



Principal Brown's Weekly Updates and Reminders January 24, 2024

Important Dates:

- **Friday, 2/2:** TES PTA Adult Social Night at BC Brewery
- **Monday, 2/5:** Families will be able to access report cards in Focus at 4:00pm.
- **Friday, 2/9:** **Schools Closed for Students**
- **Monday, 2/12:** TES Virtual PTA Meeting
- **Monday, 2/19:** **President's Day/Schools Closed**

New Updates & Reminders:

- **Black History Month Writing Contest**
 - Please see the attached flyer for information about this year's Black History Month writing contest. In the past, we have had contest winners who earned a visit from the BCPS writing team, and we encourage all TES students to consider taking part in the contest this year! Mrs. Miller will take submissions through **February 8th**, as students have no school on the ninth. Please read the attached cover sheet carefully before submitting student writing, and email cmiller15@bcps.org with any questions about the contest. Thanks for considering taking part in this great writing opportunity!
- **TES Kindergarten 2024-2025**

We look forward to having your little one for Kindergarten at Timonium for the 2024-2025 School Year. Please review the information below for registration information.

 - Students must be 5-years old by September 1st to enroll in Kindergarten.
 - Please verify that you are zoned for TES by using this link.
 - Call the main office at 443-809-7661 to put your child on our Incoming Students List.
 - You'll receive more information once your child is put on our list.
- **Mrs. Torok's testing info:**
 - All students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 will take the Winter MAP assessment in both reading and math. The testing window will open Thursday 1/25/24 for Timonium Elementary students. Classroom teachers will provide specific information on grade level testing days. MAP assessments are:
 - Aligned with Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards
 - Adaptive
 - Norm-referenced

- A measure of student growth
- Students can be prepared for testing by getting a good night's sleep and having a growth mindset. Parent reports will be distributed after the testing window closes in late February.
- Please contact Mrs. Torok at storok@bcps.org with any questions.

- **Attendance Matters!**

- TES has an attendance committee that meets monthly. If your child's attendance does not meet the state standard of 94% for satisfactory attendance, then you will receive notification from administration. We understand that there are circumstances (sickness, family emergencies) when your child will not attend school; however, travel/vacation are not excused absences.
- Families will receive an automated weekly Friday email directly from FOCUS with their child's absence summary. This easy-to-read report will allow parents to view all days that students are marked absent or tardy and serve as a quick reminder if sick or doctors notes should be sent to the homeroom teacher. Please see the policy below:

- **Compulsory Attendance**

- The BCPS Board believes that attending school regularly is linked to academic achievement and is paramount in ensuring that all students will graduate from high school to be college or career ready and prepared to be globally competitive citizens.
 - **State Compulsory Attendance Law mandates** that each child who resides in this state and is the legally mandated age shall attend a public school regularly during the entire school year unless the child is otherwise exempt from attendance as provided by law.
 - Attending School Regularly – Defined in Baltimore County Public Schools as the state standard of 94% for satisfactory attendance.
 - Parent – The biological or adoptive parent, legal guardian or person acting in the absence of the parent or guardian or otherwise has legal custody or care and control of a child.
 - In accordance with State law, each child who is 5 years old or older and under 18, who is domiciled in Baltimore County with the child's parent is required to attend Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) regularly during the entire school year, unless the child is otherwise receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age, or is otherwise exempted from attendance as provided by State law or regulation.

- **Principal Brown's Reading Corner**

- [Parent strategies for improving their child's reading and writing](#)

- **PTA Adult Social Night at BC Brewery February 2nd, 6 to 10pm**
 - Join us for trivia and fun. Please email Liz at timoniumptavicepresident@gmail.com if you are interested in helping to plan the evening. Donations for raffles are greatly appreciated!
- **TES Virtual PTA Meeting, 2/12 at 7:00pm**
 - [TES PTA Meeting - February 12, 2024 7:00PM](#)
 - Meeting ID: 816 3077 4076
 - Passcode: 655294

Enjoy the beautiful photos. 😊
A picture is worth a thousand words...

TES Drama Club is Busy Rehearsing!



Old Updates & Reminders:

- **TES Community Care Team**

- We have families in need at TES.
- Please use the link below to indicate if you would like to be a part of our anonymous group to support families in need at TES. This information will be kept confidential by Ms. Pitcher, our school counselor. Ms. Pitcher will then follow up with you when there is a family in need.

[TES Community Care Team](#)

- **Character Education Program for Timonium Elementary**

- January Trait: **Creativity**
 - To use your imagination to make something new and useful.

- **TES DEI Committee**

- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee of TES's PTA aims to foster a culture of belonging for all members, where access and outcomes are equitable, and we recognize and represent differences within our TES community. Meet other parents who care about DEI, share what is important to you and talk about how we can work together. Recognizing the breadth of work that could contribute to DEI, we will break out into special interest groups of parents and caregivers to focus on shared experiences and concerns, such as neurodiversity, racial justice, LGBTQ+, language, culture, and religious inclusivity. We would love for you to join in shaping this year's work.
- If you have a topic you'd like to suggest to the committee or would like to be included on the email list, please email Megan Linz Dickinson megan.linz.dickinson@gmail.com.

- **Affordable Connectivity Program**

- As a result of BCPS' participation in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) that allows students access to breakfast and lunch free of charge, all families are also eligible to receive a discount of \$30 per month off their internet bill. You will need a letter from the school with parent's name and address, your student's name, school name and contact information, and school year to apply for this benefit. Please visit <https://getinternet.gov/> to apply and/or ask questions.

- **BusWhere for BCPS Parents: The following video explains the new program.**

- <https://youtu.be/eGotAExBerw>

- **Volunteers Needed for the TES Café!**

- Please use the link below to sign up.

[TES Cafeteria Volunteer Sign Up](#)

- **Student Handbook Updates**

- Please click on the link below for information regarding updates and highlights.

[BCPS Student Handbook Updates 23-24](#)

- **Transportation Contact Information**
 - Office of Transportation staff are ready and committed to working through any issues or challenges that may arise. The Office of Transportation's Call Center is open from 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM on school days; schools, parents, and interested **stakeholders can reach the Call Center at 443-809-4321 or contact Transportation via Transportation_Contact_Us@bcps.org.**
- **Breakfast and Lunches will be free to everyone.**
 - BCPS will no longer collect Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications.
 - Families may still add money to a lunch account at MySchoolBucks.com to spend on snacks.
 - Breakfast will be Grab & Go at arrival entrances. Students will eat in their classrooms.
 - [Breakfast and Lunch Menus](#)
- **SEL: Virtual Calming Room**
 - If you have not checked out the BCPS [Virtual Calming Room](#), please do! It is a great resource for students and adults alike!
- **School supply lists are posted on our school website.**
 - <http://timoniumes.bcps.org>
- **We LOVE Volunteers!**
 - Please make sure you have been trained and have a Volunteer Application on file in the school office. **You must be trained every year.** For information about the Baltimore County Volunteer Program, please use the following link:
https://cos.bcps.org/departments/communications/family_and_community_engagement/bcps_volunteers
- **BCPS Parent involvement**
 - We encourage all our parents and guardians to connect to their children's schools. Joining the parent teacher student association, volunteering, and/or attending school events are just some of the many ways you can participate.
 - To make a difference at the community level, please consider attending [area educational advisory council](#) meetings or joining a council. There are also councils or committees focused on [career and technology education](#), [gifted and talented education](#), and [special education](#).
 - In addition, we invite parents to learn more about [BCPS Parent University](#). In collaboration with many partners, Parent University offers online resources, in-person and online workshops, and a mobile parent resource center to support parents in nurturing their children's success. **Follow Parent University at @BCPSParentU on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).**
 - **For a weekly school systemwide update, please sign up for our [community newsletter](#) issued every Monday morning.**
 - BCPS is also active on social media. Find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) as @BaltCoPS and on [Instagram](#) as @teambcps. Still more information about BCPS is available on our [Vimeo](#), [YouTube](#), [Flickr](#), and [Exposure](#) accounts.