

ARROW TIMES



"Learning for all –
whatever it takes"

A newsletter for the parents and community of Tecumseh Middle School

10000 W. National Road • New Carlisle, OH 45344 • (937)845-4465 • tecumseh.k12.oh.us

Ohio State Testing

TMS will begin State Testing in ELA, Math and 8th Grade Science during the 4th quarter of the school year. ELA Tests will be given April 16th through 18th. Math Tests will be given April 30th through May 2nd and 8th Grade Science will test on May 6th & 7th. Have your child get a good night sleep the night before testing. The morning of testing make sure your child eats a good breakfast. Remind your son/daughter to do their best; we want them to demonstrate their outstanding abilities.

Arrow Parent Nation 5K

Arrow Parent Nation is excited to host its Second Annual Arrows 5K. The event will be held on Saturday, April 6th. Race start time is 11:00am. You may pre-register online at www.speedy-feet.com. The cost is \$25 per person. Water and snacks will be provided and there will be door prizes and a raffle. Medals will be awarded to top three men and women in age groups. All proceeds will benefit students at Tecumseh

8th Grade Kings Island Trip

On Thursday May 16, 2019, qualifying eighth grade students will be visiting Kings Island for Math and Science Day. Kings Island is located 6300 Kings Island Dr., Mason, OH 45040. The students will leave from school in the morning and return after school on May 16th; Park hours are 10:00 am. - 8:00 pm. Arrow Parent Nation is sponsoring the travel cost of this field trip as well as lunch for students. Students will need to pay an entrance fee of \$31.00 to attend the field trip and meet behavioral expectations. Season passes are not honored on this day. More specific information will follow as we get closer to May 16.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS for 8th Grade

** As of Thursday, January 3, 2019, students may not have been assigned any days of ALC, Out of School Suspension including Bus Suspensions, or no more than 2 unexcused absences.*

6th & 7th Grade to New Carlisle Pool

On May 17th and May 20th, qualifying 7th and 6th grade students, respectively, will be visiting the New Carlisle Pool as part of an end of the year reward. Students will bring information home in the upcoming days/weeks. Please look for this!

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS for 6th & 7th Grade

** As of Tuesday, April 2, 2019, students may not have been assigned any days of Detention, ALC, Out of School Suspension including Bus Suspensions, or have any unexcused absences.*

Upcoming Events

April 2018

5	8 th Grade to CTC
6	APN 5K
10	Two-Hour Delay
16	6/8 ELA Testing
17	7/8 ELA Testing
17	Arrow Parent Mtg. 7:30pm
18	6/7 ELA Testing
19	No School
30	6/8 Math Testing

May 2018

1	7/8 Math Testing
2	6/7 Math Testing
6	8 Science Testing
7	8 Science Testing
7	APN @ Dayton Dragons
8	Two-Hour Delay

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER "Perseverance"

6th graders:	Alanea Blair, Timothy Wright
7th graders:	Harry Bailey, Julia Hernandez
8th graders:	Bryce Dodge, Marian Ellevera

JANUARY "Initiative/Motivation"

6th graders:	Katelyn Frost, Shayla Hagenbuch
7th graders:	Cooleen Kottmyer, Gustavo Montoya
8th graders:	Tess Elam, Nolan Shafer

FEBRUARY "Compassion"

6th graders:	Alivia Snider, Hannah O'Connor
7th graders:	Ella Clayborn, Xander Coomer
8th graders:	Lucy Hughes, Cameron Elam

Change of Phone Number or Address

All changes to student information should now be completed by parents though the OneView website. It can be accessed by going to the Tecumseh Local website and to the right is the OneView site. If you have questions call 845-4465.

Washington D.C. 2019

Current TMS 7th Graders will visit Washington DC next school year as 8th graders. We will visit the nation's capital November 16th through November 19th. We again will be working with Prodigy Student Travel. The cost of the trip is \$685. Please contact the office for an informational packet.

Follow TMS on Youtube/Instagram/Twitter

Tecumseh Middle School continues to grow with families and students through social media. Parents and students can catch up on daily announcements by subscribing to the TMS Youtube Channel - Tecumseh Middle School Go Arrows. We are also growing our presence on Instagram (TMS_Arrows) and Twitter (@TMS_Arrows). Between all social media accounts, we are being followed by over 350 individuals. This is in addition to those families signed up for Remind.

School Fees; Breakfast/Lunch Charges

If your child has not paid their \$25 school fees, we ask that you please pay them at your earliest convenience. Checks can be made to "Tecumseh Local Schools". We now have EZpay, where you can open an account and pay online for fees or lunch. Check it out or ask at the Nutrition office if you have questions, their number is 845-4519.

Free Breakfast 2019-2020

Tecumseh Local Schools has offered breakfast, free of charge, to all students in the district for several years. In October of 2017, we were informed the government would no longer reimburse our district, along with other districts throughout Ohio, for this service. At the time, we had already communicated to parents that breakfast would be offered to all free of cost. Therefore, we elected to continue the remainder of the year offering this opportunity to our students, recognizing it was helpful to many. We examined the total cost to the district for this service at the end of the 2017-2018 school year and determined we could continue to offer a free breakfast to all students again during the 2018-2019 school year.

During these last two years, the Child Nutrition Department has covered the breakfast costs, which has totaled approximately \$169,000 each year. The Child Nutrition Department must, as determined by federal government regulations, be a self-sustaining entity. We are now unfortunately at the point in which we can no longer sustain this service for our students. Thus, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, Tecumseh Local Schools will be unable to provide a free breakfast for our students. We will continue to offer breakfast at each building, and students who qualify for free or reduced meals will still be eligible. Students who do not qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast will need to pay for breakfast.

Absence Reporting Guidelines

In accordance with the State of Ohio Missing Children's Act, parents are asked to notify their child's school by 10:00 a.m. each day their child will be absent or tardy. The Tecumseh Education Connection's automated absence line is available to you 24 hours a day to report your child. If that line is not available for some reason, you may call the office here at TMS. The TEC (Tecumseh Education Connection) number is 845-4483.

Strategic Planning

Tecumseh Local Schools embarked on a process at the onset of the school year to develop a comprehensive strategic plan. The process began with the development of a survey that was available electronically this past August. The survey elicited input from staff and community members regarding their thoughts and opinions on the state of the district. We were appreciative that approximately six-hundred individuals took time and effort to complete the survey. In September a strategic planning committee was comprised consisting of forty members including the Board of Education, administrators, staff members, parents, and community members.

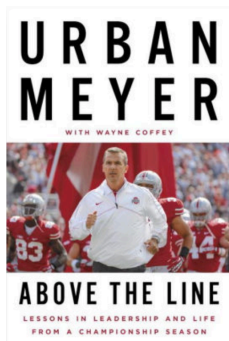
The committee navigated through a process to develop a district vision and mission statement. The vision statement is the overall expectation we have for the district. Our vision statement is simple yet powerful; "Learning for All ~ Whatever it Takes!" The mission statement defines the district's objectives and its approach to reach those objectives. Our new mission statement at Tecumseh Local Schools is, "Tecumseh Local Schools is the driving force behind a community of diverse and proudly connected Arrows. We are relentless learners who strive to become better tomorrow than we were today."

Throughout the fall, the committee examined input from the survey and worked through a process to identify and prioritize the goal areas deemed most important for our district. Our goal areas, as established through the strategic planning process include: Academic Growth, "We develop and enrich the academic capacity of our students and staff to prepare for success in a changing world"; Wellness, "Tecumseh Local Schools emphasizes the development of mental, physical and social wellness of staff and students"; Fiscal Responsibility, "We are honest and responsible stewards of school district funds ensuring the best possible learning environment for all students"; and Community Engagement, "We provide and create opportunities to actively engage the diversity, support and experience of our community."

The next step in the strategic planning process, and where we are at currently in the process, is outlining the specific action steps or strategies needed to attain each goal. A focus committee for each of the four goals will be responsible for determining the most appropriate and realistic strategies for goal attainment. The strategic plan will be shared in multiple facets with our internal and external stakeholders in the coming months.

R-FACTOR

At TMS we are promoting the R-Factor with students and staff to continue to grow individuals not only as learners but as impactful leaders. The R-Factor focuses on the simple formula $E+R=O$; E is an Event often out of our control, R is the Response that we do control which equals the O or Outcome. R-Factor also focuses on Above the Line and Below the Line behaviors. Above the Line behavior is intentional, on purpose and skillful. The opposite behavior is Below the Line. It is impulsive, on autopilot and resistant. As a building, we working to improve our "R"s and use Above the Line behavior to be successful.



Most staff members in our building including teachers, custodians, secretaries, counselors and principals are reading the book Above the Line by Urban Meyer. We are also encouraging students to read this book that focuses on appropriate behaviors during adverse situations.

The R-Factor theory was developed by Tim Kight and his Focus3 Company. Tecumseh Local Administrators were able to see Mr. Kight at an Administrative Retreat in early August. We are working to get staff and students on board with the R-Factor to impact the culture of our community. We are working to be relentless to eliminate BCD behavior (Don't Blame, Complain or Defend) because it has never solved a problem, achieved a goal, or improved a relationship. We are on a journey to change our behaviors; we are focused on solutions and how to respond to challenges. It is much more difficult to take ownership and commit to being part of a solution.

Many examples are on display on the Tecumseh Middle School Twitter Account: https://twitter.com/TMS_Arrows

DANGERS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Media today has a huge influence on pre-teens and teenagers. Be it television, computers, video games, social networking sites – it hugely impacts all aspects of a teen's life. Social media has both positive and negative attributes. Sadly, we see more and more negative factors with middle school students through inappropriate pictures and Sexting. Over the last few years, the Clark County Prosecutor's Office has worked closely with schools to educate and instruct students, parents and professionals about the potential implications of a student sending a sexually explicit photo or video. We have hosted parent meetings and had assemblies for students to discuss these dangers as well as lessons through Mrs. Minna, TMS Media Specialist.

Under Ohio law, a person can be charged with possession or distribution of child pornography for taking, sending, or possessing any explicit photo of or involving a minor. This includes a minor taking a nude or sexually explicit photo of themselves and sending it to a boyfriend or girlfriend. To address the severity of this issue, the Clark County Juvenile Court has implemented the STOP Program. Please see the following link to our website with more information including a video partially filmed at Tecumseh.

<http://www.tecumseh.k12.oh.us/STOPDiversiionProgram.aspx>

ALICE TRAINING

Unfortunately, school violence is an issue that threatens districts across our country. I would like to take time to remind students and parents to be vigilant on this issue. If you hear or see something that is concerning, please report it immediately. In 2014, student and staff in the district were introduced to ALICE Training. ALICE is the leading training solution that increases an individual's odds of survival during a violent intruder event. ALICE, which stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate, is a strategy that goes beyond the conventional lockdown. With the help of Deputy Loney, we continue to practice ALICE and lockdown drills on a regular basis. We encourage you to discuss the seriousness of these drill with your child. Lives have been saved across the country because students apply drills in a life-threatening situation.