

TIS Digital Backpack
March 4, 2024



Photo courtesy of M. Lachut

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:

IXL Math Challenge Leading Classes

Congratulations to the following classes for leading our school-wide IXL Math Challenge.

Mr. Slayton

Mrs. Hillebrecht

Mr. Leblanc

Mrs. Wunsch

Mrs. Arner

Overall TIS students have answered over 1, 000,000 questions in IXL this year!



Keyboarding Leaders

The race car display outside the keyboarding lab is continuing to fill up. Students are awarded a paper race car when they pass their first typing test. Student names and words per minute totals are added to the cars before they are placed in the display. To date the leader board is as follows:

Alex Latour

Harper Huff

Everett Whitehouse

Andrew Boberek

Read Across America Day

In honor of Read Across America Day, Mr. Dineen and Mrs. Merritt read fun stories, poems and even some jokes to students during all lunch waves. Students were afforded the opportunity to participate in the fun!

SBAC Testing

Tolland Intermediate School will be administering the SBAC test to students the week of May 6. Students will be taking the test on their Chromebooks. More information regarding the SBAC will be sent out later this month.

TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2024-2025 CALENDAR

Please note: You can access this calendar on the school's website or by clicking the link below:

[Approved-2024-2025 BOE Calendar.pdf - Google Drive](#)



TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS District School Calendar 2024-2025

First Day: September 3, 2024
Last Day of School: June 16, 2025
180 Days

Approved 2/14/2024

August 2024								(0 school days)								February 2025								(17 school days)														
		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			
New Teacher 22-26		4	5	6	7	8	9	10			2	3	4	5*	6	7	8	Prof. Development		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	President's Day		17	18	19	20	21	22
Onboarding		11	12	13	14	15	16	17			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	February Break		17-19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	In-Service		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Teacher In-Service 27-30		18	19	20	21	22	23	24			23	24	25	26	27	28																						
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31																														

September 2024								(20 school days)								March 2025								(21 school days)															
		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S				
Labor Day 2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			2	3	4	5	6*	7*	8	Parent Conferences		6-7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
First day of School 3		8	9	10	11	12	13	14			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Prof. Development		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29									
Prof. Development 25		15	16	17	18	19	20	21			16	17	18	19*	20	21	22																						
		22	23	24	25*	26	27	28			23/20	24/21	25	26	27	28	29																						
		29	30																																				

October 2024								(21 school days)								April 2025								(17 school days)												
		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	
Prof. Development 2				1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	4	5	Prof. Development		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Spring Break		14-18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Columbus Day 14		6	7	8	9	10	11	12			6	7	8	9*	10	11	12	Good Friday		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Prof. Development		30	31						
Prof. Development 16		13	14	15	16*	17	18	19			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Prof. Development		30																
Prof. Development 30		20	21	22	23	24	25	26			20	21	22	23	24	25	26																			
		27	28	29	30*	31					27	28	29	30*																						

November 2024								(17 school days)								May 2025								(21 school days)												
		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	
Parent Conferences 7-8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7*	8	9			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Prof. Development		14	15	16	17	18	19	Memorial Day		26	27	28	29	30	31	
Prof. Development 13		10	11	12	13*	14	15	16			11	12	13	14*	15	16	17	Prof. Development		28	29	30	31													
Thanksgiving Break 27-29		17	18	19	20	21	22	23			18	19	20	21	22	23	24																			
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30			25	26	27	28*	29	30	31																			

December 2024								(15 school days)								June 2025								(11 school days)												
		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	
Prof. Development 11		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Projected Last Day		16	17	18	19	20	21											
Winter Break 23-Jan 1		8	9	10	11*	12	13	14			8	9	10	11	12	13	14																			
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21			15	16*	17	18	19	20	21																			
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28			22	23	24	25	26	27	28																			
		29	30	31							29	30	31																							

January 2025								(20 school days)								July 2025								(0 school days)												
		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	
New Year's Day 1					1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4	5	6																			
MLK Day 20		5	6	7	8	9	10	11			7	8	9	10	11	12	13																			
Mid-Sem (9-12) 22		12	13	14	15	16	17	18			14	15	16	17	18	19	20																			
In-Service (K-8) 24		19	20	21	22	23	24	25			21	22	23	24	25	26	27																			
		26	27	28	29	30	31				28	29	30	31																						

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In-Service (NS) ■ Conferences ■ District Closed ■ Prof. Development (Early Release) 	<p>* Early Dismissal Day – All District</p> <p>THS Mid Semester Date – January 22, 2025 – Grades 9-12</p> <p>K-8 Teacher In-Service – January 24, 2025</p> <p>** Please note the THS mid-semester is subject to change based on weather</p>	<p>Parent Teacher Conferences</p> <p>November 7, 2024 – Early Release K-12</p> <p>November 8, 2024 – No school for students</p> <p>March 6 & 7, 2025 – Early Release K-12</p>
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The last day of school is scheduled for June 16, 2025. Please note, where possible, snow or emergency days will first be made up through June days. If, however, such snow or emergency days push the last day of school potentially into the last week of June, days may need to be taken from April or other vacations as needed. According to Connecticut General Statute 10-15 and 10-259 the school year must be at least 180 days and cannot extend past the last day of June. The school calendar is posted on the Tolland Public Schools website at <http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us>

* **Early Dismissal Days-** September 25, October 16, October 30, November 7, November 13, December 11, February 5, March 6, March 7, March 19, April 9, April 30, May 14, May 28, June 16

TPS Mid-Semester Date- January 22, 2025 ** Please note this is subject to change based on weather.

2023-2024 Term Dates

Quarter 1 - September – November, Quarter 2 - November – January, Quarter 3 - February – April, Quarter 4 - April - June

Trimester 1 - September – December, Trimester 2 - December – March, Trimester 3 - March - June

Semester 1 - September – January, Semester 2 - February - June

** Please note these are subject to change based on weather.

SCHOOL HOURS

SCHOOLS **START** **END**

Tolland High School

Regular School Day	7:15	1:45
2-Hour Delay	9:15	1:45
Early Dismissal/Exam Days	7:15	10:45

Tolland Middle School

Regular School Day	8:00	2:30
2-Hour Delay	10:00	2:30
Early Dismissal	8:00	11:45

Tolland Intermediate School

Regular School Day	8:45	3:15
2-Hour Delay	10:45	3:15
Early Dismissal	8:45	12:40

Birch Grove Primary School

Regular School Day	9:00	3:30
2-Hour Delay	11:00	3:30
Early Dismissal	9:00	12:55

2023-2024 HOLIDAYS AND CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

TPS encourages all students and staff members to appreciate and be respectful of each other's heritage and cultural diversity. The following is a list of dates for secular holidays as well as other festivals and holy days observed in our community. Additional information regarding these and other celebrations is available on our website.

Labor Day	September 3, 2024
Rosh Hashanah	October 2, 2024
Yom Kippur	October 11, 2024
Columbus Day	October 14, 2024
Veterans Day	November 11, 2024
Diwali	October 31, 2024
Thanksgiving Day	November 28, 2024
Hanukkah begins	December 25, 2024
Christmas	December 25, 2024
Kwanzaa begins	December 26, 2024
New Year's Day	January 1, 2025
Three Kings Day	January 6, 2025
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 20, 2025
President's Day	February 17, 2025
Ramadan begins	February 28, 2025
Holi	March 14, 2025
Good Friday	April 18, 2025
Eid al-Fitr	March 21, 2025
Passover begins	April 12, 2025
Greek Orthodox Easter	April 21, 2025
Memorial Day	May 26, 2025
Juneteenth	June 19, 2025

■ Indicates days on which schools are closed

OUR SCHOOLS

Tolland High School

Thomas Poland, Principal
 Kimberly Mariman, Assistant Principal
 One Eagle Hill
 Phone: 870-6818
 Fax: 870-6826
<http://www.ths.tolland.k12.ct.us/>

Tolland Intermediate School

Jim Dineen, Principal
 Jennifer Merritt, Assistant Principal
 96 Old Post Road
 Phone: 870-6885
 Fax: 873-7136
<http://www.tis.tolland.k12.ct.us/>

Tolland Public Schools

Walter Willett, Ph.D, Superintendent
 51 Tolland Green
 Phone: 870-6850
 Fax: 870-7737
<http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/>

Tolland Middle School

Melissa Hickey, Principal
 Anthony Spangle, Assistant Principal
 One Falcon Way
 Phone: 870-6860
 Fax: 870-5737
<http://www.tms.tolland.k12.ct.us/>

Birch Grove Primary School

Tom Swanson, Principal
 Suzanne Guglietta, Assistant Principal
 247 Rhodes Road
 Phone: 870-6750
 Fax: 870-6754
<http://www.bgp.tolland.k12.ct.us/>

T.I.S. CALENDAR

MARCH

- 6 GRADE 3 TO WADSWORTH 9:15-11:45, Arner & Zevallos
- 7 EARLY RELEASE, PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
- 8 EARLY RELEASE, PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
- 13-22 Scholastic Bookfair
- 15 Silly Hair Day
- 20 EARLY RELEASE
- 26 Curriculum Night at TIS (see flyer below)
- NEW:** 27 Fifth Grade Career Day (see flyer)
- 28 GRADE 3 TO WADSWORTH 9:15-11:45, Williams
- 28 Career Dress Up Day
- 29 NO SCHOOL

Wadsworth Atheneum

Field Trip Schedule

Day	Date		Teachers
<u>Wednesday</u>	2/28		Babiec Stern
<u>Thursday</u>	2/29		Dudas Fitzgerald (Jones)
<u>Wednesday</u>	3/6		Arner Zevallos
<u>Thursday</u>	3/28		Williams

NEW ITEMS THIS WEEK:

Tolland Intermediate School Career Day

Wednesday March 27, 2024

Tolland Intermediate School will be hosting a Career Day for all students on March 27, 2024. Our vision is to introduce students to new careers and get them excited about their futures!

We are looking for parents/guardians who are interested in talking to students about their careers and inspiring the next generation.

Please fill out the following Google Form to indicate your interest in participating by **Friday, March 15, 2024**.

<https://forms.gle/fEtaNtBA2fGPqShk8>

We are looking for a wide variety of careers to be represented. In particular, we are looking for:

- Nurses/Doctors
- Veterinarian/Vet Tech
- Chef/Baker/Restaurant Owner
- Engineer (Software/Mechanical)
- Paramedic
- Horse trainer
- Mechanic
- Construction worker
- Hairdresser or cosmetologist
- Influencer/YouTuber
- Public Servant
- Journalist/TV Broadcaster
- Graphic Designer
- Interior Decorator
- **And MORE!**

Unfortunately, we may not have the ability to host all who are interested, so we appreciate your understanding if you are not chosen to participate. Questions? Email Ashly Bishopric, School Counselor at TIS, at abishopric@tolland.k12.ct.us.



WORKSHOP OFFERINGS

MATH

- FUN FACTS WITH STRATEGIES (GRADES 1-2)
- WORKPLACE GAMES- TARGET 100 PRODUCTS 4 IN A ROW (GRADES 3-5)
- WORKPLACE GAMES- FACTORS AND MULTIPLES AND TANGRAM POLYGONS (GRADES 3-5)
- ENGAGING STUDENTS IN MATH WITH BUILDING THINKING CLASSROOMS (GRADES 5-6)
- COME ENJOY SOME FUN MATH GAMES AND ACTIVITIES (GLOW IN THE DARK STYLE!) (GRADES 6-8)
- ENGAGING STUDENTS IN MATH WITH BUILDING THINKING CLASSROOMS (GRADES 7-8)

ELA

- FUN VOCABULARY GAMES FOR YOUR FAMILY (ALL GRADES)
- FUNDATIONS GAMES AND SECRET STORIES (GRADES PREK-2)
- UNRAVELING THE READING ROPE (GRADES PREK-2)

SCIENCE

- HELICOPTER DESIGN CHALLENGE (ALL GRADES)
- FROM SEA TO SKY (GRADES PREK-5)
- ALL ABOARD THE STEAM TRAIN: COMBINING SCIENCE AND ART (GRADES PREK-5)
- INVENTION CONVENTION! (GRADES 5-8)

SEL

- DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR BODY IS FEELING? (GRADES PREK-2)
- RULER & ADVISORY AT TMS (GRADES 6-8)

Tolland Public Schools CURRICULUM NIGHT @TIS

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
5:15-7:55PM

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN ACTIVITIES
WITH OUR STAFF- BRINGING TOGETHER
FAMILIES AND STAFF TO HIGHLIGHT THE
AMAZING THINGS HAPPENING IN OUR
CLASSROOMS EVERYDAY!

WORKSHOPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR
FAMILIES OF ANY PREK-8 STUDENT.
PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED FOR EVERYONE
THAT ATTENDS.

GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE
SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND THE
LINK TO REGISTER



Tolland Public Schools K-8 Curriculum Night

Save The Date!

Tuesday

March 26, 2024

5-8PM

Back by popular demand! Join TPS staff for an evening of fun activities for the whole family, highlighting the amazing things happening in our classrooms every day! This year we are hoping to expand our night to include grades K-8. We hope you can join us!

Pizza will be provided for everyone that attends.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS:

GRADE 3

Mrs. Babiec's class recently visited the Wadsworth Museum



Third graders have been working hard since we returned from our Winter break. We have also had a lot of fun watching them play in our quickly melting snow. Let's hope for a little more before the winter is over. Please send your child to school with a winter jacket, snow pants, gloves, a hat and boots to play in the snow. Boots are good even when there isn't snow, so they can play on the field even when it is a bit muddy.

In Bridges Math we are finishing up Unit 4, which focused on telling time and measurement. We used clocks to tell time to the nearest minute. Your child will use a number line to answer questions about elapsed time. You can help at home by encouraging them to read clocks and figuring out how long different activities take to complete. We will be moving on to Unit 5 in the next week or so. Unit 5 focuses more on multiplication, division and area. We'll review fact families, connect multiplication and division with workplaces and word problems. As always, you can help at home by practicing math facts with your child.

In Language Arts we are in Unit 3 and moving on to Unit 4 of the Journeys program. We have read texts about how technology has helped to advance the sports that we do. This week we read a trickster tale called Tops and Bottoms. Third graders focused on sequence of events, text and graphic features and plural nouns. In the upcoming weeks we'll read a Cherokee Legend, and focus on comparing and contrasting, as well as story messages. Aero and Officer Mike was an informational text about a police dog and his partner. Students learned about text features and how service animals help in the community. We'll be moving on to Units 7 and 8 in Foundations where we learn about changing y to i in open syllables and pluralizing words.

We have begun the Science unit the Case of the Odd Motions. Your child will be learning about forces and motion. We have fun experiments for pushes and pulls, gravity, static electricity, and magnetism.

Our classes have been going to the Wadsworth Atheneum over the last couple of weeks. The students, teachers and parents really enjoyed this trip. Students were taken on a tour by a docent to see artwork that focused on the People and Places in CT. They saw a picture frame, baby cradle, and chair made from the wood of the famous Charter Oak tree. The Wadsworth Atheneum is a beautiful museum, and we told the students to ask you to go back so they could explore more. I encourage you to check out their website for kid friendly activities on the weekend.

GRADE 4

The month of February flew by-even with the extra day!

We have concluded February's Number Corner which focused largely on geometry, measurement, and fractions. Students learned to use a protractor to measure and draw angles. Throughout the month, students identified, compared, and classified lines, angles, and polygons. As we move into March, Number Corner activities will extend our learning of fractions and decimals. A focus will also be on patterns and functions. Fourth grade students continue to work with standard and metric units of measurement for time, length, weight, and volume.

In Language Arts, we started Unit 3, “Inside Nature.” This unit focuses on non-fiction selections about understanding what’s happening in the natural world around us. This unit aligns nicely with the next social studies unit. Students have been engaged in non-fiction writing skills, such as research, planning, and drafting an informational piece of writing.

As students wrap up their erosion performance task, we will move to our next unit in Social Studies which focuses on the Northeast Region.

We continue to encourage students to read and practice their math skills at home. Remember that Reflex Math, Frax, and IXL can be accessed at home and provide students with excellent opportunities to improve their skills.

Our upcoming selections in Journeys focus on story structure, fact and opinion, understanding characters, conclusions and generalizations, and author’s purpose. The students will be working on informational writing.

Fourth grade students are working diligently to master fractions and decimals, using various strategies and manipulatives. We continue to use IXL and Reflex Math to strengthen our skills, as well as FRAX to complete missions involving fractions.

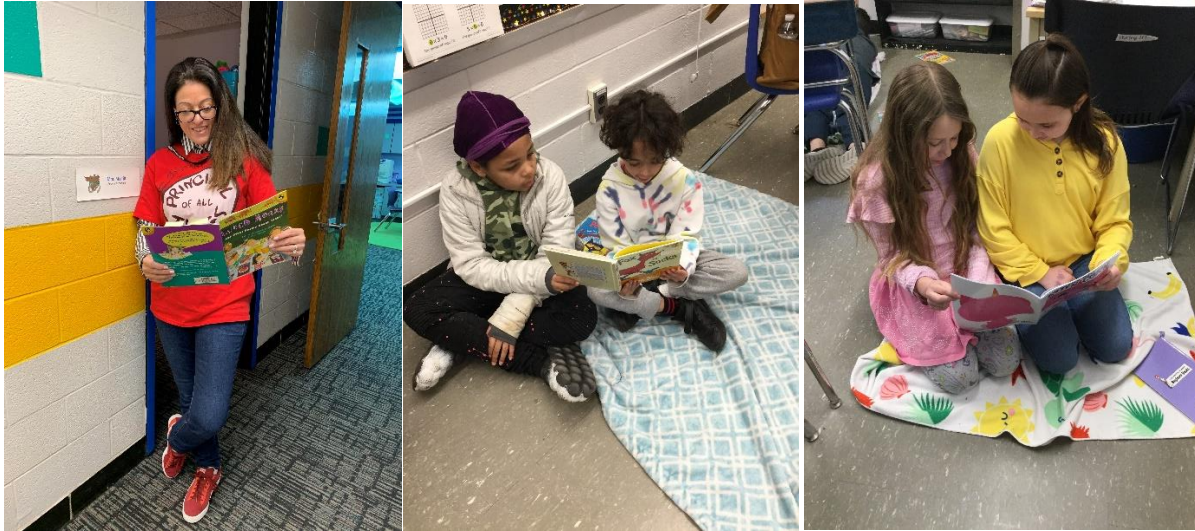
In science, we are well into our second unit, which focuses on landforms and features around the world, wave patterns, and how our environment is constantly changing. The driving essential questions of this unit include:

- Why do waves affect the erosion of earth features?
- How do earth processes affect humans, and how do humans affect earth processes?

Students are using background knowledge from our first unit to make connections, and they will showcase what they've learned through a performance task assessment beginning in February. Students will be developing a plan (and potentially building a small model) to help control coastline erosion. We're excited to see what they come up with!

Students have been learning about world geography and map reading skills in social studies. Recently, students have begun creating their own fun-themed continents to showcase what they've learned about the features of maps. We've got some great maps in the works so far including Ice Cream Island, Mario World, Soccerland, and so much more. Ask your 4th grader all about it! Our next unit will include studies about the Northeast region.

Mrs. Merritt and Mrs. Hurley's class celebrate Read Across America Day



GRADE 5

It has been an exciting winter in 5th grade! Fifth Graders have been working hard on their monthly genre book reports. So far, we have covered realistic fiction, mystery, historical fiction, fantasy, Nutmeg Award, biography and we are completing a science fiction text for the month of March. What has been your child's favorite so far? We love seeing all of the amazing texts students are choosing each month! For the month of April, we will be reading poetry!

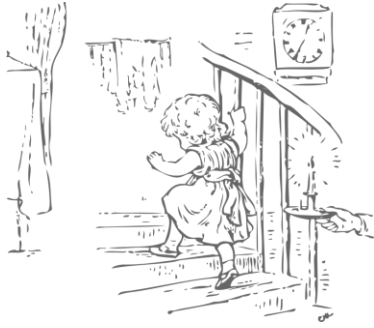
In ELA, students are well into reading our second novel "The Phantom Tollbooth," by Norton Juster. This entertaining book used literal and figurative language for a play on words. Students will soon begin our last module for fifth grade, "Breaking Barriers." In this module students will read the text, "We Are the Ship," by Kadir Nelson. Students will learn how sports affect how people view each other, to create opportunities for people, and to help people overcome and challenge barriers. Students will read and

research a variety of informational texts about individual athletes, coaches, teams, and organizations to answer the question: How can sports influence individuals and societies?

In Social Studies, students continue to learn about Early Settlements and Colonization. They are investigating the essential question, “How did colonization affect and change the freedom of various groups?” They are also investigating what life was like for various groups of people after colonization. Students will compare and contrast the three regions of the English colonies (New England, Middle, Southern) during the 1600s. Students have also been practicing their skills using IXL.

In Math, students are wrapping up their learning on multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals. Students learned ratio tables, partial product, area model, standard algorithm and many other strategies! They learned new workplace games such as beat the calculator, estimate and check, lowest remainder wins, and multiplication battle. Our next unit will be on multiplying and dividing fractions.

In Science, we are wrapping up our ecosystems unit by learning about the human impact we have on various ecosystems. Students' final assessment will be to make a new home for the Golden Jellyfish and explain all the needs for the ecosystem to survive and thrive. In Trimester 3, we will move into our next unit on water phenomena.



Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8
Band Step Up Concert
Monday, March 18, 2024 (Snow
date: March 19)

Location: Tolland Middle School Auditorium

Arrive: 6:30 p.m.

Grade 5 band members report to room 120 with Mrs. Marchesani (located near side door to auditorium)

Grade 6, 7, 8 band members report to the band room with Ms. Titus.

Attire: casual ☺

Schedule:

6:30 p.m. Students arrive to warm up.

7:00-8:00 p.m. Students perform music.

8:00-8:15 p.m. Clear stage, move equipment back to the band room. Miss Titus and Mrs. Marchesani will be available to answer questions at this time. Please consider volunteering at the end of the concert to help clear the stage. We will move all chairs, music stands and percussion equipment to the band room.

If your child needs special accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Miss Titus at htitus@tolland.k12.ct.us

Concert Set List:

Grade 5 Band
This Old Man
This Old Dude

Grade 5 & 6 Bands Combined
Regal March

Grades 6 & 7 Bands Combined
Trumpet Voluntary
Rockin' Rondeau
Rock Island Express

Grades 6, 7 & 8 Bands Combined

Hooked on a Feelin'

Grades 7 & 8 Bands Combined

Pink Panther

Birdland

Encore: Grades 6, 7 & 8 Bands Combined

Best Day of My Life

****Keep this upper portion at home****

Please fill out and return the permission slip on the next page

Please detach and return to Mrs. Marchesani

My child _____ **will will not** participate in
the

(circle one)

Step Up Concert on March 18, 2024 (Snow date March 19). I understand that student
TMS arrival time is 6:30 pm and the Concert begins at 7:00 pm at Tolland Middle
School.

Parent/guardian signature

*** Return detached slip to Mrs. Marchesani by Monday March 4, 2024 ***

Tolland Intermediate School

96 Old Post Road

Tolland, CT 06084



Music Times Three

March 21, 2024 Concert Information

Attention: Members and Families

Concert date: Thursday evening, March 21, 2024

Place: Tolland Intermediate School APR

Students arrive: 6:10 p.m. and report to room 226

Concert begins: 6:30 p.m.

Concert dress: Appropriate for a performance

Clothing should not be too warm since the children perform in a large group and it is always hotter on stage. For safety reasons, students should try not to wear heels, clogs, backless shoes, or flip-flops since the concert is staged on risers.

“BackStage”: 4 parent volunteers are needed

I am looking forward to a fun-filled concert with your wonderful young musicians! Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Mrs. Norma Marchesani, Music Times Three Director
nmarchesani@tolland.k12.ct.us 860-870-6885 ext. 40226

(Please cut off this lower portion and return to Mrs. Marchesani by March 15th)

I have read the Music Times Three concert information.

I will bring my child to TIS room 226 at 6:10 p.m. on Thursday, March 21st. I understand that my child's concert begins at 6:30 p.m.

Student _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Classroom teacher _____ Date _____

ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK'S DIGITAL BACKPACK

February Reading Thoughts from the TIS Reading Department

7 Reasons Why You MUST Read Aloud To Your Kids At All Ages

[Katherine Stone](#)



I believe the fact that I read aloud to my children is the single most important contributing factor to their success in school.

Just reading. Out loud. Every night.

And here's what I want you to know: You should definitely, absolutely, without any question read aloud to your kids. All the time. And not just when they're little.

We are so obsessed with reading in my house that when we went on a Spring Break trip to New York City a couple of years ago we made sure to visit the [Scholastic store](#) in addition to the Statue of Liberty. I might as well have [Random House Children's Books](#) on speed dial. [Barnes & Noble](#) is among the three stores I frequent more than any other, and the vast majority of the money I spend there is on children's books. In fact, I am so in love with reading that I want to make sure other children have things to read, too. Whenever we're done with kids' books at my house we either donate them to the local library or to my children's school's library. At our neighborhood-wide garage sale a few weeks ago, my kids handed out a free children's book to every family that came by with kids.

I have read aloud to my children since they were little, and I continue to do so. I think that's vitally important. I continue to read aloud with my 11-year-old when he's not still buried under

homework at bedtime. I won't ever stop reading to him until he says he doesn't want to anymore, and even then I'll probably beg him to let me keep doing it anyway. We read books. We read magazines like [Spider](#) and [National Geographic Kids](#) for my daughter and [National Geographic](#), the grownup version, for my son. They read on their iPads.

Also, every night I have my daughter read aloud to me for 15 minutes or so before I read to her. She's seven years old, just finishing up first grade, and when she was tested a couple of weeks ago her reading level was at 5th grade. I'm convinced, beyond a doubt, that it's because we make sure that reading is a focus at home and we don't just leave it to the school to make it a priority. All it takes is a few minutes of a parent's time to make a huge difference.

Reading to your kids is about so much more than simply teaching them to read in kindergarten or first grade. Here are seven great reasons why you should be obsessed with reading aloud daily to your children, no matter their age:

1. It's time spent together. Reading time is time when you're focusing on no one else and nothing else but them. It's impossible to read to your kid and look at your smartphone or watch TV at the same time. I read to each of my children separately before bed. This lets me spend quality time with them individually. It makes for a longer bedtime ritual, but I don't care because I love it.

2. It's a conversation starter. Books always give us a reason to talk with each other, even if we don't feel like we have anything to talk about. It keeps communication open.

3. It's a great way to talk about emotional health. We talk about the things that happen in the stories, how we would feel if they happened to us, and how we might deal with such events the same or differently. Books have helped me broach topics that I might not have thought to raise if it weren't for the subject matter in the story.

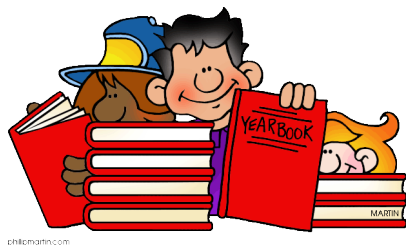
4. It's a great way to honor the individuality in your children. I read different things to my daughter than I do to my son. We go to the bookstore and they pick out books about topics about which they are interested. Through paying attention to what they want to read, I can learn more about what their likes and dislikes are, including what they might want to be when they grow up.

5. You can open up new worlds for your kids. Reading allows you to introduce your kids to things that their school curriculum just doesn't have the time or perhaps even the interest to cover. My 6th grader has recently expressed an interest in industrial design, so I'm on a hunt for cool books about the design of cars and about architecture. *Dear publishers: Please publish more books for young readers about these things!! We don't just need stories about zombies and vampires.*

6. You get a wealth of information on where your children might need help. Through reading aloud to my children I've been able to teach them the meaning of words they still didn't understand. They have better vocabularies. They have better comprehension skills and understanding of abstract concepts. And reading allows them to excel not just in language arts, but in all of their subjects. I've been able to see when my daughter was ready to read on her own — she started pushing me out of the way and reading the words herself — and also to see if and when she needs help.

7. It can lead to a lifelong love of reading in your kids. If you do it right, by reading like you mean it — which means getting into the story, changing your voice to reflect what is happening and not droning on like you hate what you're reading — your children will learn to love reading on their own. My 11-year-old has now read more than 25,000 pages in his lifetime. How do I know this? For fun, together we created an Excel spreadsheet (OCD, anyone?) where we record the books he has read and how many pages were in them. He loves that little sheet, because it gives him a sense of accomplishment and he can look back on all that he has read and remember his favorites.

Reading is awesome, and even better, it's accessible to all through our country's public [library system](#). So please, get out there and read to your babies and, most importantly, don't quit.



The Tolland Intermediate School yearbook staff is working hard to deliver an exciting 2023-2024 TIS Yearbook featuring many new things encompassing our school year!

The cost is **\$20 per book**. Please visit www.jostens.com or scan the QR code to the right to order your yearbook and **support contactless payment**.

1. Click "Order Yearbook"
2. Enter "Tolland Intermediate School" in the search field, then follow the prompts!

Should you prefer to pay by check, please send in payment (made out to TIS SAA) in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name, grade, and homeroom teacher.



PHOTOS NEEDED

We need your photos! Feel free to share: first day of school photos, spirit days, events/fundraisers, fun candid school photos, and more!

Please submit photos to our yearbook sharing site at:

<https://images.jostens.com/0v0NfveFGFxV0NDA4KzjvTw> or scan the QR code to the right for a quick, easy upload.

Be sure to include a brief description of the images uploaded to be sure they are included in the correct section of our yearbook.

If you have questions, please call Customer Service at 1-877-767-5217.

Tolland Intermediate School Yearbook

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Contact phone: _____

Contact email: _____



12/29 / 2024
Tax, service and delivery fee(s) will be added if applicable.
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Tolland Family Resource Center Preschool 2024-2025

Our preschool programs promote child-initiated exploration in a safe, secure, and nurturing environment. All classes provide a balance of play, social time, and structured learning activities.

Tolland FRC 3's Preschool for three-year-olds

Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday - 9:00am – 12:00pm / located at Birch Grove in room B14

Children must be 3 on or before December 31, 2024.

Tolland FRC 4's Preschool for four-year-olds

Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday – 9:00am-12:00pm/ located at Birch Grove in room B14

Children must be 4 on or before December 31, 2024.

Creative Preschool for 3- to 5-year-olds

Schedule: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday - 9:00am – 12:00pm / located at Tolland High School room 85.

Children must be 3 on or before December 31, 2024.

Kindergarten Readiness for those children not eligible for kindergarten due to the new state regulation.

Schedule: Monday – Friday 9:00-3:00 /located at Birch Grove in room B12.

Children must be 4 on or before September 1, 2024.

How can you help your child succeed in preschool?

A positive preschool experience can help set your child up for future success in kindergarten and beyond. You can help to ensure your child will flourish in a preschool class by working on the following readiness skills:

- Listening and following simple directions.
- Expressing wants and needs verbally.
- Following a routine with multiple transitions.
- Sharing and taking turns with friends and family.
- Self-help skills such as getting dressed, using the restroom, and eating lunch/snack with minimal assistance.

We strongly encourage families to begin working on toilet learning prior to the start of the school year. Please let us know if you need support and guidance during this learning process.

[FRC Preschool 2024-2025 Registration Form](#)



Join the Family Resource Center's School Age Care Programs

Where friendships are formed.

We provide time for homework, snacks, free play, crafts, and outside play.

We hold programs at both Birch Grove Primary School and Tolland Intermediate School.

We provide morning care from 7:00 am-until the start of school and after school care from the close of school until 6:00 pm.

We are open on scheduled early release days as well as all Teacher Inservice & Parent Teacher Conference Days.

Please follow the link to register.

[FRC 2024-2025 SAC Registration Form](#)

TIS SPIRITWEAR!

Please see the new sales on TIS Swag! Save 25% on all 1/4 Zips

We are running a great promotion this week. All 1/4 zips are discounted 25%! This includes Nike, Adidas and Badger 1/4 zips! We are also featuring a women's-cut Adidas 1/4 zip! Your new sale ad is below. A direct link to all 1/4 zips is:

<https://1stplacespiritwear.com/collection/109626?style=1/4+Zips>

1/4 Zips Social Copy

This week only, save 25% on all TIS 1/4 zips! This includes styles from Nike, Adidas and Badger! Shop Now: <https://1stplace.sale/109626>

Upcoming Weekly Promotions

Each week we will feature a different product line at a discounted price! Upcoming promotions include:

- 1/29: Crewneck Sweatshirts \$10 off
- 2/5: Pajama Pants \$10 off
- 2/12: Water Bottles: 25% off

TIS Links:

- Store Link: <https://1stplace.sale/109626>

FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE:

Appropriate Outerwear and Appropriate Footwear

Two reminders for your student. Please remind them to know their scheduled day for gym class. They should be wearing appropriate athletic footwear to participate in required gym activities. Should you have any questions please reach out to kdowning@tolland.k12.ct.us OR you may contact the nurse. If your student does not know their gym day, have them check their class schedule. If they do not usually wear athletic shoes, a good option would be for them to have a labeled pair they keep in their locker.

Winter weather and outdoor recess. Your student should plan to have appropriate outerwear for cooler temperatures. If the weather is 20 degrees F and calm, recess is most likely outdoors. Days where there is snow on the ground and the temperature is warm enough; outdoor play will likely occur. Please help your student plan to bring, or wear, the appropriate outdoor gear for their comfort level. Boots are needed to play in the snow.



TEPTO

TOLLAND ELEMENTARY PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS!

Wednesday September 6: Birch Grove Primary Library

Wednesday October 4: Tolland Intermediate School Library

Wednesday November 1: BGP Library

Tuesday December 5 : TIS Library

Wednesday February 7: BGP Library

Wednesday March 6: TIS Library

Wednesday April 3: BGP Library

Wednesday May 1: TIS Library

Wednesday June 5: BGP Library *



7 :00 pm

.....
All meetings begin at 7:00 PM

Questions? TEPTO Contact Information:

Diana Gascon, President
dcancellier79@gmail.com

Becky Moore, VP
rlmoore313@gmail.com





THE TEPTO YEAR AT A GLANCE



SEPTEMBER

- JOIN US! BG LIBRARY: SEPT. 6 @ 7PM
- LYMAN PIE ORDERS
- KASTLE ORDERS
- CIDER MILL ROAD RACE
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

OCTOBER

- JOIN US! TIS LIBRARY: OCT. 4 @ 7PM
- STAFF APPRECIATION
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

NOVEMBER

- JOIN US! BG LIBRARY: NOV. 1 @ 7PM
- LYMAN PIE PICK UPS
- KASTLE ORDERS SHIP TO HOME
- TIS BOOK FAIR
- ART TO REMEMBER ORDERS
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

DECEMBER

- JOIN US! TIS LIBRARY: DEC. 6 @ 7PM
- FROSTY FEST
- BIRCH GROVE BOOK FAIR
- ART TO REMEMBER DELIVERY
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

JANUARY

- NO MEETING THIS MONTH!
- KINDNESS SIGN CAMPAIGN
- ORDERS AND PICK UP
- 5TH GRADE DANCE
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

FEBRUARY

- JOIN US! BG LIBRARY: FEB. 7 @ 7PM
- STAFF APPRECIATION
- KINDNESS SIGN DISPLAYS
- BUTTER BRAID ORDERS
- 4TH GRADE DANCE
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

MARCH

- JOIN US! TIS LIBRARY: MAR. 6 @ 7PM
- TIS BOOK FAIR
- BUTTER BRAID PICK UP
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

APRIL

- JOIN US! BG LIBRARY: APR. 3 @ 7PM
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

MAY

- JOIN US! TIS LIBRARY: MAY 1 @ 7PM
- BIRCH GROVE BOOK FAIR
- SPRING SOCIAL AND ART SHOW
- STAFF APPRECIATION
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

JUNE

- JOIN US! BG LIBRARY: JUNE 5 @ 7PM** (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
- SCHOOL SUPPLY ORDERS

JULY



AUGUST

- SCHOOL SUPPLY ORDERS ARRIVE- FREE SHIP TO HOME!
- GEARING UP FOR THE NEW YEAR!



JOIN THE

-CREW-

After School

SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE!



TOLLAND RECREATION PRESENTS "the CREW After School" Program

CELEBRATING RECREATION, EDUCATION AND WELL-BEING



- After School Care for TIS Students
- Monday-Friday open until 6:00 P.M.
- Includes Early Release Days!
- We focus on homework & reading each day as well as recreational games & activities

For more information call 860-871-3610 or visit www.tollandct.myrec.com

\$250.00/per month

- 50% ARPA Fund DISCOUNT

ONLY \$125/Month!

C
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W



K-12 Student Accident Insurance

Enroll Online



www.studentinsurance-kk.com

Worried about paying for your child's medical care if an accident should happen? K&K's student accident insurance can help.

K-12 Accident Plans available through your school:

- *At-School Accident Only*
- *24-Hour Accident Only*
- *Extended Dental*
- *Football*

How to Enroll Online

Enrolling online is easy and should take only a few minutes. Go to www.studentinsurance-kk.com and click the "Enroll Now" button.

1. Start by telling us the name of the school district and state where your child attends school.
2. We'll request each student's name and grade level.
3. You'll see the available plans and their rates. Select your coverage and continue to the next step.
4. We'll request information about you, like your name and email address.
5. Next, you'll enter information about the child or children to be covered.
6. Enter your credit card or eCheck payment information.
7. Finally, print out a copy of the confirmation for your records.

For further details of the coverage including costs, benefits, exclusions, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please refer to www.studentinsurance-kk.com. Student is able to purchase the coverage only if his/her school district is a policyholder with the insurance company.

¿Le preocupa tener que pagar la atención médica de su hijo si ocurre un accidente? El seguro contra accidentes para estudiantes de K&K puede ayudarlo.

Planes de cobertura en caso de accidente para K-12 disponibles a través de su escuela:

- *Sólo accidentes en la escuela*
- *Sólo accidentes, 24 horas*
- *Dental extendido*
- *Fútbol*

Cómo inscribirse en línea

Inscribirse en línea es fácil y sólo le tomará unos pocos minutos. Visite www.studentinsurance-kk.com y haga clic en el botón "Enroll Now" ("Inscribirse ahora").

1. Comience por decirnos el nombre del distrito escolar y el estado en el que su hijo(a) va a la escuela.
2. Solicitaremos el nombre y el grado de cada uno de los estudiantes.
3. Verá los planes disponibles y sus tarifas. Seleccione su cobertura y continúe con el siguiente paso.
4. Le solicitaremos información sobre usted, como su nombre y dirección de correo electrónico.
5. Después, ingresará la información acerca del niño o niños que recibirá(n) cobertura.
6. Ingrese la información de pago de su tarjeta de crédito o eCheck.
7. Finalmente, imprima una copia de la confirmación para sus registros.

Para obtener más detalles sobre la cobertura, incluidos costos, beneficios, exclusiones y reducciones o limitaciones y los términos en virtud de los cuales esta póliza podría continuar en vigencia, consulte www.studentinsurance-kk.com. Los estudiantes pueden comprar la cobertura únicamente si su distrito escolar es titular de una póliza con la compañía de seguros.



School Meals 2023-2024:

All students are eligible for a free breakfast each day. Students who qualify for free or **reduced-price meals** will also be eligible to receive one free lunch daily. **ALL OTHER LUNCHES WILL BE CHARGED AT THE CURRENT LUNCH PRICE PER SCHOOL.**

Payment for these lunches is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. The district participates in the National School Lunch Program and Breakfast Program which offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily. The lunch period is 30 minutes. Proper manners are always expected in the cafeteria. Free and reduced price meals are available based on financial need. Information on this program may be obtained from the main office or Abby Kassman-Harned, the Food Service Director, at aharned@tolland.k12.ct.us or 870-6854.

We use a Point-of-Sale System that allows you to put money into an account for your child to purchase meals.

Scanning – All students will be scanned unless the parent or guardian opts out of this biometric identification procedure. When your child comes through the service line, he/she will scan his/her finger as a means of identification.

Payments – The cost of lunch at Birch Grove and Tolland Intermediate school is \$3.15. One school breakfast is free for all students. One milk is provided for each lunch and breakfast. Ala carte milk is \$0.75. You may sign up for [“My School Account”](#) and make your payments online. Your child may give payment along with a form to his/her classroom teacher to send to the office, or he/she may bring payment directly to the cashier in the cafeteria at mealtime. Your payment may take us a few days to process. It is important to keep a positive balance in your students’ accounts. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact us at 860-870-6854 or aharned@tolland.k12.ct.us



The End

