



# In The Center



## Welcome to Thomaston Center School

### Save the Date!

- 8/28/19~ First Day of School
- 8/28-8/30/19~ Early Dismissal
- 9/2/19~ Labor Day (No School)
- 9/10/19 Ice Cream Social 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 9/10/19~ Parent Meeting for Band Students 6:00 pm TCS Auditorium
- 9/18/19~ PAC meeting at 6:15p.m.; PTA meeting following 7:00 pm (at BRS)
- 10/3/19~ School Photos
- 10/11/19~ Professional Development Day for Teachers-- no school for students
- 10/14/19~ Columbus Day (No School)

Welcome to the 2019-2020 academic year!



This year, we welcome more than fifteen new students as well as all of our incoming new fourth graders, and we are delighted to have you join the Thomaston Center School family. We are equally excited to see all of our returning students back to Center School! We are confident this will be a wonderful year for our students.



At Thomaston Center School, we are committed to promoting a positive and respectful learning environment for all. The staff will be focusing on teaching and modeling responsible



behavior and positive behavioral choices.

Returning students know we have three, school-wide expectations: be respectful, be responsible, and be safe. These students can also recite our Bear Pledge: "As a citizen of Thomaston Center School, I pledge to: Be kind with my actions and my words, earn the respect I'd like to get, always strive to do my



best, and rise to challenges with a growth mindset."



Throughout the year, students will participate in many activities and discussions on how we live the tenets of the Pledge. In addition, we will be hosting assemblies to celebrate our successes in being kind, responsible, and respectful Center School community members. Families are always welcome to join us for these celebrations!



grow together.

This year, students will also be challenged and inspired academically as well as we learn and

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In an effort to provide students the time to participate in enrichment and support such as music programs or to learn valuable skills in physical education, art, mathematics, or literacy, a special block of time, WIN, was created for students. WIN, an acronym for "What I Need", affords students opportunities to work on specific skills. The WIN time is specifically scheduled to suit a student's individual need. Therefore, each schedule is unique.

This year we have made some changes

## WIN Block Changes

to WIN. All students will have WIN at the same time from 9-9:45 which allows students and teachers the chance to work with students from all grade levels. This also allows students a greater variety of WIN opportunities, including learning study skills and organizational strategies, chorus, and band, and fitness.

WIN also affords core, grade level teachers the opportunity to meet with teachers of other grade levels

who teach the same subject areas. It also allows for greater flexibility in grade level planning and meeting. Teachers also engage in job-embedded professional learning during this time.

The WIN block of time allows for a personalized time of instruction, intervention, or enrichment. This is designed to help support each and every child at Thomaston Center School; truly this is a WINning endeavor!

## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

As a reminder, the times for the school day will remain the same this year for all students attending Thomaston Center School. **Center School will begin at 8:05 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m.** Children should not arrive prior to 8:00 a.m. as there will not be adult supervision before this time.

The arrival and dismissal procedures will remain the same as last year as well. All buses will arrive in the morning in the back of the building. Students will enter through the back entrance opposite the gymnasium. Students will proceed up the stairs to their classrooms while sixth graders will go to their classrooms and lockers through the double doors into their wing. Students who choose to participate in the breakfast program at school will proceed to the cafeteria.

Students who arrive to school via car will enter in the front of the building by the auditorium. Students can be dropped off and can walk safely on the sidewalk to get to the auditorium entrance. Cars should

remain in a single file line, and parents need not exit their vehicles. Staff members will be on hand to provide a safe transition for students between the car and the building. Walkers will also use the auditorium side entrance.

**Please be sure that your child's after-school schedule is clearly communicated to them before they arrive at school.** Please also complete the Daily Dismissal Form that will be sent home to students on the first day of school. These forms need to be returned by August 30, 2019. Please also note that all changes to your child's regular schedule must be communicated to the school in writing. Please be sure to notify the office of any changes in your child's schedule as early as possible.

At the end of the day, walkers and students being picked up will exit through the main entrance by the auditorium at 3:00 p.m. Bus students will dismiss out

of the school. To maintain the instructional integrity of the school day, please refrain from scheduling appointments during school hours, if possible. Please also refrain from picking up your Center School child from the bus at Black Rock School.

We will practice this procedure with the students, but we appreciate your help in reminding your student of the process.

If your child will be absent from school, you must notify the school before 9 am of the child's absence. If your child attends Play and Learn, please be aware that you must notify both the school and Play and Learn of your child's absence. Upon return to school, a parent/guardian must provide written documentation of the child's absence. Please refer to the 2019-20 Thomaston Public Schools Parent-Student Handbook for more information regarding attendance policies and procedures.

We thank you in advance for your support!

## Junior Achievement Program at TCS ~ Volunteers Needed!

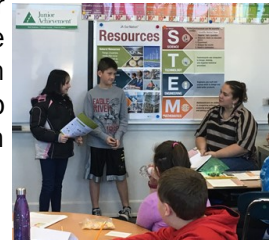


JA For A Day" will be coming to Thomaston Center School on Friday, November 8, 2019. We will be looking for volunteers to help out! Volunteers will be needed to commit to one night of training and one day (November 8 from 8:15 until

noon) to deliver Junior Achievement lessons in classes. All materials, lesson plans, and training is provided! JA is a fun



and easy way to be a part of your child's academics... only one day of your time is needed! Please see Mrs. Bernier for more information or sign up at Open House!



## Reminder: Early Dismissal Days

At Center School, most days end at 3:00. However, there are a few early dismissal days. The first three days of school (August 28-30) are early dismissal days whereby students are dismissed at 12:30 pm.



In November, there are two early dismissal days planned on November 6 and 7, for parent teacher conferences. The next planned early dismissal day will occur in April on April 8 and 9 for the spring parent teacher conference session. The final early dismissal day will be on June 10, or whenever our final day of

school will be for the 2019-20 school year.

The entire Thomaston Public Schools District calendar can be found on the district website at: [thomastonschooldesk.org](http://thomastonschooldesk.org).

## Staying Connected with Center School Staff

By fourth grade, many students simply respond with one or two word answers on how school is going when asked by their parents and parents may be curious as to how their child is performing in school.

Wonder no more! There are many ways families can keep abreast of the events of Center School as well as learn about the progress and successes of an individual child.

One of the primary means of communication here at Thomaston Center School is through our PowerSchool portal. Typically, families will receive emails on Thursdays that elaborate on the happenings at the school.

We also will publish this monthly newsletter to update the Thomaston community on events. PowerSchool also provides a means to receive updates about assessments and report cards. Parents can

access their child's information anytime through PowerSchool.

All staff members have an email address to communicate with parents. Email addresses can be found on our website at ([www.thomaston.schooldesk.net](http://www.thomaston.schooldesk.net)). Most email addresses include the person's first initial and last name, followed by @thomastonschools.org. Please feel free to email staff members. If you prefer to call, staff members may be reached at 860-283-3036.

Parents may also request a parent-teacher conference at any time of the year. Please email or call the teacher to arrange an appointment. School-wide Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, November 6, 2019 and Thursday, November 7, 2019. We will also have parent-teacher conferences on April 8 and April 9, 2020.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year. We are always here to help!

## Music Updates for TCS

Over the past few years, our music program has been growing and growing... to the point we can barely fit on our stage!! Because of our continued growth, each grade level will have a chorus group at different times. Grade 5 and 6 will be meeting during WIN times, but grade 4 may need to meet before or after school. Grade 4 schedule is yet to be determined, based on student interest and stage availability. Our choral program already has two performances scheduled, our annual Haunted Hallways concert in October and the performance at the St. Jude's Telethon in March.

Our band program also continues to grow at Center School. Many students

will continue to have band lessons during the WIN block time, while some groups will need to have their band lesson as a pull-out class once per week and other groups will meet before or after school. Advanced band will continue to meet every other Friday during WIN.

Our music teacher, Ms. Kate Zitnay, will be sending home information about the choral and band programs. We will also be hosting a band informational session for parents and students on September 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the auditorium.

Please contact Ms Zitnay at [kzitnay@thomastonschools.org](mailto:kzitnay@thomastonschools.org) with any questions about band, chorus, or our general

music program.



## From the Desk of the Principal, Mrs. Bernier



Welcome back to school! I am very excited to begin the 2019-20 school year

with your child! This year will prove to be a terrific one, filled with learning opportunities for all of us.

Everyday, we strive to live our Thomaston mission to educate, challenge, and inspire each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society. In addition,

we are excited to share our district's continuous improvement plan and focus on providing rich opportunities for critical thinking and analysis.

Enrichment opportunities will also continue for students. Late buses will run on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Academies will begin again soon, affording students the chance to learn about topics of interest to them and our newly improved behavioral intervention and support program will

support each student's social and emotional growth. We have also made changes to our WIN program to better serve our students.

I am inspired by the work we are doing at Center School and I am proud and grateful to be a part of this community of learners. I appreciate your interest and support in your child's education. We wouldn't be able to make the students shine like they do without all your efforts at home!

## Thomaston Center School

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### We are collecting Box Tops for Education this year!

Simply cut out the box top symbol from products you already purchase and bring them into your homeroom teacher. It is that easy!

For more information, visit:

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/>



Here's an easy way to support Thomaston Schools when you shop on Amazon:

Select Thomaston Townwide PTA as your charity when shopping on Amazon. Simply go to <http://www.amazon.com> or <http://www.smile.amazon.com> and log in as you usually do to your Amazon account. Everything is the same, no need to create a new account. All your information is safely there. The PTA will receive a percentage of every purchase at NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU! Happy Shopping!!!



### Lend your support while gearing up for school

Shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon donates.

[amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

## Volunteer Opportunities and Procedures for Thomaston Schools

Our successes at school are only made possible with the support of all the families. Research shows that children whose families are actively involved in their child's academics show greater academic success.

One way to become involved is with the Parent Teacher Association and the Principal's Advisory Council (PAC) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Thomaston Center's PTA will be meeting monthly beginning in September and are held at Black Rock School. PAC meetings are scheduled for 6:15 pm and PTA meetings immediately follow the PAC meeting at 7:00pm on the following Wednesday evenings:

- ◇ September 18
- ◇ October 16
- ◇ November 20
- ◇ December 18
- ◇ January 15
- ◇ February 19
- ◇ March 18
- ◇ April 22
- ◇ May 20

Another way to be an active member of

the Thomaston Center School Community is to attend school sponsored events. We will also be hosting our annual ice cream social on Tuesday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. at TCS. If the weather cooperates, we will socialize outside! There will be a parent meeting for band students at 6:00 and may join us after the meeting. Families are invited to join us for delicious ice cream!

Please save the date for our annual Haunted Hallways and Book Fair. This year the Haunted Hallways will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2019 and the Scholastic Book Fair will be held during the week of October 15 through 19, 2019. Please contact Mr. Bob Stack if you are interested in volunteering at the Hallways or Ms. Melissa Saramanidis if you are willing to help out at the book fair. Members of the Creepy Chorus entertain families at the Haunted Hallways.

We are also in need of Junior Achievement's JA For a Day program. This exciting event will take place on Friday, November 8, 2019. Please see the article on page 2 for more information.

Additionally, the Thomaston Board of Education holds regular business meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Thomaston High School, unless otherwise noted. Parents, students and other community members are encouraged to attend. Become

informed about our great schools by attending the Board of Education meetings!

Volunteers play a vital and special role in creating a successful school climate and we are grateful for their support. As part of an effort to improve safety and security within our schools, we will continue to utilize procedures for parent and community volunteers in our schools. We have a new KeepNTrack Program in the schools. All prospective volunteers must be cleared prior to volunteering in our school. Please call the school to make an appointment to complete this process.

Visitors to the schools must be on the school's visitors log. If you would like to visit the school for any reason, please contact your child's teacher or the main office to be put on the visitor log. For security purposes, visitors may not drop in during the school day without contacting the school first and being put on the visitor's log.

Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding these procedures. We appreciate your understanding in helping to keep our children safe.