

TMS Debate Team is kicking off its scrimmage season. Students from grades 6-8 can join. The team will compete in a [scrimmage](#) on Saturday, October 19, in Bethel. See Mrs. Minnerly or Mr. Calabrese with any questions. Click on the link above for more information!



TMS VIKING NEWS

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, SAFETY

TMS Fall Fest will take place on Friday, October 25, from 5:30-8:30 at TMS. This year's theme is "To the Moon," in honor of the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Many family-friendly activities are scheduled to take place, including hayrides (courtesy of Ruwet Farms), games, crafts, music, and foods. This event is produced by TMS and the Torrington Library!

CLICK THE LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION

[TMS Fall Fest](#)



Help teachers give students the education they deserve with **DonorsChoose.org**. This is Ms. Brody's!

<https://www.donorschoose.org/Ms.BBrody>



All interested 7th graders and currently enrolled 8th graders are welcome to attend the first Spanish Club meeting in room 102 on October 17th from 3:00 the 4:00

On Tuesday, September 17th, Zac Huxley came in to meet with the students in Mrs. Browning's and Mr. Pepper's classes. During the spring of last school year, the students followed Zac's progress as he hiked the Appalachian Trail. They researched the states the trail passes through, read up on hiker's stories, and followed his steps as he finished the 2,200 mile long adventure. Students were fortunate enough to hear about some of his challenges and successes and had their questions answered!



Torrington Middle School
200 Middle School Drive
Torrington, CT 06790
t. 860-496-4050 ~ f. 860-496-1089

Dear Viking Families:

Happy Fall 2019! I hope that this letter finds you and your families doing extremely well. The purpose of this letter is to give you an update regarding the status of some of the school improvement initiatives that were implemented last school year and what you can expect for this current school year. During the 2018-2019 school year, our Faculty and Staff focused their efforts to work with students to build upon our positive school climate and culture. We utilized the Restorative Approach to address disciplinary infractions that occur during the school day. Adults and students worked together collaboratively to repair any harm to relationships, which were damaged as a result of the incident. Adults and students met routinely to discuss what happened, what caused the incident to occur, and what could have been done differently to prevent a similar incident to happen in the future. While students still receive consequences for their actions, the restorative approach's main focus is to ensure that our children learn from their mistakes and do not repeat them. We also implemented the TMS Advisory Program on a more regular and consistent basis where teachers worked to develop strong positive relationships with their students. Our work in this area yielded amazing and outstanding results as shown in our decrease in the number of out of school suspensions and expulsions issued when compared to previous years. Office Discipline Referrals also dropped last year when compared to previous school years because our teachers and staff have worked diligently with our students to help restore relationships and develop positive student to student and adult to student connections. I am so looking forward to continuing this important work with the TMS Faculty and student body as we move along into the 2019-2020 school year.

Last year we also began working to provide more options in the Least Restrictive Environment for our students with disabilities. As a result, Torrington Middle School has moved towards a Co-Teaching model of instruction beginning this school year across all grades for many of these students in Math, Reading, and Writing. The opportunity for our students with disabilities to be in classes with their peers strengthens the schooling experience for all children in our school and avoids any stigmas that may arise by being placed in a more restrictive environment. Our Special Education, Math, Reading, and Writing teachers have received training this past summer on how to best serve the needs of all the students in the Co-Taught classrooms and will continue to do so throughout the school year.

The 2019-2020 school year is certainly looking to be an outstanding year. I look forward to the upcoming weeks and months ahead. While it may be hard to imagine, soon snow will be upon us as we enter the Winter months. Thankfully, we still have a great Fall season before us. Until then, we will remain Torrington and Proud!

Sincerely,

Bryan Olkowski

The Torrington Board of Education does not discriminate in any of its programs, activities or employment practices on the basis of any protected class status.

Bryan Olkowski
Principal

Leanne Maguire
Assistant Principal

Hilary Sterling
Assistant Principal

Kelly Sousa
Assistant Principal

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



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Estimadas Familias Vikingas:

¡Feliz otoño 2019! Espero que esta carta les encuentre a usted y a sus familias muy bien. El propósito de esta carta es brindarle una actualización sobre el estado de algunas de las iniciativas de mejora escolar que se implementaron el año pasado y lo que puede esperar para este año escolar actual. Durante el año escolar 2018-2019, nuestra facultad y el personal enfocaron sus esfuerzos para trabajar con los estudiantes para construir positivamente sobre nuestro clima y cultura escolar. Utilizamos el enfoque restaurativo para abordar las infracciones disciplinarias que ocurren durante el día escolar. Los adultos y estudiantes trabajaron juntos en colaboración para reparar cualquier daño a las relaciones, que se dañaron como resultado del incidente. Los adultos y estudiantes se reunieron de manera rutinaria para discutir qué sucedió, qué causó el incidente y qué podría haberse hecho de manera diferente para evitar que ocurriera un incidente similar en el futuro. Si bien los estudiantes aún reciben consecuencias por sus acciones, el enfoque principal del enfoque restaurativo es garantizar que nuestros hijos aprendan de sus errores y no los repitan. También implementamos el Programa de Aseoramiento de TMS de manera más regular y consistente donde los maestros trabajaron para desarrollar relaciones positivas fuertes con sus estudiantes. Nuestro trabajo en esta área arrojó resultados sorprendentes y sobresalientes como se muestra en nuestra disminución en el número de suspensiones y expulsiones fuera de la escuela emitidas en comparación con años anteriores. Las referencias de disciplina en la oficina también disminuyeron el año pasado en comparación con años escolares anteriores porque nuestros maestros y personal han trabajado diligentemente con nuestros estudiantes para ayudar a restablecer las relaciones y desarrollar conexiones positivas de estudiante a estudiante y de adulto a estudiante. Tengo muchas ganas de continuar este importante trabajo con la facultad y los alumnos de TMS a medida que avanzamos en el año escolar 2019-2020.

El año pasado también comenzamos a trabajar para proporcionar más opciones en el entorno menos restrictivo para nuestros estudiantes con discapacidades. Como resultado, la Torrington Middle School se ha movido hacia un modelo de instrucción de enseñanza conjunta que comienza este año escolar en todos los grados para muchos de estos estudiantes en matemáticas, lectura y escritura. La oportunidad de que nuestros estudiantes con discapacidades estén en clases con sus compañeros fortalece la experiencia escolar de todos los niños en nuestra escuela y evita cualquier estigma que pueda surgir al ser ubicado en un ambiente más restrictivo. Nuestros maestros de Educación Especial, Matemáticas, Lectura y Escritura recibieron capacitación el verano pasado sobre cómo atender mejor las necesidades de todos los estudiantes en las aulas de enseñanza conjunta (Co-Taught) y continuarán haciéndolo durante todo el año escolar.

El año escolar 2019-2020 ciertamente parece ser un año sobresaliente. Espero con ansias las próximas semanas y meses por venir. Si bien puede ser difícil de imaginar, pronto habrá nieve sobre nosotros cuando entremos en los meses de invierno. Afortunadamente, todavía tenemos una gran temporada de otoño por delante. ¡Hasta entonces, seguiremos siendo Torrington y Orgullosos!

Sinceramente,

Bryan Olkowski

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Bryan Olkowski
Principal

Leanne Maguire
Assistant Principal

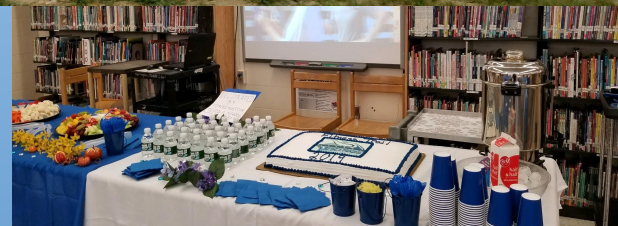
Hilary Sterling
Assistant Principal

Kelly Sousa
Assistant Principal

The Torrington Middle School held a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on Monday, September 23, 2019 at 3:30pm.

This event celebrated the installation of five new fitness stations on the TMS Fitness Trail!

Members of the TMS National Junior Honor Society volunteered service hours to help with the Torrington PTO Ice Cream Social last Thursday. Heather Bushey (PTO President) was very grateful for such GREAT helpers!



The TMS 8th Grade Blue Team held their first team event on Wednesday September 11, 2019. All students and teachers met in the café to welcome students to the team, introduce everyone, discuss the awesome year planned ahead and to introduce the team's Blue Council. The Blue Council is an advisory board made up of elected homeroom representatives that meet monthly with Blue Team Teachers to discuss student wants, suggestions, concerns and to help build community. The Blue Council gives students a voice and a leadership role in the team. The first meeting will be in October.

BLUE *Team* COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVES

Homeroom 209 – Mr. Budge

Patrick Minnerly and Aisley Harrison.

(alternates: Abigail Fouldes/Matt Lopes)

Homeroom 111 – Mr. Calabrese

John Pergola and Casey Young

(alternates: Aleyna Vega/Elijah Deleon)

Homeroom 112 – Mrs. Lariccia

Tyler Rovero and Abbey Royer

(alternates: Zach Gioia/Florangel Baez-Batista)

Homeroom 113 – Mr. Beckett

Lucas Whalen and Dalilah Depietro

(alternates: Olivia White/Ethan Philo)

Homeroom 120 – Mr. Ethier

Caroline Sienkiwicz & Elias Wall

(alternates: Nick Nascimento/Chris Wakefield)

IMPORTANT DATES!

**OCTOBER 17, 2019: EARLY
DISMISSAL – PLC DAY**

**· OCTOBER 25, 2019: TMS FALL
FEST – 5:50 PM – 8:30 PM**

**· OCTOBER 30, 2019:
SECONDARY EDUCATION FAIR:
8:30 AM – 11:20 AM FOR ALL
GRADE 8 STUDENTS; 5:30 PM
TO 7:00 PM IN TMS GYM FOR
ALL FAMILIES**

**· OCTOBER 31, 2019 TO
NOVEMBER 15, 2019:
SCHOLASTIC LMC BOOK FAIR**

PARENTS' CORNER

PARENTS' CORNER

- ★ [Back to School Tips](#)
- ★ [How to Focus Students on School](#)
- ★ Create a study spot in your home where all school supplies, devices and books needed for school work can be stored and organized.
- ★ [Teen Voices: Hate Speech Online](#)

ESS

EFFECTIVE
SCHOOL
SOLUTIONS

Jessica Spar, LPC
Program Coordinator

Erika Szarzynski, LCSW
Clinician

ESS Mission:

The mission of Effective School Solutions is to provide intensive and structured clinical programs for students struggling with emotional and behavioral challenges so that these students can be supported in their home district, and benefit from everything Torrington public schools have to offer. ESS offers a comprehensive program embedded in the school day, which includes individual, group and family therapy, a family support group, professional development for district educators, quality management and other unique features.

Services Provided Through ESS at Torrington Middle School:

Wrap-Around Program

This program provides the structure and support that helps at-risk students be educated within mainstream and/or self-contained classes.

Services at Torrington Middle School Include:

- Specialized Behavioral Protocols
- Daily Group Therapy
- Weekly Individual Therapy
- Family Therapy twice a month
- Monthly evening parent psychoeducation and support group
- Monthly distribution of Solutions, the ESS parent newsletter
- School avoidance interventions, including home visits
- Crisis Intervention

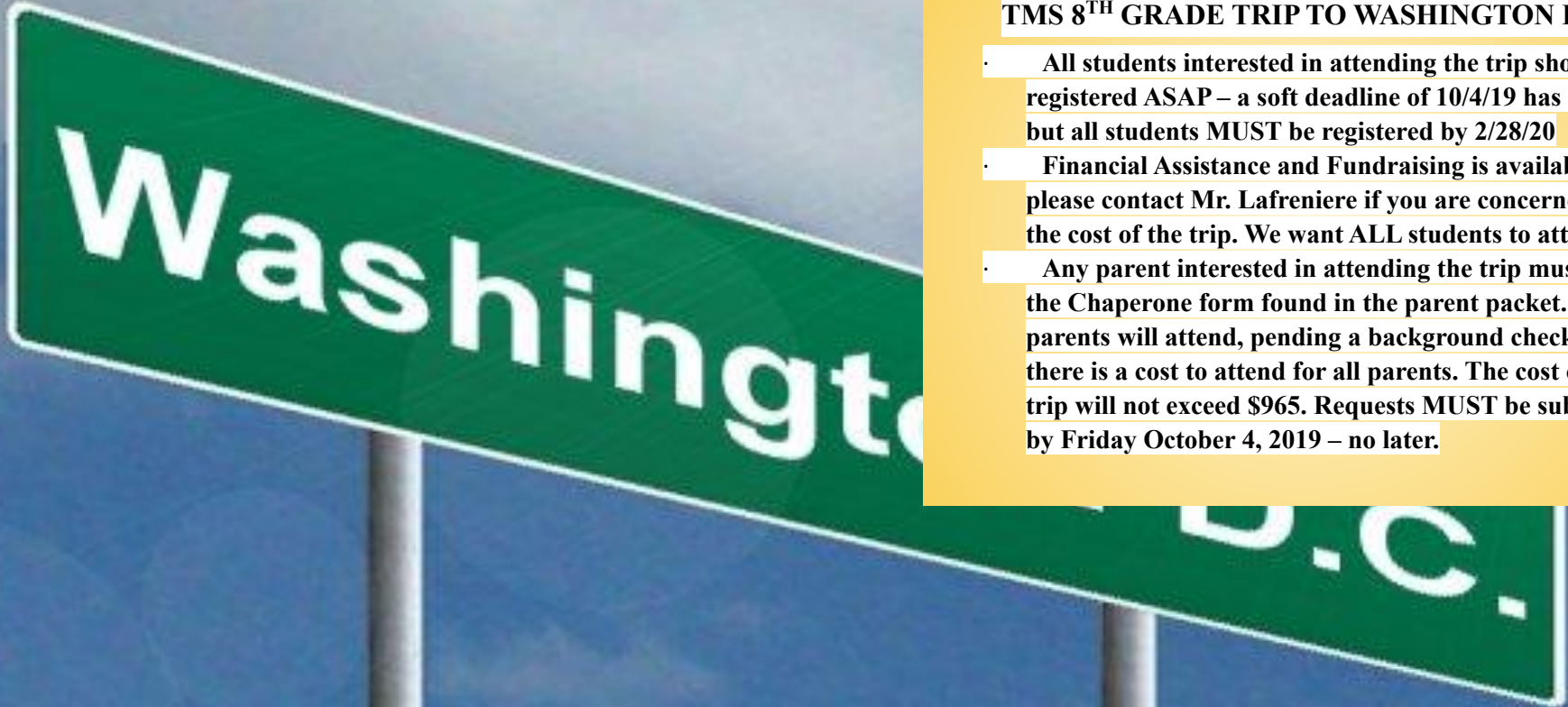
Website:

<https://www.effectiveschoolsolutions.com/>

All information about the Washington DC Trip can be found on the TMS DC Trip

Website

http://torringtontms.ss16.sharpschool.com/for_students/events_and_activities/tms_dc_field_trip



TMS 8TH GRADE TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC

- All students interested in attending the trip should be registered ASAP – a soft deadline of 10/4/19 has been set but all students **MUST** be registered by 2/28/20
- Financial Assistance and Fundraising is available, please contact Mr. Lafreniere if you are concerned about the cost of the trip. We want **ALL** students to attend.
- Any parent interested in attending the trip must fill out the Chaperone form found in the parent packet. All parents will attend, pending a background check, but there is a cost to attend for all parents. The cost of the trip will not exceed \$965. Requests **MUST** be submitted by Friday October 4, 2019 – no later.