



South Tahoe Middle School

Committed to Ensure Learning for All



STMS.LTUSD.ORG

September 10, 2020

Timberwolf News

The start of the 2020-2021 school year started off with success all around. A few glitches with tech have been mostly cleared up and things are running smoother as we end the week. A couple of reminders for the upcoming week, 9/7-9/11. Monday 9/7 is Labor Day, no school. The schedule for the week will be periods 4-6, 8/9. Please see below for detailed information on Canvas check-in, period attendance every day and expectations of attendance.

Below you will see information regarding:

- School Site Council nomination information
- Distance Learning Schedule and detailed information
- Parent choice for school
- Access to the parent portal and other important links.
- A link to the LTUSD COVID 19 Pandemic Plan
- Timberwolf Success Help: Trio, Food Services/Delivery Schedule
- A message from the school nurse
- Canvas Learning Management System and Orientations
- 6th, 7th, 8th Grade Digital Orientations



School Site Council Nominations are now open for new parent members. If you are interested in becoming a member please fill out the nomination form below. All nominations must be received by the end of the day on September 9th.

[SSC Nomination Form](#)

During next week, September 7-12, students will be attending periods 4-6, 8/9. (Monday 9/7 No school) All students are required to check into each class via Canvas, on-time and ready for learning. This includes their periods 8/9. On Wednesdays, students are also required to check in to each class through Canvas, on time, review their assignments and work independently during that period. Again this includes their periods 8/9.*

*Academic Electives p.8/9: Spanish, TWBI Spanish Language Arts, and P.E. P. 8 will meet face to face digitally during A Weeks, along with periods 1, 2, and 3. P. 9 will meet face to face digitally during B Weeks, along with periods 4, 5, and 6. Independent work will be assigned during the off week starting Week 3 of school. Students are expected to check into their p. 8/p.9 daily during both A and B weeks.

Asistencia en Español

Por favor comuníquense con la escuela con cualquier pregunta, o para apoyo académico o técnico. Tenemos dos líneas de asistencia en español: (530) 541-6404, ext. 1760 o ext. 1775. Horas de operación: 7:15-2:00.

STMS Distance Learning Schedule Information

While distance learning is not optimal compared to a traditional format, the STMS Distance Learning Schedule has been built to best support the academic and Social Emotional needs of students, as well as to meet current state mandates of 240 minutes per day, with 25% of that time being virtually face to face for teachers. We will monitor our students during distance learning to ensure this program best serves our students and families. Below are some key points about the rationale behind the Distance Learning Schedule:

- The district task force was very concerned about students' mental health and the potential to overwhelm students during distance learning. This is why Wednesday has been set aside for alternative learning opportunities and student support.
 - Wednesday face to face classes will directly address Social Emotional Learning.
 - Wednesday will allow for targeted individual and small group support, communication, and outreach.
 - Students will be provided with independent practice lessons in every class for that week, and activities which may include time away from screens.
 - Students are required to check into all classes on Wednesday for their independent work.

- Concern for the wellbeing of students is also why we have reduced the student focus during each week to half of their classes. We are using block periods so that teachers can increase their virtual face-to-face connection time with each group of students. This will allow for greater depth of learning in both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
 - Current state mandates (AB 98) require that secondary students receive 240 minutes of instruction per day, with 25% of that time being face-to-face between teachers and students (virtually).
 - As students have 7 classes at the middle school, we would not be able to provide in-depth learning instruction with attendance of every class, every day.

- The block schedule allows for in-depth learning and content that creates lasting comprehension.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Reopening Task Force and the significant time commitment and collaboration of the participating STMS staff members over the summer in thoughtfully and creatively building the Middle School schedule.

Phase 1: Distance Learning						
Weeks 1 (Periods 1-3)						Distance Plan Considerations:
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	Distance Learning					
8:00-9:10	p1	p1	Student independent practice with focus on time away from screens	p1	p1	* Designed to transition into both the hybrid and traditional schedule as soon as we are able.
9:20-10:30	p2	p2	9:20-9:50 p8/9	p2	p2	* Designed for students to focus on fewer subjects during the week to allow quality time for learning and to put fewer stresses on the student.
10:40-11:50	p3	p3	Support/ Student Outreach - Office hours, tutoring, communication, admin home visits, IEPs, counseling, outside services	p3	p3	*Staff and students will follow this schedule and attendance will be recorded daily.
12:00-12:30	p8/9	p8/9		p8/9	p8/9	*Canvas, the learning management system, will be used for all instruction.
	Distance Learning					*Small groups of students may be at school for targeted assistance and assessment.
Weeks 2 (Period 4-6)						Distance Plan Considerations:
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	Distance Learning					
8:00-9:10	p4	p4	Student independent practice with focus on time away from screens	p4	p4	*AB 98 requires students to participate in synchronous and asynchronous learning for 240 minutes per day.
9:20-10:30	p5	p5	9:20-9:50 p8/9	p5	p5	
10:40-11:50	p6	p6	Support/ Student Outreach - Office hours, tutoring, communication, admin home visits, IEPs, counseling, outside services	p6	p6	
12:00-12:30	p8/9	p8/9		p8/9	p8/9	

Learning Opportunities

LTUSD is offering parents a choice this year in regards to the format of learning they feel would best meet their families needs:

1. Traditional school (will start in Phase I - distance learning)
2. 100% Virtual Learning (Elevated TK-8 or STHS Virtual Campus 9-12)
3. Independent Learning (TK - 12)

For detailed information, please visit the LTUSD website [here](#).

There are still openings at Elevated for all grades 6-8.

CHROMEBOOK/Textbooks/MiFi Updates:

If you have not checked out your chromebook, need to check out a textbook or have a chromebook issue please drive up to Room 15 in the STMS main parking lot on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 12:00 OR Thursdays between 12:00 and 2:00.

Before bringing in your Chromebook for repair, please visit the Chromebook Quick Help Page: <https://sites.google.com/ltusd.org/devicehelp/home>

If you have your own computer to use, please let us know! MiFi's are currently on backorder. As soon as we get them in we will send out a message. If you have any questions you can email the Librarian, Georgina Balkwell, at gbalkwell@ltusd.org.

General Information:

- School information will be communicated through Aeries Communications and our school web page. Please check your email/phone for these important messages or go to our STMS website: stms.ltusd.org
- Please make sure you go to the STMS website to update all the current information for your student. This needs to be completed prior to the start of the school year even if there are NO changes from prior years. You can [click here](#) to complete your updates on the Aeries Portal!
- **All enrollment forms must be completed.** All families are encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced lunch form. By completing this form, even if you do not qualify, your child will be eligible for a reduced fee Chromebook insurance policy (\$15.00 instead of the full price of \$30.00)
 - Free and reduced lunch form
 - <https://www.ltusdfood.org/>
 - Chromebook forms
 - http://www.ltusd.org/parents/chromebook_forms

Covid Pandemic Plan

LTUSD is implementing the [LTUSD COVID 19 Pandemic Plan](#). We start the school year in distance learning, Phase 1. This continues for 6 weeks, with reassessment at the 4th week.

Information for Timberwolf Success:

Information regarding a student tutor possibility through LTCC: [Proposed Student Tutoring through LTUSD](#). Parents, please look at the brief survey included in the above mentioned tutoring proposal. There are only two items they are requesting. They need to know if you'd be interested in a tutoring program for your student and your email address! Thank you!

TRIO At STMS:

TRiO Educational Talent Search ([TRiO flyer](#)) is a college prep program offered at STMS that offers FREE TUTORING and other services. Due to Covid-19, all of our TRiO services will be offered online for the 20/21 school year and field trips will be postponed unless health guidelines change. TRiO is federally funded through Lake Tahoe Community College and we are currently accepting applications for the 2020/21 school year. TRiO participants from the prior year do not need to reapply and automatically continue in the program.

TRiO will be handing out backpacks every Wednesday from 11-1 beginning September 9th in the front of STMS. Fill out the application and your student will receive the free backpack. More backpack info [here](#)

NEW participants will receive:

1. A brand NEW backpack with back to school supplies (available for pick up the first week of school)
2. Tutoring services in Math, Language Arts, Spanish, Social Studies and Science
3. Career exploration, academic guidance and mentoring
4. Workshops to develop skills for success and on college prep topics
5. FREE trips to colleges and universities
6. FREE trips to cultural events
7. Assistance in preparing a college plan and parent academic support in English and Spanish

How to apply:

Please fill out the application (links below) and return with signatures to have your son/daughter be a part of the program. You will receive a call to confirm when your student has been accepted. Once accepted, your son/daughter can start receiving tutoring services via Zoom on a scheduled basis throughout the school year.

[TRIO Application - English](#)

[TRIO Application - Spanish](#)

Please contact the TRIO coordinator, Mrs. Gladys Garcia with any questions or for assistance.

(530) 324-2251

ggarcia@ltusd.org

FOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

Click for the → [CONFIDENTIAL FREE OR REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION](#) ← Everyone that fills out the application, whether you qualify or not, automatically receives 50% off their Chromebook insurance! The application is confidential and used internally only by the LTUSD food services department to qualify your student for free or reduced meals. Your information is not shared with any outside agencies and it does not affect your credit. What it *does do* is provide your child with healthy meals during the school day and earns money for academic programs for your school!

The Food Services Department is now offering a meal delivery service to the students in collaboration with the Transportation team. No paperwork is needed, any student in need of a meal can participate. Please see the bus schedule for delivery:

[*LTUSD Meal Delivery Schedule for Phase 1 Distance learning*](#)

A Message From Your School Nurse:

In this very unusual start to a school year, one thing remains the same: you need to have your vaccinations up to date to start school. For most of the seventh graders, that means a t-dap shot, but a few will also need varicella and others. We still have 120 7th graders not up to date!

You can get vaccinations at local pharmacies, Barton's clinic, some local pharmacies and of course, your doctor may have openings.

If you have any questions about what your child needs, you can email Nurse Tucker at ktucker@ltusd.org

Canvas Learning Management System

Our district will be implementing a Learning Management System (LMS) called Canvas that will help connect with students, organize assignments, and launch learning experiences. See this overview video for [Canvas LMS for Parents](#).

Orientations

A digital Orientation is available by grade for every student on our website [homepage](#). The Orientation is available in both Spanish and English, and there is also an option to listen to a narration of the Orientation in both Spanish and English. Look for the narration link on the first page of the Orientation.

Family Engagement

We are committed to working with parents and families to support student learning. Please consider the following options for getting involved!

- PTA: Meetings will take place the first Wednesday of each month ~ schedule coming soon!
- School Site Council: See nomination form on p. 1
- English Learner Advisory Council/Cafecitos: The first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. Please contact the school if you would like to be an ELAC member or officer. Nominations are due September 11, and you are encouraged to nominate yourself or another parent!

John Simons

Principal