



May 15, 2020

Dear Tiger Families,

We are coming to the close of week 9 of distance learning with only 4 weeks to go! There are some important pieces to tonight's update regarding the 20/21 school year. If you would like to discuss any of them further, do not hesitate to reach out to me. Please see the updates below.

SUMMER DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM

The summer program will consist of reading and math support provided through distance learning. It will require participation in live Zoom meetings, viewing recorded lessons, and completion of work. The range of support and activities will be between 30-90 minutes a day Monday through Thursday for 5 weeks. Spaces will be filled on a first come first serve basis and are limited. If you are interested in having your child participate, please complete the registration form below. If you have questions, please contact the admin team.

Register Here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfb2QX0FKI1kqMbUcT9UdRPiIT9jp7rYsEX6tsytBWRKsluWg/viewform>

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Thank you to everyone that completed the survey from last week. The feedback we have received has been fantastic! Thank you for your honesty as it helps us plan. I would like to address some of the priorities that families listed in their responses and how we are working on addressing those.

1. Safety and Health Protocols for the School:
 - a. We have already been seeking quotes on personal protection equipment (PPE) such as masks, thermometers, and hand sanitizer stations. Additionally, we are receiving quotes on sanitizing the building from companies with specific cleaning solutions for COVID 19, as well as signs and other items to ensure everyone is kept as safe as possible.
 - b. Procedures are already being developed to plan for shared space including students being physically distanced in classrooms, hallways, lunch, outside activities, arrival and dismissal.
 - c. Classroom sizes on physical attendance days would be reduced to accommodate physical distancing.
2. Scheduling of Students:
 - a. If we do move forward with a blended learning format, therefore a split schedule of section A and Section B for each classroom, our plan is to send out a schedule request form. Our initial plan would be to have all siblings in attendance on the same days, however some families with more children may want and be able to have them on different days thus being able to work with them better at home. We would do our very best to accommodate all requests.
 - b. While we have not determined the set schedule yet, the plan for the Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday grouping of students offered the opportunity for us to have the buildings fully sanitized in between groups.

This sanitizing would be more than the daily cleaning and include all furniture and materials in the classroom as well.

3. Distance Learning at Home:

A continual concern we have received about distance learning is about parents being overwhelmed with the amount of support they have to give at home. We hear you!

- a. We have already purchased licensing to add a component to our program that will eliminate your child needing to login to more than one platform. This platform is called Classlink. This program will also organize their distance learning so that the support they need from you is minimal for lower elementary and almost none for our older students.
- b. We have also been researching and discussing a blended learning model for education called the “flipped” classroom. In this model for learning, the teacher records most of their lessons and those videos are what the main responsibility is at home. Students watch the lessons and have a short response to complete which enables their full engagement within the learning process. The bulk of the actual practice from the video lessons takes place at school, allowing the teacher and support staff to properly assist students in understanding and complete the work, whereas parents are ensuring that students have viewed and responded to the lessons. In this model, it keeps the heavy lift of the teaching and learning at school and not at home.

4. Access to Technology:

- a. We have already taken necessary steps to move our school to a 1:1 technology school for the fall. This means that each student would be issued a technology device to use for school purposes. Students would receive the device at the beginning of the year and return it at the end of the year. Kindergarten students would receive either an iPad or tablet while students in 1st-8th grade would receive a Chromebook or laptop. This would help to ensure that all of our students have access to a dedicated piece of technology to support distance learning while at home.
- b. Students and families would be responsible to bring the device to and from school on days they are in attendance to ensure students are not sharing devices.

5. Tipton Virtual Academy Option:

- a. We have been working on being able to offer a fully virtual school option to families as we realize that some may not be comfortable physically sending their students to school. This option may also be good for one of your students while the blended learning option may be better for your other students. The great part of this option is that all of our virtual students will remain Tipton students and as such be able to participate in all Tipton events.
- b. When we send out the request for schedules for the fall, this will be an option you can select. This option will look different than the distance learning you are currently participating in, as well as the blended learning. We will have details coming soon for this option.

While we are working daily on planning for all of these possibilities, we agree with you that we would love to be in school everyday. The safety and health of our students is our main

priority, so we will work through all of the pieces in order to ensure we meet those needs first and everything else will follow.

If you didn't complete the survey last week, please do so below. We really would love to have feedback and hear from all of our families.

Complete Survey 2: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8DQKQZL>

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

As we shared with you two weeks ago, we are moving forward with a change in program for before and after school care. While we had no concerns about the programming that Champions offered, we were very concerned about the price and the challenges that families expressed to us with the cost. We began discussions with Champions last summer and they continued through this spring. Unfortunately they were unable to lower their cost at this time.

The new program we are moving forward with has a \$10 registration fee. This is much more reasonable to consider for our families. We are taking steps to change the building license over and will provide more concrete details as we move forward.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We have time set up just for you! These office hours can be used to discuss information you are receiving, plans for next year, or ask questions. You do not need to sign on for the entire hour. You only have to join for the time that you need. If you are struggling with accessing us through ZOOM, please email klackey@tipton-academy.org.

Superintendent office hours for the week of Mayth are as follows:

Tuesday May 19th, 2020 from 11am-12pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88609481943?pwd=dS92bEtTWXlrNmZzcHJ2cDIPbHJ3QT09>

Meeting ID: 886 0948 1943 Password: 402321

Thursday May 21th, 2020 from 11am-12pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89873146936?pwd=YW95UzRjQkYxcjQ3NGFGdTg0cWhzUT09>

Meeting ID: 898 73146936 Password: 890925

MEALS SERVED

Our frontline meal service team has been hard at work for the last nine weeks! They served 2,800 meals this week! For April and March combined, our team served a total of 21,120 meals to families in our community! Awesome job to our team! Thank you to our families that have shared outside of our Tipton community to help others too!

COVID-19 UPDATES

We want all of our Tigers safe and healthy as we continue to move through this. Please be diligent about washing hands, social distancing, wearing non-medical masks if you leave your home, and not visiting with people that do not live in your home.

It is extremely important that if you or a member of your household are being tested for the COVID 19 virus that you contact Dr. Lackey, Mrs. Orlando, or myself through DOJO, email, or calling the school phone number as soon as possible.

WHAT NEXT

We are planning-planning-planning! We are planning the end of the year, summer, and for next year. We will continue to communicate those plans to you as they are developed.

Graduations for 8th grade and kindergarten are being finalized as well as a virtual celebration for GSRP. Those details will be coming out soon.

We are still accepting enrollment for next year. If you did not complete re-enrollment information and would like to, please contact the main office. WE MISS YOU!!! WE WANT TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!

Please click for the 2020-2021 school year enrollment form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuXujYEBq0snITi6jNjWFWHfKf6feJA2bPTgajFSeI3FYATA/viewform>

THANK YOU

As always, to each and every one of our Tiger family members, YOU ARE ENOUGH! YOU ARE SEEN! YOU ARE THOUGHT OF! YOU ARE IMPORTANT! AND YOU MATTER IN OUR LIVES!

We are in this together! Sending hugs and love to our entire Tiger family!

Thank you,



Mrs. Angela Gilbert
Superintendent, Tipton Academy

REMINDERS

DISTANCE LEARNING

The Governor's executive order requires that we continue providing learning as we have been. Please understand that participation in distance learning is not optional.

DIGITAL ACCESS

If you are struggling with access to equipment or Internet, it is imperative that you contact us right away. Please send a DOJO message or to Dr. Lackey at klackey@tipton-academy.org. Comcast is also making its Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots free for anyone to use. Millions of the hotspots are scattered throughout the country; you can find hotspot locations at wifi.xfinity.com.

TIME ON SCHOOLWORK

There have been many questions about how much time your child should be spending on schoolwork each day. This is new to all of us and as we work on meaningful teaching and learning we want it to be appropriate for all of our children. Here is the guide that we will be using at Tipton.

GSRP: Approximately 60 minutes per day.

K-2nd Grade: Approximately 90 minutes per day including all subjects. With an additional 15-30 minutes if needing additional services in MTSS, Special Education, or ELL.

3rd-5th Grade: Approximately 120 minutes per day including all subjects. With an additional 15-30 minutes if needing additional services in MTSS, Special Education, or ELL.

6th-8th Grade: *Approximately 150 minutes per day with 30 minutes per subject for 5 subjects.*

With an additional 15-30 minutes if needing additional services in MTSS, Special Education, or ELL.

Please remember, this is our guide for parents and teachers. Some days may be a little more while other days may be a little less, but this information will help all of us to plan our days.

SPECIAL EDUCATION, 504, ELL, Homelessness

Our team members that are providing these services and accommodations are working to provide support to those students that qualify in these areas. If you need additional assistance, please contact the following coordinators:

Special Education: Mrs. Heather Young, hyoung@tipton-academy.org

Section 504: Mrs. Karla Orlando, korlando@tipton-academy.org

English Language Learner: Mrs. Jessica Randles, jrandles@tipton-academy.org

Homelessness: Dr. Kyle Lackey, klackey@tipton-academy.org

STUDENT ITEMS AT SCHOOL

Our buildings are remaining closed at this time. If are in need of critical items that are at the school, please contact the school via phone, email, or DOJO.

MEAL SERVICE (Ends June 10th)

Any child 18 and under or special needs child 26 and under is eligible.

Monday: 3 Breakfast Meals, 3 Lunch Meals, 3 White Milks, 3 Chocolate Milks

Wednesday: 4 Breakfast Meals, 4 Lunch Meals, 4 White Milks, 4 Chocolate Milks

SUPPORT

Social and emotional support during this time is essential for all of us and especially our children. If your child needs additional support, please contact the following members:

School Social Worker: Mrs. Julie Redwine, jredwine@tipton-academy.org

Vice Principal: Mrs. Karla Orlando, korlando@tipton-academy.org

Principal: Dr. Kyle Lackey, klackey@tipton-academy.org

Superintendent: Mrs. Angela Gilbert, agilbert@tipton-academy.org

We'll be there for you...Watch our video to see our message to our Tiger families.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdjVvM9waws>