



Fawcett Elementary @ McKinley & Tacoma Public Schools Resources / Information Updates

Week of March 7, 2022

Upcoming Dates through March, 2022:

- ☀ March 7th— Beyond the Bell Session 4 Begins!
- ☀ March 13th-Daylight Saving Time begins
- ☀ March 14th-18th- No School for Preschool Only (conferences)
- ☀ March 17th & 18th- Early Release for K-5 students @ 12:15 PM for conferences —no Beyond the Bell!
- ☀ March 25th- All School Field Trip to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
- ☀ March 28th-Report cards mailed home
- ☀ March 29th- 5th Grade Day Camp @ Camp Seymour
- ☀ April 4th-8th- Spring Break- No School —no Beyond the Bell!

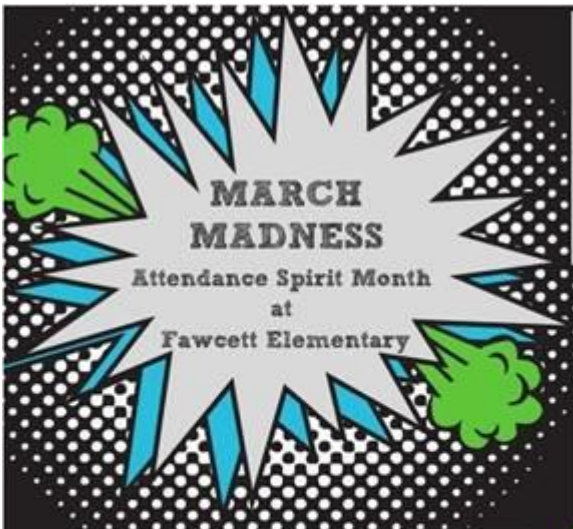
Beyond the Bell (*UPDATED):

Beyond the Bell Session 4 begins on Monday, March 7th and will run through April 22nd, from 3:30-5:30 PM, two days per week. This session's course offerings are listed below. Please remember there will be no programs March 17th and 18th due to early release for Spring Conferences and April 4th-8th due to Spring Break.


Program Name	Days of the Week	Grade Level	Cap	Instructor Name	Program Description
Culture Club	T/Th	K-5	15	Arisa Moon Williams, Patcharaporn UpKaew	Learn about Thai Culture!
Step Dance	T/Th	2-5	15	Savannah Sears	Step into the beat! Step is an athletic, rhythmic dance style. With deep roots in African American heritage, it has influenced everything from Hip Hop to Cheerleading.
Fitness & Fun	M/W	2-5	15	J'Dyn Hook	An afterschool program to run, play, and jump into fitness! We will play group games, and fitness drills to keep us active and having fun.
Flag Football	M/W	4-5	15	Scott Arnold	Youth will learn the fundamentals of football, sportsmanship and teamwork while having fun and meeting new friends. Practices/Program will be after school 2 times a week. Games will be played on Saturdays at SERA Multipurpose Turf Field beginning March 19-April 23 (no games April 9).

Our Beyond the Bell coordinator is Jennifer Boutell. Her email address is: jboutel@tacoma.k12.wa.us and Google Voice # is (541) 224-6923.

- ☀ Session 4: March 7-April 22
- ☀ Session 5: May 2-June 10 (registration for session 5 is from April 4th through April 20th)



MARCH MADNESS
Attendance Spirit Month
at
Fawcett Elementary



MARCH 4TH
HAT DAY

MARCH 11TH

FAVORITE CHARACTER, SPORT OR TEAM T-SHIRT DAY

March 25th

All school field trip to the zoo!
Match your grade level:


Preschool	Red
Kindergarten	Green
1st Grade	Orange
2nd Grade	Blue
3rd Grade	Purple
4th Grade	Yellow
5th Grade	Black

-Every day counts-

Each day in March we are randomly drawing 6 names. If your student is here AND on time they receive \$10 worth of Falcon bucks! More prizes and activities to participate in when you attend!

MARCH 18TH

INSIDE OUT DAY!



MISSING SCHOOL = MISSING OUT

Masking Update (*UPDATED):

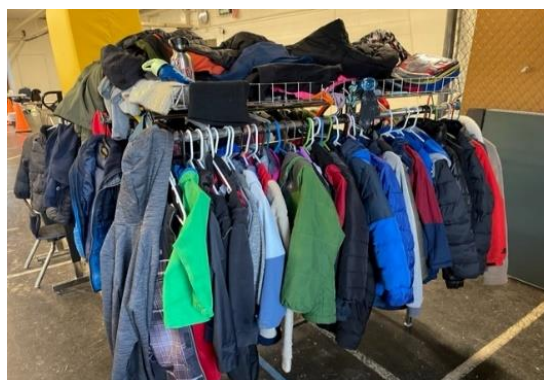
Gov. Inslee announced that the state indoor mask mandate will end the night of March 11th. This is a change from the previously announced date. **Until then, masks will continue to be required for all students, staff, and visitors in our schools and on school buses.**

We anticipate the state will release new guidance for schools on March 7th. We will wait for official notice from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to understand any potential changes made to our local health guidance after March 11th.

Regardless of changes to come, staff and students who choose to continue to wear a mask are welcome to do so. We know these changes can be difficult. Please talk with your child about what makes them comfortable. After March 11th, if your child needs support with wearing a mask or not wearing a mask, let us know. Until we receive updated guidance, our current mask and social distancing requirements are still in place at all schools and district buildings. [You can find those requirements on our school district website.](#)

Lost & Found:

Is your child missing any coats, jackets, hats or other items? If so, please encourage them to take a look through our Lost and Found. We have accumulated quite a bit of clothing and accessories and would love to get these things back to their owners!



All-School Zoo Field Trip:

****Permission slips were sent home with your child on Monday, February 7th. Permission slips are past due, so please ensure you send your child with his/her permission slip to school tomorrow.** See the flyer below, which is also attached to the permission slip, for more details. If you need another permission slip, please let us know as soon as possible.



All-School Fieldtrip to the Point Defiance Zoo!

Who: Preschoolers through 5th Grade & All Fawcett Staff

What: All-School **FREE** Fieldtrip

When: Friday, March 25, 2022 during school hours—please ensure your child is here on time!

Where: Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma

Why: To enjoy an all-school culminating activity after our informational writing unit focusing on animals.

Logistics:

- **PERMISSION SLIPS:** All students need to bring back their completed fieldtrip permission slip prior to March 4th. Permission slips will go home with students on Feb 7.
- **BREAKFAST:** All students will continue to have the breakfast option in the morning and will eat breakfast prior to our departure.
- **LUNCH:** All students will get a free bagged lunch consisting of an allergy-friendly WOW sandwich, fruit, veggies & milk. If you would like to send your child with a lunch from home, that is fine too, but he/she will be responsible for carrying it. If so, please pack in a disposable bag, so it can be easily disposed of after lunch. Please mark on the permission slip which lunch your child will choose.
- **CHAPERONES:** Each classroom will need 3 parent/guardian chaperones. Each chaperone will need to drive and meet the class at the zoo main door promptly at 10 AM, have volunteer clearance through the district consisting of COVID-19 vaccination proof prior to **March 18th** (this needs to be done annually), and are unable to bring additional children. If you are interested in chaperoning within your child's class, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible. Family members/adults who are not cleared volunteers are not permitted to attend the field trip.
- Students will be assigned a chaperone, whether it is a staff member, their teacher, or a cleared parent/guardian chaperone for the duration of the field trip. These groups will stick together at the zoo and follow all COVID-19 protocols (i.e. mask, physical distancing, etc.).
- **TRANSPORTATION:** All students and staff will ride a bus to/from the zoo. Students will be in an assigned seat and all COVID-19 cleaning protocols will be in place. If you are uncomfortable sending your child on the bus, you can drive your child to the zoo and walk him/her to the front entrance to meet up with your child's teacher at 10:00 AM. If you are opting to drive your student separately, please communicate this to your child's teacher ahead of time. Chaperones will need to drive to the zoo in their own vehicle.
- **ATTENDANCE:** The building will be closed this day, as this is a school-wide fieldtrip. If you do not wish for your child to attend the field trip, please let your child's teacher know, and their absence will be excused for the day.



If you have further questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or call the main office at (253) 571-4700.

Ukraine Conflict:

As we have watched events unfold in Ukraine this week, our hearts and thoughts are with those impacted by this crisis. We have many Fawcett families who may have loved ones impacted.

Some of our students may be feeling anxiety or grief. Our school counselors and staff are here and ready to provide support.

Here are a couple of resources you may find helpful:

- [Ukrainian Community Center of Washington](#)
- [Resources for Educators, Families to Discuss Events in Ukraine with Students](#)

Deadline for Kindergarten Choice Applications Approaching:

As a reminder the deadline for kindergarten choice applications is coming up March 18th. This only applies to those living outside our neighborhood boundaries. If you have family or friends with children entering kindergarten next fall, who want to choose enroll at Fawcett, tell them to visit tacomaschools.org/enroll.

Help TPS Determine Future School Calendars:

The Tacoma Public Schools' calendar greatly impacts staff, students, families, and community partners. As we work to determine future school year calendars, we'd like to hear from all stakeholders. Please note we are required by law to have 180 school days.

Please take a moment to complete this quick calendar survey: [Take the calendar survey](#)

Nurses Can Answer Your COVID-19 Questions, Monday-Friday:

TPS families and staff can get answers to questions related to COVID-19 by calling nurses from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

Nurses will be able to answer questions about COVID guidance for schools and TPCHD resources.

The call center line is 253-649-1240. It's open from 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM, Monday through Friday, through the end of the school year.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please report it to us here at school.





Changes to K-12 Isolation & Quarantine Guidance Related to COVID-19:

The state Department of Health and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department recently recommended changes to COVID-19 guidelines, including reducing the number of isolation and quarantine days.

Changes in isolation

Students who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate at home for at least five full days, regardless of their vaccination status.

They can return when the following criteria are met:

- 5 full days since symptom onset, or the positive test sample was collected; and
- No symptoms are present, or symptoms are improving; and
- No fever without the use of fever-reducing medications within 24 hours of returning.

Changes in quarantine

Students who are close contacts may or may not have to quarantine. Close contacts don't have to quarantine if:

- They are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms. They are still encouraged to get tested 5-7 days after exposure. (For students 18 and older, full vaccination includes a booster dose at least two weeks prior to exposure.)
- Or they tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and do not have symptoms.

Close contacts can shorten quarantine if they are not vaccinated but receive a negative COVID-19 test no sooner than five days after exposure.

Close contacts must complete the full, 10-day quarantine if they have not received the vaccine and don't have a negative COVID-19 test.

Close Contacts living in same household as an individual who tested positive:

- If the student is fully vaccinated and does not have symptoms or they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and do not have symptoms, they do not have to quarantine.
- If not, and if the positive individual is able to fully isolate from the student (e.g. separate bathroom, no shared spaces, no interactions), they must quarantine for at least 5 full days and can return to school with a negative COVID-19 test on day 6. They may test no sooner than day 5. If they choose not to test, they may return to school on day 11 so long as they have not developed symptoms.
- If not, and the positive individual is NOT able to fully isolate from the student, they must quarantine for 10 full days and may return to school with a negative COVID-19 test on day 11. They may test no sooner than day 10. If they choose not to test, they must quarantine for 15 full days and may return day 16 so long as they have not developed symptoms.
- If another household member tests positive sometime in this timeline, the timeline resets to the new positive COVID-19 case.

Children in childcare

Please note, students in childcare must quarantine 14 days after exposure, according to guidance from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

***Preschool Quarantine Shortened**

As of February 10th, preschool students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for 10 full days, returning to learning day 11. Preschool students who are close contacts of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 are required to quarantine for 10 full days, returning on day 11. A negative COVID-19 test is not required to return on day 11.

Get more details here. [Story Detail - Tacoma Public Schools \(tacomaschools.org\)](https://tacomaschools.org)

COVID-19 Tests:

All TPS students received two free COVID-19 tests on Tuesday, January 25th. These voluntary tests are intended to support the health and safety of our community by providing results at home, as soon as symptoms are detected.

A positive result from the iHealth tests can be used to calculate a student's isolation period and determine when they can return to school. Students who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate at home for at least five full days, regardless of their vaccination status.

As of Monday, February 7th, schools are able to accept at-home, rapid antigen negative tests results to shorten quarantine for K-12 students and all staff, as Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) recently updated their guidance. At-home, rapid antigen tests include, but are not limited to, the iHealth tests given to students and staff. Proof includes a photograph of the negative test result with the following detail in the photo:

- First and last name of the individual tested
- First and last name of the individual who administered the test, if known.
- The test sample collection date

Students & Family Members Can Get Free COVID-19 Tests at TPS Sites:

TPS has partnered with the Department of Health and Premier Medical Group to open a second, walk-in clinic for students to receive a rapid antigen test for COVID-19. This site, at Baker Middle School, will open on Monday, February 28, 2022.

Where: Baker Middle School, 8001 South J street, Tacoma, 98408

When: 3:30-7:00 PM, Monday-Friday when school is open

Who: TPS students, staff and their immediate family members

You can drop into this TPS testing clinic (run by Premier Medical Group) any day school is open. You do not need an appointment. Test results are available online within 15-20 minutes. This is a rapid antigen test.

Where: Madison Early Learning Center, 3101 South 43rd Street, Tacoma, WA 98409

When: 1-5 PM on school days

Who: TPS students, staff, and their immediate family members

[Learn more about COVID testing options](#)

Student Learning During Quarantine and/or Isolation:

Students who cannot attend school because they have COVID-19 or are required to quarantine will learn from home using lessons and support materials provided by their teachers.

TPS has developed learning plans for various remote-learning scenarios - including small groups or entire classes - for students missing in-person school. Contact your child's teacher if this is the case.

Fawcett Building Updates



Check out the latest and greatest updates regarding our temporary home at McKinley, how Fawcett's current building is being utilized by the Fire Department, and to check out preliminary designs for our new building!

[Planning and Construction - Tacoma Public Schools \(tacomaschools.org\)](http://tacomaschools.org)

Clothing & Inclement Weather:

Please do your best to send your child to school each day with clothing based on the projected weather, as we start seeing our weather change. Also, please write your child's name on the clothing so we can ensure it stays with the appropriate student. We do our best to get students outside for recess, and do not have a covered area here at McKinley, so thank you in advance for planning appropriately. Also, please try your best to have your child wear appropriate shoes for PE and recess.

Blue Positive Office Referrals:

Each week all Fawcett staff members recognize two students with a blue positive office referral. Students can be recognized for exemplifying one, or more, of our Falcon Foundations for Success of: being respectful, being responsible, being safe, and/or being a learner. The staff member will give the blue positive office referral to the student who will keep it at school for the week. During our Friday afternoon announcements (see above), all students who earned a blue positive office referral will be invited to the library where students will get their picture taken to be displayed on our designated bulletin board, get acknowledgement from Ms. Hathaway and/or Mrs. Perkins, earn a \$5 falcon buck, and a token. Each student will then get to take their blue positive office referral home.

Falcon Foundations for Success:

Each week, each classroom teacher will choose two students from their class who exemplified the falcon focus of the week. Each Friday at 3:00 PM, the weekly student falcons will be announced during our Friday afternoon announcements. Each student will receive a certificate from their teacher and will help Ms. Hathaway during the following Monday morning announcements with the Pledge of Allegiance and Falcon Commitment. Each student will also receive a \$5 falcon buck.

March: BE RESPONSIBLE

- 7: I work independently and cooperatively.
- 14: I keep my desk and work area neat and tidy.
- 21: I get started on my work without prompting.
- 28: Teacher's Choice (on being responsible)

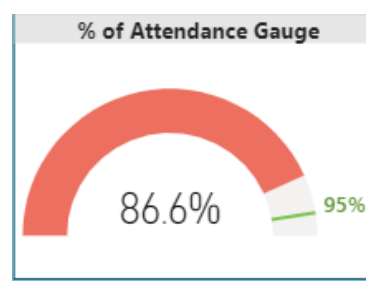
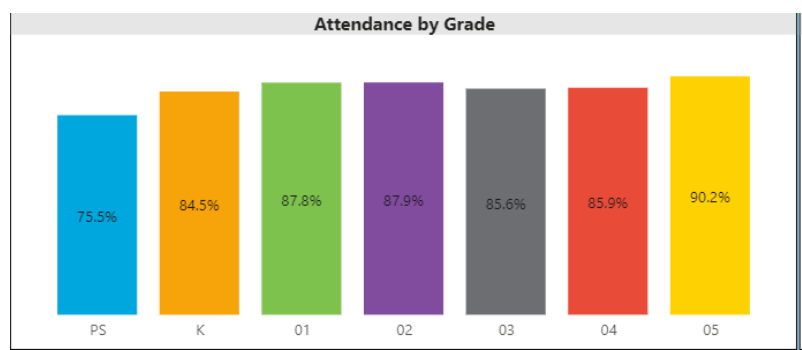




Breakfast & Lunch Menus:

Daily menus for breakfast and lunch are now available through our school website. Go to either our school website or www.tacomaschools.org and select the “Meals” button. From there, you can select our school on the menu page and find the items we’re serving. More food options are beginning to come back. While there are still some supply chain issues, we are starting to see more fresh fruits and vegetables in the cafeteria, along with more freshly cooked food and less prepackaged food served. Menus are still subject to change.

Weekly Attendance Percentages (NEW*):



Hiring Efforts:

The school district continues to offer \$250 to \$5,000 hiring bonuses to fill key positions, like nurses, LPNs, bus drivers, paraeducators and bus monitors.

We are also looking for emergency substitute teachers and have changed the requirements so more people are temporarily eligible. Substitute pay has also increased to \$200 per day.

Find out more about job openings and hiring bonuses here: [Careers - Tacoma Public Schools \(tacomaschools.org\)](http://www.tacomaschools.org)

Free Home Internet:

If you are interested in free home internet, a new resource is available. In partnership with Comcast, the Tacoma Urban League is sponsoring free, high-speed internet for families who qualify. For more information, parents/guardians or students can reach out to the Tacoma Urban League directly at (253) 383-2007.

End-Of-Day Transportation:

If your child is new to riding the bus or your family is new to Fawcett, please email Ms. Kelly your child's name and address and she will get the bus set-up. Times and locations will be available for you to view the end of August. Her email is: kpenswi@tacoma.k12.wa.us.

****It is vital, if your transportation changes, please call the main office to inform the school. With this information, Ms. Kelly or Ms. Lori will communicate this important information to your child's teacher, so he/she gets on the bus or picked up accordingly.*

Drop-Off/Pick-Up & Bus Zone:

It is important, for the safety of all, and to be cognizant to the McKinley neighbors, to follow these important drop-off / pick-up expectations:

Student drop off, pick up directions

- Drop off and pick up students on E. 37th St. **(Blue X)**
- Don't park on E. 37th St. Please follow the cones and signage placed on E. 37th St. during drop off and pick up times.
- Avoid dropping off or picking up your student in the front of the building on E. McKinley Ave. This area is reserved for buses only.



- There will be no supervision in the morning prior to 8:50 AM on M/T/Th/F. On Wednesdays, no supervision prior to 9:50 AM.
- Drop-off and pick-up will occur on E 37th Street **to the north of the school**. Please follow the cones, signs, and staff direction, as there is no parking on E. 37th Street (directly north of the school) or on the curb closest to the school on E. McKinley Ave., as that is where our busses will pick-up/drop-off.
- E. McKinley Ave. (on the school side) will be for busses **only**. Please do not drop-off, pick-up, or park here.
- The only crosswalk will be on the corner of E. 37th Street & E. McKinley Ave. Please adhere to direction of the crossing guard at this location.
- School is out each day at 3:30 PM.
- Please do NOT park on the **sidewalk on G Street, as this is residential parking**.

Thank you for your support, patience, and assistance with this!

Helpful Websites & Contact Information:

- Fawcett Elementary School website: fawcettfalcons.com
- Fawcett Elementary School Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/fawcettfalcons/>
- Tacoma Public Schools: <https://www.tacomaschools.org/>
- Main office phone number: (253) 571-4700
- Fax number: (253) 571-4754
- Address @ McKinley: 3702 E McKinley Ave, Tacoma, WA 98404
- Fawcett Elementary School Schoology page: <https://tps.schoology.com/school/2909062765>



If you haven't already, please "Like" our Fawcett Elementary School Facebook page, as we are frequently adding a variety of additional resources, tips, ideas, and opportunities: www.facebook.com/FawcettFalcons. Please know, if you have questions regarding anything posted on our Facebook page, we encourage you to call the main office to ask, or email, instead of messaging or posting on our page. This will get you the quickest response.

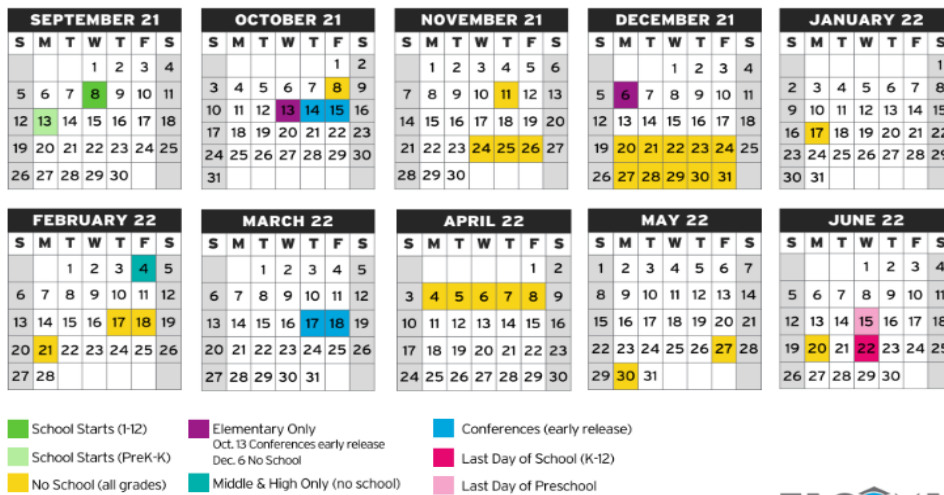


Tacoma Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

- ❖ Civil Rights Coordinator: Lisa Nolan, lnolan@tacoma.k12.wa.us, 253-571-1252;
- ❖ Title IX Coordinator, Elementary: Christa Erolin, cerolin@tacoma.k12.wa.us, 253-571-1318;
- ❖ Title IX Coordinator, Secondary: Eric Hogan, ehogan1@tacoma.k12.wa.us, 253-571-1191;
- ❖ 504 Coordinator: Elementary, Elise Friedrich-Nielsen, efriedr@tacoma.k12.wa.us, 253-571-1096;
- ❖ 504 Coordinator: Secondary, Megan Nelson, mnelson@tacoma.k12.wa.us, 253-571-1003.
- ❖ Mailing address: P.O. Box 1357, Tacoma, WA 98401-1357.
- ❖ If you have questions regarding this nondiscrimination statement and its use, please contact lnolan@tacoma.k12.wa.us or 253-571-1252.

2021-2022 Academic Mini-Calendar



For detailed and updated calendars visit: tacomaschools.org/calendar



TPS Land Acknowledgement

Tacoma Public Schools acknowledges that we are on the traditional ancestral and historical lands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Puyallup Tribe. This acknowledgement serves as a first step in honoring our nearest tribal neighbors and partners who have inhabited this region since time immemorial, and whom we give thanks for allowing us passage to their lands. We shall intentionally create inclusive and respectful partnerships that honor Indigenous cultures, histories, identities, and sociopolitical realities.

