

Welcome Back Tatem Elementary School Families!

I am excited to be able to provide a construction update as we head into the 18-19 school year. Our contractors and the district have worked together to push for our September opening. We are appreciative of their expertise and efforts. They have truly gone above and beyond for us.

First and foremost, we will begin the year with Phase 3 complete! We have experienced many upgrades to the building facade, some more visible than others. From the view from Glover Street, you will notice new windows in this section, and rooms will have received new paint and trim moldings as well as air conditioning.

In addition, all demolition for Phase 4 is complete. From the street, you will see that this section is draped in blue. This section will be completely contained by exterior fencing on the front lawn, and plastic sheeting will be used to seal off the interior. No classrooms in the construction zone are in use. All classes have been relocated in the building to safe, clean classrooms. This means that the Computer Lab, Art Room and Science Lab will house students until Phase 4 is finished. We are thrilled to expect that this section will be turned over to us by mid-November through early December!

Phase 5 is in the process of demolition now. It is also expected to be completed prior to school opening. This area will remain secured behind a locked gate and fully self-contained. All construction machinery and equipment will be kept behind fences or in trailers on the blacktop area, the alleyway near the small bus loop to the left as you face the building, and in front of the building.

Perhaps the best news is that we will be gaining all areas behind the school, including the patios and playground! The area has been regraded, and will be hydro seeded on Thursday, August 30th. This area will remain protected by temporary orange snow fencing until grass has sufficiently grown. It typically takes 7 - 14 days for germination, and a brief period of time after that for the grass to establish itself.

We will use this area for students to line up in the mornings before entering through the rear doors of our school.

Morning drop off will be affected in the following ways:

- Students will exit their vehicles as usual, and walk along a heavily supervised sidewalk to the right.
- Preschool students will enter through the main office doors and be escorted to their classroom.
- Students in grades 1 - 5 will line up on the playground and patio areas. Staff will be on hand to assist students to find their lines, and maintain order until teachers come out to get their students.
- Students will enter the building through designated rear doors and make their way to their classrooms.

If you are available from 8:10 - 8:35 in the mornings, and would like to lend a hand, we could use some volunteers to open doors to facilitate morning drop off. If you are unable to help in this way, please be sure to say all of your goodbyes (along with hugs, kisses, etc.) at home so that students can begin school on time each day. Thanks for your consideration!

We are anticipating that Tatem Movie Night, currently scheduled for Friday, September 14, may need to occur in the All Purpose Room or another location. This is for both safety and practicality, since we won't be able to set up the projector in the same manner as in years past. I am working with the PTA to make these arrangements. Please stay tuned!

More opening of school information coming tomorrow. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

We are ready for the students to arrive and can't wait to welcome them back!

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