

# Thompson Public Schools

## Fall 2017 District Newsletter

### Expanded Breakfast Programs to Begin in Thompson Public Schools

#### Free Universal Breakfast Program to Begin at Mary R Fisher Elementary School

The members of the Board of Education (BOE), approved the implementation of a free universal breakfast program for all students at MRFES. Starting on Monday November 6<sup>th</sup>, breakfast will be delivered to each classroom at the start of the school day. Students will be encouraged to take and eat a free meal to start the learning day.

The breakfast program is free for all students at MRFES. The district will monitor the federal reimbursement rates for meals served at MRFES during the remainder of the 17/18 school year. If the program breaks even or is at a minimal cost, the BOE will discuss expanding the free program during the 2018/2019 school year at both Thompson Middle School and Tourtellotte Memorial High School.

#### Grab and Go Breakfast to Begin at Thompson Middle School & Tourtellotte Memorial High School

Thanks to grant funding from the New England Dairy Council and NFL Fuel Up to Play 60 Program the district received funds to purchase kiosks to serve breakfast at different locations outside of the cafeteria at both TMS and TMHS. Students will be encouraged to eat breakfast daily and be offered the opportunity to grab a breakfast and eat it during their first class.



Lisa Durand, Food Service Manager, has developed some new breakfast menu items including fruit smoothies, scratch muffins and breakfast sandwiches. The Grab and Go program will start mid-November. Middle and high school students who already receive free and reduced lunch are eligible for a free breakfast. Remaining students may purchase a breakfast at the kiosk for \$1.75.

#### A kick-off event is planned for Wednesday November 1, 2017 at 9:00 am at Thompson Middle School.

Research is clear that hunger is a barrier to learning. The members of the Thompson Board of Education want to ensure that every child starts the learning day with a nutritious breakfast to remain alert and focused.

**Note: Students may only eat breakfast items purchased in school as part of the Grab and Go Program.**

## Home Communication Update:



The district is in the process of expanding our communication system to better keep families informed. The calling system has been updated to send both email and text messages in addition to voice messages. It is essential that all contact information is accurate in our data base to be sure that you receive our messages. If you must make any changes to your current contact information, please call your child's school and speak to the secretary for assistance.

Coming at the end of January, parents and guardians of middle and high school students will be able to access the parent portal and view their child's grades and assignments. Students will also have access to monitor their own progress. More information about this next communication enhancement will be sent home.



## School Closing

In addition to notifying families through Rediker, the district will post school closings on the following media outlets:

- District Website
  - Twitter: @ThompsonCTSuper
  - WINY Radio
  - Television
- 96.1 WSRB
  - WVIT 30 [www.nbcconnecticut.com](http://www.nbcconnecticut.com)
  - WTIC Fox 61 [www.fox61.com](http://www.fox61.com)
  - WTNH Channel 8 [www.wtnh.com](http://www.wtnh.com)
  - WBZ TV Boston [www.boston.cbslocal.com](http://www.boston.cbslocal.com)
  - WFSB Channel 3 [www.wfsb.com](http://www.wfsb.com)

## Tourtellotte Memorial High School Revised Program of Studies

Principal Megan Baker and her team of educators are in the process of revising the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Program of Studies to include new College Board Advanced Placement courses, career academies, expanded college credit bearing courses and online learning opportunities. Students in grades eight through eleven will receive their copies of the expanded selections in January in order to make course choices for the 2018/2019 school year.

The district is offering exciting new learning options that will prepare students for college and/or career pathways!



## Thompson Public Schools Vision 2020 Strategic Plan

Thank you to teachers, administrators, parents and community members for working together to develop a three-year plan to enhance Thompson Public Schools. The plan will be presented to the members of the Board of Education for approval and adoption at their next meeting on Monday, November 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Once the plan is approved it will be available on the district's website.

It is important to implement the goals of the Strategic Plan to prepare students to become globally competitive. It will take both financial and human capital resources to ensure students have the necessary skills for career success.



### Early Release & Holiday Closings:

Thompson Public Schools will be closed or release students early on the following dates:

Thursday	November 9, 2017	<b>Early Release</b>
Friday	November 10, 2017	<b>Closed – Veterans' Day</b>
Wednesday	November 22, 2017	<b>Closed - Thanksgiving Break</b>
Thursday	November 23, 2017	<b>Closed – Thanksgiving Break</b>
Friday	November 24, 2017	<b>Closed – Thanksgiving Break</b>
Friday	December 8, 2017	<b>Early Release</b>
Friday	December 22, 2017	<b>Early Release</b>
Monday	December 25, 2017 through Monday January 1, 2018	<b>Winter Break</b>
Tuesday	January 2, 2018	<b>Teacher Professional Development</b>

