



In The Center



Welcome to Our School!

Save the Date!

- 8/29/18~ First Day of School (Full Day)
- 9/3/18~ Labor Day (No School)
- 9/18/18~ Ice Cream Social 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 9/18/18~ Parent Meeting for Band Students 6:00 pm TCS Auditorium
- 9/17/18~Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 9/19/18~ PAC meeting at 6:30 p.m.; PTA meeting following (at BRS)
- 10/4/18~ School Photos
- 10/5/18~ Professional Development Day for Teachers— no school for students
- 10/8/18~ Columbus Day (No School)

Welcome to the 2018-2019 academic year! For all of our new stu-



dents, we are delighted to welcome you to the Thomaston Center School family and we are equally excited to see all of our returning students back to Center School! We are confident this will be a wonderful year for children at Thomaston Center School.



At Thomaston Center School, we are committed to promoting a positive and respectful learning environment for all. The staff will be focusing on teaching and modeling responsible behavior and positive behavioral choices.



Returning students can tell you we have three, school-wide expectations: be respectful, be responsible, and be safe. These students can also describe the six pillars of character we highlight at Center School: Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Trustworthiness, Fairness, and Citizenship.

Throughout the year, students will participate in many activities and discussions on the pillars of character. We will be hosting assemblies to celebrate our successes in being safe, responsible, and respectful Center School community members. Families are welcome to join us for these celebrations!



Students will also be challenged and inspired academically as well as we learn and grow together. This year will be our best one yet!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Arrival and Dismissal Info	2
Summertime Happenings	2
Music Opportunities	2
Staying Connected	3
Art Room News	3
Principal's Corner	3
Volunteering Information	4

TCS Celebrates Teacher of The Year, Mrs. Johnston!

On June 22, 2018, Mrs. Laura Johnston was formally recognized as the 2019 Teacher of the Year for the Thomaston Public School District. This well deserved honor was bestowed upon her at the annual end-of-the year faculty meeting. Mrs. Johnston is the



art teacher at both Black Rock School and Thomaston Center School and is the type of teacher students love to have. Whether she is teaching students about the color wheel or instructing students on a specific artist, Mrs. Johnston makes learning fun and meaningful for all of her students. The staff

and students of Thomaston Center School— and the entire district— are extremely proud of Mrs. Johnston and her accomplishments!



Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

As a reminder, the times for the school day will remain the same this year for all students attending Thomaston Center School. **Center School will begin at 8:05 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m.** Children should not arrive prior to 8:00 a.m. as there will not be adult supervision before this time.

The arrival and dismissal procedures will remain the same as last year as well. All buses will arrive in the morning in the back of the building. Students will enter through the back entrance opposite the gymnasium. Students will proceed up the stairs to their classrooms while sixth graders will go to their classrooms and lockers through the double doors into their wing. Students who choose to participate in the breakfast program at school will proceed to the cafeteria.

Students who arrive to school via car will enter in the front of the building by the auditorium. Students can be dropped off and can walk safely on the sidewalk to get to the auditorium entrance. Cars should

remain in a single file line, and parents need not exit their vehicles. Staff members will be on hand to provide a safe transition for students between the car and the building. Walkers will also use the auditorium side entrance.

Please be sure that your child's after-school schedule is clearly communicated to them before they arrive at school. Please also complete the Daily Dismissal Form that will be sent home to students on the first day of school. These forms need to be returned by August 31, 2018. Please also note that all changes to your child's regular schedule must be communicated to the school in writing. Please be sure to notify the office of any changes in your child's schedule as early as possible.

At the end of the day, walkers and students being picked up will exit

through the main entrance by the auditorium at 3:00 p.m. Bus students will dismiss out of the school. To maintain the instructional integrity of the school day, please refrain from scheduling appointments during school hours, if possible.

We will practice this procedure with the students, but we appreciate your help in reminding your student of the process.

If your child will be absent from school, you must notify the school before 9 am of the child's absence. If your child attends Play and Learn, please be aware that you must notify both the school and Play and Learn of your child's absence. Upon return to school, a parent/guardian must provide written documentation of the child's absence. Please refer to the 2018-19 Thomaston Public Schools Parent-Student Handbook for more information regarding attendance policies and procedures.

We thank you in advance for your support!

Music Opportunities Abound at TCS

Do you love to sing? Interested in trying out a new instrument? Ready to try new challenges while having fun? Then consider joining band or chorus; We are always looking for new performers!

Beginning band students take lessons one day per week, either in school during WIN block or after school. Advanced band students (students who have previously played an instrument) typically will have practice sessions two times per week. Choral students meet weekly on

Tuesdays during the WIN block.

Band and choral performances are sprinkled throughout the year. Past performances include community



concerts at Center School, creepy chorus and Zombie Band during Haunted Hallways, and a spectacular performance televised live for the St. Jude's Telethon.

All students are welcome! A meeting for students and parents interested in the band program will be held on September 18, 2018 at 6 pm Please see Ms. Zitnay or email her at kzitnay@thomstonschools.org for additional information.

Summertime Is a Busy Time at TCS

With the late ending of the school year in June, the twelve month staff at Center School wasted no time in preparing for the upcoming school year! The custodial and technology staff took full advantage of the extra time at the beginning of the summer in order to be ready for the arrival of the students in the fall and a walk through the corridors will demonstrate we are certainly ready!

The floors are waxed, the walls are freshly painted, the furniture has been cleaned, and the grounds outdoors have been landscaped.

We are incredibly grateful to the summer staff for their hard work, dedication, and support of our students!



Over the summer, the lockers, gymnasium, and several classrooms received a fresh coat of paint, while the floors, including the gym were waxed and cleaned.

Staying Connected with Center School Staff

By fourth grade, many students simply respond with one or two word answers on how school is going when asked by their parents and parents may be curious as to how their child is performing in school.

Wonder no more! There are many ways families can keep abreast of the events of Center School as well as learn about the progress and successes of an individual child.

One of the primary means of communication here at Thomaston Center School is through our PowerSchool portal. Typically, families will receive emails on Thursdays that elaborate on the happenings at the school.

We also will publish this monthly newsletter to update the Thomaston community on events. PowerSchool also provides a means to receive updates about assessments and report cards. Parents can access their child's information

anytime through PowerSchool.

All staff members have an email address to communicate with parents. Email addresses can be found on our website at (www.thomaston.schooldesk.net). Most email addresses include the person's first initial and last name, followed by @thomastonschools.org. Please feel free to email staff members. If you prefer to call, staff members may be reached at 860-283-3036.

Parents may also request a parent

-teacher conference at any time of the year. Please email or call the teacher to arrange an appointment. School-wide Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2018 and Thursday, November 8, 2018. We will also have parent-teacher conferences on April 3 and April 4, 2019.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year. We are always here to help!

Recycle Old Materials to the TCS Art Program!

This year in the art room students will be spending significant time creating art in small group centers. These centers are intended to help young artists build 21st century skills by allowing students to try, fail and succeed in projects that have personal interest to them. 21st century skills are important for success and are used naturally every day in the art studio. Collaboration, Creativity and Imagination, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Adaptability/Flexibility are skills that will be specifically targeted.

Students will be given the freedom to work on ideas for just one day or to go deeper and continue projects for multiple weeks.

As the year progresses, students will be working in new and different centers, such as: Drawing, Painting, Architecture, Collage, Fiber Arts and Sculpture

- ◆ We are looking for the following materials: Old Wooden Blocks, Legos, Lincoln Logs and Tinker Toys that your children no longer play with can be used in the Architecture Center.
- ◆ Scrapbooking Papers and Wrapping Paper for the collage center.
- ◆ Fabric Scraps, Ribbon, Buttons, Needles and Thread for the fiber arts center.
- ◆ Egg Cartons, Paper Plates and Card-board (cut into painting sizes) will be used daily in the painting center.

- ◆ Paper Towel Tubes, TP tubes, straws, toothpicks and masking/duct tape disappear quickly when sculpting.
- ◆ And, finally...SMOCKS. If you want your student to come home clean on art day...send in a smock with name and class written on it. The best smock is an old T-Shirt of yours that's kind of big and goes on easily (without buttons). You don't have to spend money on a fancy smock unless you want to!

We thank you for your interest in our art program and for any contributions you may provide.

From the Desk of Mrs. Bernier



Welcome back to school! I am very excited to begin the 2018-19 school year with your child! This year will prove to be a terrific one, filled with learning opportunities for all of us.

We are excited to share our district's continuous improvement plan and focus on providing rich opportunities for critical thinking

and analysis. This year we will also continue to work on creating a positive growth mindset for success.

Enrichment opportunities will also continue for students. Late buses will run on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Academies will begin again soon, affording students the chance to learn about topics of interest to them and the updated Character/BEAR Buck program will support each student's social and emotional growth.

The WIN block will also provide time for students for optimal learning opportunities.

I am inspired by the work we are doing at Center School and I am proud and grateful to be a part of this community of learners. I appreciate your interest and support in your child's education. We wouldn't be able to make the students shine like they do without all your efforts at home!



Thomaston Center School

1 Thomas Avenue
Thomaston, CT
06787

Phone: 860-283-3036
Fax: 860-283-3048

We are collecting Box Tops for Education this year!

Simply cut out the box top symbol from products you already purchase and bring them into your homeroom teacher. It is that easy!

For more information, visit:

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/>



JA For A Day™ will be coming to Thomaston Center School on Thursday, November 8, 2018. We will be looking for volunteers to help out! Volunteers will be



needed to commit to one night of training (October 25) and one day (November 8 from 8:15 until noon) to deliver Junior Achievement lessons in classes. All materials, lesson plans, and training is provided!

JA is a fun and easy way to be a part of your child's academics... only one day of your time is needed! Please see Mrs. Bernier for more information or sign up at Open House!



Volunteer Opportunities and Procedures for Thomaston Schools

Our successes at school are only made possible with the support of all the families. Research shows that children whose families are actively involved in their child's academics show greater academic success.

One way to become involved is with the Parent Teacher Association and the Principal's Advisory Council (PAC) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Thomaston Center's PTA will be meeting monthly beginning in September and are held at Black Rock School. They are scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., immediately following the Principal's Advisory Council meetings on the following dates:

- ◇ September 19
- ◇ October 17
- ◇ November 14
- ◇ December 19
- ◇ January 16
- ◇ February 20
- ◇ March 20
- ◇ April 24

◇ May 15

Another way to be an active member of the Thomaston Center School Community is to attend school sponsored events. We will also be hosting our annual ice cream social on Tuesday, September 18 at 6:00 p.m. at TCS. If the weather cooperates, we will socialize outside! There will be a parent meeting for band students at 6:00 and may join us after the meeting. Families are invited to join us for delicious ice cream!

Please save the date for our annual Haunted Hallways and Book Fair. This year the Haunted Hallways will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017 and the Scholastic Book Fair will be held during the week of October 16 through 20., 2018. Please contact Mr. Bob Stack if you are interested in volunteering at the Hallways or Ms. Melissa Saramanidis if you are willing to help out at the book fair. Members of the Zombie Band entertain families at the Haunted Hallways.

We are also in need of Junior Achievement's JA For a Day program. This exciting event will take place on Thursday, November 8, 2018. Please see the article above for more information.

Additionally, the Thomaston Board of Educa-

tion holds regular business meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Thomaston High School, unless otherwise noted. Parents, students and other community members are encouraged to attend. Become informed about our great schools by attending the Board of Education meetings!

Volunteers play a vital and special role in creating a successful school climate and we are grateful for their support. As part of an effort to improve safety and security within our schools, we will continue to utilize procedures for parent and community volunteers in our schools. We have a new KeepNTrack Program in the schools. All prospective volunteers must be cleared prior to volunteering in our school. Please call the school to make an appointment to complete this process.

Visitors to the schools must be on the school's visitors log. If you would like to visit the school for any reason, please contact your child's teacher or the main office to be put on the visitor log.

Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding these procedures. We appreciate your understanding in helping to keep our children safe.