

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN



Where Excellence Is Achieved Through Each Individual's Success



*Equity
over
Equality*

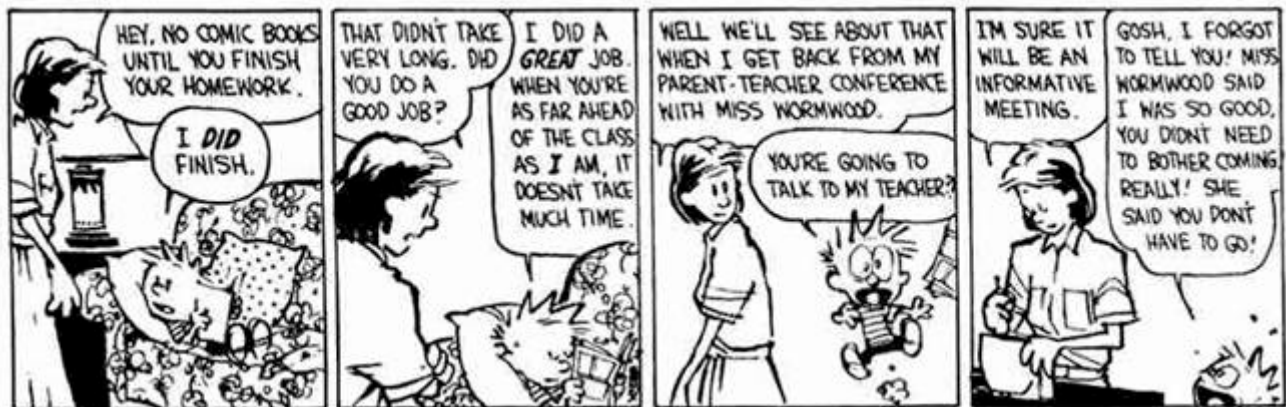


*Stimulate and Support
over
Rank and Sort*



*Transformative Practice
over
Tradition*

Here for you 860-335-2455



UPDATE FOR March 19, 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>TPSTV! Tolland Public Schools TV!</u>	This section has videos about the great things happening in the Tolland Public Schools!
<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 second 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</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

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT POTENTIAL SCHEDULE CHANGES for 3-21

Please see this special message about regarding possible schedule changes for the Tolland Public Schools for March 21st:

There are three possibilities for tomorrow:

1) **Schools are closed:** In this scenario High School students scheduled to take the SAT will do so on April 24th instead.

2) **Schools are dismissed early (early release):** In this situation, *please see the modified early release schedule:*

Tolland Middle School – Releases at **10:30 AM (No lunch served)**

Birch Grove Elementary / Tolland Intermediate School – Release at **11:30 AM (No lunch served – please pack snack)**

Tolland High School – Release at **12:55 PM (lunch will be served)**

3) **Schools are delayed:** all schools will run a full-day schedule with a *two hour* delayed opening. The SAT will be rescheduled for April 24th.

Please call the Central Office if you have any questions.

Message to parents of **Tolland High School Students.**

I understand that a clarification would be helpful regarding tomorrow and *testing*.

If March 21st is a “typical” day:

Freshman, Sophomores, and Seniors arrive at 9:30 AM.

Juniors must be in testing room by 7:15 AM for SAT testing.

If March 21st is delayed opening (2 hour delay):

SAT testing is cancelled, and will occur on the April 24th make-up date.

All grades report to school at the 2 hour delay start time.

If March 21st is an Early Release day (modified to 12:55 PM for High School students)

Freshman, Sophomores, and Seniors arrive at 9:30 AM.

Juniors must be in testing room by 7:15 AM for SAT Testing.

2018-2019 Incoming Kindergarten

You can register children for school, complete forms, and review acceptable forms of residency by going to www.tolland.k12.ct.us under the "DISTRICT" drop down menu, and selecting "Register Student." You can also access the page by entering: [http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/register student/](http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/register%20student/) into your browser. This page will have forms that you can download, fill out, and upload to the Registration site as part of the registration process. Thank you for in advance for completing this necessary process before students can begin schooling in Tolland. We look forward to working with you and your student!

THIS IS A DATE CHANGE

****If you find that you need assistance or have questions with the on line process, we will be available at the Board of Education Office, located at 51 Tolland Green, between the hours of 10:00 am -7:00 pm **Wednesday March 28, 2018.**

SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) Testing

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Tolland, and other school systems across the state are soon to start the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) testing, in other words the State's standardized test. If you have any questions about the State standardized test, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Please also see the available parent resources (links) below made available by the State of Connecticut.

Parent guides:

<http://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Student-Assessment/Smarter-Balanced/Smarter-Balanced-Parent-Guides>

Common Core Standards:

- CTCoreStandards.org
- <http://www.corestandards.org/>

National Assessment of Educational Progress (Federal Random Sample Test – NOT SBAC) included for informational Purposes:

- <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/>
- <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/international.aspx>

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

- <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/>

Contrary Opinions

- <http://dianeravitch.net/>
-

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ATHLETICS PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY!

On Monday evening, Tolland High School Athletics was awarded the Central CT Conference Sportsmanship Award for the Winter season at the CCC Winter Awards banquet. Tolland High School was ranked #1 out of 31 CCC schools in sportsmanship voted on by coaches and Athletic Directors based on the following criteria:

- a. Organization – How well is visiting team received at site of a game. i.e., directed to dressing room, general instructions on bus, parking, etc.

- b. Enthusiasm of spectators, cheerleaders, supporting team in a positive manner regardless of apparent outcome; response to cheerleaders.

- c. Spectators sportsmanship – No booing or heckling, general courtesy (timing of yells and routines with respect for opposing school, etc.)

- d. Player sportsmanship – Keenly competitive but without animosity, belligerence.

- e. Coaching sportsmanship – Awareness of crowd control responsibility, bench conduct, cooperation with officials.

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Tolland Public Schools TV!

Video link	Description
https://youtu.be/eOVWkBqtQao	March 14 th Assembly – In Memory
https://youtu.be/R0EGNXyNb0c	March 14 th Assembly – Student Voices – A Commitment to Change
https://youtu.be/UxbJOpMEzOo	March 14 th Assembly – Anatomy of a student rally
https://youtu.be/l1U9ZLDRwQA	TIS Door Decorating for Safety
https://youtu.be/A2mvaaZJYh8	Read Across America at Birch Grove
https://youtu.be/z0or0x4kx0U https://youtu.be/tRHtaS-Mgr0	Students testing their “Space Landers”

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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

INFORMATION:

The Town Council recently supported the Board of Education Adopted Budget of 2/14/2018.

UPCOMING MEETING:

Budget Public Hearing

Event Date:

Thursday, March 22, 2018 - 7:00pm

This Public Hearing will be held at the Tolland High School Auditorium, 1 Eagle Hill.

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Community Learning Workshops

Community Workshops	Information
<p>April 23 and April 24 6:00 pm</p> <p>Tolland Board of Education, 51 Tolland Green.</p>	<div data-bbox="802 344 1162 554" style="text-align: center;"> <p>Mastery Learning Model</p> </div> <p>Mastery Learning at the HIGH SCHOOL level Come find out what it is about, and how ML is being planned for Tolland HIGH SCHOOL.</p> <p><i>Please rsvp to Jen Palumbo at</i> jpalumbo@tolland.k12.ct.us <i>if you are planning</i> <i>on attending.</i></p>
<p>May 2, 2018 7:30 PM Tolland Public Library</p>	<div data-bbox="802 810 1162 1020" style="text-align: center;"> <p>Mastery Learning Model</p> </div> <p>Mastery Learning in the DISTRICT 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_tt_s_page/c_o_n_t_a_c_t_m_e/

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Job Postings

- Middle School Track Coach – Call Todd Zenczak @ 860-870-6818

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Links

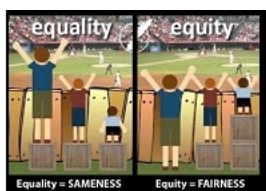
None this week.

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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>).

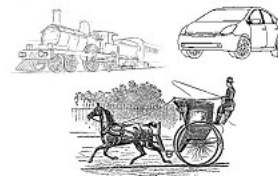
As Tolland competes with magnets and charters, and seeks to draw more students to its own programs and pathways of study, Mastery Learning practices will support those endeavors as it is grounded in contemporary philosophy and research. For an overview of 21st century educational philosophy, research,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



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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](#)

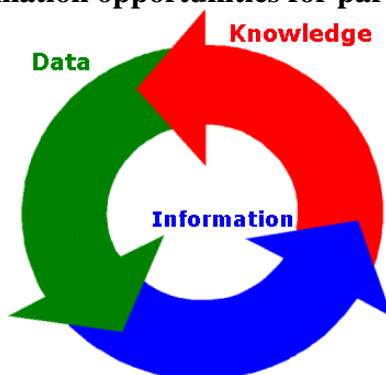
K-5 assessment standards



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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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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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

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

[Project Graduation Bottle Drive](#)

[Fall TOPS Soccer](#)

[Channel 3 Kids Camp](#)

[Why the logo change?](#)

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