



March 12, 2021

Dear Tilden Family,

Despite all the stress and uncertainty over the past year, we are finally ready to welcome back small groups of students to our beautiful building. We are eager to continue with virtual instruction and to teach our students in-person. Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we engage in this new process of partial-reopening. I want to thank my entire staff for their dedication, hard work, and innovative thinking that allowed us to put together this complex puzzle and prepare our building for the re-opening in accordance with all the MCPS guidelines. We have all proven once again that we can do hard things and I couldn't be prouder of our entire Tilden Family.

All of the information below, along with the links, can be found on our Tilden website.

Student Medications:

- Our health tech, Ms. Day, is back. Parents can drop off medication during our regular business hours. Ms. Day will meet with parents to make sure that we have the necessary paperwork and all the instructions for administering the medication.
- Please do not send any medication to school with your child.

Orientation Video:

- Return to In-Person Learning Orientation Video for Students: <https://video.link/w/Zj9ac>

Bus Schedules:

- Bus schedules can be found on our Tilden Website and on the MCPS one as well.
- Buses will be running on the Pre-COVID schedule.

School Map:

- Attached is a school map with all the classrooms: [Tilden Middle School Map](#)
- We will also have paper copies available.

Chromebooks and Headphones:

- Students will need to bring their fully charged MCPS Chromebooks to school every day.
- If students are returning to school for in-person instruction and need to get an MCPS Chromebook because they have been using their own up until now, they will need to fill out this Google form prior to returning to school in order for us to have one ready for them when they return: [MCPS Chromebook request form](#)
- The request form is also posted on the Tilden website.
- If your student already has an MCPS Chromebook but needs a new one, please take the Chromebook and its charger to 45 W. Gude Drive to exchange it.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own headphones to school. We also have headphones at school for students to use.

Lunches:

- Students can bring their own lunch, just keep in mind that microwaves will not be available.
- MCPS lunches will be provided at no cost. Once the menu becomes available, it will be posted on our website.
- Students will eat in their classrooms. Once they are done, they will be able to get some movement outside.

Arrival:

- Students in our LFI program will be greeted at the Activity Entrance every morning. From there, they will head to the gym.
- Students in our Asperger's and Hours-Based Programs who ride the bus will head to the cafeteria every morning. Car riders will enter through the Main Entrance and walkers will enter through the North Entrance, which is next to the main entrance. We will have staff at every entrance point and in the hallways.

First Day Back:

- Every return phase will start their first day with an in-person orientation.
- Students who are remaining virtual will have orientations this summer, and again before the beginning of the next school year.

Student Groups - Team and Alphabet Rotations:

- April 6: [6th grade BLUE Week, A-K](#)
- April 12: [6th grade GOLD Week, L-Z](#)

Additional Resources for Families:

- Below are additional resources for families as a result of the anti-Semitic and racist incident that took place on social media a couple of weeks ago. I want to thank Sara Winkelman, Director of Education, Program, and Services at the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) for sharing these resources with us.
- <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/antisemitism-today>
- [How to Talk to Children About Antisemitism \(elle.com\)](#)
- <https://www.niot.org/blog/how-10000-menorahs-helped-town-defeat-hate>
- <https://www.jssa.org/tips-talking-children-anti-semitism/>
- <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk/hate-symbols>

Shout Out!

- Our National Junior Arts Honors Society scholars created beautiful paintings for *Youth Art For Healing*. Our students are incredibly creative and their artwork is a result of much hard work. I am proud of our Timberwolves for finding an opportunity to give back to the community. A shout out to Ms. Curtis for ensuring that this collaboration and event continues, despite the pandemic.

Warmest Regards,

Irina LaGrange
Principal