



Tiffany Park Elementary School

A Welcome Letter from Tiffany Park Administrators, Mr. Lesco and Ms. Ramsey

August 16, 2019

Hello Tiffany Park Families,

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! We hope everyone has enjoyed summer and had the opportunity to relax, spend time with family, and have fun! We are now just a little under two weeks away from the start of the school year and we are very excited to begin. We have included information in this letter that we hope you find helpful for your own back to school preparations. This information can also be found on the Tiffany Park website. Please remember to regularly visit the school website and the PTA website for the most current information.

Tiffany Park: tiffanypark.rentonschools.us PTA: <http://tiffanyparkpta.org/Home>

As we prepare for our 2nd year at Tiffany Park, we would like to share the greater vision that will guide our professional work this school year and beyond. We aspire to have an inclusive school community where all students feel connected and thrive academically and socially. We believe that in order to accomplish this we must provide high-quality instruction to develop independent learners, be committed to equity, and embrace social-emotional learning.

We believe that all students are capable learners and we take a strength-based approach to build student independence, confidence, and academic skills. We utilize a reading and writing workshop model to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all our learners. We also have the great pleasure of being one of two schools in Renton that has a partnership with the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP) at Columbia University. Our staff members have direct access to high-quality professional development in the area of literacy instruction that is provided onsite by TCWRP facilitators at least twice a year. Our building instructional facilitator will also focus largely on literacy this school year to assist staff in supporting the growth of our students. Additionally, a new mathematics curriculum was adopted last school year. To support in the continued implementation of the curriculum and in the delivery of high-quality mathematics instruction, we used Title 1 funds to hire a mathematics coach. The mathematics coach will be integral in leading professional development for teachers and helping teachers support math learners in their classrooms.

Tiffany Park has a diverse student population and our staff is committed to ensuring all students feel valued for their authentic selves. We also believe there are societal, school, and community factors that have led to different experiences and outcomes for our students. This year our staff will work collectively with the consultancy group, Cultures Connecting, to assist us in our continued journey as culturally responsive educators. Our work begins with personal awareness and understanding personal bias. It then transitions from awareness to action in order to identify and remove barriers to best serve all students, especially those who are racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse.

An emphasis on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) has been shown to lead to higher levels of classroom engagement and meaningful learning while also reducing behavioral challenges and student discipline. We know that in order to learn and grow all students need to have strong relationships and feel a sense of belonging to their classroom and school community. To assist in accomplishing this task, classroom time has been allocated each day for SEL. This will allow for personal development of skills ranging from understanding and managing one's emotions to responsible decision-making. It will also provide time for student voice and the creation of authentic connections amongst classmates and their teacher.

We are committed to the growth, development, and learning of each student at Tiffany Park. We hope that each student feels loved, valued, and connected during this year and feels confident in their learning and academic skills. We look forward to partnering with you in their learning journey.

Sincerely,
Steve Lesco and Genevieve Ramsey

School Office Hours

The school office is now open from 8:00 – 3:00 (lunch break between 12:00 – 1:00) for student registration and school related questions. Our wonderful Office Manager, Mrs. Syd Bensen, is there to assist you and can be reached at 425-204-4850.

Not returning to Tiffany Park?

If your plans have changed and you will not be attending Tiffany Park this school year, please contact the office as soon as possible at 425-204-4850.

Important Dates:

August 21	Class Placement Notification on Skyward Student Access
August 22	Meet and Greet in partnership with PTA
August 28	First Day of School for Grades 1-5 & PTA Coffee
September 2	No School – Labor Day
September 3	First Day of School for Kindergarten & PTA Coffee
September 19	Curriculum Night

Class Placement – Wednesday, August 21

Class placement notifications will be posted on Skyward Student Access beginning on Wednesday, August 21st. To access this information you will need your username and password. If you do not use Skyward Student Access you can also receive placement information during the Meet and Greet on Thursday, August 22nd. We can also help you with your username and password that evening so that going forward you will have your credentials for Skyward Student Access. *Please do not call the main office for placement information prior to the Meet and Greet.*

Kindergarten families – you will receive placement information as outlined above. You will also have an opportunity to sign up for your Family Connections meeting during the Meet and Greet on August 22nd. If you are unable to attend, you will be contacted by a school staff member to schedule a conference. Family Connections meetings are scheduled for August 28th, August 29th, and August 30st.

Please be aware that there are years when enrollment changes within the first few weeks of school. These numbers determine staffing allotted to each school and grade level. Depending on class sizes and numbers we may also have to monitor and adjust student placement. This could mean shifting class assignments within the first few weeks of school.

Back to School “Meet & Greet” in Partnership with PTA – Thursday, August 22

Thursday, August 22, 2019 **Back to School “Meet & Greet” Event**

4:00 – 5:00 Classroom Visits
4:00 – 6:00 PTA Welcome on the Playground

This will serve as an opportunity for children to feel more confident about transitioning into the new school year! Students will have a chance to find their classroom, say hello to their new teacher, connect with friends, and drop off any supplies. This is an informal meeting so feel free to drop in the classroom any time between 4 and 5. Once you have visited your classroom, please join our generous Tiffany Park PTA for food and games on the playground. The PTA will also have a membership table so you can find out how to join.

**Please note that because this event is taking place before the first official day of school, teachers will still be in the process of adding the final touches to their classroom environments. Therefore, your child’s classroom may look different at the Meet & Greet than it will on the first day of school.*

Start of the School Year and PTA Coffee

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

First Day of School for Students in 1st - 5th Grades

All students should be transitioning into the classroom and ready to learn by 8:30.

Parents are invited to accompany their child to the classroom but must sign in first.

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

First Day of School for Kindergarten Students

All students should be transitioning into the classroom and ready to learn by 8:30.

Parents are invited to accompany their child to the classroom but must sign in first.

The first day of school for students in **First through Fifth Grade is Wednesday, August 28th**. Our PTA has generously put together a Morning Coffee on the first day of school running from 8:15-9:00 a.m. located in the Main Entrance. This is a FREE event so please come learn how you can get involved with the PTA, catch up with neighborhood friends, meet new faces, and simply have a good time. We are especially hoping that our new families to Tiffany Park can join us.



The first day of school for **Kindergarten students is Tuesday, September 3rd**. Our PTA will also host a FREE Morning Coffee on September 3rd to welcome all our new Kindergarten families to the Tiffany Park community. The coffee will be from 8:15 until 9:00 a.m. and will be located by the Main Entrance.

Arrival and Dismissal Times and Procedures



8:10 Student arrival for the Breakfast Program (Report to the cafeteria)

8:15 Student arrival (Report to the playground)

8:30 First Bell: Students transition to their classrooms

8:35 Tardy Bell: Instruction begins promptly after the bell

3:10 Student Dismissal

Friday – Late Start Schedule

9:40 Student arrival for the Breakfast Program (Report to the cafeteria)

9:45 Student arrival (Report to the playground)

10:00 First Bell: Students transition to their classrooms

10:05 Tardy Bell

The safety of your child(ren) and every other student remains our top priority and your attention to the procedures outlined below are a necessity.



Access to breakfast begins at 8:10. Students not receiving breakfast may arrive on campus beginning at **8:15 AM**.

Bus AM - **The back parking lot is for staff parking and school buses only.** Please do not enter this lot. Students will exit the school buses and either report for breakfast or go to the playground for a brief period of school-wide supervised play. When the bell rings, students will line-up and be picked up by their teacher and escorted to class.

Student drop-off AM –The drop off loop is in the front of the building near the main entrance and is accessible from Lake Youngs Way. Students can be dropped off beginning at 8:15 (Students eating breakfast may arrive at 8:10). Please remain in your car if you are dropping off your child and move quickly forward to allow others to do the same. If possible, your child should be seated on the passenger side for quick and safe access to the sidewalk. Please plan to park your vehicle if your child needs additional assistance. Please remember to be respectful and watch for directions from the drop-off loop attendants and the school safety patrol members. Please be aware that the drop-off loop does become congested, so please plan accordingly to ensure your child arrives to school on time.

Bus PM - Students who ride school transportation will board the buses in the back parking lot under the supervision of school staff. The back loop is only for staff parking and school buses.

Student pick-up PM – The school day ends at 3:10. It is imperative that all students who do not ride the bus are picked up promptly following dismissal.

For RSD school bus route information please visit the district transportation page at <https://www.rentonschools.us/departments/transportation>
If you need additional information call transportation at 425-204-4455.

Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

- Pay attention and always be prepared to suddenly stop
- Do not use your cell phone
- Follow the direction of the drop-off loop attendants and the safety patrol
- Drive slowly
- Do not use back lot for student drop-off. It is for school buses only.
- Have your child exit on the curbside of the vehicle
- Do not exit your vehicle if you are in the drop-off/pick-up lane

School Supplies

As part of continued efforts to improve Service, Excellence, and Equity for all students and families, Renton School District is offering school supplies for all elementary and middle school students right in their classroom. The district will purchase school supplies that elementary and middle school students need for learning, and families will pay a one-time, annual fee of \$30 (\$10 for families on free/reduced lunch) for the school supplies.

Families can pay the one-time \$30/\$10 school supply fee [here online](#) or by check/cash at their school.

For additional information about school supplies please visit:

<https://www.rentonschools.us/learning-and-teaching/elementary-education/school-supplies>

First Day Packet

On the first day, your child will bring home a packet of information from Renton School District, from our PTA, and from your child's classroom teacher. Please read through this information carefully and return the necessary documents by **Friday, September 6, 2019**.

Visitors to School

All visitors, including parents, MUST sign-in at the office and wear a visitor sticker when they come onto school grounds during the school day, even when the visit is prearranged with a teacher. This helps keep our students and school safe. Staff members have been advised to redirect all visitors without a sticker to the office.

*Please note that you must sign-in at the main office even if you intend to walk your child to their classroom in the morning.

Lunch Prices

The cost for a school lunch is \$3.00 and this price includes milk. The cost of breakfast is \$2.00. The cost for milk only is \$0.50. (Families who qualify for free or reduced lunch need to fill out new financial forms each year. These forms will be sent home the first day of school with your student. Or you may find them on line at <https://www.rentonschools.us/departments/nutrition-services-warehouse/meal-applications>

If you plan to have your child purchase a school lunch, you can pay online at <https://wa-renton.intouchrecepting.com/> or you can send a check made out to the RSD Nutrition Services with your child. Please write your child's name on the check.

Attendance

Students are expected to report to school on time and stay for the entirety of the school day. School attendance and on-time arrival are one of the most critical factors in determining a child's current and future success. We realize that there are times when students must miss a day. Please be sure to call (425) 204-4850 and select the attendance option to report an absence.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of school days. This means missing 3 or more days in the first 30 days of school or 18 days in a school year. This includes excused and unexcused absences. According to Safe and Civil Schools, only 17% of students who are chronically absent in K-1 are proficient readers by the end of 3rd grade.

What can you do to help?

- * Take advantage of that fact that students can be dropped off beginning at 8:15 (Breakfast attendees at 8:10) to connect with friends and have supervised recreation time on the playground. Any child arriving after 8:35 must sign in at the main office.
- * If transportation is provided, have your child ride the bus. The school bus arrives on time daily and using the bus reduces the amount of traffic on the roads and in the school drop-off loop. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, school buses are the safest method for transporting students to and from school. Traveling by school bus is 7x safer than travel by a car.
- * Do many of the morning tasks the night before (pick out clothes, pack the book bag, pack lunches, etc.).
- * Have a consistent bedtime and wake-up time each day. Students thrive on structure and they need to be refreshed and energized each day to maximize their learning potential.
- * Plan family vacations and trips outside of the school window. Use holiday breaks, long weekends, and the summer months to take trips. Make-up work cannot replicate the authentic classroom experience that occurs during extended absences. If you must be out of school for pre-planned reasons, an approved absence request form must be completed in advance of the determined date(s). Please see the main office for an approved absence request form.
- * Familiarize yourself with the district policy and procedure 3122 under 3000: Students: <https://www.boarddocs.com/wa/rpswa/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>

Curriculum Night

Thursday, September 19, 2019

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Curriculum Night offers an opportunity for teachers to review the curriculum and classroom expectations as well as share strategies to support your child at home (individual conferences are scheduled in November). The night is intended to be informational for parents and guardians and we strongly *encourage you to attend*.



Right at School: Before and After School Enrichment



Renton School District is continuing to offer before- and after-school programs for elementary students, right at their own school. The fee-based program is part of the district's commitment to providing safe, engaging and meaningful in-school extracurricular programs to enrich the lives of students, give parents peace of mind, and enable schools to continue focus on their academic mission. For additional information or to register your child(ren) up,

click: <https://www.rentonschools.us/our-district/community/before-and-after-school-programs>

Bond Measure

Voters in our area and around the district will decide on the *Building for Excellence* School Construction Bond measure on the Nov. 5, 2019 ballot. If approved by voters, the measure will allow for the construction of an additional, much-needed elementary school to meet the ever-growing demand of families and students moving into the district, specifically in the Highlands/Hazen High School area. The bond also allows the adding science lab classrooms at high schools and upgrading schools and classrooms across the district.

If the Nov. 5, 2019 School Construction Bond measure passes, projects listed for Tiffany Park Elementary School include:

- Carpet
- Paint interior
- Paint play shed
- Playground equipment
- Fields and grounds
- Accessibility from parking lot to school
- Entry lobby roof and skylights



Voters overwhelmingly supported the measure in Feb. 2019

District voters overwhelmingly approved this bond measure by nearly 63% YES! in Feb. 2019; but due to a snowstorm, the measure fell short by a mere 400 votes to validate. Over the decades, voters have approved construction of schools built on-time and on-budget that provide high-quality education, last for decades, and improve local property values.

Tax-rates will not increase even with voter approval of bond measure

Because of improved assessed property values and the many additional families and businesses that have moved into the Renton School District boundaries, this measure will not increase tax-rates. That means the owner of a median priced home of \$400,000 will have saved more than \$572 per year in Renton Schools property taxes since 2017.

For more information: www.rentonschools.us | community.relations@rentonschools.us | 425.204.2345

