

# Thompson Public Schools

## Spring Newsletter 2021



*Happy Spring Thompson Families,*

*It looks like we are getting closer to ending this school year with optimism and hope. While the COVID-19 virus has disrupted almost everything this year, we are starting to experience things going back to normal as we plan for spring sports, prom, moving-up ceremonies, and graduation!*

*A special thank you to TPS parents and guardians for your patience as we adjusted school schedules to keep our students and employees safe. We understand the hardship this has been on everyone and are eager to finish out the 20/21 academic year without interruption.*

*COVID-19 cases in our region are declining, which is a hopeful sign that we are past the necessity to switch to remote learning. It is anticipated that there will be individual cases or groups of students and staff that will still be required to quarantine if there is a virus exposure. Many employees took advantage of the recent COVID-19 vaccine clinic provided by Day Kimball Hospital in partnership with the Northeast District Department of Health. Employees who received the vaccination will be fully immunized by mid-April, further reducing the need for large-scale quarantine periods among staff.*

*The district will maintain all mitigation strategies and health-related protocols that were implemented during reopening last August. Face coverings, social distancing, hand washing, and keeping students home when they are sick will help maintain a consistent school schedule.*

*Spring is a symbol of new life and rejuvenation. During this last quarter of school, let's work together to ensure Thompson students experience better days ahead!*

*Melinda A. Smith, M.ED., Superintendent*



### Vaccination Schedule

Employees of Thompson Public Schools must receive the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination on Tuesday, March 30th. We did not choose the date of the vaccine clinic given to us by Day Kimball Hospital. As a result, we have made changes to our school schedules to accommodate the clinic and provide teachers with time to recuperate after the second dose.

Friday, March 26, 2021

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

FULL DAY OF SCHOOL

EARLY DISMISSAL

REMOTE LEARNING DAY





**Good Friday & Spring Break**

Classes will not be held on Friday, April 2, 2021 to observe the Good Friday holiday.

Classes will also not be held the week of April 19th through the 23rd due to spring break.

**Friday Early Dismissals to End April 16th**

The Board of Education members voted at their meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021, to extend early dismissal on Fridays for teacher planning through Friday, April 16, 2021. The BOE will make a decision to end or extend the early release days after spring break at their next meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**Welcome Back Distance Learners**

Students who are currently enrolled as distance learners are always welcome back to school. Parents who wish to change their child's enrollment status to onsite learning should contact their child's principal one week before the desired return date. Many students learning from home are struggling to

keep up with the pace of instruction and complete assignments. If your child is falling behind, please contact your child's teacher or principal as soon as possible so they can develop a support plan for your child to meet with success.

**WELCOME  
BACK!**

**Vacations, COVID-19 Tests & Distance Learning**

The district discourages parents from scheduling family trips during the school year. We realize that this school year has been anything but typical, and families are starting to book vacations before June. There is a process to inform your child's school of an absence due to a planned vacation and a timeline to secure student schoolwork. The details are outlined in your child's school handbook. The vacation notification procedure has not changed. All handbooks are posted on the school's website and should be reviewed when scheduling a trip.

Distance learning is **not** an option for a student who is enrolled as an onsite learner. If your child is absent due to a vacation, the absence will be recorded as unexcused. Your child may not participate in school as a distance learner. The district is required to keep accurate attendance data which is reported to the State. We cannot allow students to change their enrollment back and forth because of an unexcused absence for vacation purposes.

Upon return from a trip, students must present evidence of a negative COVID-19 test. The district will accept the results of a rapid test. If you have any questions about this district requirement, please speak to your child's school nurse.



**Reporting of COVID-19 Cases**

We want to thank our families for contacting our school nurses when a student is being tested for COVID-19 and keeping their child home until the test results are available. The district will continue to adhere to strict contact tracing and quarantining procedures.

If your child has any of the COVID-related symptoms, you still must keep your child home from school. Please contact your child's school nurse for guidance regarding COVID-19 testing and quarantine information.

### TMS Eighth Grade Moving-Up Ceremony

Students who have earned promotion in grade eight will be invited to attend a "Moving-Up Ceremony" to be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, with a rain date of Thursday, June 10, 2021. Details about this event will be sent home to students and their families as we get closer to the ceremony's date.

"Moving-Up" will be held outdoors to comply with social distancing requirements. Face coverings for students and all attendees will be required.

Students who are failing more than two classes are not entitled to be promoted. Principal Knowlton has been scheduling meetings with students and their families to develop a plan to support students' success. If your child has failing grades, you must connect with your child's teacher or Principal Knowlton now.

### Tourtellotte Memorial High School Graduation & Prom

The Class of 2021 will be graduating with a formal ceremony on Friday, June 11, 2021. The ceremony will be outdoors, which has been a long-time Thompson tradition. Since we will not hold this event indoors in case of rain, a rain date of Saturday, June 12, 2021 must be scheduled. We understand that this may interfere with parents' activities of "Project Graduation"; however, it is essential that our seniors receive a traditional graduation. We must plan for this alternative date in the event of inclement weather. Details about graduation will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.



**Note:** A few seniors are currently at risk of failing, which will prevent them from graduating. Please reach out to Interim Principal Porter or Guidance Counselor Lisa Canney if your child requires additional help to complete their graduation requirements. We are here to support our seniors in any way that we can to graduate with their class.

Our goal is to provide the TMHS graduating Class of 2021 with a well-deserved "sendoff" while remaining vigilant to the safety measures we currently have in place to keep everyone healthy.

*TMHS Junior/Senior Prom will be held on May 14th at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. This site was selected by the seniors last summer, considering the projected need for social distance. This venue has a beautiful outdoor courtyard for dancing, and the ballroom is of ample size to allow for a dinner in compliance with the current state restrictions. Beth Ten Eyck, Senior Class Advisor, will be sending out Prom information in the coming weeks.*

a **PROM** to remember