one school from each grade level from K-8 (K-3, 4-6, 7-8). New innovation labs will provide a hands-on approach to teaching and learning through:

- Project Based Learning
- Real-world applications
- Critical thinking
- Multisensory Learning and more.

All TPS parents/guardians need to sign off on the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) in PowerSchool for students to receive their 1:1 device.

## REMINDERS & RESOURCES

- Stay tuned for upcoming parent sessions to assist with PowerSchool and the 1:1 iPad initiative.
- Don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account? Reach out to your school for more information on how to sign up.
  - Click here for the [PowerSchool Parent Portal Link](#)
- Need Internet Assistance?
  - [Affordable Connectivity Program](#)
  - [Internet Essentials from Comcast](#)

[TrentonK12.org/departments/technology](https://TrentonK12.org/departments/technology)

# FOOD SERVICES

## FOOD ALLERGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

If your child(ren) has a medically-certified disability which requires a change or substitution to the menu, please fill out the Request for Special Dietary Accommodations form. The school nurse and Director of Nutrition Services will review the form to make accommodations. A copy of this form will be kept with the school nurse, school kitchen, and at the Nutrition Service Department Office. Please reach out to your school nurse for the form.

## COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

TPS is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2023-24 school year

CEP is a federal program in which all enrolled TPS students receive breakfast and lunch at no cost. This is not the same as being qualified for free meals; rather the student is not charged for their meals. Under CEP, meals are free to enrolled students, but a la carte items remain at full price.

## CEP SURVEY

[Click here to take the CEP Survey or scan the QR code](#) →



## FOOD MENUS

Each month the Food Services Department will be posting breakfast and lunch menus for all schools on the [Food Services Website](#).

[For more information, check out Aramark's Back to School Newsletter.](#)

# HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

## Interested in being a Trenton Tornado?

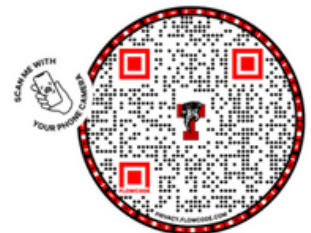
### Fall Sport Offerings:

- Football (Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity)
- Boys Soccer (Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity)
- Girls Soccer (Junior Varsity, Varsity)
- Boys & Girls Cross Country (Junior Varsity, Varsity)
- Girls Tennis (Varsity)
- Cheerleading (Junior Varsity, Varsity)

[For more information, check out the Athletics Website.](#)

[CLICK HERE !!](#)

Sign Up Here!  
¡Regístrate aquí!





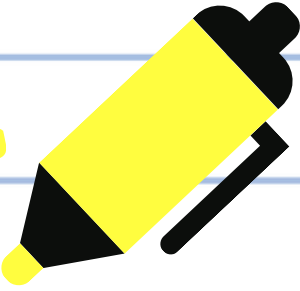


# Facilities

- **PJ Hill and Mott:** Installation of a new roofing systems to enhance performance and insulation.
- **Rivera and Robbins:** Installation of new floor system in hallways
- **Districtwide:** High-quality LED lighting, retrofit kits and bulbs for various existing gymnasiums. This reduces the need for maintenance or replacement, while only generating a fraction of the heat produced, and reducing the load on air conditioning systems, resulting in savings.
- **Franklin:** 120 new windows were installed.
- **PJ Hill:** Newly replaced flooring in the cafeteria.
- **Districtwide:** Digital marques were installed featuring school colors and logos.
- **Washington, Hedgepeth/Williams, Robeson:** Major electrical upgrades.

The Facilities team is continuing to work on many districtwide improvements and upgrades to ensure safe spaces for teaching and learning .

# Human Resources



The Trenton Public School District welcomed over 80 new teachers the week of Aug. 28 for New Teacher Orientation!

Interested in working at the Trenton Public School District?

For job opportunities go to [trentonk12.org](http://trentonk12.org).



# TRANSPORTATION

Tips Courtesy of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Please help us ensure your child's safety by following these simple but important procedures:

1. Arrive five minutes early
2. When the bus approaches, stand six feet away
3. Wait for the to bus stop, door open, and the driver give the OK to board
4. Stay 10 feet ahead of the bus if crossing the street. Be sure the driver can see you, and you can see them.
5. Use the handrails to avoid falls and be careful that drawstrings and straps don't get caught in the handrails or doors.
6. Never walk behind the bus.
7. Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus.
8. If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver.

Please send all transportation questions to [EMcfarland@trenton.k12.nj.us](mailto:EMcfarland@trenton.k12.nj.us).

## WALKING SCHOOL BUS

(TPS SUGGESTED ROUTES TO SCHOOL)

The Trenton Public School District is pleased to announce the official launch of the TPS Walking School Bus (WSB) Initiative beginning in September 2023! The WSB is a group of children walking to and from school on a designated route. The suggested routes to school have already been planned out for families by school administrators, the Trenton Police Department, Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association, and the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

[Click here to view your school's suggested routes and for more information on the WSB](#)

### Elementary (K-3)

- Cadwalader
- Copeland
- Franklin
- Gregory
- Hill
- McKnight
- Mott
- Rivera
- Robbins
- Robeson
- Stokes
- Washington

### Intermediate (4-6)

- Grant
- Hedgepeth/Williams
- Kilmer
- Jefferson
- Monument
- Parker

### Middle (7-8)

- Dunn
- Holland
- MLK

*(Click the grade-level titles above for the direct link to each group's maps.)*

These routes have been determined to be the most direct and safest routes based on various factors and are in close proximity to where most students live in relation to their respective school.



**START YOUR DAY THE ACTIVE WAY AND GET ON THE BUS!**