

TECUMSEH MIDDLE SCHOOL

ARROW TIMES

A newsletter for the parents and community of Tecumseh Middle School

Fall 2019



"Learning for all –
whatever it takes"

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

From the Desk of Mr. Dixon, Principal ...

I would like to welcome you to the Tecumseh Middle School family! We are excited for a new school year and look forward to the success that students will have at TMS.

Middle school presents many unique challenges. Students seek independence yet still need structure and boundaries from both parents and school. Many students are seeking independence with social media, which often presents its own set of challenges. I encourage parents to be proactive and set high expectations for all of these endeavors.

At TMS, we want to provide a system of support for your child. We understand that children often fail at this age which is part of the learning process. Failure can lead to success as long as the right safety nets are put into place. Please support your child when they fail by helping them to learn from the mistake.

At TMS we embrace $E+R=O$. E is the Event that we don't often control, R is the Response that we do control and O is the outcome. We hope to instill that a positive R has a better chance at a good outcome than a negative R. Encourage your child to have a great R!

Meet Mr. Dixon

I would like to take this time to introduce myself to new students and parents and re-introduce myself to those of you that I have gotten to know over the last several years.

I'm happy to say that this is my 19th year with Tecumseh Local Schools. I spent 9 years in the classroom as a 6th grade teacher, before serving as principal of New Carlisle Elementary. Seven years ago, I was given the opportunity to return to TMS. I really enjoy being a middle school principal. I like guiding students through the challenges of middle school and I love to see them succeed as a learner and person. As a former Tecumseh High School football coach, I also value the efforts of our student athletes and those involved in any extra-curricular activity. My wife and I are both proud Tecumseh graduates. We live in the community with our three children who are current Arrows.

I welcome the opportunity to get to know you and hope that we can make a positive connection this school year.

Upcoming Events

October

- 4th In-service – No School
- 9th Two-Hour Delay
- 16th Fall Picture Day
- 18th End of Grading Period
- 25th TMS Dance 6p-8p
- 29st Grade Cards Go Home

November

- 5th Election Day – No School
- 11th Veteran's Day Celebration
- 12th Interims Go Home
- 13th Two-Hour Delay
- 20th Picture Retake Day
- 23rd 8th Grade DC Trip
- 28th Thanksgiving Break

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"Tecumseh Local Schools"



Meet Ms. McFarland

Along with Mr. Dixon, I would also like to introduce myself and welcome new students and families to TMS and welcome back last year's students, along with their families. The 2019-2020 school year will be my 13th in education and 5th as the middle school's assistant principal. I have spent my entire professional career at TMS. Prior to moving into an administrative role, I was an intervention specialist for 8 years. I have enjoyed using that experience in shaping how I approach situations and help students both academically and behaviorally. I very much enjoy getting to know our students, not only on an academic level, but also learning about their hobbies and interests. Witnessing our students' growth over the three years they are with us is always full of excitement and pride. I look forward to what this new school year will bring and building positive relationships with students and families.

R-Factor

At TMS we continue to grow the R-Factor with students. We have developed a Building Culture Playbook centered around the following themes: Be A Great Arrow (School, Family & Community); Commitment to Excellence (Embrace Hard Work); Stand Up & Own It (Integrity). We understand that these beliefs partnered with appropriate behaviors will foster excellent outcomes. We want students to be Stronger Together, Better Tomorrow Than Today and Trusting.

The playbook in conjunction with our new Vision and Mission Statements below are all driven by R-Factor values. For more information on a journey to change behaviors and be more solution driven, visit Focus3.com. As always we cannot do this alone, so join the community and be a change agent for R-Factor!

Mission Statement: 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.

Progress Book

If you haven't checked your child's grades using the parent access Progress Book, it is a terrific tool for checking to see if they are being successful in class. You can access the site from the Tecumseh Local Website. The login and password is the same as last year. If you have any questions, please call the guidance office.

OneView Parent Forms

If you are not aware, the Tecumseh Local School District moved from paper forms to online registration last school year. All of the district's annual information forms which were previously sent home on the first day of school are to be completed online through the OneView Parent Portal located on the Tecumseh Local Website.

If you do not have a device or the Internet in your home, you may visit any school in the district to use a computer to complete the enrollment process. You can also complete the process from home by accessing the OneView link on the right side of the district's website homepage. Please complete this process as soon as possible.

Note: Students who have not had their information electronically submitted through OneView will not be permitted to go on any field trips, as we do not have updated emergency medical information.

Activity Period

New at Tecumseh Middle School during the 2019-2020 school year will be monthly Activity Period. Students have been divided up into groups of 12 to spend the year with a mentor. The mentors are staff members at TMS that include custodians, aides, secretaries, principals, counselors and teachers. Students have been selected so that they can form a relationship with an adult that they may not normally have contact with during a typical day.

Arrival, Dismissal and Safety Procedures

Traffic issues at TMS have improved drastically since our first day of school. When dropping students off in the morning, we ask that you please pull along the front curb. To help with traffic congestion, we ask that you pull as far forward as traffic flow will allow. This help with a safer and more efficient process. Please refrain from allowing students to walk across the parking lot or through the lanes of traffic. Students can be dropped off as early as 7:00. The tardy bell rings at 7:20.

Our dismissal procedures are improving but we still ask for your patience as we keep our focus on student safety. Please do not ask your child to walk across traffic during dismissal. Ideally we would appreciate if students were picked up by the curb. If you cannot pick up your child along the curb because of traffic congestion, we ask that you park and walk to the crosswalk to ensure the well being of students.

Finally, we remind you that all doors are locked during the school day with the exception of the outside front doors. To enter the building during the school day, you must enter the office through the front doors. In accordance with safety measures in the district, TMS will require all guests to “buzz” into the office once inside the foyer doors. Look for the Big Yellow Arrow on the wall to the right of the office door. As always, parents will still need to present a photo ID in order to sign out a student.

Lockers

All students have been assigned a locker by the guidance office. It is important that lockers be kept locked at all times. Books, book bags, supplies and coats should be kept in your locker. Students should not allow another student to keep items in their locker. Students should not give out their combination lock to anyone. Lockers are property of the Tecumseh Local District.

Accelerated Reading Program (A.R.)

Accelerated Reading is an important part of our Reading program at 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Students read books at their individual reading levels and take a multiple choice computerized test to check comprehension. Each grade level will send home specific expectations for their students.

Our program has been updated and most books are included in the A.R. program. Books may be selected from our school library, the New Carlisle Public Library, classrooms, or home. Many books from our school library or the New Carlisle Public Library are already labeled with A.R. information such as reading level and the number of points the book is worth. If your child wants to read a book that is not labeled with A.R. information, please check the book level at www.arbookfind.com **BEFORE** your child reads the book. If no information is available, the book is not a part of the A.R. program and will not count toward A.R. goals.

Most books available to purchase through Scholastic book orders or book fairs are included in the A.R. program. This is an inexpensive way to purchase books for your child to read!

TMS Bell Schedule

1 st Period	7:20 – 8:20
AR READING	8:23 – 8:38
2 nd Period	8:38 – 9:34
3 rd Period	9:37 – 10:33
4A (6 th Lunch)	10:36 – 11:06
4B (8 th Lunch)	11:10 – 11:40
4C (7 th Lunch)	11:44 – 12:14
5 th Period	12:17 – 1:13
6 th Period	1:16 – 2:15

Fall Wreath Fundraiser

TMS with the help of Arrow Parent Nation will begin its yearly fundraising efforts to support students on September 23rd. Students will bring home Fall Wreath Sale information. The sale dates will be September 23rd through October 7th. A delivery date of December 3rd has been set.

TMS Student Agendas

One important key to academic success is organization. Make sure you check out the student agenda. The agenda includes the student handbook and a weekly planner. The handbook has a wealth of great information for you and your child. Your child will use this when needing "a pass". Also, please encourage your student to use the weekly planner to keep track of homework and tests.

Bully/Safety Tip Line

Tecumseh Local is implementing a Bully/Safety Tip Line. Bullying/Safety concerns can be reported to the school anonymously by calling the Education Connection at (937) 845- 4483. The TEC menu will direct you to the Bully/Safety Tip Line – Option 7 on the main menu.

Option 7 will give you directions on how to record your information and forward it to the proper authority. The Bully/Safety Tip Line will also allow the individual reporting the incident to choose an incident number and they will be able to call back at a later time to receive an

Arrow Expectations for Behavior

At Tecumseh Middle School we are continuing to promote positive behavior through our Arrow Expectations initiatives. Arrow Expectations is best explained as having common sets of expectations in our common areas such as hallways, cafeteria, and restrooms that encourage students to be on their best behavior. At TMS we use Arrow Expectations to remind students to be Respectful, Accountable and Demonstrate Self Control! More information about our first reward will be coming home soon.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Annual Public Notice

Each year the Superintendent shall provide public notice to students and their parents of our intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information." The Board designates as student "directory information": a student's name; address; telephone number; date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially-recognized activities and sports; height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; date of graduation; or awards received. This is our annual public notice. Directory information shall not be provided to any organization for profit-making purposes. Parents and eligible students may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board within two (2) weeks after receipt of the Superintendent's annual public notice.

Whenever consent of the parent(s)/eligible student is required for the inspection and/or release of a student's health or educational records or for the release of "directory information," either parent may provide such consent unless agreed to otherwise in writing by both parents or specifically stated by court order. If the student is under the guardianship of an institution, the Superintendent shall appoint a person who has no conflicting interest to provide such written consent. The Board may disclose "directory information" on former students without student or parental consent. The Board shall not permit the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose).

Emergency Closings

In case of emergencies or inclement weather, which would necessitate the closing of school, information will be given to the following radio and TV stations:

WKEF/TV WHIO/TV WDTN/TV

Emergency closings will also be available on the TLS website www.tecumseh.k12.oh.us.

A district REMIND text will also go out to the main contact for each student.

Counselor Corner

Students at Tecumseh Middle School are assigned to counselors based on ability, need and preference. Students will have the same counselor in grades six through eight. Counselors:

Mrs. Jennifer Priest jennifer.priest@tecumsehlsd.org

Ms. Suzanne Massie suzanne.massie@tecumsehlsd.org

Secretary: Mrs. Pam Harmon pam.harmon@tecumsehlsd.org

The guidance office is open from 7:00 – 2:30 Monday through Friday or by appointment. To reach your child's counselor, please call 845-4465.

Interim Dates

September 17th November 12th
February 4th April 28th

End of Grading Period Dates

October 18th December 20th
March 13th June 4th

Conference Dates

February 6th 4:00 – 7:30
February 11th 3:30 – 6:30

Grade Cards Go Home

October 29th January 14th
March 31st June 4th

Two-Hour Delayed Start Dates

October 9th, November 13th, December 11th, January 8th, February 12th, March 11th, April 8th and May 13th

Dance Dates for 19-20

October 25th December 13th
March 13th May TBD

Dance times are 6:00pm – 8:00pm.