

TARWATER

2021-2022 Re-entry Plan

The excitement for back to school is palpable this year! We are ready for an “out of this world” adventure. This year Tarwater will host a radio contact with the International Space Station in late October. We are focused on all things space, for not only this reason, but because our most recent shared global experience of the previous year, we can’t help but draw parallels to what astronauts experience when re-entering the atmosphere. Read my blog for more about this idea here <https://bit.ly/3xFm4Vv>

Below are some things to help you prepare for re-entry.

Prior to School

- Prepare your child mentally for coming to school by talking about the expectations, but also by telling them about some of the things to look forward to.
- Look for an email from our school with your child’s teacher assignment next week.
- Look for an email from your child’s teacher (after the school email) with an introduction, an invitation to Meet the Teacher, and a supply list. Keep in mind, most school supplies will be provided here at school.
- Meet the Teacher will be an “in-person” event on July 19. We will ask parents to select a thirty minute time period to come on campus and see the classroom and meet the teacher. Capacity at each thirty minute time period will be limited to avoid crowds. Please limit the visitors to immediate family only.
- Following state and district policy, masks will be optional on campus. We strongly encourage adults who have not been vaccinated to wear a mask.
- If you will be driving your child to school, prepare a large sign with your child’s name, grade and teacher for your passenger side windshield. This helps us quickly locate students and expedite the arrival and dismissal process.
- Send your child with a labeled water bottle. We have filtered and chilled water at filling stations. No drinking fountains are open.

Arrival to School

To maintain safety, we will continue the process that parents NOT come on campus in the mornings, or at any time without an appointment. This will only work if we have the cooperation of our community. We will have many adults and friendly faces greeting the children and guiding them to their classrooms. Only staff and students will be permitted on campus. All Tarwater staff will wear matching Tarwater t-shirts on the first day of school to make it easy for students to find someone who can help.

- Bus Riders will arrive between 8:00am and 8:08am. They will enter through the front gate as always. Students will be directed to their classrooms by staff.

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- Walkers should arrive to school between 8:00am and 8:15am. Families who walk to school together are encouraged to do so, but we ask that you say your goodbyes at our designated cones outside the school. Only staff and students will be permitted to the gates and beyond.
- Car Riders should begin dropping off after 8:00am. **Please do NOT park.** It will be faster and safer if parents stay in the car. Teachers and staff will be helping open car doors, put back packs on children, and guide them the whole way.

Eating

Breakfast and lunch will be available in our cafeteria and are free for everyone until the end of the school year. Of course, students are welcome to bring their lunch as well.

- Breakfast will be eaten in the cafeteria or in a designated area under our ramada outside when the weather permits.
- Only one grade level will be in the cafeteria at a time. Students will face the same direction and will sit three student to a bench, which is about three feet apart.
- When weather permits, we will set up tables outside for eating (and even for learning!)
- Students will enter the cafeteria through two doors and lining up to go into the cafeteria will be minimal.
- Students may bring a snack. There will not be shared snacks in the classroom. Snack time will be taken outside when possible.
- No parents or guests are permitted on campus for lunch.

Playing

Social interaction is a very important part of school. We feel confident we can provide a safe and fun way for kids to play.

- Grade level recess will be staggered, so there is no overlap of grades at recess.
- Our play structures have been power washed. Students will not be permitted to “cluster” together on top of the play structures.
- Students can swing, play four square, tetherball, kick ball, and many other new games we have planned to teach them that are naturally distanced.
- Teachers will take whole classes to bathroom breaks to help monitor the bathrooms.
- Students may use the bathroom any time they need to during the day. There will be no bathroom passes. Students will be reminded to wait outside the bathroom if the stalls are full.
- Time for handwashing will be made after transitions going to lunch, to specials, and any time students enter the classroom. We will promote hand washing throughout the day.

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Learning

At Tarwater, we are committed to bringing a great learning experience to our students. Teachers know there may be gaps in learning and are prepared to focus on key standards and individualizing instruction to meet student needs.

- Student desks will continue to be spread apart as much as possible.
- Reading nooks, and other “cozy” places in classrooms have been eliminated for now.
- Small group instruction will take place at tables with Plexiglas dividers or at long tables where three feet can be maintained.
- Students will go to specials classes – music, PE, technology, and library.
- All teachers will clean with disinfectant between student groups and at the end of the day.
- We will limit the sharing of materials. If learning tools (scissors, rulers) are used in class, they will be disinfected before using them again, but in most cases students will hold their own set of those items (no shared bins).
- If a student feels ill or shows any one of the COVID-19 symptoms, they will be sent home and will not be permitted to return until they have had a negative test or 10 days have passed with no symptoms.
- A positive COVID case will result in quarantining children who were within three feet of the infected student in the previous 24 hour period. A letter notifying the parents in the class will be sent home.
- We will not have assemblies with all of the children in one area, but we will utilize our multi-purpose room for one grade-level at a time so that we can spread out. We will continue video announcements and virtual whole-school assemblies.
- Field trips will be permitted on a case-by-case basis. Stay tuned!
- Volunteers will be limited and must be approved through the office and be pre-arranged.

Dismissal

Our dismissal system worked very well for us last year, and we’ll be implementing this system again.

- Oldest siblings will pick up their younger siblings at the younger sibling’s classroom. (Teachers will dismiss older siblings prior to the bell).
- Students attending Kids Express will be dismissed by their teacher. Staff will guide students there.
- Parents will pull into the south drive with a clear sign of last name, grade, and teacher in the car passenger side window. You will be greeted by a staff member with a radio who will call to the teachers that you have arrived. Teachers will send the students out as soon as they are called. By the time you drive to the front of the line, your child will be ready to load into the car.

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- Walkers can meet their parents at the same cones as drop off in the morning. No parents will be permitted to come up to the gates.
- Bus riders will be called to the busses as they arrive. Students will be guided to the busses by teachers and assistants.
- Children who are picked up by a day care van will be called as the van arrives. It helps if you let your child's teacher and/or the front office know ahead of time if your child will ride a day care van.

We recognize the desire for "back to normal", but also realize the safety of our community, and application of the many lessons learned is key to a successful year. Our entire Tarwater staff is committed to doing our very best. The immense trust you have in us is certainly not lost on us, and we thank you for your trust and your support. Welcome to Tarwater or welcome back.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to call our office at 480-883-4300.