



# TCA Newsletter

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

## BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS

**AUGUST 29**

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORIENTATION ([RSVP HERE](#))

1:30 – 4:00 PM

**AUGUST 31**

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORIENTATION ([RSVP HERE](#))

9:00 – 11:30 AM

**SEPTEMBER 1**

HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION ([RSVP HERE](#))

1:00 – 4:00 PM

**SEPTEMBER 1**

BACK TO SCHOOL MEET & GREET

5:00 – 7:00 PM

**SEPTEMBER 6**

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



## **Back to School Meet & Greet**

Thursday September 1st

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an event to meet teachers and staff, see old friends and meet some new friends, ask questions, and grab some food from Youniverse Foodie! Check them out at <https://youniversefoodie.com/>

Middle School Teachers 5:00-5:30

High School Teachers 5:30-6:00

Middle School Teachers 6:00-6:30

High School Teachers 6:30-7:00

Teachers will be available to meet in their classrooms (see the schedule above) as well as outside to play some games!

Uniforms will be available for sale  
Information about food service,  
transportation  
sports, and health services will also be available.

We will have a barber offering free haircuts.  
Therapy dog, Bohdi will be here to meet families!

We hope to see you there!

August 2022

Welcome Back TCA families!

I hope everyone is still enjoying their summers. We are thankful here at TCA for having a very “uneventful” summer, and are excited about an even more “normal” school year, including bringing back school dances and in person family events! Kicking off the family fun, TCA will be hosting food and fun outside and meeting teachers inside with the Back to School Meet and Greet on September 1st (Thursday) at 5 p.m. Uniforms can also be purchased at this event.

We understand that COVID is still a part of our daily lives, but we are thankful that we have found ways to manage it. By following our COVID Safe Learning Plan (enclosed), we can be together and enjoy the fun part of school alongside the most important business of learning.

Over the last couple of years we have been tested and challenged in so many ways, and at the same time we have learned and reflected on how to “do school” differently. Changing our ways to what seems to work better for the students and families we serve. We are continuing to have our uniform policy for example, but have worked to simplify and give more choice. Students can wear any TCA top (including athletic shirts, spirit wear shirts, or uniform shirts - just so long it has an official TCA logo on it) and any type of pants as long as they are solid gray, black, tan or navy blue. Easy and allows for choice, yet still honors our history and mission of a college preparatory school by adapting to the needs for comfort our students had during distance learning (sweatpants are ok if they are one of the solid colors above). We also are keeping block scheduling, students and teachers report that having longer periods and less transitions in the day are the way to go. Teachers and students can get into deeper learning in a longer period (90 mins) and less transitions reduces the craziness of feeling like you are “running” from here to there.

We learned a lot and we continue to learn how to best serve our community of scholars and families. If you have ideas or want to volunteer your time, we are always looking for help. Please just email me, I would love to hear from you. Email me at [blueth@twincitiesacademy.org](mailto:blueth@twincitiesacademy.org)

Be well,  
Betsy Lueth  
Executive Director

I hope that your summers are going very well, that you have had time for rest and relaxation! We are looking forward to having all of your students back in the building this fall for our 22-23 school year!

One BRAND NEW policy that we want to make sure all families are aware of is our new school wide practice around cell phones. Cell phones have become extremely problematic in schools, distracting students from their important learning. Cell phones are disruptive to the classroom environment, they are addicting to students, and they can be a barrier to interpersonal communication and relationships. With TCAs one-to-one chrome books for students, phones are not necessary for their success in school.

Because of all of this, we are shifting to an environment where cellphones are not allowed in classrooms. Students are to leave them at home or in their lockers - if they must come to school, they must be off and stored away during class. If a family member needs to communicate with their student during the school day, we ask that you call the front office and we will connect you with your student. Teachers will be given a sequence of interventions to use with students who struggle to follow this policy and, if the behavior continues, the student will receive an office referral. Families will be communicated with regarding any issues their student may have following the expectations around cell phones. More information can be found regarding this new policy in our Family Agreement packet.

I also wanted to let you know some of the things that we are continuing to focus on in the upcoming school year. PBIS, (positive behavior interventions and supports), will continue to be rolled out this year. This will be our second year working within a cohort model through the Minnesota Department of Education who coaches and mentors us on the implementation and fidelity monitoring of the program. PBIS offers consistent structure within classrooms and the greater school community, as well as data collection and review to ensure equitable practices and enhance academic and behavioral outcomes for all students. Our staff team is led by our Dean of Students, Karissa Gibson, and consists of teachers, paraprofessionals, social workers and behavior staff. PBIS is grounded in research-based practices and focuses on teaching expectations and social skills to students, much like we do academics.

Additionally, we will be focused on the continued implementation of AVID, a college and career readiness program focused on closing opportunity gaps and ensuring that ALL students are prepared for their path after high school. We have an AVID elective elective course in each grade level 6-12, AVID strategies being used in all classrooms, and last year we celebrated our first AVID graduating seniors! We are looking forward to continuing our journey towards being an AVID school!

Other focuses for the year include cultural responsiveness and equitable practices within all classrooms, and the continued collaboration of our department teams as they work together on supporting our students' academic and behavioral needs, encouraging them towards meeting their goals for the year!

Again, we are very much looking forward to the new school year! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns, or just to say hi!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Erin Amundson  
Principal



**Any middle school student interested in playing baseball is encouraged to participate in our second annual fall baseball clinic.**

**The camp will be three Saturdays from 1:00-2:30pm.  
September 17, September 24, and October 1.**



**Registration details are still being finalized, but please reach out to Coach Lindholm ([slindholm@twincitiesacademy.org](mailto:slindholm@twincitiesacademy.org)) if you are interested.**

## **Middle School Soccer After School**

**An after school program to exercise, meet new friends, have fun, and play soccer!**

**For: Boys and Girls Grades 3-8 interested in playing soccer**

**When: Fall 2022 (September 6-October 19)**

**Time: 3:00-5:30 pm every school day (yes, you can show up after school)**

**Where: Conway Center Turf, Dome**

**What: Free Play Games - 2v2, 5v5, 7v7 and other small-sided games.**

**International Small-Sided Games Curriculum**

**Cost: FREE**

**Reach out to our new middle school athletic director, Brian Ford, with questions and to help us know who to expect.**

**[bford@twincitiesacademy.org](mailto:bford@twincitiesacademy.org)**



# THE JK MOVEMENT BACK TO SCHOOL ICE CREAM SOCIAL



**COME JOIN US!**

**AUGUST 27TH, 2022 | 1PM - 5PM**

**THE JK MOVEMENT CENTER | 1063 IGLEHART AVE ST. PAUL, MN 55104**

**DONATE ON OUR WEBSITE [WWW.THEJKM.ORG](http://WWW.THEJKM.ORG)**



**Frogtown Neighborhood Association (FNA)**

# **Feeding Frogtown**



*Shopping Set-up at  
Food Distributions*

**Hours: 3pm-6pm**





**W. Minnehaha  
recreational center**

**685 W Minnehaha Ave,  
St Paul, MN 55104**

**FRIDAY!!!!  
2nd & 4th of  
every month**



**Upcoming  
2022  
Dates**

 SEPTEMBER 2	3-6PM
 September 16	3-6pm
 SEPTEMBER 30	3-6PM
 October 14	3-6pm

<http://www.frogtownmn.org/feedingfrogtown>



**TALK TO US/ INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING**

***ctdFNA@gmail.com***

***651.236.8699 FNA voicemail***