

# Tecumseh Local Schools **eNewsletter**

December 14, 2021

Learning For All ~ Whatever it Takes!

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.



## From Paula Crew, Superintendent

Our focus within the district continues to be centered on academic growth and the necessary support needed for our students to excel academically. Our Vision Statement of "Learning for All ~ Whatever it Takes," drives our decisions and the mission of the district. Tecumseh Local Schools comprised a strategic planning committee, in the fall of 2018, consisting of staff, business, and community members. The committee identified four district goals as part of our comprehensive strategic plan. We used data derived from a survey disseminated to the internal and external public to determine the most appropriate goals, along

with strategies and action steps to attain these goals. We continue to focus on these goals, even through the unique challenges of the past couple of years.

Our four strategic goals focus on Academic Growth, Wellness, Fiscal Responsibility and Community Engagement. There is a committee representing each of the four goal areas and we welcome anyone who would like to be on a particular committee to join us. The committee meetings are held in the evenings for a maximum of one hour, typically once a quarter. If you are interested in participating on a specific committee, please reach out to the designated committee facilitator:

Academic Growth Committee: Ms. Beth Moore, Curriculum Coordinator (beth.moore@tecumsehlocal.org),

**Wellness Committee**: Mr. Brian Dixon, Director of Facilities and Safety (brian.dixon@tecumsehlocal.org)

Fiscal Responsibility Committee: Mrs. Denise Robinson, Treasurer (denise.robinson@tecumsehlocal.org)

**Community Engagement Committee:** Mrs. Paula Crew, Superintendent (paula.crew@tecumsehlocal.org)

The mental health and emotional support needs for our students is another area our district continues to focus on routinely. Data indicates an elevation in mental health issues for students, from the elementary level through high school levels, especially since the onset of the pandemic. Utilizing the ESSER (Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund) and Student Wellness and Success Funding, we are concentrating our efforts to provide personnel, programming and support to help our



#### Paula Crew, Superintendent

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students who experience mental health issues. We have added three, full-time, school-based, mental health therapists within the district as a result of a partnership with Mental Health Services for Clark and Madison Counties. Additionally, we have added two full-time guidance counselors to meet the needs of our students at the elementary level, where previously we did not have guidance counseling services. We continue to partner with the Clark County Commissioners and the Clark County Sheriff's Department to employ Deputy John Loney as our School Resource Officer. The additional personnel helps enhance the services provided by our existing personnel, in conjunction with additional programs, support, and strategies to meet the needs of our students' mental health. We must support our students in this area in order to maximize their learning potential and academic success.

One of our areas of greatest need currently in the district is securing substitute teachers. We share this struggle with many school districts throughout our community, state and nation. Recently, Senate Bill 1 was passed for the duration of the 2021-2022 school year to help alleviate this need. Specifically, Senate Bill 1 offers flexibility for districts when hiring substitute teachers. For the remainder of this school year, we may employ individuals who would like to substitute teach if they pass a background check and attend a full-day training provided by our administrative team prior to subbing in our schools. We have elevated the rate of substitute teaching to \$100 per day, which is the second highest rate in comparison to other Clark County Schools in an effort to secure additional substitute teachers. If you have an interest in acquiring the training and becoming a substitute teacher, please contact me at <u>paula.crew@tecumsehlocal.org</u>.



## From Aaron Oakes, Tecumseh High School Principal

#### Mini-Career Fair at THS

Recently Tecumseh High School, working in collaboration with the Greater Springfield Partnership, hosted our first Mini-Career Fair. Four area businesses attended the day long event to share career opportunities and information with THS students. The theme of our first mini-career fair was tourism and hospitality. Using the results of Youscience we were able to pair students who scored high in the area of tourism and hospitality with these regional employers. Well over 100 students were able to engage with these employers and even complete job applications.

It is our intention to continue hosting these Mini-Career Fairs throughout the year. The Greater Springfield Partnership will coordinate with employers in specific areas such as construction/ manufacturing, IT, and more. These fairs are unique opportunities that allow our students to interact with employers in a more personable environment as opposed to large career fairs where hundreds may be in attendance. We encourage parents and students to be on the lookout for announcements and information coming from the Guidance Department for future mini-career fairs.

#### Activity Period is Back!

After a year's absence, Tecumseh Middle School is happy to welcome back Activity Period! Activity Period's inaugural year at TMS was during the 2019-2020 school year. It was created as an avenue for students to form deep connections with a staff member who led their group. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Activity Period could not continue during the end of the 2019-2020 school year and was not able to be reestablished during the 2020-2021 school year. As a result, this school year will be the first time groups will meet throughout the entire school year.

Activity Period takes place once a month for 30 minutes on a Friday. A range of 13-15 students are assigned a staff member to lead their group. Almost all TMS staff members - teachers, administrators, secretaries, paraprofessionals, aids, monitors, and some district-level staff - special education director and supervisor and curriculum coordinator have been assigned a group of students. Staff members plan and design non-academic activities to do with their group. These activities could be life skills like how to change a car tire, how to iron a shirt, how to address an envelope or just activities to get students talking like playing board games, playing card games, working in teams to solve a problem or challenge.

Activity Period is a way for students to connect with an adult and other students in their group. This can provide students with another person to talk to with any problems, questions, or to share successes. We know that in order for students to want to come to school and be successful in school, they must feel a connection and know they are cared about. While this happens in many ways throughout the school day and year, Activity Period is just one more way to connect with our students.





#### **Donnelsville Cares**

Donnelsville students recently participated in a food drive to help feed our community. Our student council coordinated the food drive on to help support Impact Bethel and their work with our community. The students were challenged to bring in 5 non perishable food items during the week. We had a competition to see which class in each grade level could donate the most items. The students really rose to the occasion. At the end of the week, over 2,800 items were donated to impact Bethel to help feed our community. The whole building received a popcorn party for their charitable donations and giving spirits.

The student council also put on a warm and fuzzy collection to assist Impact Bethel. Our students at Donnelsville collected almost 300 hats, scarves, gloves etc. to help our community. This time of year compassion is pretty important. Giving our students opportunities to help others is always rewarding. Thanks to our parents for donating items to support our collections.





## Thank You!

We would like to extend sincere thanks to our Tecumseh High School and Middle School students and families during the recent watermain break at the water tower on the main campus. One of the major benefits that resulted from the pandemic is the ability to rapidly transfer to a virtual learning platform. Thank you for your flexibility over the past few days.



## From Kathryn Randenburg, New Carlisle Elementary Principal

#### Warm and Fuzzy Drive

The New Carlisle Elementary Student Council organized a Warm and Fuzzy Drive, which took place the week of November 1. Our students were all asked to participate by bringing in one or more items that would keep you warm. They brought in socks, blankets, hats, mittens and gloves. So many students participated we had over 500 items to donate. The do-



nations went to Impact Bethel. Impact Bethel is a non profit organization who strives to make the quality of life of our community better by offering programs that promote enhanced physical, mental, and spiritual well. It is comforting to know these Warm and Fuzzy items will go to our students and families to keep them warm this season.

We were very proud of how generous our staff and families were to make the many donations. The students enjoyed being kind and we had a school wide competition to help motivate the students.



## From Deputy Loney, School Resource Officer

Last Saturday, 21 families and 46 local children were given the opportunity to Shop with a Cop at the Tuttle Road Walmart. Members of Clark County Sheriff's office and Ohio State Highway Patrol participated in the annual event. A light breakfast was served before the shopping began. There was even an appearance by Santa, which brought smiles to the faces of all who were there.







#### Programs Offer Huge Benefits

Park Layne Elementary is off to a fabulous start. We began implementing the PAX Good Behavior Game system several years ago. Students have responded well and most have a clear focus on being a PAX Leader. That just means they are really trying to have good behavior in all parts of the building. Being a PAX Leader doesn't stop when kids leave the building. The expectation is for students to strive to be PAX Leaders everywhere, all the time. Students know all about PAX voices (0 inch, 3 inch, 3 foot and 10 foot), PAX hands and feet (never hurting), have written PAX visions for their classrooms, the cafeteria, and the buses and much more. We are so thankful for our PAX partners from Wellspring in Springfield. They offer classroom support at no cost to the district for our teachers as they implement the system to ensure that it is implemented with fidelity. These same PAX Partners offer PAX Tools training for parents and communities. We are looking forward to offering this training to our parents later this school year. Look for more information to come.

Tecumseh Local Schools has a Culture Playbook that emphasizes the values we want to teach our students. While the values are the same from K to 12, the language used to teach those values might be somewhat different. Each building across the district teaches these values, using age appropriate language. At Park Layne, Captain PAX helps us teach these values to students by sharing PAX Secrets with our students. Captain PAX made her first visit of the year and shared with students the idea of "Owning Your Own Space," What this really means is that students are responsible for their own behavior and must tune it to what they are doing and be responsible for everything in their space. Look for more information on the other areas in our Culture Playbook which all fit in three areas, Be A Great Arrow, Commitment to Excellence and Stand Up and Own It.

Park Layne Elementary is also proud of the changes we have made to our English language arts curriculum. A big change came a few years back with the introduction of the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness program. Phonemic awareness is the understanding that spoken words are made up of individual sounds which are called phonemes. A child who is phonemically aware is able to isolate sounds, manipulate the sounds, blend and segment the sounds into spoken and written words. Every teacher teaches a 10 to 12 minute lesson every day covering many areas of phonemic awareness. We continue to see tremendous growth in our students through the use of this program. Parents can support the development of these skills by doing some of these types of activities when riding in the car or waiting at an appointment. Ask students if certain words rhyme or which words rhyme. For instance, give three words and ask kids which two rhyme, "Glue, got, and bought." Or ask kids to break a word into the phonemes. Cat - /k/ /a/ /t/. You aren't asking kids to spell a word, just give you the sounds. Click this link to watch a Heggerty lesson so you can see the types of things kids are asked to do. Ask a PL student about Heggerty and they can probably show you some hand motions they use when chopping words into sounds, removing beginning sounds, roller coastering a word to pick out the medial sound and more. If you are interested in volunteering at Park Layne helping students, please fill out this volunteer form and plan to be fingerprinted at the board office as soon as possible. Once you are approved, we would love to train you on how to come in and work with kids. You could do this once in a while, several times a week or everyday. Any time that you have to offer would be appreciated.



## **Tecumseh Local Schools**

Like most other districts in our area and also all around the state, we are struggling with securing enough substitute drivers to cover routes when drivers are absent. We do our best to pull together resources and double up routes to assure all of our students get to school each day. So far, we have been more fortunate than other districts when it comes to daily route coverages. For many other districts, if a driver is not available it falls to the parents to transport their child that day.



We feel it is better to have a late bus than no bus at all; because we know how important it is for each child to be in school every day. We do ask for your help on the following items:

- Rest assured that if your child arrives late to school due to the bus routes running late, your child is <u>not</u> counted tardy. Your child will still be able to eat breakfast when they arrive on a late bus.
- Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, i.e. hat, gloves, umbrella, warm clothes/coat, etc., in case there is a longer than normal wait for the bus on any given day.
- Be sure to follow the state law of having your child at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus normally arrives. This will ensure that your child is picked up if a substitute is driving an unfamiliar route.

Karen Lokai Transportation Supervisor

#### Technology Tips

Tecumseh Local is fortunate to be 1:1 with Chromebook devices for students. Per the device agreement signed by each parent via FinalForms, each family is responsible for the care of these devices. Please make sure to review the device policy.



Please take care of these devices by following the tips below.

- Keep the device in the case cases are designed to be left on the device at all times
- Keep the device away from ALL pets
- Close AND zipper the case when not in use
- Store the power adapter in the pocket when not in use
- Keep the device up off the floor, ground, grass, etc.
- DO NOT eat, drink, smoke, paint nails, etc. around the device
- If liquid is spilled on the device immediately flip the device over in a "v" shape and contact your building as soon as possible
- Please notify your student's teacher if there is any issue with a device
- Please review the student device policy located in your FinalForms account and on Tecumseh Local Technology website under "Departments" on the district website.

Veronica Cassidy Technology Coordinator



This fall the boys soccer team won the Central Buckeye Conference for the 7th time in school history. A number of Arrows were recognized with All-Conference Honors. Golf: Sportsmanship - Rose Marie Rogers, Zach Swearingen. Tennis: 1st Team - Olivia Walrath, Sophia Walrath, Mackee Miller, Jessica Shampton, 2nd Team - Erica Kelly, Emma Kelly, Jasmin Morales, Special Mention - Shayla Hagenbuch, Kaylynn Owens, Sportsmanship - Sophia Walrath. Cross Country: 1st Team - Preston Jackson, Parker Jackson, 2nd Team - Perry Jackson, Sammie Pritchett, Veronica Zaragoza, Special Mention - Cameryn Sagraves, Sportsmanship - Tate Ehlinger, Esmeralda Mendoza-Zamudio. Boys Soccer: 1st Team - Jose Alvarado, Alan Cruz, Cruz Munoz, 2nd Team - Christian Martinez, Special Mention - Sammy Chappell, Sportsmanship - Jacob DerSarkisian. Girls Soccer: 1st Team - Mae Mastin, Maggie LaPois, 2nd Team - Joellee Berner, Madi Riesinger, Special Mention - Amber Ward, Sportsmanship - Maliyah Greaves. Football: 1st Team - Gage Easterling, Braden Berner, Josh Brents, 2nd Team - Andrew Lowe, Lucas Berner, Jackson Berner, Josiah Botello, Special Mention - Brock Kitchens, Sportsmanship - Jose Villanueva. Volleyball: 1st Team - Sydney Ballweg, 2nd Team - Gabby Russell, Special Mention -Rachel Reed, Sportsmanship - Riley Dolbeer. Cheerleading: 1st Team - Teyha Ward, 2nd Team - Brinkli Hayes, Megan Gilbert, Special Mention - Jennica Hodge, Emily Briddell, Sportsmanship - Hannah North.

The Athletic Department also takes great pride in our Arrow Award Winners. This award ties to our Culture Playbook which we feel is very important in the development of the whole student/athlete. We have 3 pillars with core values in each pillar. The first pillar is Be a Great Teammate, with the core values of selflessness and family. The second pillar is Stand Up and Own It, with the core value of integrity. The third pillar is Embrace the Grind with the core values of grit and commitment. Here are the Arrow Award Winners for the fall. Girls Golf - Mackenzie VanBeber. Boys Golf - Tyler Kennedy, Owen Perkins. Tennis - Mackee Miller, Jessica Shampton, Shayla Hagenbuch. Volleyball - Riley Dolbeer, Callie Riley, Gabby Russell. Cross Country - Lucy Hughes, Perry Jackson. Boys Soccer - Jonathan Alvarado-Gonzalez, Alan Cruz, Sammy Chappell. Girls Soccer - Joellee Berner, Maliyah Greaves, Amber Ward. Football - Josh Brents, Caedon Sagraves, Jose Villanueva. Cheerleading - Brinkli Hayes, Hannah North.

The Arrows also had a good season in the classroom. The Athletic Department recognizes student/athletes who have a 3.2 or high GPA during the sports season. The goal is to have 60% or higher on each team or program. The following teams or programs had over 60% of their student/athletes with a 3.2 GPA or higher. Girls Golf 75%, Tennis 89%, Volleyball 83%, Cross Country 69%, Girls Soccer 71%, Varsity Cheerleading 75%, Student Aides 100%, Football 68%. As a total for the high school sports programs in the fall we had 63% of our student/athletes have a 3.2 or higher GPA. Well done Arrows, keep progressing.



## **Tecumseh Local Schools**

Mrs. Wright's Class Learn About Business by **Running Craft Fair Booth** 



Students in Mrs. Wright's high school class learn job and life skills as part of their program. For the last several years students in her class have learned about running a business by creating art to sell at the Band Booster craft fair.

This year, the students starting making the ornaments in October. They made 7 different kinds of ornaments and a few of the snowman and Santa candles. Students take turns working at the booth to get experience interacting with the public and working with money.

The money the students make is then used to help fund class cooking projects and buy more art supplies for next years project.

#### <u>ParentSquare</u>

Communication remains s a top priority for Tecumseh Local. Beginning in January of 2022, the District will be moving to the new application ParentSquare as it's main communication tool!

Parents can communicate directly with their student's teachers, receive timely announcements from the classroom, building, or district, and stay up to date on everything going on in your students' school life. Please check out the Parent Resources page on our website for more information.



#### Debt Savings

In 2019, the District participated in a direct placement of debt with the Refunded 2012 Bond Series that were issued for the new buildings. This type of refunding resulted in cumulative savings to district taxpayers of approximately \$905,000 over the life of the bonds. In 2020, the District participated in another direct placement of debt for the Refunded 2013 Bond Series. This saved the taxpayers approximately \$306,000. These are the only two debt issues (2012 and 2013) for Tecumseh Local. All savings related to these direct placements was due to the bonds being "directly placed" or purchased at a lower interest rate.

The savings associated with both direct placements are savings to taxpayers, not the district, as the taxpayers are the ones who pay for these bonds via their property taxes. A taxpayer pays their taxes to the County Auditor and then the County Auditor distributes the funds to the appropriate aovernment entities twice a year. When the District receives these funds, some of the funds are earmarked for the debt service fund and are then used to make the bond payments.

The two debt issues (now 2019 and 2020) will be paid in full December 1, 2031.

For more information, please feel free to contact Tecumseh Local Treasurer, Denise Robinson at

denise.robinson@tecumsehlocal.org.





## From Beth Moore, Curriculum Coordinator

#### **Oral Communication**

Oral communication is important to the success of our students and is currently a hot topic in many schools across the country. There seems to be a general lack of oral communication among school aged students due to the pandemic, cellular phones, and other technology devices. Our students need guidance and support to foster this very important life skill. Our Academic Growth Committee sees the importance of this skill and is working on strategies to increase oral communication at school and home.



#### What is oral communication?

Oral communication, simply put, is the spoken word. It is sharing one's thoughts, opinions, ideas, and shared information and experiences. It is a skill needed to work well with others and helpful in taking on new learning.

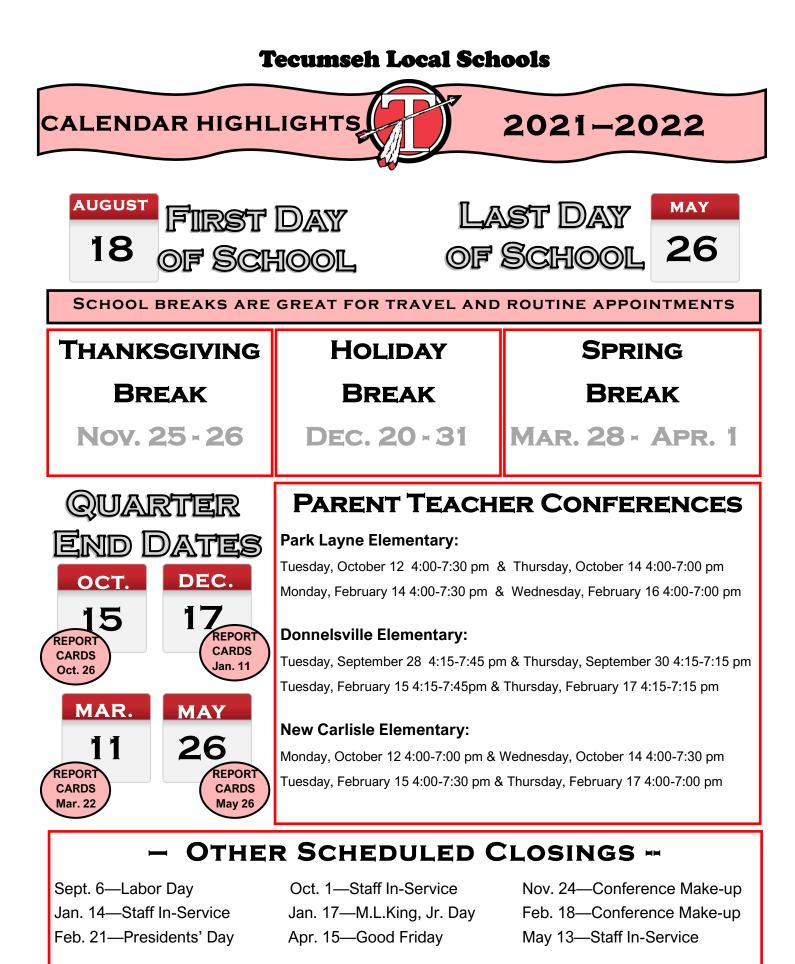
#### Why is it important?

Oral communication is important in school and life. It allows students and educators to share knowledge known and needed. Students who work collaboratively with others can work out misconceptions and question unknowns. It allows them to share their viewpoints and contribute to quality conversations. Oral communication is also a life skill most employer's place high on their list when hiring new employees. This skill is also important in creating and building strong lasting relationships at school and beyond.

#### What can we do to encourage oral communication at home?

Talking "to" not "at" any person will instantly increase oral communication because a response is expected. Make sure to give children your full attention. This will make them feel like what they are saying is important to you and model what they should be doing when others communicate with them.

- Take advantage of travel time. This includes short and long trips. So you're in a car together, what do you talk about ...
- Sports, school events, band, friends, video games, and other activities are great conversation starters.
- Talk about current events that pertain to them. This may be more relevant for tweens and teens.
- Watch the same tv shows or series together. You can learn a lot about a person when you learn which characters they are drawn to, what they predict will happen, and the lessons they learn.
- Play board games and cards! I have a 14-year-old nephew who has decided I am no longer cool but he will play cards or a board game with me. I am always amazed by the conversations we have with little effort.



NOVEMBER 2—ELECTION DAY IS A VIRTUAL LEARNING DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS



### **TECUMSEH LOCAL SCHOOLS 2021-2022 CALENDAR**

Su	м	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	August 2021	Su	м	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	February 2022
	2	3	4	5	6	7	16-17 Teacher Work Days			1	2	3	4	5	9 2-Hour Delay, Staff Inservice
	9	10	11	12	13	14	18 First Day for Students	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	18 Conference Make-Up, No Schoo
5	16	17	18	19	20	21			14				18		21 Presidents' Day, No School
2	23	24	25	26	27	28		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
9	30	31						27	28						
1	м	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	September 2021	Su	м	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	March 2022
1	141	Tu	1	2	3	4	6 Labor Day, No School	50		1	2	3	4	5	9 2-Hour Delay, Staff Inservice
1	6	7	8	9	10	11	8 2-Hour Delay, Staff Inservice	6	7	8	9		11	12	11 End of 3rd Grading Period
2	13	14	15	16		18	10 OneView Registration Deadline	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	28-31 Spring Break, No School
9	20	21	22	23	24		for All Students	20	21		23		25	26	
	27	28	29	30						29					
							October 2021							-	A:1 2022
1	м	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	October 2021	Su	м	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	April 2022
		F	6	7	1	2	1 Staff Inservice, No School	3		5	6	7	1	2	1 Spring Break, No School
	4	5 12	6	7 14	8 15		13 2-Hour Delay, Staff Inservice 15 End of 1st Grading Period	3	4	5 12	13		8 15	-	13 2-Hour Delay, Staff Inservice
)	11 18	12	13 20	14	15	16 23	27 2-Hour Delay, Staff Inservice	10	11	12	20	21	22	23	15 Good Friday, No School
7	25		20		22	30	27 2-Hour Delay, Stall Inservice	24	25		20	28	22	30	
1	25	20	21	28	29	50		24	25	20	21	20	29	50	
	м	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	November 2021	Su	м	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	May 2022
	1	2	3	4	5	6	2 Election Day, Virtual Learning Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	11 2-Hour Delay, Staff Inservice
	8	9	10	11	12	13	for all students	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13 Staff Inservice, No School
	15	16	17	18	19	20	11 Veterans Day	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	26 Last Day for Students
L	22	23	24	25	26	27	17 2-Hour Delay, Staff Inservice	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26 End of 4th Grading Period
3	29	30					24 Conference Make-up, No School	29	30	31					27 Last Day for Teachers
							25-26 Thanksgiving Break, No School								30 Memorial Day
	М	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	December 2021	Su	М	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	June 2022
			1	2	3	4	8 2-Hour Delay, Staff Inservice				1	2	3	4	5 Graduation
	6	7	8	9	10	11	17 End of 2nd Grading Period	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
2	13	14	15	16	17	18	20-31 Holiday Break, No School	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	20	21	22	23	24	25		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
5			29					26	27	28	29	30			
	м	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	January 2022	Su	M	Tu	w	Th	F	Sa	July 2022
1						1	1 New Year's Day						1	2	4 4th of July
	3	4	5	6	7	8	12 2-Hour Delay, Staff Inservice	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	10				14		14 Staff Inservice, No School		11			14	15	16	
-	17		19	20	21		17 M.L. King, Jr. Day, No School	17	18			21		23	
-	24	25	26					24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	31							31							
No School for Students							2-Hour Delay	tual Learning Day						First/Last Day	

#### Inservice Days:

No School: October 1, 2021, January 14, 2022, and May 13, 2022

<u>2-Hour Delay:</u> September 8, 2021, October 13, 2021, October 27, 2021, November 17, 2021, December 8, 2021, January 12, 2022, February 9, 2022, March 9, 2022, April 13, 2022, and May 11, 2022

 Grading Periods:

 Aug. 18 to Oct. 15 (41 days)
 Oct. 18 to Dec. 17 (42 days)
 Jan. 3 to Mar. 11 (46 days)
 Mar. 14 to May 26 (47 days)