

# TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

*Where Excellence Is Achieved Through Each Individual's Success*

**UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF 4/15//2019**

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

[BG](#)

[TIS](#)

[TMS](#)

[THS](#)

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

I am writing on behalf of school and town personnel to provide some information with regard to the site location of the portables for the Birch Grove Primary Foundation project, and to express our sincere gratitude for your patience and understanding as we have worked through, and continue to work through, this process. In addressing the location of the portable classrooms the primary consideration has been the safety of children. Accordingly thought was given to fire, emergency, and transportation plans and access, wetlands, the location of leeching fields and septic or sewer resources, power supply options, and other considerations. Finally, the State of Connecticut through the School Construction office has requirements on the matter as well.

Each of the aforementioned considerations, when applied to the potential sites, narrowed the options. The High School, for example, was ruled out due to access road constraints, wetlands, and the proximity to the highway. The Middle School lower fields were ruled out due to wetlands, leeching fields, and septic/sewer resources. Over the last few weeks sites were vetted and systematically eliminated based on cost, logistics, safety, transportation, or sewer/septic constraints. Decisions were also made based on financial considerations as the funds used to make sites acceptable were funds that could not later be used on the school renovation itself.

This week a determination was made to locate the portables on the Birch Grove property itself. The site of the “portable” Birch Grove Primary School will be located, for the roughly two-year duration of the renovation of the BGP Building, near the location of the current baseball field. A basic map of the portable site and construction areas will be posted as soon as it becomes available. A play-scape will be on location. The site will have separate parking, and traffic/transportation/bus access than the construction site. In addition, a perimeter fence will be set up around the construction site to provide a physical barrier.

The administration of the Tolland Public Schools and town officials are accustomed to projects that have been done on or near school grounds. These include the geothermal projects at both TIS and TMS, and the renovation of the old Parker building into senior housing that shares the same site as Tolland Intermediate School. The school and town staff are accustomed to, and adept at, making sure all safety measures are taken and that projects are done with minimal impacts to instruction. Of course even “minimal” impacts still represent something outside the “norm” of the typical educational process – but student safety has never, and will never, be compromised. Background checks, physical separation barriers, carefully timed construction, different access points, security measures, and all health and safety requirements will be executed to ensure students’ educational experience is a safe and productive one. While there will definitely be a lot of activity, even that activity can become a teachable moment. Educators will make the most of the situation, and in the end the community will have a building that will be useful for years to come.

Sincerely,

Walter Willett  
Superintendent  
Tolland Public Schools

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<a href="#"><u>Superintendent's Weekly Message/Feature</u></a>	This is the weekly message from the Superintendent. It is usually around some topic related to education and/or the school system.
<a href="#"><u>TPSTV! Tolland Public Schools TV!</u></a>	This section has videos about the great things happening in the Tolland Public Schools!
<a href="#"><u>Breakfast with the Superintendent Dates/Times/Information</u></a>	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.
<a href="#"><u>Budget Blurb &amp; Budget Information</u></a>	This section provides links and information with regard to the budget of the Tolland Public Schools.
<a href="#"><u>Community Learning Workshops</u></a>	This section provides information about upcoming workshops for the community.
<a href="#"><u>How to Contact the Superintendent</u></a>	This section provides information on the ways to communicate with the Superintendent based on urgency/level of importance.
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<a href="#"><u>Links</u></a>	These are links provided from community members as well as links that may provide meaningful information.
<a href="#"><u>Mastery Learning</u></a>	This section has a brief synopsis of the Mastery Learning philosophy and plan for the district.
<a href="#"><u>Power School and Unified Classroom</u></a>	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.
<a href="#"><u>Social Media Connections and Links</u></a>	This section provides information on the district social media sites.
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*Superintendent Weekly Message*

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Superintendent  
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**Birch Grove Foundation Meeting Schedule (see the next page)**

**Meetings and Information Sessions**

Meeting	Location	Date and Time
Superintendent's Breakfast	Superintendent's Office 51 Tolland Green, Tolland CT	March 4th @ 10 AM
BGP Initial Foundation Information Meeting	Birch Grove Gymnasium	March 5 <sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM
BGP Foundation Information meeting	Birch Grove Library	March 11 <sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM
Town Meeting	Tolland High School Auditorium	March 27 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM
Superintendent's Breakfast	Superintendent's Office 51 Tolland Green, Tolland CT	April 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 10 AM
BGP Foundation Information meeting	Birch Grove Library	April 8 <sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM
Superintendent's Breakfast	Superintendent's Office 51 Tolland Green, Tolland CT	May 6 <sup>th</sup> @ 10 AM
BGP Foundation Information meeting	Birch Grove Library	May 6 <sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM
Superintendent's Breakfast	Superintendent's Office 51 Tolland Green, Tolland CT	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> @ 10 AM
BGP Foundation Information meeting	Birch Grove Library	June 10 <sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM



**Approved 2019- 2020 School Calendar**

[Click Here](#)

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*Every want to have a conversation with a police officer that didn't involve your license and registration? Come learn about the School's SRO Program and Town policing in general*

**Cannoli with the Cops**

Stacey Forish

Kevin Eklund and Al Beland

Hold the date!

**Thursday, May 9**

7:00 pm

Come enjoy some sweet treats and hear a brief presentation from our own School Resource Officer and Resident State Troopers, followed by a Question and Answer session – come and ask whatever is on your mind!

**Library Program Room**

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*Field trip to Construction Career Day on Thursday, May 2nd*



The Tolland High School Technology Education Department is coordinating a field trip to Construction Career Day on Thursday, May 2nd. Construction Career Day was designed with the vision of showcasing careers in construction to High School Students and promoting the industry's image through career days, safety seminars, hands on demonstrations, and networking between contractors. The expo features numerous hands-on, interactive exhibits both indoors and outdoors. The hands-on exhibits included a crane simulator, skid steers, excavators, United Illuminating utility poles, masonry wall building, tile cutting, sheet metal, a variety of power tools, fire suppression...and the list goes on! Each student receives a hard hat, safety goggles, and a back pack upon entry to the event.

The cost is \$11 per student and the deadline for permission slips is April 16th.

Please see Mrs. Brocius, Mr. Carpenter, or Mrs. Penney for a permission slip.



*Prom Pictures on the Green for 2019*

Please note, the Tolland Green **will not** be available for Prom Pictures.

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*Tolland Public Schools TV!*

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[http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/t\\_p\\_s\\_television](http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/t_p_s_television)

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**Check out some of our new TPS Television Videos!**

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<a href="https://youtu.be/XseyIL0IUyg">https://youtu.be/XseyIL0IUyg</a>	STEM FEMs! - Getting more girls into Science Technology Engineering and Math!
<a href="https://youtu.be/XgC0UWoTCVI">https://youtu.be/XgC0UWoTCVI</a>	SPIRE - Check out the TPS Phonics Program!
<a href="https://youtu.be/KlqfWUJLB2M">https://youtu.be/KlqfWUJLB2M</a>	REFLEX MATH! A TPS Math Program!
<a href="https://youtu.be/uZyXBDthWiM">https://youtu.be/uZyXBDthWiM</a>	Pi Day! The TPS make math FUN!
<a href="https://youtu.be/w6MYN8yob4A">https://youtu.be/w6MYN8yob4A</a>	A Culture of MUSIC in the Tolland Public Schools!
<a href="https://youtu.be/Y_cXdn7K-Ls">https://youtu.be/Y_cXdn7K-Ls</a>	Math Haka @ TIS
<a href="https://youtu.be/L6ercj6dupM">https://youtu.be/L6ercj6dupM</a>	TPS Business Academy

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*BREAKFAST WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT*

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**2018- 2019**  
**Tolland Board of Education**  
**51 Tolland Green**  
**10:00 AM**

May 6, 2019  
June 3, 2019

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*BUDGET BLURB*

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**BUDGET INFO ON THE WEB:**



[http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/board\\_of\\_education/budget](http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/board_of_education/budget)

## April 22, 2019 Annual Budget Presentation

There will be an Annual Budget Presentation by Town Council on Monday, April 22, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Library Program Room. For those residents unable to attend an evening meeting, this same presentation will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. at the Tolland Senior Center, 674 Tolland Stage Road. Residents are encouraged to attend and speak under Public Participation.

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### *Did you know?*

**There was a POCD study/presentation done by Gorman and York!**



From the October 2018 Meeting:

[https://www.tolland.org/sites/tollandct/files/uploads/public\\_meeting\\_-\\_tolland\\_economic\\_development\\_-\\_10-15-18.pdf](https://www.tolland.org/sites/tollandct/files/uploads/public_meeting_-_tolland_economic_development_-_10-15-18.pdf)

**Link to the January 28, 2019 Meeting:**

[https://www.tolland.org/sites/tollandct/files/uploads/pzc\\_meeting\\_-\\_conservation\\_-\\_01-28-19.pdf](https://www.tolland.org/sites/tollandct/files/uploads/pzc_meeting_-_conservation_-_01-28-19.pdf)

**Link to February 25, 2019 Meeting & Draft Vision Statement:**

[https://www.tolland.org/sites/tollandct/files/uploads/pzc\\_meeting\\_-\\_a\\_vision\\_for\\_tolland\\_-\\_02-20-19.pdf](https://www.tolland.org/sites/tollandct/files/uploads/pzc_meeting_-_a_vision_for_tolland_-_02-20-19.pdf)

**Get the 2019 Plan of Conservation and Development Full Update!**

<https://www.tolland.org/planning-development/pages/2019-plan-conservation-development-update>



*Every want to have a conversation with a police officer that didn't involve your license and registration? Come learn about the School's SRO Program and Town policing in general*

**Cannoli with the Cops**

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Library Program Room

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*HOW TO CONTACT THE SUPERINTENDENT:*

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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*

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**HELP WANTED**

Food & Nutrition Services has immediate openings for substitutes, with the potential to move into a permanent part-time position. Join our team in serving nutritious healthy meals to our students and work only while your children are in school!

If interested, please contact Kim at [kmecteau@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:kmecteau@tolland.k12.ct.us) or 860-870-6853, Ext

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**SUBSTITUTES ARE NEEDED DISTRICT WIDE**

**We need teacher, paraprofessional, custodial and food service substitutes.**

**You can choose what, where and how often you want to work.**

**Paper applications are available at the BOE office or can be printed from our website**

**[www.tolland.k12.ct.us](http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us)**

**Under District/Human Resources/Substitute Forms**

**Food service applications are under District/Human Resources/Employment Opportunities or feel free to call Kim Mecteau at 860-870-6850.**

**If you are not interested, do you know someone that might be such as a college student or retired family member. Please send them our way.**

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*Links*

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[Community Narcan Training Event](#)

[Drug Takeback Program](#)

[CT schools must close the achievement gap more quickly](#)

[FRC-Camp Hawk](#)

[Hot Chocolate House-Updated](#)

[Charter Oak Brass Band Camp](#)

[Charter Oak Summer Music Camp](#)

[Charter Oak Youth Arts Institute](#)

[Housing After High School](#)

[Community Voice Channel 2nd Gala](#)

[Find a TEF Rock](#)

[Tolland 4-H Camp Camper Scamper](#)

[Tolland Recreation Department 2019 Summer Camp](#)

[Channel 3 Kids Camp!](#)

[Tolland High School Booster Club Fundraiser-Board & Brush](#)

[2019 T-Shirt Contest-Cider Mill](#)

[HVCC Walk for Mental Health Awareness](#)

[FRC Preschool Enrichment Registration](#)

[FRC Camp Hawk Registration](#)

[FRC Pre-Kindergarten Fun](#)

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*Mastery Learning Information*

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Check out the ML Plan for the Tolland Public Schools below:

[http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent\\_s\\_corner/superintendent\\_willett\\_s\\_page/mastery\\_based\\_learning/](http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent_s_corner/superintendent_willett_s_page/mastery_based_learning/)

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Since February 2018, Tolland Public Schools began to use PowerSchool's Unified Classroom. Unified Classroom provides a comprehensive look at student growth and achievement, while providing a single sign-on opportunity for parents with multiple students in the district.

While the mobile app has not changed (Unified Classroom access does not change your mobile app access) and can still be used, the computer-based version of Unified Classroom provides a more detailed view, and we recommend that parents use both tools to gain knowledge about their student.

For directions on how to set up your Unified Classroom account, if you haven't already, you may always visit the Tolland Public School's website or any of the school websites and click PowerSchool in the upper right-hand corner.

If you have already created your Unified Classroom account and can successfully log in at [classroom.powerschool.com](http://classroom.powerschool.com), you do not need to do anything further. If at any time you need to reset your password, you may do this yourself using the Forgot Password option on the sign in page.

### **New to Unified Classroom or PowerSchool**

If you have created a PowerSchool account but have not created your Unified Classroom account OR are new to PowerSchool:

1. Instructions to [Create Parent PowerSchool and Unified Classroom ID](#)
2. Link to the begin creating your account: [Tolland Student and Parent Portal](#)

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

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*Social Media Connections and Links*

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**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:**



[www.facebook.com/tollandpublicschools](http://www.facebook.com/tollandpublicschools)

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**FOLLOW SUPERINTENDENT WILLETT ON TWITTER:**



Search for:

[TPS\\_Sup\\_Willett](#)

Or

[Superint. Willett](#)

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*Volunteer Information*

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**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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*Snow Delays and Cancellations*

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

I want to take this opportunity to inform you of the District's procedures regarding school closings, delays, and early dismissals.

The decision to change school schedules is made after careful review of information collected from the local police, highway and school maintenance departments as well as a local weather service. Road conditions, sidewalk status, precipitation, temperatures and forecasts are considered when making a determination to delay or close schools. In some circumstances, a delay may be upgraded to a school closing. Information related to delayed openings and school closures is broadcasted on television and radio stations typically by 5:45 a.m. The safety of our children is the priority factor in all decision making.

**BLACKBOARD CONNECT 5**

The *Blackboard Connect 5* communication system is a telephone messaging service that the district uses which enables us to personally communicate with parents and staff regarding emergency situations, school closings and delays, school events and other important issues impacting you and your children. It is imperative that you keep a current emergency telephone number listed at your child's school building. In the event of an early dismissal or delay, a Blackboard message will be broadcast to all families by 5:45 a.m. During an emergency or weather related incident, calls will be made through the emergency mode to all student numbers in the Blackboard system.

**DELAYED OPENINGS**

- This year we will utilize a two (2) hour delay.
- There is no morning (am) Birch Grove preschool classes on delayed openings.
- Buses will arrive at stops approximately two (2) hours later than the usual time.

**EARLY DISMISSAL**

- An announcement will be made on the radio and television stations, generally prior to 11:00 a.m.
- The high school is released at approximately 10:45 a.m. Tolland Middle School is released at 11:45 am and Tolland Intermediate and Birch Grove Primary School are released at 12:45 pm. (Please note that unusual circumstances may dictate an earlier dismissal.)
- There are no p.m. Birch Grove pre-school classes on early dismissal days.

In the event of school closings or early dismissals, all sporting events and student activities will be cancelled.

**TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS**

Students in grades PreK-5 will be returned to school in the event an adult is not present at the bus stop to meet them unless you have signed the bus stop release form.

**ALL STORM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements will be made on the following TV Stations:

WTNH  
WFSB  
WVIT  
WTIC

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to monitor weather related delays, closings, and early dismissals and to cooperate with school personnel as we work to ensure student safety.

### **TOLLAND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER'S INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES**

**If the Tolland Public School is closed due to inclement weather then the Tolland Family Resource Center is closed.**

#### **Weather delays and early closings**

##### **FRC School Age Care**

The Before School Program will follow the School System for delays:

\* 2 hour delay the FRC opens at 9:00 a.m. for children registered in the before school program for that day. (This is to allow enough time for the parking lot and sidewalks to be treated)

##### **Early Dismissal**

When there is an early dismissal due to inclement weather the FRC will close at 3:45 p.m. However, if Birch Grove and Tolland Intermediate School closes before 1:20 p.m. then FRC will close 2 hours after the end of school; example if Birch Grove/TIS close at 11:00 a.m. then FRC will close at 1:00 p.m.

Late fee pick up fees apply on early dismissals. Please call if you are delayed for any reason.

##### **FRC Preschool**

If Tolland Public Schools has a **delayed opening** due to weather, FRC morning preschool will open at 11:00 a.m. and will run until 12:00 p.m. Four Year Old FRC afternoon Preschool will start at 12:00 p.m.

If Tolland Schools has an **early dismissal**, the afternoon Four-Year-Old FRC Preschool will be cancelled.

##### **FRC Preschool Enrichment**

If Tolland Public Schools has a **delayed opening** due to weather, FRC Preschool Enrichment will open at 11:00 a.m. and will run until 1:30 p.m. If school **closes early** Preschool Enrichment will close at 12:00 P.M.

**FRC Play groups** are cancelled on delays or early closings.

Finally, I want to assure you, once again, that our primary concern in calling a school delay, early dismissal or closure is always the safety of our children. If parents feel conditions are unsafe, they should use their discretion and keep their children at home. Here's hoping for a warm and uneventful winter!  
Sincerely,

Walter Willett, PhD  
Superintendent of Schools

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*Other Information*

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**CHECK OUT THE DAVID E. GOLDEN DISCOVERY LAB!**

A bus will take you there! Check with your school for the afternoon library bus!



<https://youtu.be/HSU-6tNfSWg>



There is something *incredibly cool* happening at the **Tolland Public Library**. *The David E. Golden Discovery Center*. The Golden GC has been made possible by the Tolland Education Foundation, and is to be dedicated in the memory of David E. Golden, a leader in the community and former President of the Tolland Education Foundation. The lab is open to the public and contains technology not available to the average person. The midi and music resources, video editing and production software, game construction software, and Oculus Virtual Reality stations (with software) make this lab one of the most cutting edge in the State of Connecticut. Call the library in advance or stop by to sign up for using this lab!

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