

S U M M E R 2 0 2 2



TERRILL TIDINGS

TERRILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Kevin Holloway, *Principal*

Mr. Ralph Gerace, *Asst. Principal*

908-322-5215

WELCOME BACK!

It's difficult to believe that the summer is coming to a rapid end. In a short while, the halls of Terrill will ring with the sounds of laughter, excitement, and a thirst for knowledge. **Schedules for students in grades 6 - 8 will be available via PowerSchool at 3:00 P.M. on August 30, 2022. You will only have access to the forms and SwiftK12 messages on the portal until this date.**

This year, we welcome 208 new fifth graders to Terrill, as well as additional new students in grades 6-8.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new staff members:

Ms. Sara Aitken	5 th Grade (Leave Replacement)
Ms. Lisa Director	Writing Workshop
Ms. Jennifer Hunt	Special Education
Ms. Kayla Khaled	Spanish
Ms. Amanda Leyden	Math Expo
Mr. Andrew Parvin	7 th Grade Social Studies
Mrs. Denise Power	Classroom Aide
Ms. Thalia Ramirez	School Nurse
Ms Emily Rose	7 th Grade Science
Mr. Christopher Sari	Math Expo
Ms. Cynthia Treiber	Digital Arts

Additionally, in this edition of **The Terrill Tidings**, we will detail important information pertaining to the first days of school. Once again, your child has the good fortune of receiving his/her schedule before the first day of school. Be sure to read the section entitled "Navigating Your Schedule" carefully with your child. This will help to ensure that the schedule you receive is accurate. This section also details important steps to follow if you have any questions or concerns about the schedule. **Please be reminded that the only schedule changes we will honor are those directly related to data entry errors.**

Concerns related to schedules must be emailed to tmsschedulechanges@spfk12.org. Please do not send concerns to other email addresses. It will only delay the response to the concern.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at (908) 322-5215.

We look forward to a wonderful and successful school year.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kevin Holloway, Principal
Mr. Ralph Gerace, Assistant Principal



SCHOOL HOURS

SCHOOL OPENS FOR STUDENTS
8:00 A.M.

INSTRUCTION BEGINS
8:10 A.M.

INSTRUCTION ENDS
2:42 P.M.

SAVE THE DATE:

**Aug. 31st - 5th Grade
Orientation 1:30-2:30 P.M.**

**Aug. 31st - 6th Grade
Walkthrough 3:00-4:30 P.M.
All students must be
accompanied by an adult.**

Sept. 7th - First Day - Full Day

**Sept. 8th - New Parent
Orientation 6:30 P.M.
*This event is for those families
that are new to the community***

**Sept. 20th - 5th Grade Welcome
Picnic - 6:00 P.M.**





IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS / PARENTS

Eighth grade is a special time at Terrill Middle School. This milestone marks the end of your middle school years. As an eighth grader, you are well aware of the behavioral and academic expectations at Terrill. Although the expectations are high, we are confident that you can achieve the expectations and demonstrate success if you make wise choices.

To celebrate the conclusion of your middle school experience, toward the end of the school year, several exciting activities will be planned for you. However, to participate in any of these activities, it is important that you consistently demonstrate and model the behaviors that are expected of you. **Therefore, in keeping with our practice, any eighth grader not in good academic standing (an average in any course of D or lower) or any eighth grader receiving an in-school or out-of-school suspension will forfeit her or his privilege to attend the end of year eighth grade trip.** Similarly, subsequent in-school or out-of-school suspensions will result in loss of privilege to attend the end-of-year 8th Grade Party and Recognition Night, in that order.

Again, we are confident that each eighth grader will make wise choices and embrace all the wonderful experiences their eighth grade year holds for them.

PICK-UP & DROP-OFF

Please note that the Terrill driveway is not open to public traffic during morning drop - off and afternoon pick up, with the exception of staff members and school buses. Students that are transported to and from school by parents or guardians should be dropped off and picked up in the Evangel Church parking lot, which is next to the school, or along Terrill Road.

When pulling up to the curb along Terrill Road, **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE COURTEOUS TO OTHER FAMILIES.** We kindly ask that all vehicles move up as far as possible toward the fire hydrant to make as much room as possible for other vehicles. Please let students out and proceed to make room for other families bringing students to school. Please do not let students out of vehicles that are waiting in active traffic, and if you need to park, please do so in the Evangel Church parking lot. When parking at the Evangel Church, please do not park under covered area.

Additionally, when visiting Terrill, please remember that numbered parking spaces are reserved for staff only. Please use the parking spaces designated with a "visitor"

BUS STUDENTS

Bus transportation will begin on Wednesday, September 7th. Buses will use the designated pick-up / drop-off zone in the Terrill parking lot. **In the afternoon, bus students should proceed to the auditorium until their bus number is announced.** Please note that the Transportation Office located at the Board of Education issues bus assignments. Please direct questions relating to bussing to that office at 908-232-6161 ext. 41309.

LUNCH

The cafeteria is a cashless environment. Students must have sufficient funds in their lunch account in order to purchase lunch.

For your convenience, the district has a secure internet-based payment system: Payschools. This allows you the option of depositing funds for your child's Cafeteria Account on-line via credit card or e-check. The website for access to this system is payschoolscentral.com This website can also be accessed through the District's homepage.



SAFETY & SECURITY

BICYCLE SAFETY

Students are permitted to ride bicycles to school. Students who ride bicycles to school must walk bicycles while on school grounds and are reminded that if the bicycle has only one seat that means that only one student should be riding the bicycle. In addition, students with bicycles must secure them in the racks with their own locks. PLEASE NOTE, THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR BICYCLES THAT ARE STOLEN. More importantly, those students who ride bicycles to school are reminded that New Jersey State Law dictates that individuals sixteen years of age and younger are required to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Students should store bicycle helmets in their book lockers when they enter school. **IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH STUDENTS ARE PERMITTED TO RIDE BICYCLES TO SCHOOL, STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO RIDE SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER BLADES, HEELEZ, OR SCOOTERS TO SCHOOL FOR SAFETY REASONS AND STORAGE LIMITATIONS.**

SCHOOL VISITATION

It is important to note that for reasons of safety and security, access into the building is through the main office. ALL visitors MUST register in the main office. Additionally, any items that have been forgotten at home and are brought to school after the start of the school day, must be placed in the DROP OFF box at the main entrance. It is important that your child checks the FORGOTTEN ITEMS/DROP OFF table outside the main office for any items forgotten at home. We **will not interrupt** the classroom for any forgotten items.

When visiting Terrill, please use the parking spaces reserved for visitors which are spaces 2 through 6. Do not park in the numbered spaces.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

FIFTH GRADE- Upon arrival, all fifth graders will lineup at the side of the building near the Evangel Church and proceed to the main cafeteria at 8:00 A.M. **The fifth grade teachers will meet their class in this location.**

SIXTH GRADE - Upon arrival, all sixth grade students will line up at the side entrance near the Evangel Church and at 8:00 A.M. Students will proceed to their lockers. **On the first day of school, upon entering the building, the 6th graders will report to the auditorium.**

SEVENTH GRADE- Upon arrival, all seventh grade students will line up by the auditorium entrance. At 8:00 A.M., 7th graders will proceed to their lockers. **On the first day of school, upon entering the building, the 7th graders will report to the multi-purpose room**

EIGHTH GRADE - Upon arrival, all eighth grade students will line up by the main entrance. At 8:00 A.M., 8th graders will proceed to their lockers. **On the first day of school, upon entering the building, the 8th graders will report to the main gym.**



SAFETY & SECURITY *cont...*

FIRE DRILLS

New Jersey State Law requires schools to conduct one fire drill per month. Posted in every classroom are the fire drill procedures, as well as a map of fire drill escape routes. During a fire drill, students should walk quickly, silently, and in a single file line from the classroom. STUDENTS, WHO ARE NOT WITH THEIR REGULAR CLASS WHEN THE FIRE ALARM SOUNDS, SHOULD REPORT TO THE NEAREST STAFF MEMBER AND GIVE HIS/HER NAME TO THAT INDIVIDUAL FOR ATTENDANCE AND SECURITY



STUDENT ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE

Regular attendance is a prerequisite for success in school. New Jersey State Law requires that students attend school regularly, and that it is the parents' responsibility to see that their children attend school on the days/hours that the public schools are in session in the district (N.J.S.A. 18A: 38-25,26). In order to facilitate students' chances for success, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools will work cooperatively with parents to assure that students attend school daily. If a student is absent or tardy, a parent or guardian should call the attendance line (908) 322-5215 Prompt 1 to inform the school prior to 8:00 A.M. on the day of the absence. **The absentee line is available 24 hours a day. Those students not in attendance on any given school day may neither participate, nor attend any extracurricular activities, which occur that day.** As a reminder, students returning to school from an absence are required to submit a note to the counseling office within two days of their return. If a note is not provided, the absence will be noted as unexcused.

SECURITY DRILLS

On July 14, 2010, the New Jersey Department of Education issued guidance on recently enacted legislation, which requires schools to conduct one security drill monthly, beginning November 1, 2010. The new security drill requirement will inform Terrill Middle School's procedures for responding to emergencies.

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATE / SCHEDULING INFORMATION

NAVIGATING YOUR SCHEDULE

GRADE 6

The following courses will meet five days a week: language arts, writing workshop, mathematics, science, social studies, and physical education.

6- DAY CYCLE COURSES

World Language (French, Italian or Spanish)

Math Explorations

S.T.A.R.

Art – 1 Semester

Music – 1 Semester

Band or Chorus – 2 days in a 6-Day Cycle from physical education

GRADE 7

The following courses will meet five days a week: language arts, writing workshop, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and world language (French, Italian, or Spanish) or reading decoding.

6-DAY CYCLE COURSES

Math Explorations – (3 days in a 6-Day Cycle)

Digital Arts– 1 Semester (3 days in a 6-Day Cycle)

S.T.A.R – 1 Semester (3 days in a 6-Day Cycle)

Band or Chorus – 2 days in a 6-Day Cycle from physical education

GRADE 8

The following courses will meet five days a week: language arts, writing workshop, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and world language (French, Italian, or Spanish) or reading decoding.

6-DAY CYCLE COURSES

Math Explorations – (3 Days in a 6-Day Cycle)

Art – 1 Semester (3 Days in a 6-Day Cycle)

S.T.A.R – 1 Semester (3 Days in a 6-Day Cycle)

Band or Chorus – 2 days in a 6-Day Cycle from physical education

MATH EXPLORATIONS GRADES 6-8

Students' understanding of foundational algebraic and geometric ideas is broadened through exploratory and inquiry-based learning activities. They will explore various themes such as global awareness, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, science, and engineering.

Through thematic and interdisciplinary units focused on real-life scenarios, students will construct visual representations to

demonstrate their understanding of mathematics and its relevance to their world. The use of technology as a tool is emphasized as well as the students' ability to make sense of a problem, reason and construct viable arguments, and use modeling.



Students continue to study multiple math strands such as:

- Numerical Operations, use of variables, expressions, and equations, interpreting and modeling data measurements, geometry, and probability.

LOCKS FOR LOCKERS

(GRADES 6 - 8)

All students in grades 6 - 8 will be provided a lock for their book locker. The locks are the property of the district. Should a student lose or damage their lock, the student will be responsible for the replacement of the lock.

MIDDLE SCHOOL **S.T.A.R. PROGRAM** **(STUDENTS TAKING ACADEMIC** **RESPONSIBILITY)**

The purpose of the S.T.A.R. program is to offer students enrichment opportunities and academic support while simultaneously providing students and teachers with a structure in which to forge close relationships.

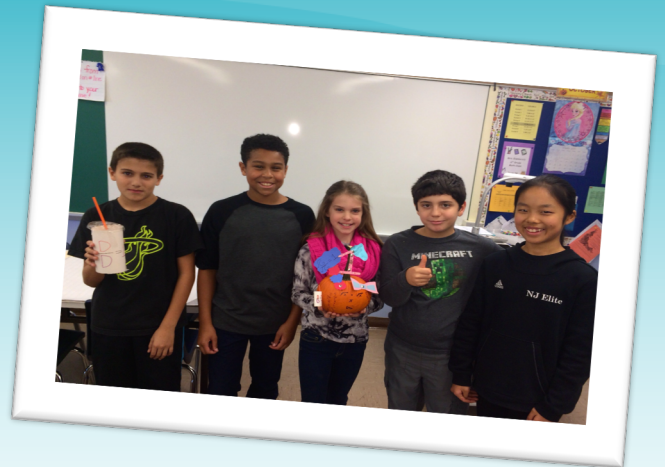
TEAM BUILDING (All Grades)

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will periodically participate in various teambuilding activities. The activities are structured so that students collaborate, problem-solve, exercise interpersonal skills, establish trust, demonstrate respect for others, and strengthen relationships with their teachers and peers. At times, the teambuilding activities may include groups of students from all grade levels working together toward a common goal.

GRADE 6 (Full Year)

Students will participate in activities focused on learning strategies, study skills, organizational skills, and creativity. Additionally, all sixth graders will explore topics related to character education by reacting to typical adolescent situations. These topics include, but are not limited to: trustworthiness, caring, respect, citizenship, fairness, and responsibility.

During the sixth grade year, students will also have the opportunity to read independently and receive academic support from the teachers. The goal is to provide meaningful time during the school day whereby teachers are able to give additional academic support to all students.



GRADE 7 (One Semester)

Students will participate in character education, as well as expanded study/ organizational skills activities. These activities offer students a valuable personal connection between making decisions and problem solving. Through this journey, students will explore character education topics such as growing up, dealing with peer pressure, respecting others, drug and alcohol awareness, and preventing conflicts.

Additionally, students will have the opportunity to have an Independent Development Day. This day will provide time for students to organize, complete work, and study under the guidance of a teacher.

GRADE 8 (One Semester)

Students will participate in NJ CAN (New Jersey Career Assistance Navigator). This activity offers students a valuable personal connection between learning and life goals. Students will explore dreams and goals for their life's pursuits. Students will examine choices they must make in order to have a successful path into and during high school and beyond. Through this journey, students will engage in a series of activities such as online interest surveys. Additionally, students will explore character development through the use of movies. Through interactive activities and short video clips, students will work collaboratively in exploring various character education themes. Additionally, teachers will be available to the students to provide academic support.

Finally, students will have the opportunity to have an Independent Development Day. This day will provide time for students to organize, complete work, and study with the facilitation of a teacher.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

In September, a form for activities will be distributed to students. The form will include a general description of the activities, the meeting dates, locations, and names of advisors. To participate in an activity, your child will be required to submit a permission slip. Activities will take place from 2:45 P.M. - 3:30 P.M., with the exception of Jazz Band and Student Council which meet before school. Finally, a late bus will be available for those students which use district transportation.

Activities include:

- Art Club-Grades 6-8
- Film/Media Production-Grades 7-8
- Homework Club-Grades 5-8
- Intramurals (Fall Only)-Grades 6-8
- Jazz Band-Grades 7-8
- Model UN/Debate Club-Grades 6-8
- Musical-Grades 6-8
- PALS-Grade 8
- Robotics Club-Grade 7
- School Newspaper-Grades 5-8
- Student Council-Grades 5-8
- Yearbook-Grades 7-8



Important Attendance Update

Dear Middle School Families,

The NJ Department of Education has recently updated its guidance regarding school attendance. Specifically, the NJ DOE has removed half days as a coding option for students. To that end, students must be present for three hours and eight minutes in order for their attendance to be coded as present. Any time for which a student is in school for **less than** three hours and two minutes, their attendance will be coded as an absence. **Please know that time allocated for lunch (27 minutes) does not count toward the required three hours and two minutes.**

As attendance is a key factor in our students' academic and socio-emotional success, I thank you in advance for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Dear 5th Grade Families

The NJ Department of Education has recently updated its guidance regarding school attendance. Specifically, the NJ DOE has removed half days as a coding option for students. To that end, students must be present for three hours and two minutes in order for their attendance to be coded as present. Any time for which a student is in school for **less than** two hours and forty-five minutes, their attendance will be coded as an absence.. **Please know that time allocated for lunch and recess (1 hour), does not count toward the required two hours and forty-five minutes.**

As attendance is a key factor in our students' academic and socio-emotional success, I thank you in advance for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

SINGLE SESSION DAYS, EMERGENCY CLOSINGS, DELAYED OPENINGS, AND EARLY DISMISSAL

The **regular full** day of schedule begins at 8:10 A.M. and ends at 2:42 P.M. Each day the students follow their classroom schedule and have the opportunity to participate in recess (5th grade) and eat lunch.

On **single session** days, students attend school from 8:10 A.M. to 12:20 P.M. Students follow a modified schedule on single session days, and lunch is not served.

In the event of a **delayed opening**, Terrill Middle School will open at 9:30 A.M. and lunch will be served. Those students who are bused to school should arrive at their bus stops exactly one and one-half hours later than their regular pickup time. At approximately 9:30 A.M., students may enter the building. Fifth grade students will wait in the cafeteria for their classroom teacher. Their teacher will then escort their class to their lockers. From there, the students will proceed with their scheduled day.

For information pertaining to emergency school closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals, parents and students should listen to the following radio station: **101.5 FM or TV channels WABC (7), WNBC (4) or WCBS (2)**. In addition, our own **TV Channel 34** and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools website, <http://www.spfk12.org>, includes current information regarding this type of event.

PTA NEWS

The PTA welcomes you to a new school year at Terrill Middle School! PTA communications are sent electronically, so please make sure we have your email address. Forms and information can be found on the school website www.spf12.org/terrill under the Community tab. Help us reach our goal of 100% family membership as this money helps the PTA fund events and programming for our children. We already have an exciting year planned!

PTA Meetings are held in Terrill's Media Center on the following dates and times.

Monday, September 19 at 7:30 pm
Monday, December 5 at 7:30 pm
Monday, February 27 at 7:30 pm
Monday, April 17 at 7:30 pm
Monday, June 12 at 7:30 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!

I look forward to seeing you at meetings and events.

Elise Hynes
PTA President
email: elise.terrillpta@gmail.com