

Talbott Springs Elementary School Friday Newsletter
Friday September 3, 2021

Talbott Springs Families,

It has been a wonderful week at TSES! We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work through the arrival and dismissal process. The car drop off and pick up area will remain congested due to the complications presented by the construction of our replacement school projected to open for the 2022-2023 school year. We are moving cars and students through this area as quickly as possible while attending to the safety of all those in the area. For those walking to the school please do not walk across either the bus loop or the car loop. Please remain on the sidewalk until you reach the school building. Please [see this link for visuals](#).

Related Arts classes (Art, Music, Physical Education, Technology and Media) take place on a 'color day rotation'. Historically, students were assigned Related Arts based on the day of the week, for example, Tuesday might be Media class for your child. The color day rotation means that your child might have Media on an Orange day which is not always on a Tuesday. With the 5-day color rotation, the colors occur in a specific sequence even if there are days off in between. Please look at the calendar [at this link](#) to better visualize the pattern of days. The importance of the color day rotation is that your child is provided with a more balanced Related Arts instructional program. When students have a class such as art every Monday, and school has scheduled closings for few Mondays off during a quarter, Art instruction is compromised. If Art is on a Green day, we can assure a more balanced offering of Art through each quarter. The complication of the Related Arts color schedule is that it students and families need to be aware of their child(ren)'s color days for Physical Education so that sneakers/tennis shoes are worn for safety during PE.

Please remember that there is no school on Monday and Tuesday next week. We look forward to seeing your children on Wednesday September 8! This Labor Day Weekend, please take a moment to acknowledge contributions and achievements of American workers. In addition, to all those who are celebrating, Happy Rosh Hashanah! Have a wonderful weekend!

Nancy Thompson, Principal

Information:

Please conduct a daily Health Screening with your child! [COVID 19 Screening Visual](#)

Face Masks/Face Coverings: All persons entering TSES must be wearing a face covering that meets the guidelines set by the CDC. If an adult or a child chooses to wear a gaiter as a face covering, please assure that it is doubled over or that a mask is worn under the gaiter. Also, please reinforce to your child that he or she may not touch the mask of another student for any reason. Please consider sending a second mask in your child's backpack. We do have extra masks in the event that one is needed. We appreciate the cooperation of all as we work hard to keep your children safe while at school! <https://help.hcpss.org/health-safety/face-masks>

Band/Strings and Chorus: Our TSES Music Staff are so excited to share our performing arts opportunities! Your child(ren) have the opportunity to join Strings (Grades 3, 4 and 5); Band (Grades 4 and 5) and Chorus (Grades 4 and 5). Please view information about each of these programs and how to assist your child with signing up for the 2021-2022 school year at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/hcpss.org/talbott-springs-music/home>

As per the current HCPSS safety guidelines, band students will be provided with special masks that allow them to play in class without their face being uncovered, using mask-like bell covers on all instruments, and distancing to the greatest extent possible (including playing outside when able) during class times to protect students from contracting and spreading COVID-19. Chorus students will be wearing masks and distancing to the greatest extent possible during rehearsals.

Volunteers Needed! The Howard County Health Department will be coming to TSES to screen kindergarten and first grade students for hearing and vision on September 14th and 21st. The health room is looking for a few volunteers to help with the clinic for line control/getting the students from one room to the next. The volunteers need to be Covid vaccinated or show proof of a negative PCR within 7 days. If you are interested, please reach out to Ms. Byrd or Mrs. DeLair in the health room at 410-313-6918 or email kathryn_delair@hcpss.org. Thank you for your consideration.

TSES Summer Checklist: At our Summer Kickoff event in June, we handed out a list of summer activities to those in attendance. Even though summer break is over, it's not too late to participate. [The checklist is at this link](#). Please review the checklist with your child to see what activities they did (it mentions Kids Read Now books, but any book they read counts) and see what they did over the summer or what they can still do after school or over the weekends. Send the completed checklist back to school by Monday, September 13th for a treat. Email your request for a hard copy, materials needed to complete it and/or any questions to Mrs. Glassband at allyson_glassband@hcpss.org.

Providing Consent of In School COVID Testing: HCPSS offers free, voluntary COVID tests for students and school based staff who develop COVID like symptoms or are identified as close contacts while they are in a school building. Parents/guardians who have not already done so can provide consent in HCPSS Connect Synergy to enable your child to participate. Please find [information and directions at this link](#).

Instructional Supports for Students in Quarantine: Students who must quarantine have several opportunities to [continue learning and receive supports](#) which will help with the transition back to school. Information regarding TSES teacher synchronous office hours are posted on the [TSES website](#).

Family File: HCPSS uses [Family File, accessible via HCPSS Connect](#), for parents/guardians to complete emergency information and share preferences. Information must be updated and submitted every school year for each child. Directions for resetting passwords are at the HCPSS Connect site. If you are having difficulty with completing or updating your child's Family File, please contact TSES at 410-313-6915.

The HCPSS 2021-2022 School Year and HCPSS Help sites provide a great deal of information and answers to dozens of frequently-asked questions (FAQs) on many topics affecting the current school year. Check back frequently as new information and FAQs are continually added. [Please click here for the recent important news and information from HCPSS.](#)

TSES PTA Information and Updates! The Talbott Springs PTA is partnering with the Three Rivers Plant Company to offer our families the opportunity to beautify their gardens while supporting our TSES PTA!

Here's how you can participate in 3 easy steps:

1. Visit the [TSES PTA Page](#) at [Three Rivers Plant Company](#) to view the large variety of available bulb options.
2. Place your order online by Tuesday, September 7th, and have your Fall bulbs delivered to your home in late September.
3. Plant your bulbs & wait for the beautiful blooms to brighten your Spring!

Thank you for your support!

Orders must be placed by Tuesday, September 7th. TSES PTA will receive 50% of all sales.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE TSES PTA Welcome Back 2 School Block Party on

Friday September 10, 2021! A brief General Membership Meeting will start at 5:00 and the food and games will be on from 5:30-7:00. If you are planning to eat during this event, you may bring your own meal or you may purchase food from a Althea's Almost Famous food truck. Dessert can be purchased from the Stoneyman Coffee food truck. Please note that although not required, we encourage vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals to wear masks during outdoor events on TSES property. Let's protect our kids!! [Please find a flyer at this link.](#)

TSES Important Dates:

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| Monday August 30 | First Day of School Grades K-5; School entry at 8:30 AM |
| Wednesday September 1 | Hispanic Families: Form Filling Event at TSES 3:30 PM |
| Monday September 6 | School Closed for Labor Day |
| Tuesday September 7 | School Closed for Rosh Hashanah |
| Friday September 10 | PTA Back to School Block Party! |
| Tuesday September 14 | Vision and Hearing Screening |
| Tuesday September 14 | Back to School Night: Concurrent (Virtual and IN person) 5:00-5:30 GT Programs 5:45-6:30 Grades K, 1 and 2 6:45-7:30 Grades 3, 5 and 5 |
| Thursday September 16 | School Closed for Yom Kippur |
| Tuesday September 21 | Vision and Hearing Screening |
| Friday October 15 | School Closed for Students |