

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

Here for you 860-335-2455



UPDATE FOR 3/4/2018

JUMP TO SCHOOL UPDATES:

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

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

TPS response to the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School – Parkland, Florida

Over the last week there has understandably been a lot of conversation locally and nation-wide, regarding the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. As mentioned in the past two Superintendent Bulletins – the Tolland Public Schools will be addressing the situation in activities appropriate for each developmental level and school. On March 14th, at BGP and TIS this will take the form of school-wide discussions of health and safety. At TMS students will participate in a moment of silence and engage in approximately 17 minutes of service activities such as letter and card writing to students at MSDHS, banner creation, and/or letters to representatives expressing their feelings.

At THS students are the closest to adulthood, and therefore their “developmental level” makes the situation a more complicated undertaking. It is their situation that is most complex. The decision about how to handle the situation at the high school level was the result of conversations with representatives that included students, parents, fire safety officials, police, counselors and psychologists, school administrators, and staff. For this week’s newsletter, I will restate the THS plan as it has evolved to be at this moment in time, as well as answer some of the questions I have seen raised.

On March 14th, at or around 10:00a.m., students will be given the opportunity to either participate in an assembly, or opt-out of the assembly and have a short study period. This will last approximately thirty minutes. The purpose of the assembly is to provide students an opportunity to show respect for those who lost their lives in Parkland, Florida, to feel some emotional closure (to the greatest extent possible), and to listen to short speeches from their peers. The assembly may be inside or outside based on weather, security considerations, and logistics. The procession to the assembly will be done by releasing controlled groups of students to the assembly location. Fire safety personnel, police, school staff, and counseling staff will be part of the event.

Q & A

Why are you doing this on March 14th?

There is currently a student “Walk Out” being encouraged by the #ENOUGH movement, among other parties. Some colleges have indicated that students who did this would not face any adverse consequences from discipline given by the school system. The situation this created is one in which there is a reasonable chance students could leave school in fairly significant numbers. Students have walked out in Moodus, East Haddam, and elsewhere. By holding the assembly on March 14th the district provides students an opportunity to have closure and express themselves in a safe and organized assembly vs. leaving the building in unsupervised groups. The school attendance and discipline policy remain in effect, and if any students leave class or school grounds outside of this activity they will receive the associated discipline for that action.

Holding the assembly on March 14th provides students a safe option and respects many students’ wishes to peacefully assemble, mourn those lost, and express their views. While the district could instead provide no option of assembly, and rely on the possibility of discipline to dissuade students from walking out, and would be well within its legal rights to do so, relying on that “legal” position knowing that groups of students would, nevertheless, leave in an uncontrolled manner would make such an action, while possibly legally defensible, professionally and morally questionable. Tolland’s proximity to I-84, the bridge, and the characteristics of the roads surrounding the school, make an unmanaged student exodus a potentially dangerous situation.

Why 10:00a.m.?

While this time period coincides with the time the national walkout movement calls for, it also works for THS schedule-wise as it is part of the second block and makes sense to use for the assembly. Students participating in the assembly will be less likely to leave the event or school grounds because this is early enough in the day to result in significant complications for students if they chose to leave. Not only would they face disciplinary consequences, it would result in additional work.

Is this politically motivated?

While the national movement is politically motivated, the event at THS is about giving the students a chance to grieve, have closure, and have a voice while at the same time attempting to take a proactive and realistic approach to keeping children safe on March 14th. Rather than a reactive reliance on discipline to dissuade students from acting on their convictions, by providing a viable in-school option for expression,

the district will be better able to protect students and encourage safe behavior. While there is a risk this will be perceived as supporting a political position, that risk is more defensible than risking that students would walk out with no protections or controls.

Please come to the Superintendent's Breakfast on March 5th at 10:00a.m. in the Board of Education building at 51 Tolland Green. A police officer will be in attendance, and we can discuss any questions, comments, and/or concerns. Hope to see you there!



**PLEASE NOTE:
EARLY RELEASE NOW MARCH 9th
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES, rescheduled from 3/2**

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](#)

***New England Electric Auto Association Hybrid/Electric
Ride and Drive at the Tolland Public Library Parking Lot***

On Saturday, March 10th, the New England Electric Auto Association (NEEAA) in conjunction with National Drive Electric Week, will be hosting a hybrid/plugin-hybrid/electric car show and ride-and-drive event at the Tolland Public Library, [21 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT](#), from 2:00 – 5:00p.m. Several dealers will be present with the latest hybrid, plug-in hybrid and pure electric vehicles and will be offering test drives. Actual owners will also be present to share ownership experiences. Light refreshments will be served.

NEEAA is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to promoting hybrid, plug-in hybrid and pure electric vehicles, debunking the common myths about EVs as well as increasing the electric car charging infrastructure. NEEAA is one of over thirty electric car clubs across the country and is a chapter of the National Electric Auto Association. This event is free and open to the public and anyone who is interested in the technology is encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to test drive a hybrid, plugin hybrid, or pure electric vehicle without the typical "dealership setting" of possibly being pressured to buy. For more information about the event, please contact Jesse Rudavsky, 617-890-9605 or check out www.facebook.com/newenglanelectricautoassociation.



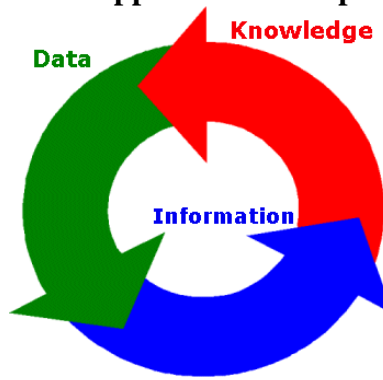
Where Excellence is Achieved Through Each Individual's Success

2018- 2019 Incoming Kindergarten

Birch Grove Primary School at 247 Rhodes Road in Tolland, CT, will host the 2018-2019 Kindergarten Parent Meeting on March 8, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Birch Grove Primary School gymnasium. This informational meeting is for parents of students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2018. Any questions regarding the meeting you may call 860-870-6750. If you are unable to attend due to childcare constraints, please contact the superintendent's office at 860-870-6850 extension 1 and we will attempt to assist.

We are excited to announce a new online format for Kindergarten registration. At the parent meeting, you will be provided with step by step instructions to complete the online registration. If you find that you need assistance or have questions with the online 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 21, 2018.

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

Thank you!

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 6, 14, 15 & 20, 2018

Budget Discussion meetings for the 2018-2019 fiscal year:

- March 6th Joint Meeting Town Council and Board of Education to discuss the BOE Adopted Budget (Tolland Public Library Program Room) @ 7 p.m.
 - 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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Birch Grove Read Across America Day





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/



2017- 2018 SCHOOL YEAR ATHLETIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

4:00 pm at Tolland High School

March 6, 2018

June 5, 2018



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

COMMUNITY LEARNING WORKSHOPS

Community Workshops	Information
<p>May 2, 2018 7:30 PM Tolland Public Library</p>	<div style="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>

2017 – 2018

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

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.

YOUR TOLLAND SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION:

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:



www.facebook.com/tollandpublicschools

FOLLOW SUPERINTENDENT WILLETT ON TWITTER:



Search for:

[TPS_Sup_Willett](#)

Or

[Superint. Willett](#)

LINKS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[FRC-Online Parenting Classes](#)

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