



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

Week of January 31, 2022





PLEDGING OPENS: Monday, Jan. 31st

APEX FunRun EVENT: Friday, Feb. 11th



GETTING STARTED:

When pledging opens, go to and log in using your child's unique ACCESS CODE.



MAKE A DONATION

Make a flat donation OF pledge a \$ amount for each lap your child will complete at the event. Recorded laps are capped at 36 max.



tool to send a donation link via email, text, and social media to 10 family members and friends They can donate online to help our school. Our goal is to provide all of our students with the best education and school experience possible and ensure they have the tools they need to learn and grow. All students are included in the leadership program and fitness event regardless of financial participation in the fundraiser. If you can help, please know that no donation is too small.

ABOUT APEX LEADERSHIP CO

Apex is a 2-week interactive leadership & character building program combined with a fitness focused event fundraiser to help schools raise much needed funds.

LEADERSHIP THEME: AS ONE

The leadership program focuses on developing student self-control, decision making and interpersonal skills vital for school and life success. The quick, engaging lessons tie in with our school's vision and mission. encourages students to create a positive environment, and inspires them to lead by example.

- . SELF STARTER
- OWN IT
- **NEW DAY**
- ENERGIZE





Upcoming Dates through February 2022:

- January 31st February 11th: APEX Fundraiser---more information to come!
- February 8th- Election Day
- February 17th- NO SCHOOL- Staff Data Day
- February 18th- NO SCHOOL- Snow Make-Up Day
- February 21st- NO SCHOOL- President's Day
- February 22nd- Fawcett Dental Clinic- Information to come soon!
- February 25th- TPS Give Back Day

Schedule Change to Preschool Conference Week

Our Spring Conference Week, previously scheduled for March 7-11, 2022 has been rescheduled to align with K-5 conferences. Preschool conference week will now be the week of March 14-18. Students will attend school on their regular schedule during March 7-11 and will not attend school March 14-18. We apologize for this change in schedule; however, we are pleased to be able to maximize learning time by offering a more aligned conference week with more consistent scheduling and transportation for our bus riders, and more shared time off for families.

Students now taking climate survey (*NEW)

Students in grades K-12 can now take the school district's climate survey during the school day. Answers to the survey help us create better learning environments for students.

TPS runs the climate survey for students, staff and parents every two years. The survey will be available for parents and guardians starting Feb. 9. A link to the survey will be sent then.

Help TPS Support Student Success:

How can we best support your student's academic success? TPS is working to strengthen partnerships between schools and families in order to help children perform better in school.

Please consider participating in the short survey below. Your interests will help guide the district's family engagement activities.

Complete the survey







Nurses can Answer your COVID-19 Questions, Monday-Friday (*NEW)

Starting Monday, Jan. 31, 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 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., 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.

COVID-19 Tests:

All TPS students received two free COVID-19 tests last Tuesday, 1/25. 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.

iHealth is not a lab-verified test, so it can't be used to shorten the quarantine period of someone who is identified as a close contact to a COVID-positive person. TPS is working with health authorities for updated guidance on this topic.

Vaccination Opportunities:

Tacoma Public Schools invites our students (5+), their families, and school staff and their families, to get a free COVID-19 vaccine or booster shot at upcoming clinics at a TPS site. Boosters are for those 12 and older.

No appointment is required. TPS Vaccine Event Dates & Times

You can also find vaccination opportunities here or contact your primary care provider: https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information

If a student has been COVID-19 vaccinated, it would be helpful to please send a photo of the vaccine card to Ms. Kelly (kpenswi@tacoma.k12.wa.us) and/or Ms. Melinda (mharo@tacoma.k12.wa.us).

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 lab-verified, 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 lab-verified, 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 lab-verified, 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 lab-verified, 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.

Preschoolers and children in childcare

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

Recently isolated or quarantined?

If you received an isolation or quarantine notice from Tacoma Public Schools from Jan. 1-10, your child may be able to return to school sooner than originally indicated. See this chart and contact your school's Covid Supervisor with questions.

Get more details here. Story Detail - Tacoma Public Schools (tacomaschools.org)

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

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 & their immediate family members



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.



5th Grade Band/Orchestra at Stewart Middle School Interest:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iLOhd89aK0m_QmTLsIfQTH8YtBbA5AdNllauDo9u4EZUN0xaVU5WTFJHWTBWUzQ2NDNCQzdK0EFHOS4u

4th Grade Rainier Scholars Opportunity!:



Do you know a 4th grader who loves to learn?

Rainier Scholars - Tacoma partners with families of color starting in elementary school, providing academic enrichment and comprehensive support until the student graduates from college.



In their first three years of Rainier Scholars, students will participate in Summer Stretch Academies designed to challenge them with engaging content, bolster their academic skills and build on their foundation of cultural identity and resiliency — all designed to prepare students for success in advanced learning classes.

During the school year, students and families are supported by an Academic Counselor, social/emotional learning, parent workshops and community- building events.



When Does Recruitment Start?

Information sessions for nominated and interested families begin **November 30th**. Families must attend one information session before submitting an application.

Who Are We Looking For?

Current 4th grade students of color who are at or approaching grade level in reading and math*. Preference will be given to low-income and first generation families.

*Rainier Scholars acknowledges that many students may not have made as much progress last year during the pandemic and we will be modifying our programming accordingly.

How Do I Nominate a Student?

If you know students who are ready for a challenge, nominate them for our program! Use the QR code below to access the form. Nominated families will be invited to attend an information meeting and apply.





If your school would like to learn more, contact our Recruitment Director, Nicole Anthony at nanthony@rainierscholars.org or 253.219.7378

Rainiers Jersey Design Contest (*NEW)

Tacoma Public Schools is teaming up with the Tacoma Rainiers to host a jersey design contest for students in grades 3 to 8. The Rainiers ask students to submit unique jersey designs to show what they love about Tacoma. Designers should use the <u>Rainiers' jersey template</u> and submit all contest entries by Feb. 1.



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)

<u>Proposition 1: Educational Programs & Operations Replacement Levy & Proposition 2: Technology Improvements & Upgrades Replacement Levy:</u>



We believe *every* child deserves an excellent education and the opportunity to **achieve their full potential**. Tacoma Public Schools is committed to providing that high-quality education in every school so ALL students – regardless of background or neighborhood – can do just that.

Soon, you will have an important choice to make on **Proposition 1: The Educational Programs & Operations replacement levy**, and **Proposition 2: The Technology Improvements & Upgrades replacement levy**.

If approved, Proposition 1 would fund 15% of the school district's operations. Proposition 2 would fund technology access for all K-12 students. Both levies would replace expiring levies that impact every Tacoma Public Schools student in every neighborhood.

Props. 1 and 2 will directly impact Fawcett Elementary School in the following ways:

PROP. 1 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & OPERATIONS REPLACEMENT LEVY:

Teachers, Books and Basics

- Teachers, nurses, counselors, librarians, paraeducators, and special needs staff, equaling about 500 staff members
 - o For example, the state funds 46 of our paraeducators; the voter-approved levy funding adds another 36 paraeducators to serve our students. The state funds 54 school counselors; the voter-approved levy adds another 29 counselors to serve our students.
- Up-to-date textbooks and instructional materials, including math and reading

Health, Safety and Security

- Maintenance on plumbing, heating, and ventilation systems for clean air and safe water
- Maintenance on aging roofs and for earthquake safety
- Improvements to school safety and security, fire alarm systems, and 911 communications

Educational Programs for Every Child in Every Neighborhood

- Special needs programs and improved accessibility for students and staff with disabilities
- Preschool and after-school programs
- Programs for high-achieving students and college entrance exams for all students
- Arts, music, athletics, extracurricular activities, and career and technical education programs.
 - o For example, the state provides no money for athletic programs. In a typical year, the voter-approved levy provides \$4 million for athletics.



PROP. 2 TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS & UPGRADES REPLACEMENT LEVY:

Access to Technology & Up-to-Date Learning Tools for Every K-12 Student

- Expanded technology access and laptops for every K-12 student and staff member to use at school and at home
- Staff training and software, and online learning tools for teachers and students

Safety, Security and Privacy Protection

Increased computer safety, security, and privacy protection for all students and staff

Keeping Students on Track

Online systems for students, teachers, and parents to monitor academic progress, attendance, homework, and credits, keeping students on track for high school graduation

COSTS - Not a Tax Rate Increase

If voters approve Props. 1 and 2, the average four-year tax rate for Tacoma schools is projected to **decrease** due to rising property values (from \$2.72 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to \$2.63 per \$1,000). The cost to the average Tacoma homeowner is projected to be about \$13 more per month —\$9.43 per month for Prop. 1 and \$3.63 for Prop. 2.

GET MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to learn more about Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 on the February 8th ballot, please visit tacomaschools.org/vote or call the TPS Public Information Office at 253-571-1015. February 8, 2022 Election - Tacoma Public Schools (tacomaschools.org)

Pierce County will mail ballots January 21st. If you are not already registered to vote, online registration is available at **piercecountywa.gov/elections** until January 30th.

REMEMBER TO VOTE FEBRUARY 8, 2022. Voters should receive ballots as soon as January 21st.

Online Voter Registration Deadline 1/31 (*NEW)

If you're not registered to vote in the Feb. 8 election, you still have time. Monday, Jan. 31, is the deadline to register ONLINE to vote.

Tacoma Public Schools has two important propositions on the ballot. Both replace existing levies that will expire soon. They affect our school and every neighborhood school in the district.

Please remember to vote in the Feb. 8 election. Every vote counts!

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.



Beyond the Bell:

Registration is now closed for session three of Beyond the Bell. This session will begin January 10th. **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 3: January 10-February 18

Session 4: March 7-April 22 Session 5: May 2-June 10

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.

Fire Evacuation Drill Held 1/27:

We had our monthly safety drill this past Thursday, a Fire Drill. Overall, the evacuation went well: students and teachers exited the building quickly, all students were safe and accounted for, and our systems for accountability and communication were solid. The only issue we encountered is we were unable to turn the alarm off for about 15 minutes after the drill was complete. Our amazing staff & students quickly and creatively pivoted to make those minutes work for them (e.g. moving classes to read outside, taking an early recess, etc.) and our custodian worked to get it shut off, just as the Tacoma Fire Department arrived to assist him. The issue has been resolved for future drills.

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.

February: BE RESPECTFUL

1/31- I follow the appropriate discussion expectations



BE RESPONSIBLE

BE SAFE

BE A LEARNER





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.

Bus Behavior & Bus COVID Requirements:

If your child rides the school bus, please remind him/her to wear a mask and sit in his/her assigned seat on the bus. Both of those actions can help limit COVID-19 exposure on the bus. When students follow these rules, they also reduce the chance of missing school. When someone diagnosed with the virus rides a school bus, staff must investigate whether anyone near them is considered a close contact.

If clear bus video footage is not available, as there are cameras on all buses, and the assigned seating chart has not been followed with fidelity, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department considers everyone on the bus a close contact and requires them to quarantine.

Our goal with these bus rules is to keep students and drivers safe and reduce the number of days students miss school. The rules are enforced similar to other bus behavior requirements.

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: <u>Careers - Tacoma Public Schools</u> (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:

- 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.

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.



- 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.
- We have received multiple calls from the neighboring McKinley community requesting that families do NOT park on the **sidewalk on G Street**. Thank you for your 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. <u>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.</u>





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, Inolan@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.



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.





