



THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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May 14, 2020

Dear Thompson Families,

The district will begin a flurry of activities over the next few weeks to distribute curriculum resources and student, faculty, and staff personal belongings. In addition, we will be making plans to distribute senior yearbooks, caps/gowns, and other necessary supplies associated with the graduating TMHS Class of 2020. Principal Parrette will be sending a separate schedule out to seniors with details and directions of where to gather up their items.

At this time, we are waiting for information from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and health officials to provide us with guidelines regarding promotion ceremonies. A traditional in-person celebration may not be held due to the health risks associated with COVID-19. Once I have the guidelines, I will be meeting with TMHS administrators, class advisors, and student leaders to plan an appropriate graduation ceremony.

Thompson Middle School (TMS) has selected the date of Friday, August 21, 2020 to hold a “Moving Up” ceremony for grade eight students. The district will also be bound by the regulations set by CSDE for this event as well. A great deal can happen in three months from now which could impact the current restrictions and the rules may be different than they are at the present time. I will keep you updated about TMS celebration throughout the summer.

Mary R. Fisher Elementary School’s fourth grade “Celebration & 5th Grade Orientation” is being planned and more information will be sent out to families as we receive guidelines.

Scholastic Book Distribution & Picture Pick Up:

Governor Lamont, in coordination with Commissioner Cardona, has secured books from Scholastic for students’ preschool through grade eight for all thirty-three Alliance districts. Thompson Public Schools is a designated Alliance district and has benefited from this great additional resource.

The Scholastic book packs have finally arrived and will be distributed next week following the schedule listed below. Our security team has sorted and inserted Mary R. Fisher Elementary and Thompson Middle School grade eight student photographs in each grade level book pack to be picked up at the same time.

In order for the distribution to operate efficiently, I am asking you to print and complete the form attached to hand to our staff when you arrive for pick up. If you do not have access to a printer, simply write your child’s (children) name and grade on a piece of paper. You will hand this form to our staff who will be on-site in front of TMS main door. Please be prepared to pop open your trunk in order for staff to place the book packs in your car.

Please try to adhere to the grade level schedule to pick up your books. If you have more than one child enrolled at Thompson Public Schools, select one distribution date and time and be sure to list all the children in your family on the pick-up form.

Some teachers are planning to use the books for lessons, so I encourage you to get your child’s books. If you have extenuating circumstances (health or transportation issues) which will prevent you from picking up the books, please inform your child’s teacher or principal. You may also designate a relative or friend to pick up the books.

Grade	Date	Time
8	Monday, May 18, 2020	8:00 am to 10:30 am
7	Monday, May 18, 2020	11:00 am to 1:00 pm
6	Tuesday, May 19, 2020	8:00 am to 10:30 am
5	Tuesday, May 19, 2020	11:00 am to 1:00 pm
4	Wednesday, May 20, 2020	8:00 am to 10:30 am
3	Wednesday, May 20, 2020	11:00 am to 1:00 pm
2	Thursday, May 21, 2020	8:00 am to 10:30 am
1	Thursday, May 21, 2020	11:00 am to 1:00 pm
K	Friday, May 22, 2020	8:00 am to 10:30 am
Preschool	Friday, May 22, 2020	11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Students Personal Items:

We will be cleaning out lockers and desks to distribute student’s personal items during the week of June 1st. A schedule will be organized and sent out after the Scholastic book pick-up is complete.

Seniors will be given a specific schedule to return textbooks, Chromebooks, instruments, cameras, and other district property.

Community Outreach Communication:

Thompson Public Schools is inviting community members who do not currently have children enrolled in the school system to receive calls, texts, or email regarding school emergencies, public school events, or resources such as meal service. A full-page ad will be placed in next week’s Shoppers Guide with directions for citizens to sign up for this free service. I have attached a copy of the directions how to sign up for School Messenger, the communication system, to receive our notices. If you have family or friends who have children in private schools or are home schooled, feel free to share this information.

Our goal is to keep the community informed with Thompson Public School happenings and the resources we can provide to the community.

Professional Development Day – Friday, May 15th:

Teachers will not be conducting distance learning on Friday, May 15, 2020. It is a professional development day for all teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff.

Meal Service will continue at all four sites on Friday, May 15th. Weekend meal menu is Spaghetti & Meatballs sponsored by “It Starts at Home” in partnership with “Our Father’s Table”.

Best of health to all,

Melinda A. Smith

Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

Thompson Public Schools
Scholastic Book Pack Distribution Form

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____