

News From Twality

08.24.2021

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District COVID resources

Please click [HERE](#) to access community resources.



Message from Principal Kearn

Welcome Back!

Dear Twality Families,

After a year none of us will ever forget, Twality couldn't be more excited to welcome students and families back for the 2021-22 school year!

We are excited to see all of our students every day in our brand new school building. We are excited to hear our students perform and play music on our new stage, engage in sports on our new turf field, and create and explore in our new maker spaces. We have so much to look forward to, and we can't wait to see students in our hallways in September!

This is my third year as Twality's principal and we have successfully made it through two moves, a bond project, unprecedented fires and ice storms, as well as a global pandemic. Yet throughout these past few years, I remain humbled by the partnership we have with our Twality families, the incredible staff that are here to support and nurture our students, as well as our laser focus on improving learning outcomes for all kids. I am very excited to welcome you all to the 2021-22 school year and to share a little bit about my goals for the year, as well as what lies ahead for our school community.

This year, Twality is going to focus on two very clear goals:

- Social and emotional learning and support for students returning to school after a significant disruption.
- Scaffolded learning environments that are responsive to the individual learning needs of our students.

After a significant disruption in routine, we understand that the return to school for some will be marked by excitement to see friends and reconnect with former teachers. For others, the long hiatus away may be a source of anxiety. Please know that Twality teachers and staff are ready to meet students where they are at and provide the individualized care and support needed for all students to feel safe and affirmed at school. Students will continue to come together for Morning Meetings to check in with a trusted adult, set goals, and be in community together.

Twality teachers understand that maintaining high levels of academic engagement last year during online school was challenging for students and families. Some students thrived in online learning, for many others it was a challenge. On our return to full-time, in-person instruction this Fall, we will be focusing on creating engaging and welcoming learning environments that assess in asset-based ways where students are at with their reading, writing and math skills. Our classrooms will be defined by confidence-building approaches to instruction that leverage all of our students' belief in self to thrive academically and meet grade-level learning standards.

Back to School Twality: Some Things to Know

Save the Date!

Twality Middle School Back to School Information Session

Zoom Meeting Code: <https://zoom.us/j/98031328353>

Thursday, September 2nd, 5-6 PM

Please join us for an information session that prepares students and families on what to expect on their return to school at Twality. At this session we will review the district's safety guidelines for in-person learning and how it will be applied specifically at Twality.

Ipad Check In/Check Out, August 31-September 2

It is time to pick up your new ipad for the school year! Please use the schedule below to identify the day and time to participate in the Twality Drive Thru Ipad Check In/Check Out.

If you are an incoming sixth grade family: This is your chance to pick up your student's ipad before the start of the school year.

If you are returning Twality student: Collect your school-issued iPad, keyboards, charging block and cord to turn in at the drive thru.* (Return your iPad fully charged.)

You will receive a new ipad for the coming school year.

*Please note that students will be charged for missing or damaged ipads (\$100 for the first two and \$349 for the third damaged ipad in the span of one year), keyboards and purposely damaged cases (\$34), cords (\$19) and/or blocks (\$19).

6th Graders

Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Noon-1:30, Families with the last name A-G

1:30-3, Families with the last name H-P

3-4:30, Families with the last name Q-Z

7th Graders

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Noon-1:30, Families with the last name A-G

1:30-3, Families with the last name H-P

3-4:30, Families with the last name Q-Z

8th Graders

Thursday, September 2, 2021

Noon-1:30, Families with the last name A-G

1:30-3, Families with the last name H-P

3-4:30, Families with the last name Q-Z

Masks Up to Open Up!

As you have probably seen in our district communications, all Twality students, teachers, staff, volunteers and guests will be required to wear masks at all times indoors. Please prepare your student to have a fresh mask to wear over their nose and mouth every day. If a student forgets their mask, we will have masks on hand to pass out. The exciting news is that teachers will have the opportunity to give students mask breaks during the school day outside. Students can take their masks off to eat in the Commons and will have opportunities for mask breaks at activity and throughout the day. Students playing band instruments that require use of the mouth can take their mask off while playing their instrument. Masks, spacing, and vaccines are the best offense we have to return to normal.

Assigned Seating on the Bus

All of Twality's bus routes will be operational this Fall. The Twality Middle School Bus Route schedule will be circulated to families by email and posted online on our web site. We know the bus can be a social time for students to connect with friends. We also need to ensure that it is a safe environment that supports our bus drivers to focus on the road and transport our students safely to and from school. This year we will be implementing an assigned seating system for our buses to support staff if and when a COVID case occurs in our community. Stay tuned for more information on how this is going to work for students.

Parent Pick Up and Drop Off

Families can drop off and pick up their student in the front of school. In order to reduce traffic congestion in our neighborhood, we are encouraging students to walk, bike, take the bus, or carpool. School doors will open at 8:15 AM. To increase our ability to maintain distancing requirements we are asking families not to drop off their students before 8:00. Likewise, students not participating in formal after school activities will need to exit Twality's campus promptly after the bell rings. If you are dropping off or picking up your child, please help us by pulling in as close as possible to reduce congestion in the neighborhood and please be prepared for long waits.

Lockers

Every student at Twality will have the opportunity to have their own locker if they choose to use it. The locker assignment process will occur a few weeks after school starts once schedules have been settled. Students will be taught how to use the built in locker lock and appropriate use of the locker. In the meantime, we encourage students to acquire a backpack so they can carry their academic materials and personal items with them. If your family needs support acquiring a backpack or school supplies contact our family liaison, Joel Aispuro, jaispuro@ttsd.k12.or.us. Joel is fluent in Spanish.

Supplies

Because so many textbooks and activities are done through our iPads, we are asking families to wait on purchasing larger, bulky items such as binders until students have had a chance to meet with classroom teachers. We also do not allow sports equipment (basketballs, footballs, etc.) to come to school. Here is a list of supplies that will help students get started on their first week,

<https://www.ttsdschools.org/Page/10431>

Student Schedules

Student schedules will be viewable on StudentView/ParentView. Families will be alerted by email when schedules are released. If you have questions about your students' schedule once it is published, please contact your child's counselor:

Lisa Alvarez, 6th Grade Students, lavarez@ttsd.k12.or.us

Sue Porter, 7th Grade Students, sporter@ttsd.k12.or.us

Brittany Volk, 8th Grade Students, bvolk@ttsd.k12.or.us

Sincerely,

Andrew Kearl, Twality MS Principal



IMPORTANT DATES

Aug 31

6th Grade iPad pick up, 12:00-4:30pm

Sept 1

7th Grade iPad exchange, 12:00-4:30pm

Sept 2

8th Grade iPad exchange, 12:0-4:30pm

Back to School Information Session, 5:00-6:00pm on Zoom

Sept 8

6th Grade Orientation Day, 8:30am-12:30pm

Sept 9

First Day of School for all grades, 8:30am-3:10pm

Sept 23rd

Picture Day

6th Grade Back to School Night, 6:00-7:30pm

Sept 30th

7th & 8th Grade Back to School Night, 6:00-8:00pm

All TTSD schools will be open 5 days a week and in-person this fall - new Safety Guidelines and Protocols to follow

There will be no hybrid (part in-person/part online) option.

If you prefer your student to continue learning online, please sign up for the [TTSD Virtual Academy](#).

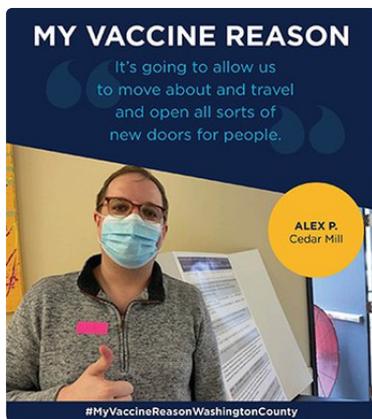


Free and Reduced Meals - Application needs to be filled out every year!

This year our district will be offering Free meals for all children 18 years and under through the Summer Seamless Food Program. The Free and Reduced Meals Applications are good for so much more than just free meals. With an approval Letter of Eligibility families can get discounted internet, waived fees at the high school level and other scholarship opportunities outside of the district. **IF**

there is future funding for P-EBT our families in need could benefit from this greatly...but you need to apply!!!

Please fill out the [online application](#) in order to be approved for free and reduced meals. You can also pick up a paper copy of the application in our Main Office.



Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Every Oregonian age 12 and up is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Click [HERE](#) to find a vaccine clinic near you.

Washington County Crisis Line (503) 291-9111

This line is answered 24/7



Connect with us!

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 (503) 431-5200

 ttsdschools.org/twality