

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN



Where Excellence Is Achieved Through Each Individual's Success

IMPORTANT Budget Community Workshop NOVEMBER 7

&

Joint Meeting between the Board of Education and the Town Council

7:00 PM Tolland HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Hear a presentation from the Superintendent, and sit down for “breakout” Q & A sessions with school administrators and managers.

UPDATE FOR November 5, 2018

JUMP TO SCHOOL UPDATES:

Please CLICK BELOW to get the **DIGITAL BACKPACK** information for the listed school:

[BG](#)

[TIS](#)

[TMS](#)

[THS](#)

Here for you 860-335-2455

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| Feature Link (click a link to jump to a section) | Description |
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| <u>Superintendent's Weekly Message/Feature</u> | This is the weekly message from the Superintendent. It is usually around some topic related to education and/or the school system. |
| <u>TPSTV! Tolland Public Schools TV!</u> | This section has videos about the great things happening in the Tolland Public Schools! |
| <u>Breakfast with the Superintendent Dates/Times/Information</u> | This section provides information about the upcoming Superintendent's Breakfast. These are open meetings with no agenda in which the public is invited to come ask questions, and engage in conversation, about educationally relevant topics. |
| <u>Budget Blurb & Budget Information</u> | This section provides links and information with regard to the budget of the Tolland Public Schools. |
| <u>Community Learning Workshops</u> | This second provides information about upcoming workshops for the community. |
| <u>How to Contact the Superintendent</u> | This section provides information on the ways to communicate with the Superintendent based on urgency/level of importance. |
| <u>Job Postings</u> | This is a listing of jobs available at this time for the district. |
| <u>Links</u> | These are links provided from community members as well as links that may provide meaningful information. |
| <u>Mastery Learning</u> | This section has a brief synopsis of the Mastery Learning philosophy and plan for the district. |
| <u>Power School and Unified Classroom</u> | This section provides information to guardians and parents about how to access important resources for reviewing their child's grading, scheduling, attendance, and other information. |
| <u>Social Media Connections and Links</u> | This section provides information on the district social media sites. |
| <u>Volunteering Information</u> | This section provides information on how to Volunteer in the Tolland Public Schools. |
| <u>Snow Delays and Cancellations</u> | This section provides information on snow delays, cancellations. |
| <u>Other Information</u> | Other information submitted by school or community members. |

Digital distractions

Teens who spend more time using digital media devices are more likely to show symptoms of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), finds a study in *JAMA*. Researchers surveyed about 2,600 15- and 16-year-olds in Los Angeles about their use of digital media, including social media, streaming video and text messaging. None had a previous diagnosis of ADHD. Then, every six months for two years, the researchers asked the students to report how often they experienced 18 symptoms of ADHD. The teenagers who were heavy social media users were almost twice as likely as infrequent social media users to report experiencing symptoms of ADHD during the study. The researchers caution that further work is needed to determine whether or not that association is causal. [DOI: 10.1001/jama.2018.8931](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2018.8931)

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Tolland Public Schools TV!



<http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=891651&pageId=42643379>

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BREAKFAST WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT



2018- 2019
Tolland Board of Education
51 Tolland Green
10:00 AM

December 3, 2018
January 7, 2019
February 4, 2019
March 4, 2019
April 1, 2019
May 6, 2019
June 3, 2019

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BUDGET BLURB

BUDGET INFO ON THE WEB:



http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/board_of_education/budget

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2018-2019 Workshops for 2019-2020 Budget

7:00PM Tolland Public Library Program Room (except November 7)

| Workshop Date | Documents and Information |
|-------------------|--|
| November 7, 2018 | PLEASE NOTE TIME AND LOCATION CHANGE- THS Library – 7:00 pm |
| December 19, 2018 | 7:00PM Tolland Public Library Program Room |
| January 7, 2019 | 7:00PM Tolland Public Library Program Room |
| January 16, 2019 | 7:00PM Tolland Public Library Program Room |

HOW TO CONTACT THE SUPERINTENDENT:



Please take a look at the link below for some of the best ways to get an answer, meeting, or something else:

http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent_s_corner/superintendent_willett_s_page/c o n t a c t m e/

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Job Postings

Job Opening

Family Resource Center

- **Preschool Group Leader - 20-25 hours per week.**
Position requires an Associate's Degree in Early Child Education or related field.
- **Senior Group Leader – Monday thru Friday 3pm to 6pm at BGP**

For more information and to apply visit our website at

www.tolland.k12.ct.us

District/Human Resources/Employment Opportunities

HELP WANTED

Food & Nutrition Services has immediate openings for substitutes, with the potential to move into a permanent part-time position. Join our team in serving nutritious healthy meals to our students and work only while your children are in school!

If interested, please contact Kim at kmecteau@tolland.k12.ct.us or 860-870-6853, Ext

SUBSTITUTES ARE NEEDED DISTRICT WIDE

We need teacher, paraprofessional, custodial and food service substitutes.

You can choose what, where and how often you want to work.

Paper applications are available at the BOE office or can be printed from our website

www.tolland.k12.ct.us

Under District/Human Resources/Substitute Forms

Food service applications are under District/Human Resources/Employment Opportunities or feel free to call Kim Mecteau at 860-870-6850.

If you are not interested, do you know someone that might be such as a college student or retired family member. Please send them our way.

E.O. Tolland Boys' Swimming and Diving Team is looking for a head coach. Interested parties can contact E.O. Smith Athletic Director, Dan Uriano at DUriano@eosmith.org. I

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Links

[Until Help Arrives Workshop](#) (Tolland Fire Department)

[Teen Thursday Taste Test Challenge](#)

Cub Scouts Pack 15 Cards for a Cause-**Order directly:**
<https://form.jotform.com/82803301184146>

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Mastery Learning Information

Check out the ML Plan for the Tolland Public Schools below:

http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent_s_corner/superintendent_willett_s_page/mastery_based_learning/

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Since February 2018, Tolland Public Schools began to use PowerSchool's Unified Classroom. Unified Classroom provides a comprehensive look at student growth and achievement, while providing a single sign-on opportunity for parents with multiple students in the district.

While the mobile app has not changed (Unified Classroom access does not change your mobile app access) and can still be used, the computer-based version of Unified Classroom provides a more detailed view, and we recommend that parents use both tools to gain knowledge about their student.

For directions on how to set up your Unified Classroom account, if you haven't already, you may always visit the Tolland Public School's website or any of the school websites and click PowerSchool in the upper right-hand corner.

If you have already created your Unified Classroom account and can successfully log in at classroom.powerschool.com, you do not need to do anything further. If at any time you need to reset your password, you may do this yourself using the Forgot Password option on the sign in page.

New to Unified Classroom or PowerSchool

If you have created a PowerSchool account but have not created your Unified Classroom account OR are new to PowerSchool:

1. Instructions to [Create Parent PowerSchool and Unified Classroom ID](#)
2. Link to the begin creating your account: [Tolland Student and Parent Portal](#)

Please feel free to contact the Educational Technology office with any login issues or questions at (860) 870-6818 x10804.

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CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:



www.facebook.com/tollandpublicschools

FOLLOW SUPERINTENDENT WILLETT ON TWITTER:



Search for:

[TPS Sup Willett](#)

Or

[Superint. Willett](#)

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Volunteer Information

VOLUNTEERING



We would love to have you come and volunteer at the Tolland Public Schools!

Thank you for all you do for the Tolland Public Schools. Please contact the Central Office with any questions. For those already volunteering, and those new to the game, the BOE will now do background checks every three school years. If you will be volunteering for the first time in the upcoming school year, please complete the [online form under Quick Links](#). After you have submitted your application, please call 860-870-6850 extension 1 to provide your social security number. You can check with the school secretaries to verify your status.

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Snow Delays and Cancellations

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I want to take this opportunity to inform you of the District's procedures regarding school closings, delays, and early dismissals.

The decision to change school schedules is made after careful review of information collected from the local police, highway and school maintenance departments as well as a local weather service. Road conditions, sidewalk status, precipitation, temperatures and forecasts are considered when making a determination to delay or close schools. In some circumstances, a delay may be upgraded to a school closing. Information related to delayed openings and school closures is broadcasted on television and radio stations typically by 5:45 a.m. The safety of our children is the priority factor in all decision making.

BLACKBOARD CONNECT 5

The *Blackboard Connect 5* communication system is a telephone messaging service that the district uses which enables us to personally communicate with parents and staff regarding emergency situations, school closings and delays, school events and other important issues impacting you and your children. It is imperative that you keep a current emergency telephone number listed at your child's school building. In the event of an early dismissal or delay, a Blackboard message will be broadcast to all families by 5:45 a.m. During an emergency or weather related incident, calls will be made through the emergency mode to all student numbers in the Blackboard system.

DELAYED OPENINGS

- This year we will utilize a two (2) hour delay.
- There is no morning (am) Birch Grove preschool classes on delayed openings.
- Buses will arrive at stops approximately two (2) hours later than the usual time.

EARLY DISMISSAL

- An announcement will be made on the radio and television stations, generally prior to 11:00 a.m.
- The high school is released at approximately 10:45 a.m. Tolland Middle School is released at 11:45 am and Tolland Intermediate and Birch Grove Primary School are released at 12:45 pm. (Please note that unusual circumstances may dictate an earlier dismissal.
- There are no p.m. Birch Grove pre-school classes on early dismissal days.

In the event of school closings or early dismissals, all sporting events and student activities will be cancelled.

TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

Students in grades PreK-5 will be returned to school in the event an adult is not present at the bus stop to meet them unless you have signed the bus stop release form.

ALL STORM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements will be made on the following TV Stations:

WTNH
WFSB
WVIT
WTIC

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to monitor weather related delays, closings, and early dismissals and to cooperate with school personnel as we work to ensure student safety.

TOLLAND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER'S INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

If the Tolland Public School is closed due to inclement weather then the Tolland Family Resource Center is closed.

Weather delays and early closings

FRC School Age Care

The Before School Program will follow the School System for delays:

* 2 hour delay the FRC opens at 9:00 a.m. for children registered in the before school program for that day. (This is to allow enough time for the parking lot and sidewalks to be treated)

Early Dismissal

When there is an early dismissal due to inclement weather the FRC will close at 3:45 p.m. However, if Birch Grove and Tolland Intermediate School closes before 1:20 p.m. then FRC will close 2 hours after the end of school; example if Birch Grove/TIS close at 11:00 a.m. then FRC will close at 1:00 p.m.

Late fee pick up fees apply on early dismissals. Please call if you are delayed for any reason.

FRC Preschool

If Tolland Public Schools has a **delayed opening** due to weather, FRC morning preschool will open at 11:00 a.m. and will run until 12:00 p.m. Four Year Old FRC afternoon Preschool will start at 12:00 p.m.

If Tolland Schools has an **early dismissal**, the afternoon Four-Year-Old FRC Preschool will be cancelled.

FRC Preschool Enrichment

If Tolland Public Schools has a **delayed opening** due to weather, FRC Preschool Enrichment will open at 11:00 a.m. and will run until 1:30 p.m. If school **closes early** Preschool Enrichment will close at 12:00 P.M.

FRC Play groups are cancelled on delays or early closings.

Finally, I want to assure you, once again, that our primary concern in calling a school delay, early dismissal or closure is always the safety of our children. If parents feel conditions are unsafe, they should use their discretion and keep their children at home. Here's hoping for a warm and uneventful winter! Sincerely,



Walter Willett, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

Other Information

THS Interview Day







2018 DECA Fall Leadership Conference

On Tuesday, October 23rd, Tolland High School DECA students participated in the statewide Connecticut DECA Fall Leadership Conference. Over 600 students from across Connecticut gathered at the University of New Haven to take part in a series of workshops focused on business, leadership, and competition skills. This event is planned and orchestrated by the Connecticut DECA state officers. Our very own Jayden Regisford (senior) is the current Connecticut DECA state president and Allyse Ernest (senior) is the Connecticut DECA community service coordinator. Dressed in their best business attire, 43 Tolland DECA members participated in seminars such as Tariffs and Trade Wars, Leveraging your DECA Experience, International Business overview and Dress for Success, in addition to competition preparation workshops. Matt Coleman (junior) also teamed up with four students from different high schools in the popular Shark Tank competition. They made it to the final round and presented their business plan to the entire 600 plus audience to finish in 3rd place. The statewide DECA competition will take place in March with over 1500 students competing in 55 different categories.







Birch Grove Primary School Fall Activity







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