



TCA Announcements September 7, 2019

Upcoming Important Dates

- September 19 - PiP Meeting - 6:00 pm
- September 26 - Senior Parent Night
- September 26 - Listening Session 5:00 pm
- September 26 - Parent Curriculum Night - 6:30 pm
- September 27 - Early Release at 1:40 pm
- October 4 - Homecoming
- October 5 - Homecoming Dance



Dear TCA Families,

Welcome back! This year, the middle school will be replacing last year's lunch detention system with the FYI system. In order to help our

students stay focused, we will be addressing three distracting behaviors: misuse of technology, inappropriate language, and food/drink outside of the lunch room. As a middle school team, we believe that addressing these behaviors quickly and directly will increase the productivity of our students.

Students will receive an FYI notice if they are engaged in one of the three activities. After a student receives 3 FYI slips, that student will be assigned to lunch detention the following week. Parents/guardians will be notified when their student is assigned a lunch detention. Students may receive a different consequence depending on the severity of the behavior. We appreciate your support in helping our students be successful. It's going to be a great year!

Your Middle School Team



Dear parents:

Food Service reminders: We need a Free and Reduced meals application every year. Please apply if you know that you

qualify or if you are not sure whether you qualify. You can apply online through the portal or by turning in this application:

<http://twincitiesacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-20-English-Application-for-Educational-Benefits.pdf>

If you are having problems paying for meals online through the portal - there is a known problem with Internet Explorer. So please try a different browser. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ausen.

Uniform Update

This year, we will not have any used HS uniforms for students to use. If HS students are out of uniform, they will receive a consequence. We recommend each student keep a backup uniform in their locker. We will have limited amounts of used MS uniforms and also recommend that they keep a backup uniform in their locker. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Ms. Amundson.



Greetings Parents and Guardians!

As principal of Twin Cities Academy, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back to TCA for the 2019-2020 school year! As I walked around the hallways and through our classrooms this past week, I was filled with great joy to see students filled with delight, energy, and enthusiasm to be back in class and ready to learn. We are off to a great start at fulfilling our Mission!

Our Mission is to ensure that all students graduate with the skills to achieve in college, to contribute positively to society, and to be accepting of all people. At the same time, we want to challenge each and every student to the best of

their abilities and provide them with a rigorous college preparatory program.

At TCA, we have awesome teachers with great skills who spend countless hours preparing and making sure their classrooms are fun and exciting for students. Our teachers also devote an enormous amount of time designing researched-based lessons, using the results of our testing in math and reading to set growth goals and determine skills that will help our students be successful in college and help them achieve post-secondary dreams.

In our effort to keep families updated on school information and happenings, we will be communicating through this weekly parent newsletter in addition to posting information on our website and our Facebook page. Items such as our calendar of events, daily breakfast and lunch menus, stories about TCA students and teachers as well as other important information such as, dare I say, "School closing because of the cold" will be available.

I am honored to serve as principal of Twin Cities Academy and have the privilege of working with families that support engaging students in learning, giving back to their community and accepting all people. We look forward to working with you to make this our best year yet!

Warm regards,
Cliff Skagen

Feel free to contact me at cskagen@TwinCitiesAcademy.org or 651.205.4797



The TCA school board will be hosting listening sessions on September 26 from 5:00-5:45 (before Curriculum Night). The objective of these listening sessions is to get honest, constructive feedback from parents, students, community members, teachers, and staff on the school climate at TCA. Board members are looking to hear about the positive aspects of TCA's school culture as well as any suggestions for improvement. Please come share your experiences and observations!

Locations are as follows:

- Teacher board members will hear community/parent feedback in room 211
- Parent board members will hear teacher/staff feedback in room 213
- Community board members will hear student feedback in room 205
- Community board members will hear administrator feedback in the conference room

Please contact Elizabeth Neilson, TCA teacher and school board member, with any questions
eneilson@twincitiesacademy.org



SATURDAY SCHOOL IS MAKING A COME BACK!

Saturday School Details:

What is Saturday School?

It is a High School ONLY detention consequence. It is a quiet, study hall environment.

When is Saturday School held?

One Saturday a month from 9am-12pm – Specific monthly dates will be posted on the TCA Parent/Guardian Calendar found on our school website

Where is Saturday School held?

TCA's Cafeteria

How does one earn Saturday School Hours?

*As a part of our referral process

*First offense of Skipping Class – subsequent offenses of skipping class may result in suspension

*Uniform violations

What other things should I know about Saturday School?

*Families will always be notified by an Administrator or a Behavioral Staff when a student has been assigned Saturday School hours

*Students can receive up to 3 hours of Saturday School in a month

*The Saturday School system resets on a monthly basis (with the exception of Skipping Class)

*If a student does not attend their assigned Saturday School, they will receive additional consequences, including possible suspension

Volunteering



Parent Volunteer Opportunities

New this year, we will have an ongoing volunteer sign up link on sign up genius. This will hopefully streamline volunteering for families and will have the same link all year. It will also aid in tracking who is volunteering.

[Volunteer Opportunities – Sign Up Here](#)

We ask that each volunteer please fill out the TCA volunteer/engagement registration and guidelines form (first time only) below and have their ID ready when they check-in at the front office. Below is the link for the form. You can fill it out ahead of time or when you come in. Thank you for everything our volunteers do!

[TCA Volunteer/Engagement Registration Form and Guidelines](#)



This is an opportunity for TCA students to get 6 hours of volunteer time completed!

The District 1 Council is the city-designated "neighborhood organization" for the southeast community, and Twin Cities Academy sits within the district.

Each year, District 1 works with the City of St. Paul to host an eastside "Drop-off Day." The purpose of the event is to encourage residents to dispose of large items (furniture, appliances, mattresses, construction debris) appropriately. Otherwise, these things are found **dumped on the side of our roads, in our parks and in the parking lots of apartment complexes** - to name a few. This is a **big environmental issue**, and a costly one. Some of the items also contaminate our land and waterways.

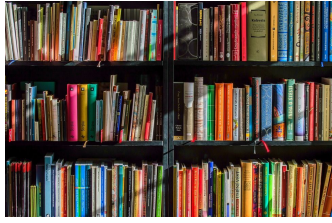
District 1 Council is looking for **volunteers to assist help out with our event**. The date is **Saturday, September 14** and is in the parking lot at Harding High School. The time is **7:15-1:30**, food and beverages are provided, and we'll have door prizes that the youth qualify for.

Students can also wear their school gear to promote the school.

They are looking for as many volunteers as possible, and welcome anyone who is interested. The volunteer work includes teamwork, physical activity and environmental awareness. This is a fabulous **community service opportunity**.

Kids 14 and younger need to be accompanied by an adult.

Please email District 1 Community Council Executive Director, Betsy Mowry Voss (district1council@gmail.com) to sign up.



The Library has been remodeled and it looks fantastic. If there are any parents who would like to volunteer, please email Idelesha@twincitiesacademy.org

Requested Donations

General School Supplies

- 3 inch binders with dividers
- Composition notebooks
- Pencils
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Loose leaf paper
- Sketchbooks
- Pencil Pouches (that fit in 3 ring binders)
- Sticky notes (such as Post-it or any generic brand)
- Glue sticks
- Handheld pencil sharpeners
- Colored pencils
- Dry erase markers (such as EXPO markers)

Food Shelf Donations Needed

- Breakfast cereal
- Granola bars
- Mac and cheese
- Easy to fix meals

Art Room

- Any type of paper (construction, drawing, decorative)
- Plastic bags
- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Large plastic containers (32 oz) yogurt/sour cream
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Erasers
- Paint brushes (any size)
- Any "crafty" supplies (glitter, sequins, greeting cards, envelopes, old jewelry)

Welcome to school year 2019-2020. We know that many of your students are excited, some of them are overwhelmed, and some of your children are “eh”. We look forward to reconnecting with your students whatever their school excitement level is. As we see so many students in the Health Office every day we have an ongoing need for the following donations:



Requested Donations

Tissues
Feminine hygiene products in all strengths and forms
Adhesive bandages (think Band-aids)
Athletic tape
Medical tape
Paper (please and thank you) Cups in 3 and 5 ounce sizes
Cotton medical gauze pads, 4 ply, between 3 and 4 inches square.

Additionally, for individual students, we recommend that you send them to school with lip balm (a frequent reason to visit the Health Office) and an additional uniform for their lockers in case of illness, spills, and the onset of menstruation. Please ensure that the uniforms to be stored in lockers meet TCA uniform guidelines, and will fit your student.

I know you have seen these document reminders often, but you can never have too much of a good thing, right? Please take the time to read the reminders below to ensure that your child is covered for the first day of school if they will need to utilize inhalers, epipens, ADHD meds and over the counter medications at school.

We greatly appreciate a new **Health Form** filled out at the beginning of each year. Your student has grown, and may require updated information at school.

If your student *needs medication* while at school, a **Medication Administration Form** needs to be signed by the parent or caregiver **AND** your pediatrician or family physician BEFORE we can legally administer over the counter or prescription medication to your child.

Students with asthma and anaphylactic allergies will need an **Asthma Action Plan** or an **Allergy Action Plan** from their pediatrician or physician to facilitate treatment. Please ensure the form is signed by the physician to enable us to provide the required medication.

Emergency medications *only* can be self-administered at school, with the signature of the parent **AND** the signature of your pediatrician/physician. This *does not* include Tylenol, cough drops, Excedrin, Midol, etc. Self-carry medications are usually inhalers and epinephrine injectors. Prior to the beginning of the year, I can email you a Medication Administration Form upon request. Throughout the year, your student can pick up a form in the Health Office, or you can continue to request a form via email. Your doctor can fax a note to TCA to state that your student can take the requested medication at school.

Forms can be snail mailed, emailed, faxed, or hand delivered to the TCA office between the hours of 8:15 am and 4:15 pm in August and throughout the school year. Physicians can fax allergy and asthma action plans directly to us from their office provided they have been updated within the last year.

Our meds are kept in a locked cabinet and only staff members can access the cabinet for the safety of our students. Please do not send medication to school with your child to keep in their locker or backpack. Occasionally we have students that are allergic to certain brands of ibuprofen or allergy medications, and we want to make sure that our students are taking their medications safely and meds are not being shared. Thank you for all you do for TCA. See you soon!

Arlene Seashore
TCA Health Assistant
Phone: 651-313-6571, Fax: 651-205-4799