

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN



Where Excellence Is Achieved Through Each Individual's Success



**Equity
over
Equality**

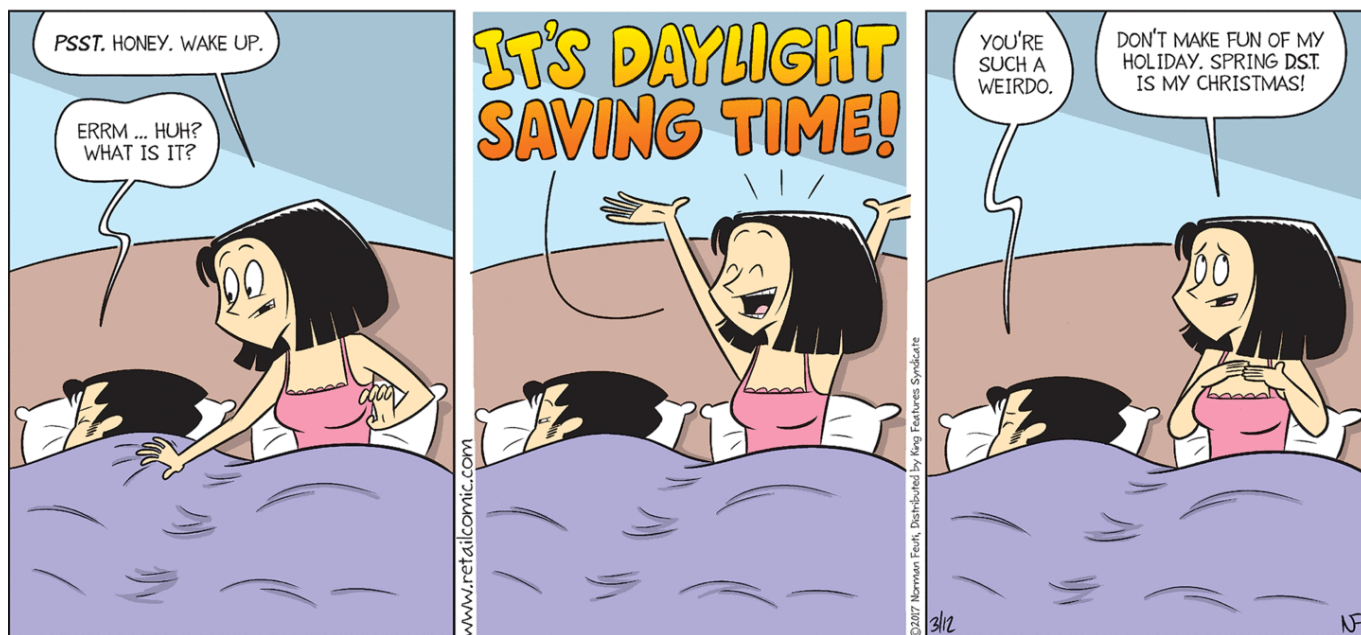


**Stimulate and Support
over
Rank and Sort**



**Transformative Practice
over
Tradition**

Here for you 860-335-2455



UPDATE FOR 3/12/2018

JUMP TO SCHOOL UPDATES:

Please **CLICK BELOW** to get the **DIGITAL BACKPACK** information for the listed school:

- [BG](#)
- [TIS](#)
- [TMS](#)
- [THS](#)

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Feature Link (click a link to jump to a section)	Description
<u>Superintendent's Weekly Message/Feature</u>	This is the weekly message from the Superintendent. It is usually around some topic related to education and/or the school system.
<u>Breakfast with the Superintendent Dates/Times/Information</u>	This section provides information about the upcoming Superintendent's Breakfast. These are open meetings with no agenda in which the public is invited to come ask questions, and engage in conversation, about educationally relevant topics.
<u>Budget Blurb & Budget Information</u>	This section provides links and information with regard to the budget of the Tolland Public Schools.
<u>Community Learning Workshops</u>	This section provides information about upcoming workshops for the community.
<u>How to Contact the Superintendent</u>	This section provides information on the ways to communicate with the Superintendent based on urgency/level of importance.
<u>Job Postings</u>	This is a listing of jobs available at this time for the district.
<u>Links and Other Information</u>	These are links provided from community members as well as links that may provide meaningful information.
<u>Mastery Learning</u>	This section has a brief synopsis of the Mastery Learning philosophy and plan for the district.
<u>Power School and Unified Classroom</u>	This section provides information to guardians and parents about how to access important resources for reviewing their child's grading, scheduling, attendance, and other information.
<u>Social Media Connections and Links</u>	This section provides information on the district social media sites.
<u>Volunteering Information</u>	This section provides information on how to Volunteer in the Tolland Public Schools.
<u>Other Information</u>	Other information submitted by school or community members.

Superintendent Weekly Message

Message regarding Assistant Principal Margot Martello - Tolland High School

The Assistant Principal at Tolland High School, Margot Martello, was involved in a car accident this past week. She is recovering, and wants people to know she is ok, and will make a full recovery. Our thoughts, prayers, and well-wishes are with her. Anyone who would like to provide Ms. Martello with well wishes can provide cards to the office staff of THS and they will make sure she gets them.

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BREAKFAST WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

10:00 AM AT THE TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

51 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT



April 2, 2018

May 7, 2018

June 4, 2018

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BUDGET BLURB

BUDGET INFO ON THE WEB:



http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/board_of_education/budget

The Board of Education has adopted a .78% budget increase for the 2018-2019 year. This budget will now be passed on to the Town Manager for consideration.

Budget Discussions with Town Council – March 14, 15 & 20, 2018

Budget Discussion meetings for the 2018-2019 fiscal year:

- March 14th Town Council discusses the Town Manager’s Proposed Budget, 7:00 p.m. at the Hicks Memorial Municipal Center, [21 Tolland Green](#) (6th Floor Council Chambers).
- March 15th Joint Meeting Town Council and Board of Education to discuss the BOE Adopted Budget at 7:00 p.m. at the Hicks Memorial Municipal Center, [21 Tolland Green](#) (6th Floor Council Chambers).
- The 3/20 meeting is a General Discussion at 7:00 p.m. at the Hicks Memorial Municipal Center, [21 Tolland Green](#) (6th Floor Council Chambers). Residents are encouraged to attend.

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Community Learning Workshops

**Mastery Learning for the *HIGH SCHOOL*
Student-Parent-Community Workshop & Discussion**

April 23 and April 24, 6:00 pm at the Tolland Board of Education, 51 Tolland Green.

Please rsvp to Jen Palumbo at jpalumbo@tolland.k12.ct.us if you are planning on attending.

Community Workshops	Information
<p>May 2, 2018 7:30 PM Tolland Public Library</p>	<div data-bbox="781 722 1143 932" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Mastery Learning Model</p> </div> <p>Mastery Learning Workshop Come find out what it is about, and how ML is being planned for Tolland.</p>

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HOW TO CONTACT THE SUPERINTENDENT:



Please take a look at the link below for some of the best ways to get an answer, meeting, or something else:

[http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent_s_corner/superintendent_wille_tts_page/c o n t a c t m e/](http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent_s_corner/superintendent_wille_tts_page/contactme/)

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Job Postings

None at this time.

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Links and Other Information

[5K Spirit of spring 5K Event Date- Lions Club](#)

[Gov. Malloy Hosts School Security Roundtable, Highlights Connecticut's Progress, Calls on Additional Funding for Safety Upgrades](#)

[Seminar-The Solar Energy Association of Connecticut Invites You](#)

[TEF – Yoga and Beer](#)

[Project Graduation Bottle Drive](#)

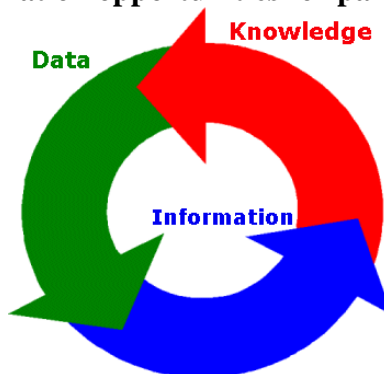
[Fall TOPS Soccer](#)

[How To Ease Students Into Independent Inquiry Projects](#)

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Power School and Unified Classroom Access

POWERSCHOOL UNIFIED CLASSROOM
Expanding information opportunities for parents and students!



Dear Parents and Students,

On February 9th, we upgraded the parent and student portal access to the new Unified Classroom. If you access your student's information with the mobile app, there are NO changes. If you use a desktop/laptop, then you will need to create your new Unified Classroom account. (If you have never created an account, please contact us, and we will be happy to help you. (860-870-6818 x10804)

Parents

If you already have an account follow the steps below.

<https://tollandschools.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

1. Click on Parent Sign In
2. Create PowerSchool ID
3. Enter your current login information
4. Next
5. Continue
6. Enter your email (which will now be your username)
7. Create a password
8. Click create

Below is a quick video that demonstrates how to set up your account/move to the new Unified Classroom dashboard. Watch Part 2 of the video if you already have a PowerSchool account.

<https://vimeo.com/227826452/6c02bab055>

Students

<https://tollandschools.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

1. Click student sign in
2. Click 'Forgot password' option, enter in your school email (ex. JohnDoe54321@tolland.k12.ct.us) and send request. Go to your school email – there will be a link to click in the email that will send you to a reset password page.

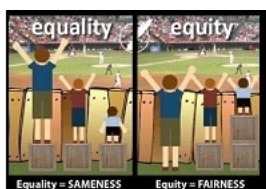
Please feel free to contact the Educational Technology office with any log in issues or questions.
(860) 870-6818 x10804

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Mastery Learning Information

The districts core values of providing individualized attention to a student's needs, supporting a student and their family, and providing a transformational experience leading to continual growth are all crucial aspects of 21st century education in the literature, and espoused by the State of Connecticut (<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2767&q=336508>).

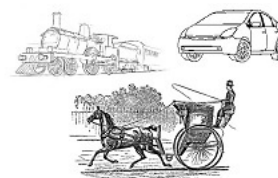
As Tolland competes with magnets and charters, and seeks to draw more students to its own programs and pathways of study, Mastery Learning practices will support those endeavors as it is grounded in contemporary philosophy and research. For an overview of 21st century educational philosophy, research, and practice please see the information below:



Equity
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Equality



Stimulate and Support
over
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Transformative Practice
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Tradition

Equity over Equality

Educational professionals that practice mastery learning recognize that different students have different needs. This necessitates providing each learner with what is uniquely required for that person's success. While equality implies *sameness*, equity implies *fairness*. Equity is about making sure people get access to the same *opportunity*. Advantage, opportunity, and privilege associated with socioeconomic, racial, cultural, or historical factors can impact learning. It is the mission of all educators to do our best to provide each learner with opportunities to succeed that transcend disadvantage.

Stimulate and Support over Rank and Sort

Educational professionals that practice mastery learning recognize that students do not come to school having experienced the same level of preparation and opportunity. As a result institutional **ranking and sorting** can inadvertently stigmatize, de-motivate, and perpetuate the trajectory the initial limitations on opportunity created. Educators try to help students overcome this, and institutions have to be structured so student success is less reliant on the individual heroics of some educators, and more on *systematic* and

consistent *processes and practices* of the institution that provide the greatest opportunities for restorative justice, productive habits, and academic success.

Standardized assessments beyond those used as universal screens (assessments given to all learners for the purpose of providing specialized assistance), or those that can be used to impact instruction (progress monitoring), should be carefully evaluated for their usefulness in the process of educating children. The objective should always be to benefit the child, and to do no harm. For instance, if poverty correlates significantly with lower state standardized test performance, how many times is it necessary to report to a disadvantaged child and family that they are performing poorly before institutional processes are put in place to address the challenge? In other words, some standardized tests tell us what we already know – and in the process jeopardizes the confidence and self-concept of the learner. Instead, assessment focused on *progress monitoring* over one-shot standardized assessments, provide the most useful and actionable information for improving the performance of all students.

Transformative Practice over Tradition

Educational professionals that practice mastery learning question current assessment traditions, and seek to transform teaching and assessment with a focus on practices that have the greatest chance of increasing student agency, ownership, reflection, and motivation of students towards their own learning and development. Mastery learning is recognized as a crucial aspect of SRBI (<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=322020>) supports, and as such practitioners take into consideration developmental level and cognitive considerations of students when delivering instruction, remediation, and methods of encouraging habit change. It is the process of doing things because they work for students, not simply continuing “traditional” practices because it is what has always been done.

Areas of *emphasis* for Tolland

1. All forms of assessment are standards-based and criterion-referenced, and success is defined by the achievement of expected standards, not relative measures of performance or student-to-student comparisons.
2. Formative assessments measure learning progress during the instructional process, and formative-assessment results are used to inform instructional adjustments, teaching practices, and academic support.
3. Summative assessments evaluate learning achievement, and summative assessments results record a student’s level of mastery at a specific point in time.
4. Academic progress and achievement are monitored and reported separately from work habits, character traits, and behaviors such as attendance and class participation, which are also monitored and reported.
5. Academic grades communicate learning progress and achievement to students and families, and grades are used to facilitate and improve the learning process.

6. Students are given multiple opportunities to improve their work when they fail to meet expected standards.

Resources

- [District Mastery Learning Plan](#)

Some Readings

- Guskey, Thomas: *On Your Mark - Challenging the Conventions of Grading and Reporting*
- Dueck, Myron: *Grading Smarter, Not Harder - Assessment Strategies that Motivate Kids and Help Them Learn*
- Wormelli, Richard: *Fair Isn't Always Equal - Assessing and Grading in the Differentiated Classroom*

Links

- [Center for Collaborative Education](#)
- [The Great Schools Partnership](#)
- [State of Connecticut Resources - Mastery Learning](#)
- [League of Innovative Schools](#)

K-5 assessment standards



For parents and community members interested in the Tolland Public School
K-5 assessment standards, please see the:
[Standards-Based Assessment Information Guide](#)

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Social Media Connections and Links

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:



www.facebook.com/tollandpublicschools

FOLLOW SUPERINTENDENT WILLETT ON TWITTER:



Search for:

[TPS_Sup_Willett](#)

Or

[Superint. Willett](#)

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Volunteer Information

VOLUNTEERING



We would love to have you come and volunteer at the Tolland Public Schools!

Thank you for all you do for the Tolland Public Schools. Please contact the Central Office with any questions. For those already volunteering, and those new to the game, the BOE will now do background checks every three school years. If you will be volunteering for the first time in the upcoming school year, please complete the [online form under Quick Links](#). After you have submitted your application, please call 860-870-6850 extension 1 to provide your social security number. You can check with the school secretaries to verify your status.

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Other Information

April Break-Weather

At the February 28 Board of Education meeting
the following decision was made regarding April break:

Shortening April break due to snow days

Mr. Pagoni motioned to add school days to June 21, 2018 and June 22, 2018 and if they need to go past this they will start to take days from the end of the April vacation week (option a, attachment G.2). Discussion – days from the April vacation would be taken starting with Friday, April 20th. Ms. Moran seconded the motion. Ms. Yudichak, Ms. Moran, Ms. Plourd, Mr. Schroder, Mr. Pagoni, Mr. Adlerstein, and Ms. Pasini were in favor. Ms. Seaver abstained. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meeting

Public Meeting - Old Cathole Road Reconstruction - April 3

[Click Here for More Information](#)



**2017- 2018 SCHOOL YEAR ATHLETIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DATES**

4:00 pm at Tolland High School

June 5, 2018

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