



TCA Newsletter

Monday, December 13, 2021

Upcoming Events

December 14 - 6:00 pm FAFSA night (for seniors)

December 14 - Picture Retakes

December 16 - Band Concert at TCA

December 20-31 - Winter Break

January 3 - School Resumes

January 6 - Shadow Day

January 7 - 7pm HS Play - She Kills Monsters

January 8 - 2pm HS Play - She Kills Monsters

Dear TCA families,

It appears winter is here! As we prepare for the snowy weather, we will always do our best to keep school open. If it seems we need to close due to the weather, we will always do our best to communicate as early as possible when we have a change to our schedule due to weather. We will plan to email families, put on our website, Facebook, Instagram and have it on all the major local TV stations.

With one more week before the winter break, we are excited to say that although we have had some COVID cases reported to us, it appears that people have not been infected here at TCA. We know that the quarantining is difficult for students and families, but it is helping to keep COVID from spreading in our school. To avoid your student having to quarantine if in close contact, please consider being vaccinated. Many doctors, religious leaders, and other trusted professionals are agreeing that to be "done" with COVID, vaccines are the best solution, and boosters if it has been more than six months since your last shot. 16 and 17 year old students are now eligible for boosters. We know that there are breakthrough cases, but it appears that people with the vaccine and booster are very well protected from the Delta strain, and may only get very very mild symptoms (running nose) with Omicron.

Please wear masks in public places and wash hands. It takes a village to keep our school safe. We are also strongly encouraging all students to take a COVID test shortly before they return to school, just in case.

Be well!

Betsy

Early Release Day Updates - January 28th and February 25th

January 28th - TCA will be holding distance learning for all students on this day. All students will need their chrome books at home and will have an opportunity to meet individually with teachers for check ins and added support on Zoom calls. Instruction will end at the normal 1:20 time and teachers will then be in professional development in the afternoon.

February 25th - TCA will be holding distance learning for students in 6th, 7th, 11th and 12th on this day. All 8th, 9th and 10th graders will be in person to take the pre-ACT test.

Now Enrolling - Fall 2022

If you have a sibling that plans to attend TCA please make sure you have sent in an application. Applications can be found [HERE](#)

If you know of anyone considering a new school for next fall (or this year), please encourage them to contact the front office for a school tour, attend an information session, or schedule a shadow day. Upcoming enrollment events can be found [HERE](#)



The TCA Food Drive was a huge success!

A large amount of the food will be donated to families here at TCA in need and the rest will be donated to a local food shelf. Thank you for all of your contributions to our community.

Mr. Jones is the winner for the most food donated!!

Middle School Holiday Fun This Week

ENJOY A BREAKFAST WITH FRIENDS!

*Twin Cities
Academy MS*

Advisory Breakfast Bonanza

Before you enjoy your winter break, spend some time with friends over breakfast! Bring food for you and your advisory to enjoy!

DECEMBER 16, 2021 | 9:15 AM
690 BIRMINGHAM ST., ST. PAUL, MN, 55106



holiday sweater competition

CATEGORIES ARE...

- UGLIEST
- MOST LIKELY TO WORN BY GRANDMA OR GRANDPA
- BEST DIY
- MOST TACKY
- FUNNIEST
- MOST CHEERFUL
- SPARKLIEST/BRIGHTEST
- GLOOMIEST

December 17 | All day
690 Birmingham St, St. Paul

Get ready to get cozy!

FAFSA Info Night (for Seniors)

December 14 at 6:00

Ms. Sauer will be emailing more details to senior families.



Please see registration links below for available clinics for 5-11 year old vaccines. First come first serve registration!

- **Saturday DEC 18** at the Oxford Community Center in Saint Paul, 3-6pm:
Pediatric Vaccination Clinic: ages 5 through 11 only
Vaccine: Pfizer 5-11, **FIRST** and **SECOND** doses
Registration: <https://prepmod.health.state.mn.us//appointment/en/reg/5911680702>
- **Wednesday DEC 22** at the New Brighton Community Center in New Brighton, 3-6pm:
Vaccine: Pfizer 5+ **SECOND** and **BOOSTER** doses | Moderna: **BOOSTER** doses
<https://prepmod.health.state.mn.us//appointment/en/reg/6015129688>
- **Thursday DEC 23** at the Arlington Hills Community Center in Saint Paul, 3-6pm:
Vaccine: Pfizer 5+ **SECOND** and **BOOSTER** doses | Moderna: **BOOSTER** doses
<https://prepmod.health.state.mn.us//appointment/en/reg/8962156580>





The state of MN has approved Distance Learning Driver's Education into 2022. Students who will be 15 by Oct 2022 can take the classroom portion of Driver's Ed from their own home. For session dates and times, go to aplusdrivingschool.net. There is a session available over Winter Break, this would be a great time to take that class. (There are other driving schools with distance learning options, APlus is the company TCA uses for on site classes once they become available.)



Picture Retakes

If you didn't order school pictures yet, there is still time. Picture retake day is Tuesday December 14. It is easy to place an order online, see attached for details. If you are placing a new order, please reply to this email with your child's name so we schedule a time slot for your student(s).

Retakes are scheduled by appointment. If you purchased a package and want a retake please reply back so we schedule an appointment for your child. Students getting retakes must return their purchased picture package to the photographer.

Students who were absent on picture day already have an appointment scheduled for them on Tuesday.

To order pictures go to My Lifetouch. TCA's Picture Day ID is EVTmZDRQ2.

Want Lifetouch to retake your picture? Simply return your picture package to the photographer.

We Need Your Help - Substitute Teaching Opportunities Today!

Have you ever wanted to try teaching? TCA is looking for short term substitute teachers. If you or someone you know has a four year college degree and would like a flexible temporary job, TCA is looking for substitute teachers! We pay \$200-250 per day. Email Betsy Lueth at blueth@twincitiesacademy.org or Sarah Ancel at sancel@twincitiesacademy.org for more information about possibilities!

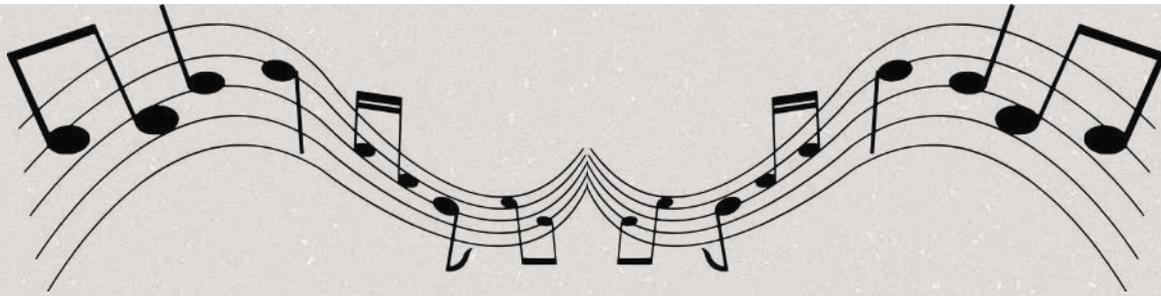
Keep Our Students and Staff Safe from COVID-19

We are working very hard to keep everyone safe and in school. With the new variant Omicron now in Minnesota, and Minnesota being a "hot spot" for Delta, we are seeing that people who have received the vaccine and the booster have been protected (at least from Delta). We strongly encourage vaccines for everyone to help us keep TCA safe. If you have questions about vaccines or where to get a vaccine, please email or call Arlene Seashore in our health office for more information.

Along with vaccines, masking is very important. Students and staff must properly wear masks at all times, except when eating. Masks must be worn over the mouth and nose to be effective at keeping everyone safe, especially students or staff who are not yet vaccinated. Please talk to your student about the importance of this.

Lastly, we continue to have a state of art ventilation system that is filtering the air every 30 seconds from any virus. This and nightly sanitizing keeps the school very clean.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our students and school community safe and healthy. So far, TCA has had no spread of COVID inside the school, and we hope to keep it that way! Be safe and well!



Join the TCA Bands and Orchestra for an exciting night of music on Thursday, December 16th. This is a free event! Vaccine card or negative COVID test will be required upon entry. In order to reduce the amount of people in the crowd, audience members are encouraged to only stay for the half their student is participating in. The event will also be livestreamed on TCA's Facebook page!

The order of the night will be as follows:

Beginning Band: 6:00
Symphonic Band: 6:15
Intermission: 6:40-7:10
Orchestra: 7:10
Jazz Band: 7:30
Concert Band: 7:40

Hope to see you there, or on the Stream!

High School Yearbook Details

01.21.22 | Seniors: submit your senior photo & quote! All senior photos and quotes **MUST** be submitted by this date. You can e-mail these to eneilson@twincitiesacademy.org. Watch for a Google Form in Schoology later this month for a place to submit senior quotes.

03.01.22 | Want your book personalized? Order it by this date! No books can be personalized after this date.

May, TBD | Distribution. Yearbooks usually arrive in the last few weeks of May.

We are only printing 100 books this year, so make sure to order yours right away to ensure you get one! If you have questions about the high school yearbook, please direct them to high school yearbook advisor Ms. Neilson at eneilson@twincitiesacademy.org. (If you need information on the middle school yearbook for a younger sibling please contact Ms. Gibson at kgibson@twincitiesacademy.org)



Any middle school students interested in winter indoor soccer/futsal, please go to Conway Rec Center every Friday throughout the winter, starting Friday, December 10, from 6:30-8:30 for free futsal time.

**library
go...**



Get started at
LibraryGo.org

TWIN CITIES
ACADEMY

BARCODE

2209190200 + ID Number (4 digits)

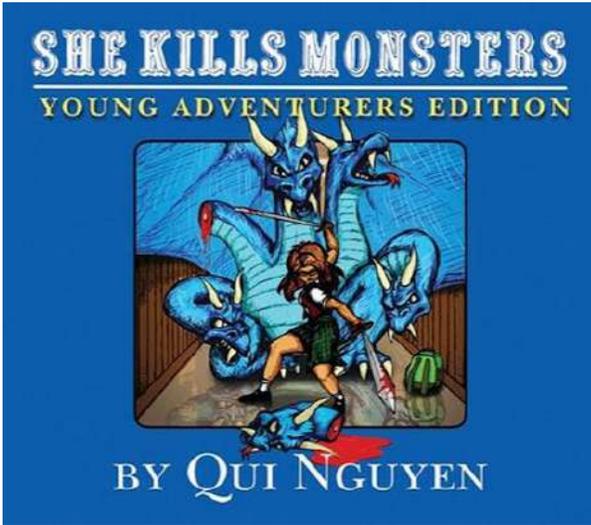
PIN

Your birthday (MMDDYYYY)

Each TCA student has a Library Go card. This is a "virtual Library card" with access to databases, books, magazines and more. There are no overdue fines!

<https://sppl.org/library-go/>

TCA Winter Play



She Kills Monsters (Young Adventurers' Edition) by Qui Nguyen

January 7th & 8th

Tickets are \$5 or pay what you can!

TCA Gym

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Our outdoor food pantry is in need of the following winter proof items. We appreciate any and all donations!!

Cereal

Cereal bars

Boxed instant dinners

Facial tissue (ie: Kleenex)

We are limited to items that can survive the outdoors! In other words, no cans!

Thank you!

Nurses Nook

A big THANK YOU to the wonderful family that donated the blankets. It was very thoughtful of you.

We are currently experiencing a greater than normal amount of bloody noses due to furnace use causing drier air. If anyone in your household experiences this issue, one solution is to apply a light coat of petroleum jelly to the insides of your nostrils with a cotton swab. It's just like using hand lotion to prevent your skin from cracking on your hands. If we can keep nostrils moisturized, we can reduce the number of bloody noses. A win all the way 'round!

A few things that we could use in the Health Office:

- Self Adhesive Athletic Wrap
- Reusable Ice Packs
- Menstrual Care Products - Super and Super Plus strengths

Covid Corner

As the Health Aide at TCA I make every effort to contact our families when students are identified as close contacts at school. At this time, knock on wood, we continue to not have spread through classmates, because our families are doing such a great job of helping us out and keeping students home when they are quarantined. If your student is vaccinated, and is a close contact we will email you that information. Please watch for TCA HEALTH OFFICE - HEALTH NOTIFICATION in the subject line. It is still important to test your vaccinated students 5 - 7 days from their contact date (this is a recent change from MDH), to ensure that we don't have any silent carriers in school. The best test for this would be the PCR test that is performed at the MN Community Testing sites. The airport and Roy Wilkins Auditorium have walk-in testing (although you might have to wait a little longer to get in) and free parking.

Below is the link for the website where you can make an appointment:

<https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/testing-locations/community-testing.jsp>

In Covid vaccine news, the Governor has stated that if we can get boosters into the 16-17 year old population, that will increase the likelihood that schools can stay open. To see Covid vaccine information, follow the link below.

<https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/vaxforkids/index.jsp>



Tiger Families,

After speaking with our administration, to try to utilize our space as best as possible, while considering Covid-19 prevention, we have decided to adopt a pre-registration procedure for all TCA home games.

Going forward, after talks with multiple neighboring schools on how they are handling the concerning rise in COVID numbers, we are going to allow each student-athlete and coach on each respective basketball/cheer roster two (2) guest passes for each of their respective home games (i.e. For a girls game, each girl will get two (2) passes, vis versa for boys home games).

The student-athlete or family member will have to email me at vvondracek@twincitiesacademy.org by noon of each game day in order to be put on the pass list for that game day.

Thank you for your understanding!

This will be the only way you will be allowed into the game, also providing proof of full vaccination and/or a negative test result 3 days prior to the game day. If you are not on the list, you will not be allowed into the facility, this is a zero tolerance policy.