

Tidioute Community Charter School
Bulldog Bark Newsletter
August 2009



First Day of School 2009-2010

The first day of school for the 2009-2010 school year for TCCS is Monday August 24, 2009.

Schedules

Class schedules for students in grades 7-12 will be available beginning August 17th. Students may stop in at the office to pick up their schedules. Beginning this school year there will be no homeroom period. The bell will ring at 7:55 am. Students will report directly to their first period class at 8:00 am. Lunches will begin at 11:07 for elementary, 11:52 for middle school and 12:37 for high school. Students will now have 9 periods a day one of which is a lab period. Any student who has concerns, questions or would like to drop or add a class may stop in at the office between the hours of 8am to 4pm for assistance.

Busing

Students who ride buses or vans to TCCS should receive a call from the transportation company sometime the week before school starts to let them know their pickup location and time.

Kindergarten 4 Program

The administration is proud to announce the formation of a Kindergarten for 4 year olds program at TCCS. Any child who is 4 years old by August 24th is eligible to apply to the program. Space is limited and is on a first come first served basis. Students will attend school all day and will be learning letters, numbers, shapes, colors, and many other skills needed for Kindergarten. Students will also participate in gym, music, art and library.

K4 and Kindergarten Meet and Greet

There will be a meet and greet on Wednesday August 19th starting at 1:00 pm for students in the Kindergarten 4 and Kindergarten programs. Students will have the opportunity to meet their teachers, see their classroom to find where they sit, where their cubby is and meet some of their classmates.

TCCS Now Offering College Courses

College courses are now being offered at TCCS. Students have the opportunity to take 15 to 18 credits of course work. There is no cost for the courses however the students will have to pay for their own books and supplies for the course. The deadline for registration is August 20th. Home schooled children are eligible to apply. For more information contact the school at 484-3550.

Supply lists

The following are supply lists that faculty is requesting students in these classes to purchase:

Kindergarten 4 class:

- Pencil Box
- Kleenex
- Clorox Antibacterial wipes
- Germ X

Mrs. Mahaney's Math Classes:

- 3 ring binder
- 8 divider tabs
- Highlighter (any color)
- Pencils
- Pen (to correct homework)
- Pencil pouch to connect to binder to hold supplies.

Parents may also go to the schools website at tidioutecharter.com and click on the classroom pages and supply list link for a general list of items that students may need for k-6.

Supplies needed

Mrs. Mahaney is asking for donations of the following items for her math classes:

- Popsicle sticks
- Play-doh
- Hot glue guns and glue sticks for the guns

Proper Clothing and Footwear for Physical Education Classes

All students are reminded that proper footwear and clothing is required to participate in the PE classes in grades k-12 at school. Proper footwear is a sneaker or athletic shoe meaning no marking soles, no hard soles, no boots, no dress shoes, and no crocs. Laces are preferred to Velcro because they provide more support and decrease the chance of injury. Clothing for PE classes should fall within the schools dress code. Students are to wear T-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts (of an appropriate length), sweatpants or athletic pants. No clothing should have any inappropriate language or pictures and should not advertise alcohol, tobacco or drug use.

Cross Country

Grades 7-12 will have their first practice on August 17th at 6:30 pm and the parent meeting will be on Tuesday August 26th at 7:30 pm. Elementary runners will have their first practice on August 26th with the parent meeting to be held at 6:30 pm.

Fall Sports Physicals

The school nurse Mrs. Morrison will be giving fall sports physicals to students in grades 7-12 on Tuesday August 11, 2009 from 10am to 2pm. There is no cost. Students must have a completed physical form and all paperwork signed before they can begin participating in fall sports. Fall sports include: volleyball, cross country, and junior high girls basketball.

Summer Math and Reading Program

A reminder that summer math and reading assignments that were given to **all** students in grades k4-12 at the end of last school year are to be turned in no later than August 28th. This work **will count significantly toward your child's first quarter grade in these subjects.** If you need an extra copy of your assignments please pick them up at the school as soon as possible.

The intent of the Summer Math and Reading Program is to increase your child's reading and math comprehension and prepare them to return to school ready to move ahead at a faster pace and ultimately perform better on standardized tests such as the PSSA's and SAT's. Summer reading books were carefully chosen to integrate well with the English curriculum and they offer students high interest and a challenging yet

reasonable reading level. Our goal is to get 100% of our students to fulfill this requirement and get the new school year off to a positive start.

911 Address Changes

A reminder to all families who haven't already done so to please contact the school and provide a copy of an official document that includes your name with the new address listed.

Parent Emails

In our on going effort to improve school to home communication we asking that all parents who haven't already done so to please contact the school and update their email addresses so that you may receive timely updates and important reminders. This will continue the schools efforts to diminish usage of paper and "go green".

Dress Code

A reminder that TCCS has a dress code in effect and students that do not comply will be asked to change and/ or call their parents to bring appropriate clothing.

Young ladies shirts need to have sleeves and must be worn long enough to be tucked in at the waist (if requested). Young men's shirts must also have sleeves and be capable of being tucked in at the waist.

The following is not acceptable dress:

Halter tops or similar styled tops that expose a bare midriff. Shorts and skirts above mid thigh. Bare feet, slippers, flip flops or open toed shoes/sandals and hats. Clothing, patches, buttons or jewelry suggesting or depicting obscene gestures and or sayings such as Co-Ed Naked shirts or Big Johnson shirts or similar prints. Any item or dress that directly or indirectly promotes or references alcohol, drugs or racial epithet (example would be NASCAR shirt depicting a car advertising beer or cigarettes). For the complete dress code please refer to the student handbook.

TCCS Accepting Recycled Phones and Ink Cartridges

TCCS is still collecting old cellular phones and used printer cartridges for recycling. Those items can be dropped off in the office.

TCCS Meets AYP Standards

The Tidioute Community Charter School (TCCS) is proud to announce that the school has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2008-2009 school year. This is now the third year in a row for this achievement. As part of the No Child Left Behind initiative, all students in the nation must be classified as 'advanced' or 'proficient' in reading and math by 2014. To be on target for the 2014 goal, schools need to have 56 percent of students testing at 'advanced' or 'proficient' in math and 63 percent testing at 'advanced' or 'proficient' in reading during the current school year.

In order to meet AYP, TCCS was required to meet three targets; graduation rate, participation rate and performance on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) including all eligible subgroups. In the graduation rate category TCCS had a graduation rate of 93%. For the second target area the TCCS had a 98.6 % participation rate overall and in all eligible subcategories on the PSSA's. In the performance areas, TCCS had an overall 62.4% proficiency rate in math and an overall 63.2% proficiency rate in reading. Eligible subgroups included white students and social economically disadvantaged students. TCCS made AYP in these categories as well.

While the administration is pleased with the increases that the students have made on the PSSA test scores when compared to the 2007-08 school year, improvements will continue to be made to ensure that our students are ready for the performance targets for school year 2009-2010. New academic programs will be implemented to the school curriculum to further aid struggling students and challenge advanced students. The school will also be implementing some new fun and exciting programs that will give students the opportunity to participate in extra curricular activities that include not only reading and math but a myriad of subjects to enhance and reinforce the curriculum.

CEO Mr. David Craig and the Board of Trustees would like to thank all of the students, teachers, staff and parents for the hard work they put in to accomplish AYP.

Student Activities Meeting

The Student Activities Committee will meet on Thursday August 20th at 6:30 pm in the library. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be discussing fundraisers and events for the school year.

Music Boosters

The music boosters will meet on Thursday August 13th at 5:30 pm in the library. All band, guitar, piano and choir parents are asked to participate in music boosters. Volunteers are needed to help with the fishing tournament parade and fundraisers.

Sports Boosters

The sports boosters will meet on Thursday August 13th at 6pm in the library. All parents who have students participating in the athletic programs at TCCS are asked to participate. Volunteers are needed at sporting events to run the concession stands, and also for fundraising events.

Picture Day

Picture day at TCCS will be on Wednesday September 23rd.

Box Tops/Labels for Education

A good way to support the Tidioute Community Charter School is through the Box Tops and Campbell's Labels for Education programs.

Box Tops- All you need to do is clip the Box Tops coupons from your favorite products. Visit boxtop4education.com for a complete list of participating products.

Labels for education – All you need are the proof of purchase, the UPC from Campbell's labels. Visit labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of participating products.

Prizes! At the end of each month the Box Tops are collected for each homeroom. The room with the most Box Tops wins a prize. If you would like your box tops to go to a particular grade please let us know. Some of the proceeds from last years Box Tops program were used to purchase new numbers, storage containers and bulldog dies for the die cut machine and to purchase prizes for the bulldog bucks reward program.

Facility Update

The maintenance staff and summer volunteers have been busy this summer making improvements to the school and grounds. Classrooms have been painted, cleaned and all the floors waxed. Carpets have been cleaned and the gymnasium floor has been redone along with the purchase of the new stage curtains in the gymnasium.

Back-to-School Resource for Parents

We hope you are enjoying your summer break. Back to school is right around the corner and the student activities committee has a ton of great programs planned for this year!

We at the Tidioute Community Charter School want to ensure that you are as prepared as you can be for the new school year this fall. That's why we are passing along this great resource: Back2School2009.com.

The research about parent involvement is clear – kids whose parents are involved at school have more positive attitudes and achieve higher academic success. At Back2School2009.com you'll find everything you need to know to make your child's school year a success, including advice on homework help, healthy eating habits, dealing with stress and more. Just visit Back2School2009.com for more information on all the great benefits this website has to offer.

Volunteer Opportunities Available

The following volunteer positions are now available:

Homeroom parents, office and library volunteers.

Contact the office for more information.

Volunteer Program News Alert

The law requires that all volunteers working with children obtain three clearances, Act 34 and 151 for criminal background check and child abuse and Act 114 FBI Criminal History. There is a fee per clearance but your clearances are effective indefinitely as long as you continue to volunteer at our school. In order to participate in any school event, parents and community members **MUST** have their clearances. This includes but is not limited to; room parents, field trip chaperones, expeditionary project volunteers or any event where volunteers will be working with the children. TCCS has a clearance

reimbursement policy that allows volunteers to submit for reimbursement the cost of their FBI clearances once all paperwork has been completed and an issue of no record found submitted. For more information on the reimbursement program please contact the office.

We strongly encourage each family to make a commitment to contribute a minimum of 10 hours a year to the school by volunteering in one or more areas of the school's operation. There are many opportunities for parents and family members to volunteer at our school and fulfill their hours. Volunteers work in the classroom, go on field trips, run the student store and work at sporting events just to name a few. Volunteers coordinate and work on fundraisers. Families work on school beautification by assisting with landscaping projects, building projects and clean up of the school grounds. Volunteers work during the summer, during the school day, evenings and weekends. There are volunteering opportunities to accommodate any schedule. You are not expected to serve at each of the events a particular committee will sponsor, but help as your schedule permits. Your involvement in special events is equally important to that of the daily or weekly volunteer because these projects could not be completed without your help.

We urge all parents to join the CAPTIVATE (Community And Parents Together Involved in Volunteering and Teaching Excellence) program. For more information on the CAPTIVATE Volunteer program or to obtain clearance forms, contact the school at 484-3550 or visit our website at tidioutecharter.com and click on volunteering and then the PTO manager link and finally the volunteer background check link.

August/September Events

Monday August 24th First Day of school for students

Monday September 7th Labor day – **No School**

Tuesday September 15th TCCS Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm in the library

Wednesday September 23rd – **Picture day**

Please see the enclosed sports schedule for dates, times and location. For information on any of these events contact the school at 484-3550.