

October 9, 2020

Dear Tenafly Families,

This communication pertains to student schedules for the weeks of October 12 and October 19 and provides reminders and updates relevant to our schools.

The information included here is the most current information we have at the time of publication (midday Friday). ANY CHANGES TO ANY SCHEDULE AT ANY SCHOOL WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO YOU SHOULD THEY BE WARRANTED. Please continue to stay tuned to district/school notification via text, email, and our Tenafly Public Schools app.

Calendar-related Items:

- The Governor has ordered all public school buildings closed on **Election Day, November 3rd**. This day will be a **full-virtual instruction day for all students**.
- **Schools are closed and there is no instruction during the virtual NJEA Convention, November 5th and 6th.**
- **We will follow an Early Dismissal Schedule on November 25th** as indicated on this year's school calendar. This is followed by the Thanksgiving Holiday; schools are closed and there is no instruction on November 26th and 27th.

The District-wide Daily Bell Schedule for October 12th - 16th

- **Elementary Schools (Gr. K-5, Paws, Cubs)**
 - Onsite Instruction Daily:
 - Cubs Program AM Session: 8:30am-10:30am
 - Cubs Program PM Session: 11:30am-1:30pm
 - PAWS Programs (at Stillman, Smith and Maugham): 9:00am-1:30pm
 - Kindergarten: 8:40am-1:10pm
 - 1st Grade: 8:40am-1:10pm
 - Hybrid Model:
 - 2nd - 5th Grades: 8:30am-1:30pm
 - AA/BBB week
 - Cohort A students report to school for in-person instruction on October 12th and 13th
 - Cohort A students participate virtually on October 14th, 15th and 16th; report to assigned Google classroom at the start time each day
 - Cohort B students participate virtually on October 12th and 13th; report to assigned Google classroom at the start time each day
 - Cohort B students report to school for in-person instruction on October 14th, 15th and 16th
 - Full Virtual Students in Cubs, Paws and Grades K-5 will continue to report to their assigned Google classroom at the start time each day.

- **Tenafly Middle School (Gr 6-8)**
 - Full Virtual All Students
 - Students in Grades 6-8 will continue to report to their assigned Google classroom at the start time each day.

- **Tenafly High School (Gr 9-12):**
 - Virtual “E” Day - October 12th
 - All students will learn virtually from home
 - 8:30 am - 3:11 pm
 - Hybrid Model: October 13th -16th
 - Cohort “Pride” students report to school for in-person instruction on October 13th (A day) and October 15th (C day): 8:05am - 1:04pm
 - Cohort “Pride” students participate virtually on October 14th (D day) and October 16th (B day): 8:05am - 1:04pm

 - Cohort “Tiger” report to school for in-person instruction on October 14th (D day) and October 16th (B day): 8:05am - 1:04pm
 - Cohort “Tiger” students participate virtually on October 13th (A day) and October 15th (C day): 8:05am - 1:04pm
 - See [Schedule on the THS Website](#) for more information
 - THS Full Virtual Students will continue to report to their assigned Google classroom at the start time each day.

The District-wide Daily Bell Schedule for October 19th - 23rd:

- **Elementary Schools (Gr. K-5, Paws, Cubs)**
 - Onsite Instruction Daily:
 - Cubs Program AM Session: 8:50am-11:30am
 - Cubs Program PM Session: 12:20am-3:00pm
 - PAWS Programs (at Stillman, Smith and Maugham): 9:00am-1:30pm
 - Kindergarten: 8:40am-1:10pm
 - 1st Grade: 8:40am-1:10pm
 - Hybrid Model:
 - 2nd - 5th Grades: 8:30am-1:30pm
 - AAA/BB week
 - Cohort A students report to school for in-person instruction on October 19th, 20th and 21st
 - Cohort A students participate virtually on October 22nd and 23rd; report to assigned Google classroom at the start time each day

 - Cohort B students participate virtually on October 19th, 20th and 21st; report to assigned Google classroom at the start time each day
 - Cohort B students report to school for in-person instruction on October 22nd and 23rd
 - Full Virtual Students in Cubs, Paws and Grades K-5 will continue to report to their assigned Google classroom at the start time each day.

- **Tenafly Middle School (Gr 6-8)**
 - All Students are Full Virtual October 19 and 20
 - Hybrid Model: October 21-23
 - 6th - 8th Grades: 8:25am - 1:15pm; Students may arrive between 8:05-8:20
 - A/BB week
 - Cohort A students report to school for in-person instruction on 21st
 - Cohort A students participate virtually on October 22nd and 23rd
 - Cohort B students participate virtually on October 21st; report to assigned Google classroom at the start time each day
 - Cohort B students report to school for in-person instruction on October 22nd and 23rd
 - WIN (What I Need) Period for various activities: 2:15-3:15
 - See [TMS Daily Schedule](#) and the [TMS Cohort Calendar](#) for more information
 - Full Virtual Students in Grades 6-8 will continue to report to their assigned Google classroom at the start time each day on October 21-23.
- **Tenafly High School (Gr 9-12):**
 - Virtual "E" Day - October 19th
 - All students will learn virtually from home
 - 8:30 am - 3:11 pm
 - Hybrid Model: October 20th -23rd
 - Cohort "Tiger" report to school for in-person instruction on October 20th (A day) and October 22nd (C day): 8:05am - 1:04pm
 - Cohort "Tiger" students participate virtually on October 21st (D day) and October 23rd (B day): 8:05am - 1:04pm
 - Cohort "Pride" students report to school for in-person instruction on October 21st (D day) and October 23rd (B day): 8:05am - 1:04pm
 - Cohort "Pride" students participate virtually on October 20th (A day) and October 22nd (C day): 8:05am - 1:04pm
 - See [Schedule on the THS Website](#) for more information
 - THS Full Virtual Students will continue to report to their assigned Google classroom at the start time each day.

Technology Update

Our technology department continues to make enhancements to our equipment and infrastructure. Network, web filter and firewall updates have resulted in bandwidth availability that is 3x the capacity than it was and our backup internet capacity is 2x its original capacity. We now have the available technology "horsepower" to provide what is needed to keep our virtual classrooms up and running and to keep us all connected.

Our webcams have arrived and installation is under. These contain noise-cancelling microphones that will help with the audio component. The webcams will also allow for clearer vision of the classroom Smartboard/Cleartouch TVs for those learning from home.

Over 2300 Chromebooks have arrived! These Chromebooks will be distributed to our students at TMS and THS. Distribution will begin at TMS as soon as we reopen. The technology team will begin by distributing to those students who are fully virtual. Additionally, about one hundred (100) 24" monitors have been ordered for distribution across the district. These monitors, along with the recently delivered webcams and our existing Chromebooks, will be leveraged to deliver a crisper, higher picture quality solution that will hopefully address specific pain points reported throughout the district. If they are well-received and deemed to be a good solution, the district will take the necessary steps to order additional equipment as needed.

Finally, we have received 50 replacement Chromebook batteries to use in those Chromebooks that are losing power more quickly than they ought to be. These will be installed in the coming week, and installation will be prioritized by the most pressing needs beginning at our elementary level.

Many thanks to our entire technology department for all of their efforts in supporting our classroom instruction.

Daily Symptom Tracker System

Thanks to all for your continued cooperation with completing the Daily Symptom Tracker on days that your child reports to school.

Please remember that this system is part of the entry process for days your child reports onsite. We take this system seriously and expect that it has become part of your routine if your child reports onsite for school. Thank you for reading each question/statement carefully and answering honestly.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THIS INFORMATION MAY RESULT IN YOUR CHILD'S EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL. If the link expires prior to your completion OR if you are experiencing technical difficulties, BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE ALTERNATIVES FOR HEALTH ATTESTATION LISTED HERE.

We remind you that any child who is symptomatic and not permitted to participate in onsite instruction on a given day may always choose to participate virtually. Please be sure to notify your school.

Parents/Caregivers: Remember that the link to the form that you receive in your email will expire at 8am daily. After that time, you will need to have your *Student ID number handy and go to the school website:

- Find the Icon on the "Popular Links" bar
- Click "Symptom Tracker"
- Click on "Student"
- *You will then be prompted to enter your child's student ID number
- You will then receive access to the form.

*Your child's student ID # may be found in our Genesis System:

- Log In to Genesis
- Look Under Student Data > Summary tab
- Student ID is listed under the student's name, to the right of the school name

Alternatively, should you encounter an issue with technology that prohibits you from accessing the electronic system:

- Go to the Homepage of your School Website
- You will find a printable version of the health attestation form
- Complete this form, sign, and have your child present at the time of arrival.

The paper form should only be used in select situations, as the electronic version of the form is our standard process for reporting daily symptoms of students and staff.

The electronic Daily Symptom Tracker link will always be sent to the primary email address connected to a student in our Genesis Portal. If you wish to have the daily link to this form sent to a different email address:

- EDIT your primary email under the CONTACTS tab in the Parent Portal:
- The email entered as the "HOME EMAIL" for "GUARDIAN 1" is the email that will receive the link to the Daily Symptom Tracker form as well as all other school/district communications.
- Remember, this change will result in all school/district communication being sent to the updated email listed in "GUARDIAN 1."

TPS Administrators/Faculty/Staff: Remember that the link to the form that you receive in your email will expire at 8am daily. After that time, go to the school website:

- Find the Icon on the "Popular Links" bar
- Click "Symptom Tracker"
- Click on "Staff"
- *You will then be prompted to enter information
- You will then receive access to the form.

Full-Virtual Program Students Seeking Onsite Instruction

Any student seeking to transition to onsite instruction beginning on/after October 19, 2020 should have his/her parent/guardian complete [this form.](#)

Recent Borough Communication from the Mayor's Office - October 8, 2020

We recognize the heightened concern and awareness over the uptick in COVID-19 cases in our community as reported by Mayor Zinna. We have been working very closely with our local health officials over the past week, and at this time, this increase in cases has no direct correlation to our schools.

Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, TMS will remain full virtual through October 20th. All other schools will continue to operate as scheduled. TMS will resume their normal hybrid schedule on Wednesday, October 21st). Please see the most recent district communication for further information

Parents/guardians always reserve the right to make decisions that they feel are best for their families and children. Should you choose to keep your child home from school, just let your child's school know that they will be participating virtually until a specified time.

Mayor Zinna released the following in a communication on Thursday, October 8th. We urge you to review the Mayor's information and be reminded of the need to remain vigilant in your efforts of protection against COVID-19 for you, your family and your fellow Tenafly neighbors:

"The number of coronavirus cases in Tenafly has grown to 231 people confirmed positive. This is an increase of eight new cases from last Friday. Four of these new cases were confirmed this afternoon. This is a developing situation and we expect there may be more cases this week.

This week's cases are a result of individuals attending an organized event, and were reportedly not practicing safe social distancing and not wearing masks. These cases include both adults and children.

Our County Health Officers are performing contact tracing and notifying individuals and families that are potentially affected. We are in communication with both State and County Health Officials and monitoring the situation.

Right now we do not have any information that indicates there has been a coronavirus spread to the children in our Recreation programs. But since the current spike involves several children, we don't want to wait for the spread to increase before we act. Therefore, even though many people will be disappointed, we are going to temporarily suspend our Recreation programs for two weeks, effective today. The basketball, soccer cage and skate park will also be closed for two weeks. This will give us time for the details to make themselves known and help prevent wider virus spread.

Also, the Fall Festival scheduled for this weekend is cancelled. We will communicate recommendations for Halloween next week."

Reminder about the District's Role in Contact Tracing and Quarantine

We thank you for your cooperation and support as we continue to respond to any positive COVID-19 case reports. As recent events have demonstrated, reports of a positive case can come to us at any time of the day, and we thank you for remaining aware of notifications sent by the school/district that pertain to changes in your child's schedule.

Last week's communication outlined the district's role in contact tracing and quarantine. We emphasized that contact tracing is not a process that the district has authority to direct. **Ordering quarantine of a group, class, or school is also not under authority of the district, but by order of the local health officials. Additionally, a school can go to full virtual instruction for a health condition if such is recommended and supported by the local health official, however a switch to full virtual instruction in response to a specified health condition does not take place without such support and recommendation of these medical professionals.**

Contact tracing that occurs beyond the school setting is handled directly by the local health officials and their related staff. Each incident is treated based on its unique information and the local health officials follow the current CDC guidelines when determining responsive action. The district will always cooperate with the local health officials in protecting the health of our students, staff and community.

It should be noted that current recommendations only require those who are in direct contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 to quarantine or take further action as determined by his/her health provider. Recommendations do not require a "contact of a contact of a contact" be quarantined or isolated. For the health and safety of our students and staff, anyone who is uncertain of their level of exposure is encouraged to remain out of school and seek further medical guidance before returning.

Protecting Yourself and Others After School Hours

The health and safety practices in place in our schools will remain most effective if they are practiced at home and while out in the community. Wear face coverings, practice social distancing, and keep interactions to small groups of others who are also practicing safe habits.

As students exit from school premises after dismissal and enjoy time playing with friends in the cool autumn air, especially while on our school playgrounds, faces should remain covered and social distancing should be continued. We thank parents and guardians for encouraging and enforcing these practices as a means of continuing the work done by our staff during the school day. We appreciate your help in keeping our schools safe and available for onsite learning.

Questions/Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns related to your child, please check the school/teacher websites for helpful information. If you cannot find what is needed, then contact your building principal. They are here to help you and can be reached at:

- Mackay School - hchizzik@tenafly.k12.nj.us
- Maugham School - jferrara@tenafly.k12.nj.us
- Smith School - dgeorge@tenafly.k12.nj.us
- Stillman School - glander@tenafly.k12.nj.us
- Tenafly Middle School - jfabbo@tenafly.k12.nj.us
- Tenafly High School - jmorrison@tenafly.k12.nj.us
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If there is anything our technology team can help you with, do not hesitate to contact them via email at techsupport@tenafly.k12.nj.us Additionally, parents/caregivers can continue to find recordings of technology trainings, as well as technology resources, on the [Parents Tab](#) of our website.

Wishing you all health and happiness this weekend.

Yours in Education,
Shauna C. DeMarco
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 Superintendent
 Tenafly Public School