

In The Center



Welcome to Thomaston Center School!

Save the Date!

- 8/30/17~ First Day of School (Full Day!)
- 9/4/17~ Labor Day (No School)
- 9/6/17~ Ice Cream Social 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 9/6/17~ Parent Meeting for Band Students 5:30 pm TCS Auditorium
- 9/11/17~ Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 9/20/17~ PAC meeting at 6:30 p.m.; PTA meeting following (at BRS)
- 10/5/17~ School Photos
- 10/6/17~ Professional Development Day for Teachers- no school for students
- 10/9/17~ Columbus Day (No School)

Welcome to the 2017-2018 academic year!

For all of our new students, 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.



itive 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.

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!

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At Thomaston Center School, we are committed to promoting a pos-

Throughout the year,

Familiar Faces in New Places

Where did the sixth grade team go? Where can I find Mrs. Hus-tek's office?? Where are the instructional coaches now??? As anyone who is familiar with our school can tell you, there are so many location changes this year!

In an effort to improve safety, security, and efficiency, we have moved several classrooms and

offices over the summer.

Grade six students and teachers have been relocated to the second floor and will be closer to grade five and the intervention teachers while the guidance offices have been relocated to the ground level. Support personnel for teachers, such as our coaches and

technology staff can now be found on the ground level. For our incoming fourth graders, rest assured their classrooms are in the same place as when they visited at Step Up Day!

All of these changes will help make Center School a better- and safer- place to learn and grow!

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 September 1, 2017. 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.

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 2017-18 Thomaston Public Schools Parent-Student Handbook for more information regarding attendance policies and procedures.

We thank you in advance for your support!

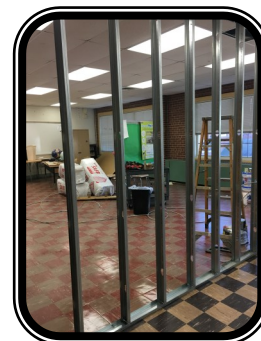
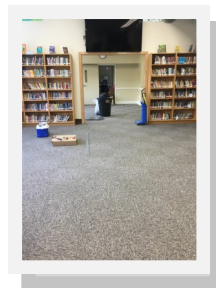
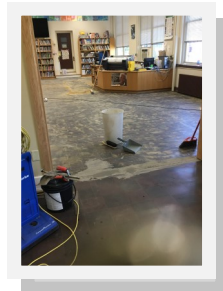
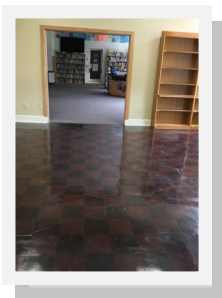
Summertime at Center School

Summer is a very busy time of year at Center School, especially this summer! In an effort to improve safety, security and efficiency, many classrooms were moved this summer. Perhaps most notably is the addition of grade six on the top floor of the school. They join the fifth grade in sharing the distinction of being on the second floor.

The custodial and technology staff took full advantage of the 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! Students will notice exciting upgrades to Center School, including new carpeting in the

media center and painting in various spaces.

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



The photos above show the media center in various stages of carpeting, the photo above right showcase the work that was done in the exterior of the building this summer, while the photos to the left present some of the interior work in the building.

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 8, 2017 and Thursday, November 9, 2017.

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!

Reading is the "Center" of our Community



We are thrilled to announce that this year the entire community of Center School will be participating in an exciting new program to promote literacy and community engagement. Through the generosity of the Connecticut Community Foundation, Center school is embarking on a "One School, One Book" initiative!

Through the One School, One Book program, every student and staff member will receive a book to read. Together we will embark

on discussions, activities, and assemblies focused on the particular book. Students will have an opportunity to share insights about character traits, plot, and theme. Families will also be

invited to attend some of our events.

The purpose of this program is to foster a love of reading and raise community awareness on the importance of literacy.



Over the course of the year, we will be reading three different books to capture the attention and interest of all of our students. *Wonder* what books we'll read? We'll just have to find out soon!!



Welcome back to school! I am very excited to begin the 2017-18 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 five-year teaching and learning plan and focus on providing rich opportunities for critical thinking and analysis. This year we will also

Principal's Corner

focus on creating a positive 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.

One of the most exciting events for the new year is the addition of a "One School, One Book" initiative at Center School. More details will be forthcoming as the school year unfolds!

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

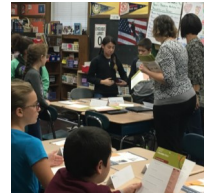
Phone: 860-283-3036
Fax: 860-283-3048



Central Office Has Moved!
Central Office is Located at:
185 Branch Road
Thomaston, CT 06787
Phone: 860-283-3053
Fax: 860-283-3096



JA For A Day™ will be coming to Thomaston Center School on Thursday, November 9, 2017. We will be looking for volunteers to help out! Volunteers will be needed to commit to one night of training and one day (8:30 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 20
- ◇ October 18
- ◇ November 15
- ◇ December 13
- ◇ January 17
- ◇ February 21
- ◇ March 21
- ◇ April 25
- ◇ May 16

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 Wednesday, September 6th at 6:00 p.m. at TCS.

There will be a parent meeting for band students at 5:30, prior to the social. 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 21., 2017. Please contact Mr. Bob Stack if you are interested in volunteering at the Hallways or Ms. Melissa Saranidis if you are willing to help out at the book fair. Members of the Zombie Band entertain families at the Haunted Hallways.

Additionally, the Thomaston Board of Education 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. This year, as part of an effort to improve safety and security within our schools, we are introducing new guidelines and procedures for

parent and community volunteers in our schools.

There are two components to the new volunteer process:

1. All prospective volunteers must be fingerprinted and cleared prior to volunteering in our school. Fingerprinting can be done at the Thomaston Police Department at the following times:

Monday thru Thursday - 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Friday - 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday - 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

There is a fee of \$15 that is the responsibility of the prospective volunteer.

2. All volunteers must read and sign our volunteer expectations and guidelines. This can be done at the beginning of the first visit to the school.

The background checks associated with fingerprinting typically take two or three weeks to clear.

Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding this procedure. We appreciate your understanding in this matter as we move to this new process.