AUGUST 22, 2021



TIRANA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



THE WEEK'S REMINDERS:

MONDAY, AUGUST 23

2021-2022 Preschool and Elementary Class assignments will be communicated with parents/students via email

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

Back to School Family Orientation See flier included in this newsletter for more details on times and location.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

Welcome back!

1/2 Day for Students: 8:00am-11:30am

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27 Full Day for Students

TIS Tiger News:

Greetings TIS families,

It is with great pleasure to be able to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year at Tirana International School. The TIS staff are excited to continue work with your students and we look forward to being part of their many successes this school year. We will have a great school year!

We are excited to welcome over 100 new students onto campus this week! We welcome you all to the TIS family and hope you are as excited for this year as we are!

As the pandemic pushes on, TIS will continue to work towards a safe and healthy learning environment. We are all in this together and we want to have students and teachers on campus for face-to-face instruction. I want to thank all of the families for their continued support. I am confident that working together this year, we will all have a successful 2021-2022.

Please take some time to read through the information provided. I hope to see you all on Wednesday at the Back to School Family Orientation!

First day of school: Thursday, August 26th (1/2 day).

Warm Regards, Jon Mudd

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UPCOMING REMINDERS:

AUGUST 23-25

Full Staff Orientation

AUGUST 23 Preschool & Elem Class lists delivered by email.

AUGUST 25

Welcome Back Orientation for families **See page 6 for more information**

AUGUST 26

First Day of School: staggered release starting with preschool students at 11:20, Elementary at 11:30 and MS/Secondary at 11:35

AUGUST 28

SAT Testing: Campus closed

TIS Admin: tirana@qsi.org Secondary and Middle School: jeff-

tempel@tirana.qsi.org 10YO-Secondary Counselor: shannatempel@tirana.qsi.org

Elementary: mike-wood@tirana.qsi.org

Elementary Counselor: alyssamudd@tirana.qsi.org

Preschool: jenniefredriksson@tirana.qsi.org

Athletics & Activities: rinascates@tirana.qsi.org

COVID PROCEDURE HANDBOOK

TIS WEBSITE

LUNCH WEBSITE

ACTIVITIES WEBSITE

TIS Opening Procedures:

For the 2021-2022 school year, Tirana International School will continue with similar COVID protocol to last year. Below are some of the highlights from last week's newsletter:







Cleaning & Disinfecting

TIS will continue with its regular cleaning and disinfecting process. This includes sanitizing shared spaces and nightly detailed classroom disinfection.

Wearing a Mask

There will be no change to our mask policy. We ask that all individuals 5YO-Secondary wear a mask appropriately throughout the day, during the appropriate times.

Physical Distancing

Our classrooms continue to be set up to accommodate the recommended distancing between students. Teachers are still encouraged to utilize outside teaching as much as possible.



Ventilation and Air

All spaces with windows, including classrooms, lunch rooms, and office areas will keep windows open for ventilation. In addition, each classroom has a **BLUEAIR Antibacterial Air Purifier** to help with air quality.



Lunch Room

TIS will continue with the same lunch time protocol. This includes four or less students at each table, assigned seating, staff-served hot lunches, outdoor eating space for the older students and careful monitoring to ensure areas are not overcrowded and remain ventilated.



Vaccinations

We encourage vaccinations for all members of our community who are able to get vaccinated.

Last Spring, Albania graciously vaccinated TIS teachers. We are still uncertain as to how the school will keep track of this or what type of policies will be in place, but the school will continue to work with health care professionals to understand how the increased number of vaccinated individuals within the school community may adjust our policies and guidelines.

Reporting and Contact Tracing

TIS will follow the same procedures for contact tracing. The school will continue with the same reporting and communication process with the community.



Quarantine Consideration

TIS will move any class impacted by COVID-19 online and inform all first-level contacts.

Student and staff first-level contacts must self-isolate for 10 days from their last contact with the positive individual. If a first-level contact can show proof of vaccination, their isolation days may be fewer.

21-22 Operating Handbook

The 2021-2022 academic school year will again require all of us – TIS staff, community, parents, students and teachers – to be flexible and understanding. At TIS, our number one concern, as we navigate education during a continued pandemic, is the health and safety of our students and staff. Please read through the TIS Operating Handbook (linked to the right) by clicking on the handbook image.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free and welcome to contact Mr. Mudd, the Director at:

jon-mudd@qsi.org



REPORTING TO THE SCHOOL

USE THIS FORM TO REPORT: CLICK HERE

Please report any COVID19 health concerns to the school immediately by emailing the teacher, reception and the TIS Doctor. The office will be confirming the absence as soon as they receive the information. (jon-mudd@qsi.org; reception@tirana.qsi.org; valbona-selmani@tirana.qsi.org)

NOTIFICATIONS FROM THE SCHOOL

TIS will identify the first level

contact list.

The school will only inform

parents before a positive test is

reported if there is a high level

of evidence or concern that it might be COVID.

TIS feels that it is important to be as transparent as possible with families concerning suspected and confirmed cases. However, we also feel it is important to keep specifics confidential. Parents will be notified that a student with their child's class/cohort has tested positive. The school will also remind and notify parents of the step-by-step procedures to follow. TIS administration and teachers will keep in close contact with the family throughout the entire process.



COVID positive test is reported to TIS

HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

First level contacts within the household must self isolate for 10 days. If symptoms begin to show among other family members, the 10 days should be extended. STUDENT / EMPLOYEE FIRST LEVEL CONTACTS

Take the test and inform

TIS while awaiting the

results

Quarantine for 10 days and inform COVID

response team at TIS

TEST

NEGATIVE

TEST

POSITIVE

The TIS COVID response team will help to determine first level contacts at TIS, close any necessary classes and inform first level contacts.

All 1st level contacts must self-isolate for 10 days. (If a 1st level contact can show proof of vaccination, their isolation days may be reduced.)

All Household 2nd Level Contacts are asked to monitor and stay home for 7 days if the 1st level contact is showing symptoms. STUDENT / EMPLOYEE SECOND LEVEL CONTACTS

confirmation from

TIS to return to

school.

Monitor symptoms.

May return to school

48 hours after

symptoms end

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

. MEET YOUR TEACHER MONNING

Wednesday, August 25th TIS Soccer Field

All parents and students are invited to the TIS Soccer Field to meet your child's TIS teacher! In an effort to stagger the number of families on campus, please note the times below when your teacher will be available. Upon arrival, please proceed to the TIS Soccer Field or 4YO playground at your scheduled time. Parents and students will not be allowed in the school at this time.

This will be a short, outdoor meet-and-greet to allow both students and parents the chance to make a face-to-face connection before the first day, Please note that all 5YO+ attendees must wear a mask.

5YO & 6YO families 8:30-8:50: 7YO & 8YO families 8:50-9:10: 9:00-9:30: **2YO** families 9YO & 10YO families 9:10-9:30: 9:30-10:00: **3YO** families 11YO, 12YO, & 13YO families (soccer field) 9:45-10:30: 10:00-10:30: 4YO families 10:30-11:15: Secondary families

(soccer field) (soccer field) (4YO playground) (soccer field) (4YO playground) (4YO playground) (soccer field)

AUGUST 22, 2021

Preschool News #fromthedeskofMrsFredriksson

Dear Preschool Families,

We are so happy to welcome new, as well as returning, families to the 2021-2122 school year at TIS Preschool! The whole team has re-charged their batteries over the summer and we are delighted to greet you with open arms.

My name is Jennie Fredriksson and I am very excited to continue as the Preschool Coordinator here at TIS. This year I will be coordinating full time. I will also enjoy teaching all the students essentials and embarking on explorations together outdoors. This is my 11th year working in early childhood education and my 7th working with preschoolers at TIS. I am from Sweden, married to Ilir and we have two children. Our youngest son, Ellis, will attend our preschool and our oldest son, Elvin, the seven-year-old class.







This year we see the growth of a new flower in our garden! To be able to accommodate more families, we have added a new class for our youngest learners, The Lilies. In our preschool, we have six classes: Sunflowers, Lilies, Marigolds, Tulips, Dandelions and Daisies. We are now all located on the same floor, and although we have expanded, we will remain one big, happy family! The names of the classes stem from us believing that children are unique like flowers, who grow and bloom in their own pace.

We love to spend time outdoors and we create a caring, engaging and safe environment in which your child will have lots of fun learning through play and hands-on activities.

We are looking forward to another year of laughter, milestones and growth!

Warm regards, Jennie Fredriksson Preschool Coordinator jennie-fredriksson@tirana.qsi.org

Elementary News #fromthedeskofMrWood

Dear Families of Elementary Students,

Welcome to the 2021-22 School Year! Our staff is so excited to welcome students back to school this Thursday, which will be a half-day. Class lists will be emailed to you on Monday, August 23. Elementary teachers have been working actively to prepare for the children and they will be sharing their age level welcome letter and syllabi with you on Wednesday, August 25. Please look for this communication from them. Teachers look forward to meeting you and their students for an informal meet and greet on Wednesday, August 25. This is not a time for individual teacher conferences. Please see the schedule included in this school newsletter. See you there!





Let me take a moment to introduce myself to any new families. My name is Mike Wood, and I am the Academic Coordinator for elementary, ages 5yo-10yo. This is my third year in administration, my twelfth year in our school organization (QSI), and my nineteenth in education. My initial seven years were spent in both private and public schools in California, which is my home state in America. This is my seventh overall year working at Tirana International School. I have also taught in Hungary and China.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to new students and families who are joining us this school year. We are so happy that you are here and look forward to you becoming a part of our wonderful school community. I would also like to welcome back returning families and students. I hope that everyone has had a relaxing summer.



The health and safety of our school community continue to be a high priority. Last year we put into place detailed health and safety procedures and we will continue many of those this school year. Please ensure you send in 3 clean masks each day with your child. This is so students can use a clean one later in the day. It is helpful to send those in some type of labeled sealed bag or small container and to have another labeled sealed bag or container for used masks. Used masks should be cleaned before wearing them again.



Please note that for student arrival, we will resume the successful practice we implemented last year whereby 5-10yo students enter the school through the lower playground gate (pictured below). On the first two days, elementary teachers will be there to greet students and they will line up as follows: 5-6yo students on the lower playground, 7-8yo students on the upper playground, and 9-10yo students in the gym (still entering at the lower playground gate). Please note that students are led to their classes promptly at 7:55 a.m. Please help your child to arrive between 7:45 and 7:55 a.m. The lower playground entrance gate is pictured below for your reference.



Elementary Morning Arrival Gate (5-10yo students)

Dismissal will be like how it was last year, with 5-7yo students being picked up by their parents under the front of the school awning, and 8-10yo students on the right side (which is also the pictured above area). Please don't cross the chain-link barrier in order to maintain distance and please wear masks while picking your child up. Thank you. Bus riders will be walked to their appropriate buses.

Our teachers and staff are here for your child's success. We have an incredible, dedicated, and caring staff whose biggest intention and interest professionally are to have your child learn, grow, mature, have meaningful experiences, make connections, and enjoy being at school.

We all look forward to a fabulous new school year! A big thanks to our teachers and entire staff for their diligent preparations.

Sincerely, Mike Wood; mike-wood@tirana.qsi.org Elementary Academic Coordinator

AUGUST 22, 2020

Middle School/Secondary News #fromthedeskofMrTempel

Dear Middle School and Secondary Parents and Students,

I am excited to welcome you to the 2021-22 school year at Tirana International School! It has been a busy Summer as our building has undergone a huge transformation! Students will walk in to a new reception area and see many changes and additions to classrooms and other areas around the building.

My name is Jeff Tempel and I am excited to return as the Director of Instruction for Middle School and Secondary. I am extremely excited and looking forward to another amazing school year!



As we kick off this year, we will keep many protocols in place to keep our staff, students and community safe. These procedures are outlined below. There are also some new items that are important for students and parents to be aware of.

We start school on August 26 and this will be a half-day. We are hosting a "Back to School: Meet Your Teacher" morning on Wednesday, August 25. We are looking forward to seeing parents and students for an opportunity to meet teachers and hear about all the great things happening in classes this year!

Here is some important Back to School information:

Wednesday, August 25

Back to School: Meet Your Teacher - Location: Field

- 9:45-10:30 11, 12, 13 yo families
- 10:30-11:15 Sec I, Sec II, Sec III, Sec IV families

Thursday, August 26

Half-day – First Day for students!

• 8:00-11:35

Friday, August 27

• 8:00-3:20



All students 11 yo – Secondary IV will have a locker this year! TIS will provide combination locks for students to use. These locks are the property of TIS and we will keep the combinations on file.

Now that students have lockers, it will be the expectation that ALL students who bring phones to school will:

- Turn off phones and place them safely in locker upon arrival.
- Only retrieve phones from lockers with permission.
- Be aware that if a student has their phone out of their locker without permission throughout the school day, the phone will be confiscated and locked in a phone locker for the remainder of the day.

As this is a change from last year, it will be an adjustment for all. We feel that this will benefit both students and teachers and we are glad to help students spend time away from their devices!



Students will be **distanced in the classroom**. According to CDC guidelines and the Albanian Department of Education, students will be spaced out **1 meter** in their classrooms and should plan to keep this distance in the hallways, cafeteria and other common spaces.

Masks will be worn in common areas and needed frequently throughout the day. Please plan for you student to use at least two masks per day; one for the morning and one clean one for the afternoon. For cloth masks, please provide a plastic bag or other receptacle for students to keep their masks in once they are used and they are changing to a clean one. If students bring disposable masks, they will only need to throw away the used mask in a trash can after morning use.

Desks and other commonly used areas and surfaces in the classroom will be **disinfected** between classes. This will be the responsibility of the teacher and students in each class to be taken care of before they are dismissed to their next class.



Start and end times will continue to allow for less students arriving and departing at the same time. Elementary will arrive and be dismissed five minutes before Middle School and Secondary to avoid over-crowding the hallways and common areas



Community Consideration and Social Responsibility - We will continue our commitment to living our best pandemic life. This means that we will all need to be adaptable, flexible, and will require cooperation, consideration, and consistency on our part. Even though there are likely a range of opinions and thoughts concerning the school's plan and the seriousness of COVID-19, we ask that everyone work together to do everything possible in order to keep our community safe.



Attendance - As you are aware, the best way for your student to learn is to be in class. Please encourage attendance everyday and remember that a day missed is an opportunity missed. In addition, with a Block Schedule, if a student misses one day of class, it is equal to two class periods for those four classes. However, we ask that if your student is not feeling well or running a temperature to please keep them home. We ask the same of our staff and want to ensure the health and safety of all our community members.

Support and Communication - As you expect these things from the teachers and staff and TIS, we need this from you, too! Please keep communication open, asking questions anytime and letting us know anything that can help us help your student.

Preparation - As teachers and staff work diligently to prepare for this school year, we ask that your student arrive to school prepared each day.

Other Classroom Supplies -

- Pen/Pencil/Something to write with
- Organizational materials Folders/binders for organization are always encouraged.

Teachers and staff are eagerly awaiting the arrival of students on Thursday, August 26th! In the meantime, feel free to contact those in the Middle School/Secondary office with questions or concerns.

- Jeff Tempel, Middle School/Secondary Director of Instruction
- Shanna Tempel, Middle School/Secondary Counselor
- Blerta Sadiku, Administrative Assistant

Sincerely, Jeff Tempel; MS/Secondary Director of Instruction jeff-tempel@tirana.qsi.org





Athletics and Activities #fromthedeskofMrsScates

Activities Registration

The schedule of activities will be posted on TIS's activities website on Thursday, August 26th. Registration will take place on the activities website beginning on Saturday, August 28th at 10:00 a.m. Please register by Tuesday, August 31st at 12:00 p.m.





Elementary Activities Plan - September 13 – October 15

TIS is looking forward to expanding the after-school activities program for our elementary students this year. There will be five sessions of six weeks each, which align with TIS's quintiles. Initially, elementary students will have activities two days per week. The first session will begin on September 13th and end on October 15th. Students will remain with their age level for indoor activities but may be mixed with other age levels during outside activities. Activities run from 3:15 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Middle School and Secondary Activities Plan – September 13 – November 19

The Middle School and High School activities program will begin on Monday, September 13th. There will be three sessions this year that align with the CEESA calendar—Fall, Winter, and Spring. There will be no travel in 2021, but students will have the opportunity to participate in virtual events with other schools. Some activities finish at 4:00 p.m. while others finish at 5:00 p.m. Please make sure you know what time your child needs to be picked up if they do not take a bus.

Make sure you get connected



Front Office Phone Number: 355-42-365239

Facebook: click to like and follow our page



Facebook Moms and Dads Private group: click to like and follow our page



Instagram: tiranainternationalschool



YouTube: Tirana International School



General Email: tirana@qsi.org



Website: https://tirana.qsi.org/



Seesaw: Download this app to keep in touch with your child's 2YO-10YO classroom



WhatsApp: Scan this QR code to join the "TIS Lunch" group that posts photos of each day's lunch.



Tirana International School 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar

2021-2022 Tirana International School Calendar



July 2021	Summer Break	January 2022	January
M Tu W Th F Sa a a a a a a 5 6 7 8 9 10 12 13 14 15 16 17 19 20 21 22 23 24 26 27 28 29 30 31		Su M Tu W Th F Sa 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 5 6 7 8	
August 2021	August	February 2022	February
Mu Mu Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 3 9 10 11 12 13 14 5 16 17 18 19 20 21 2 23 24 25 26 27 28 9 30 31	26 First day of school	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 9 9 9 9 9 9	25 February - 1 March Mid-Winter Break
September 2021	September	March 2022	March
N Tu W Th F Sa 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 2 13 14 15 16 17 18 9 20 21 22 23 24 25 6 27 28 29 30		Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 4 15	14 Summer Day
October 2021	October	April 2022	April
U M Tu W Th F Sa a 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 12 13 14 15 16 7 18 19 20 21 22 23 4 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 - 2 October Professional Development 18 - 22 October Break	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	25-29 April Spring Break
November 2021	November	May 2022	May
M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 6 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 4 5 6 17 18 19 20 11 22 23 24 25 26 27 8 29 30	26 November Professional Development 29 Liberation and Independence Day	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 24 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
December 2021	December	June 2022	June
M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 1 13 14 15 16 17 18 9 20 21 22 23 24 25 6 27 28 29 30 31	20 December - 7 January Winter Break	Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 11 12 13 4 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 24 25 20 27 28 29 30 14 15 14	17 Last Day of School



