

March 14, 2021

“We crave explanations for almost everything, although innovation and progress happen when we allow ourselves to embrace uncertainty.”

Simon Sinek

Good evening, TPES Families.

I trust you set your clocks forward before going to bed yesterday evening and that you are looking forward to a new season in all respects.

And that new season is here! Late this afternoon principals received communication that the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) reached an agreement with our labor partners, the San Diego Education Association (SDEA), specifying the instructional models, health and safety, accommodations and staff leave information that will guide our reopening on April 12.

In an effort to provide you with the best communication, I am attaching a copy of the instructional models agreement here. Again, please allow the teachers and me time to understand the document, since we are just seeing this today. [2021-03-12 TA Instructional Model Signed.pdf](#)

Some immediate take-aways include that all students will continue to receive 180 minutes of daily simultaneous online and in-person whole group and small group synchronous and asynchronous instruction in the morning, inclusive of a 30 minute wellness break. In addition, all online students will continue to receive asynchronous instruction in the afternoon for the remainder of the 360 minute school day. Onsite students will also receive 120 minutes of onsite instruction in the afternoon.

Whether we can offer onsite instruction two or four times a week for stable cohorts will depend on the number of students who opt into onsite instruction while adhering to health and safety guidelines.

There will be one day a week when no students are onsite, and teachers will participate in a Weekly Educator Preparation and Planning Day. This will provide 90 minutes for professional development and staff meetings, and educators will have the option of working remotely or onsite on this day.

In addition, educators will report to work onsite one week prior to students reporting back to the site. During the week of April 5 - April 9, educators must provide a minimum 120 minutes of daily live instruction with students. Asynchronous instruction must also be provided to ensure a minimum of 240 total minutes per day of instruction.

Over the next week, the teachers and I will be learning more about the options that are available for families at our school, given the negotiated terms and the needs of our community. Our school community will be again surveyed to understand their preference given this new information.

In order to keep everyone safe and provide students with the best instructional experiences possible, please be vigilant in your adherence to safety protocols. Please wash hands, wear masks, and practice social distancing. We are depending on one another more than ever to stay committed to these public health measures.

Finally, I understand that reactions to this news throughout our school community will be varied. Please be considerate of each family's own experiences, and please look for upcoming informational and Q/A sessions this week and next.

Thank you again for your continued support as we enter into this Phase 2 of Onsite Instruction for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Sincerely,

Nona Richard

Here's Everything Else You Need to Know for the Week:

Some New York Times articles of interest:

“4 Current Affairs Podcasts for Curious Children: Daily, biweekly and weekly shows deliver kids the news at their level, and help contextualize the world around them”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/24/at-home/current-affairs-podcasts-for-children.html?smid=em-share>

“Planting, ‘Plogging’ and Sunsets: How to Enjoy That Extra Hour of Daylight

‘Spring ahead’ will come as an even bigger relief than usual after a year of lockdown.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/11/well/daylight-saving-activities-2021.html?smid=url-share>

“How to Raise a Reader” (check out “Know Your Books” for book tips for your child)

[https://www.nytimes.com/guides/books/how-to-raise-a-reader?name=stylIn-books-general&region=TOP\\_BANNER&block=storyline\\_menu\\_recirc&action=click&pgtype=Article&impression\\_id=&variant=1\\_Show](https://www.nytimes.com/guides/books/how-to-raise-a-reader?name=stylIn-books-general&region=TOP_BANNER&block=storyline_menu_recirc&action=click&pgtype=Article&impression_id=&variant=1_Show)

Yearbook Announcement

Last call! 15 March is the deadline for all yearbook content. Please visit this site for all yearbook related info: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPES2021>

This week (15-19 March), children without an individual portrait photo for the yearbook will have the opportunity to take a Zoom portrait during class. Please contact your child's classroom teacher for scheduling information.

Any Questions: TPES Yearbook can be reached at: [yearbook@tpesfoundation.org](mailto:yearbook@tpesfoundation.org)

La Jolla Cluster Parents of Students With IEPs Meeting

Tuesday, March 16 from 4:30-5:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84909671098>

La Jolla Cluster Monthly Meeting: All Are Welcome

Thursday, March 18 from 4:15-5:30 PM

<https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82879953442>

## **Reopening Updates Page**

Check out SDUSD's "[Reopening Updates](#)" on our website to share news and highlight our progress.

### [Safe Schools: Parent Learning Menu](#)

I know the link above was shared at the beginning of the school year; please review the safety and wellness modules as you like.

### [Technology Support for Families](#)

Remember, only authenticated users can access Zoom accounts. Please click the link above if you need to learn how to log into Zoom with your sandi.net address.

Kindness Month at TPES!

TPES is participating in the 2021 Great Kindness Challenge! Please join the Torrey Pines Elementary School Foundation, Mrs. Riney, and the Student Council in practicing these [50 Kind Acts](#) together. How many can you do?

Look for the Foundation's weekly eBlasts! We will highlight 2 kind acts to practice together. And, each Friday in March, we will host kindness-themed dress-up days.

During the month of March, Breakfast and Books with Ms. Richard on Tuesday and Thursday mornings will focus on stories about kindness.

Let's have fun and spread kindness, happiness and joy to our school community, family and friends! Can't wait to see what you do!!

Week of March 15

2 Kind Acts to Highlight

1. Make and display 10 positive notes around your house.
2. Show appreciation to your best friend creatively.

Friday Dress-up Day

Crazy for Kindness: Wear crazy hair.

Week of March 22

2 Kind Acts to Highlight

1. Draw a picture and give to someone who has been kind to you.
2. List 10 things you are grateful for.

Friday Dress-up Day

Dream of Kindness: Pajama day.

Student Council's Padlet pages:

<https://padlet.com/Wordmaster/kindness1>

<https://padlet.com/Wordmaster/kindness2>

<https://padlet.com/Wordmaster/kindness3>

<https://padlet.com/Wordmaster/kindness4>

password for all is 'TPES'

San Diego Helpful Honda Dealers Recognizes Teachers!

We have incredible, thoughtful, passionate and skilled teachers at TPES. Please consider nominating your child's teacher to be recognized and receive thousands of dollars for supplies! See below:

Do you know of, work with, or have heard the story of a San Diego County teacher whose efforts in the classroom have greatly impacted their students, community, or school?

To celebrate Teacher Appreciation week, May 3rd-May 7th, 2021, the San Diego Honda Dealers will be honoring and surprising a few lucky teachers with a new class room makeover (approximately \$5,000 of supplies/needs per teacher)! We want to identify teachers in schools across San Diego County who have gone above and beyond to give their students a memorable and unmatched educational experience – and we need your help!

HOW TO SUBMIT A DESERVING TEACHER: due by March 31

Download the form here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2oqty3vtamwq199/AACjrIekRNW5EIt-LS3eyy8ca?dl=0>

New Family Information Sessions: Please Share With All!

I am thrilled to welcome any families interested in learning more about TPES to upcoming information sessions! All are invited to join Foundation representatives and me on any of these dates to learn about TK/K and plans for all grade levels in the 2021-2022.

TPES was the only school in San Diego Unified to be re-awarded the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award in fall of 2019. Let's make sure everyone knows about this high-caliber school in our backyard!

TPES New Family Sessions: 9:00-9:40 AM with Q/A 9:40-10:00 AM

Friday, March 19

Friday, April 16

Friday, May 14

Zoom link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82101707679>

Naval Base Point Loma Postage Stamp Competition: Women's History Month

Naval Base Point Loma is sponsoring a contest to create postage stamps that align with this year's Women's History Month Theme: Valiant Women of the Vote, Refusing to be Silenced. Please send pictures of all submissions by March 30, 2021. These submissions would be included in the Academic Anchor magazine produced by the Navy. Please reach out to Nakeya Gilmore at [nakeya.k.gilmore@navy.mil](mailto:nakeya.k.gilmore@navy.mil).

Dance and Movement are Coming to Spring Rotations at TPES

Beginning the week we return from Spring Break, students in grades 2-5 will enjoy dance and movement during their rotation times. This course will replace the technology classes the students are finishing.

The purpose of this course, presented via ZOOM, is to provide educational experience in dance and its evolution from beginning to modern times. This includes gesture in dance, ballet, jazz, and other forms of popular dance. Students will also study the creation of movement. A short introductory lecture supported by video and still images in a rich powerpoint format will put our

work into context. Students will learn basic positions, some basic steps, and will then be guided in creating their own dance using a combination of dance steps and every day gestures to illustrate the movement's potential of becoming dance.

The goal of this program is to bring dance to those who might not otherwise be exposed to this exciting art form, and encourage all students to move, dance, and perform.

Remember, students in grades TK-1 will continue with Spanish instruction during their spring rotation.

#### More Information for Parents Related to SBAC Testing

Students in grades 3-5 will begin preparing for SBAC testing, which is planned for mid-May. [Please review this parent website for more information.](#)

It is a parent's choice for their child to test onsite or remotely. If students choose to be assessed remotely, their technology should have audio/video capabilities so they can be recorded.

We will be sending more information to parents as it is made available to us by the District.

#### Parent Teacher Spring Conferences: What You Can Expect

Remember that during the week of March 22-26, teachers will be holding parent-teacher conferences. All parents are welcome to conference with their child's teacher at any time. During the week of March 22, I am asking teachers to meet with any student who is not performing at grade level.

#### Breakfast and Books

Check out Breakfast and Books every Tuesday (Grades TK-2) and Thursday (Grades 3-5) from 8:00-8:30 AM. Ms. Richard reads books and leads discussions about personal character and interpersonal connections. Join us!



<https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/91548369892>

Password: book

### TPES School Office Open Hours

The office is always staffed by Mrs. Kimberly on Mondays through Thursdays from 9 AM to 12 PM. If a parent needs to stop by outside this window, please email me at [nrichard@sandi.net](mailto:nrichard@sandi.net). I am on campus Monday through Friday regular work hours and am happy to assist.

### GATE Program, Testing and Class Placement

GATE testing is currently on hold, and it will not resume until schools fully reopen. At this time, we don't have information about what the pause in testing will mean for class placement in our third grade Seminar class or at Muirlands Middle School. Teachers and administrators in our La Jolla Cluster are actively communicating with the District, and we will provide updates as we have them. Please know that although there is some uncertainty about next year, there has been no discussion about eliminating the GATE program at TPES or at any school in the San Diego Unified School District.

Please visit the [SDUSD GATE webpage](#) and the [Muirlands GATE webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information.

### Upcoming Dates

Parent-Teacher Spring Conferences: 3/22-3/26

Spring Vacation: 3/29-4/2

Distribution Day: 4/7 (tentative)

Distribution Day: 5/5 (tentative)

Memorial Day Holiday: 5/28-5/31

Last Day of School: Tuesday, 6/15

## Food Services: Grab n' Go Meals

Extra grocery items are available (while supplies last) at select schools on a rotating basis. Check the schedule for grocery distributions for next week - [Grocery Item Schedule for Week of 3/15-3/19](#).

## Weekly District Notices and Agendas

Please see attached. [Notices and Agendas 03.12.21.pdf](#)

## Free Tutoring Available

UCSD is available to support our students' academics! They are offering FREE tutoring for students K-12 on Tuesday & Friday from 5-7pm. For more information, please click on [Tritons Tutor](#) and scroll down to the Parent/Student link (<https://hdhwellness.ucsd.edu/tritons-tutor/index.html>).

## TPES New Telephone Number

With the upgrades in technology, our new phone number is 619 605 3700.

Our old phone number, 858 453 2323, will continue to forward to our new line until May 2020. Remember that at this time staff are working from home and are unable to answer the phone. Please continue to email office staff and teachers.

## School Site Council and School Governance Team

The next SSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7 from 7:45-8:30 AM.

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82705330996>

The next SGT meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 8 from 7:15 to 8:00 AM.

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/84187461959>

## La Jolla Cluster Meetings

Save the dates! These are a great way to hear more about issues that are affecting other SDUSD schools in our La Jolla community. The meeting dates for 2021 are scheduled for 3/18, 4/15 and 5/20. All meetings run from 4:15-5:30 PM.

Cluster Meeting Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82879953442>

## Technology Tips

Please check out the Parent Support Website <http://bit.ly/sdusditsupport> for any technology concerns.

Our success depends on you! Thank you for being a part of Torrey Pines Elementary School.