





THE WEEK'S REMINDERS:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

No ASAs this week

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Above: Students in the 6YO class take a closer look during science class.

TIS Tiger News:

Greetings TIS families,

I want to thank you for allowing Tirana International School to support your children. We are excited to begin the year and believe that this year is going to be a great year! Part of the QSI - and TIS - mission is to foster the love of learning in each child that attends. We believe that all students can succeed if given time, tools, and teachers that care for them. We look forward to being part of your child's success.

We continue to thank each family for your support as the school work towards a safe TIS. We know that there may be times in which all of us may be impacted by additional cases of COVID19 and will work to provide the support needed for our students and staff during this time. TIS is grateful for the TIS community and with all of you, we will continue to stay strong and healthy.

Let's have another great week!

Warm Regards, Jon Mudd



UPCOMING REMINDERS:

OCTOBER 18-22

No School: Fall Break

In next week's newsletter, we will be sending out an interactive calendar so that you can sign up for a campus tour at your convenience. We'd like to invite you on campus, so please keep an eye out for that opportunity.

Until then, enjoy the virtual TIS tour that was put together last year (click here)!

Note: There have already been big changes to this virtual tour, so you really will need to come see it in person!;)

TIS Admin: tirana@qsi.org

Secondary and Middle School: jeff-

tempel@tirana.qsi.org

10YO-Secondary Counselor: shanna-

tempel@tirana.qsi.org

Elementary: mike-wood@tirana.qsi.org

Elementary Counselor: alyssa-

mudd@tirana.qsi.org

Preschool: jennie-

fredriksson@tirana.qsi.org

Athletics & Activities: rinascates@tirana.qsi.org

COVID PROCEDURE HANDBOOK

TIS WEBSITE

LUNCH WEBSITE

ACTIVITIES WEBSITE

MAKETHIS WEEK A GREAT WEEK





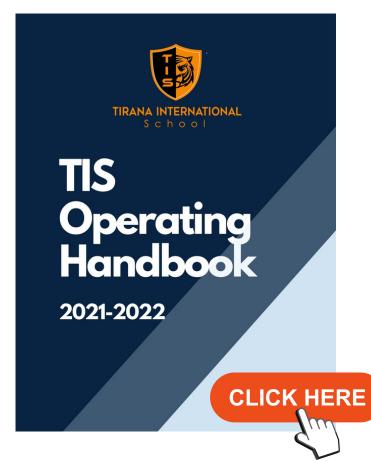


21-22 Operating Handbook

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 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.

> 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.

HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

First level contacts within the

STUDENT / EMPLOYEE **FIRST LEVEL CONTACTS**

household must self isolate for 10 days. If symptoms The TIS COVID response team will help to begin to show among other determine first level contacts at TIS, close family members, the 10 days any necessary classes and inform first should be extended. level contacts.

to TIS

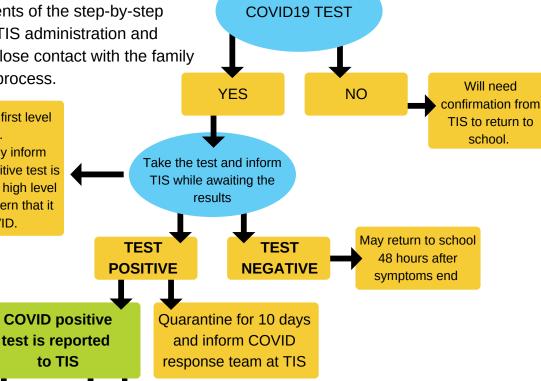
All 1st level contacts must self-isolate for 10 days. (If a 1st level contact can show proof of vaccination, their isolation days may be reduced.)

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

Monitor symptoms.



YES

Consult a doctor

for next steps

and inform TIS

TIS Student/ TIS Employee is sick

Symptoms include: cough, fever, body

aches, loss of taste or smell and/or shortness of breath

NO

Stay at home

until 48 hours

after symptoms

end

Preschool News

#fromthedeskofMrsFredriksson

Dear Preschool Families.

Hurray for our first full week of school!

We were happy to see the arrival of more friends in our preschool this week. Everyone is getting back, slowly but surely, from summer vacations. The students are settling in nicely and getting to know the routine, their peers, and us. The teachers and I have had such a lovely time getting to know your wonderful children and discovered that "Baby Shark" is a universal formula, throughout the ages, for smiling, dancing, and singing \Box

Drop-offs in the morning are going smoother and smoother; we appreciate you trusting us with your precious, little ones and understand that it can be hard to leave your child in the morning if crying is involved. Rest assured that this is a passing phase and that your child enjoys school, once they have settled in after this initial transition. Teachers are frequently posting photos of fun activities on Seesaw, so be sure to check these out!

We look forward to and wish you a great week ahead!

Warm regards,

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



















#fromthedeskofMrsFredriksson

These days have been full of emotions: tears, smiles, and hugs!

The classroom has turned into the noisy place that was made to be. The Sunflower Class is going through such a good adaptation. We are getting to know each other and we have started to feel the bond between us. We are playing and singing a lot of songs!

This is just the beginning of another wonderful year in our Preschool!!











Elementary News #fromthedeskofMrWood

Dear Families of Elementary Students,

What a fantastic first week we had in elementary! The smiling faces, the excitement of seeing friends and making new ones, and the wonderful engagement in academics and school routines have made for a very successful week one. Everyone should be quite tired, as such beginning of the year adjustments take time and effort.

The TIS elementary students are off to a great start!

What a sweet group of students we have here at TIS. We are happy to have them and look forward to so much more to come.

Thank you for sending in masks that fit your child's face, covering their mouth and nose. If you find a mask is too big for your child, please either try to alter it or get ones that fit better. The students sure are doing well observing our health and safety protocols.

Keeping everyone healthy is our top priority!

As have been shared via links in the parent newsletter, I would like to share directly here the below information about blended learning, which has been updated since last school year:

Blended Learning Protocols 2021-2022 School Year

Covid Related Reasons in Which Blended Learning Will be Supported

- Student contracted Covid
- The students is defined as a 1st Level Contact by TIS
- If in the process of determining if a student is at-risk
- Student has been asked by school to remain home.

If a student is absent due to Covid-related reasons, they will be supported with a blended learning option beginning 24 hours after communicating the information to the school.

Student Absences for Non – COVID19 Reasons – Blended Learning Will Not Be the Expectation

- Sicknesses and Injury (non-Covid)
- Family trips/vacations
- Personal/ Family Appointments off Campus
- Other non-Covid reasons for absence

Blended Learning Protocols for All Students/ Ages

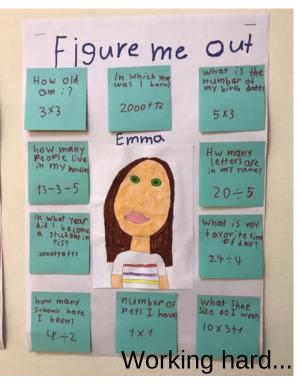
- Approved blended learning will begin after a 24-hour time period to allow staff sufficient time to plan and prepare.
- Students are expected to follow the provided schedule and follow-through with diligent effort.
- Parents are expected to support students, as needed.
- Students are expected to attend online for the duration of the schedule provided to them.

Additional Blended Learning Protocols for Elementary (5-10yo students)

- Communication to School: Parents of Elementary will either contact School Reception/or be contacted by School Reception to determine the reason for the student's absence. The reception will communicate information with the Academic Coordinator and the relevant teachers. At times, the school doctor is involved in some of this process.
- Homeroom Teachers: Teachers will communicate their blended learning support plan for each student for literacy, math, cultural studies/science. This will be developed thoughtfully considering what will be the maximum benefit/impact for student learning based on the subjects and activities currently taking place. This may include students Zooming in during portions of live classes, during some times of teacher preparation periods, or a mix. The teacher will strive for schedule consistency as much as possible, but this may vary based on what is most conducive for learning during that time.
- LOE Teachers: Teachers will communicate times for students to either Zoom in during their normally scheduled class or provide an instructional activity offline. LOE stands for Languages other than English formerly called Foreign Language
- Teachers of Essential Classes: Teachers will provide 1 Seesaw activity per full week of absence. The Essentials classes are art, technology, music, physical education, and library.

Wishing everyone a relaxing weekend!

Sincerely,
Mike Wood
Elementary Academic Coordinator
Mike-wood@tirana.gsi.org





Busy at the Beginning

In Mathematics, the Fives are working with numbers 0-5. They are daily participating in various fun learning math centers to practice and reinforce the already introduced math number sense skills. Besides identifying, writing, and matching these numbers in various interactive games, the Fives are also going to learn how to compare sets of objects with 0-5 using appropriate vocabulary: greater then, less then, same.















Busy at the Beginning

Mr. Stant's eight-year-olds have had a great first week at TIS! They have been playing introductory games, learning classroom procedures, and doing other fun activities as we prepare to dive into our units. In literacy, students have been rotating through stations, participating in reading and writing exercises. Students have been learning about place value in math class. In cultural studies, students have begun working on a project called Me on the Map, in which they explore all the communities they are part of, from their family to the global community. We're all very excited to be starting a new year at TIS!











Busy at the Beginning

The "10 Orange" class has had a fantastic start to the year, diving into "Narrative Fiction and Writing units" in Literacy class, "Place Value units" in Mathematics class and "Science and Engineering units" in Science class. To start off their science unit, students are examining ways that science and engineering work together. They have been experimenting with hands-on projects such as "The Tallest Tower" challenge and the ever classic "Egg Drop" challenge to observe firsthand how, just like engineers, they must use concepts of math and science to solve an engineering challenge, and just like engineers, changing a model to achieve success is an essential part of the challenge!









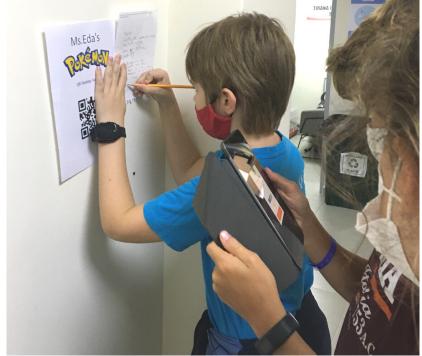


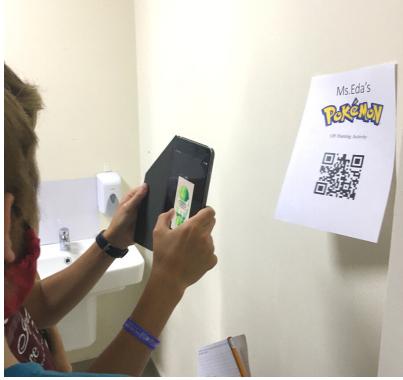
Technology

Busy at the Beginning

A new year just started with new devices and tools. The purpose of technology class at TIS is to teach students a variety of computer related skills. Elementary students will focus heavily on typing skills, documents, presentation software and spreadsheets. Upper elementary classes will be using Code.Org and Scratch lessons for computer programming for part of their lesson time. They will learn computer science fundamentals using off-screen activities and STEM activities as well.









Invitation from Mrs. Tempel College: prepare yourself



Secondary parents and students are encouraged to attend one or all of a series of free webinars hosted by College Board. Attendees will hear from university admission leaders from around the world as they discuss a wide range of topics, including studying abroad, impact of Covid on the admissions process, application requirements, best practices, and more.

The first, How the U.S. Continues to Welcome International Students, is on Friday, 17 September at 14:00. The other webinars are country-specific and will offer excellent resources as families narrow down future university options.

Wednesday, 22 September @14:00 - Study in the US Wednesday, 29 September @14:00 - Study in the UK Friday, 8 October @ 14:00 - Study in Canada

Dates and times for sessions on *Australia and New Zealand* will be coming soon.

Please contact Shanna Tempel, secondary school counselor, if you have any questions about these webinars or anything related to university application and admissions.



Middle School/Secondary News #fromthedeskofMrTempel

Dear Middle School/Secondary Parents and Families,

I am glad to say we had a WONDERFUL first full week of school! I hope all students enjoyed this week as much as the teachers and staff in the Middle School and Secondary did! We are all looking forward to a positive, productive, and enjoyable school year!

As we are still getting used to some of the new items this year, I repeated many of the items from last week to emphasize their importance:

- **Lockers** All students will now have the opportunity to have their own personal locker in which to keep their belongings safe. To help secure their lockers, students will also be provided with a combination lock. The locker and the lock are the responsibility of the student.
- Phones will no longer be allowed during the school day. If phones are brought to school, students will be expected to lock them in their lockers when they arrive to school.
 - Students can only retrieve their phones from their locker with permission.
 - If a students is using their phone without permission, it will be taken and locked up in the 4th floor office area. Upon the first offense, students will be given the phone back at the end of the day. For the second offense and any offense thereafter, the phone will be locked up, but will need to be picked up by a parent/family member.
 - Parent support is appreciated as we are trying to get students away from their devices during the school day. It will be an adjustment for all of us, but is a necessary and beneficial change for TIS Middle School and Secondary students.
- Planners Student planners should be finished in time to pass out to students on Wednesday, 8 September! The first planner will come at no cost. If a student's planner becomes lost or damaged, they student may purchase another one.
 - Teachers will provide lessons to students that will help them achieve the greatest benefit from their planners.
 - In addition to a full calendar and a weekly calendar where students can write homework assignments an important due dates, they can keep track of their class schedule, teacher office hours, unit completion, and much more.
 - In the back of the planner is where students can find important information regarding school expectations and procedures from the TIS Family Handbook.
 - One important change is we have simplified our dress code for students. Below is what we expect from all students. Any student violating the dress code, may need to change clothes, or go home if changing is not possible.

TIS Dress Code



CONTENT:

Clothing may not display words or images representing alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances or messages that may offend others within the community.

COVERAGE:

The body and undergarments must be visibly covered, at minimum, from armpit to armpit and from the shoulder to 3-4 inches/7.5 to 10 cm at the bottom.

Shoes are required at all times, and masks must fully cover the mouth and nose in all indoor spaces.
Students may remove masks in the cafeteria when actively eating or drinking.

Here are some important dates coming up:

- 20-30 September Fall MAP Testing for 11 yos, 12 yos, 13 yos, Sec Is, and Sec IIs
 - All students will test Math, Reading, and Language Usage.
 - More specific information will come as the dates get closer.

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Blended Learning Protocols for All Students/ Ages

- Approved blended learning will begin after a 24-hour time period to allow staff sufficient time to plan and prepare.
- Students are expected to follow the provided schedule and follow-through with diligent effort.
- Parents are expected to support students, as needed.
- Students are expected to attend online for the duration of the schedule provided to them.

Additional Blended Learning Protocols for Middle School/Secondary (11yo through Secondary IV)

- Students who qualify for blended learning will be expected to attend each class synchronously unless otherwise directed by the teacher.
- Any parents requesting blended learning for their students must fill out the Blended Learning
 Form. This will be provided to parents each week in the TIS Newsletter. Students not
 approved through this process but have a COVID-related absence during the school week
 must provide COVID-related documentation as soon as it is available. Upon approval,
 students should expect to join blended learning within 24 hours.
- This process is extremely important as teachers are not able to provide the support needed without sufficient time to prepare.

The mask protocol has not changed this year. I have noticed all students have masks, but some still need many reminders to where the masks correctly covering their mouth and nose. Please help support this as COVID is still a great concern and we want to keep ALL TIS students and families safe and healthy!

Mask Protocol



Thank you all for choosing TIS! I am looking forward to working with you and your students this school year! If you ever have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Jeff Tempel
Director of Instruction
jeff-tempel@tirana.qsi.org

American Literature Origin Myths

American Literature students in Ms. Lisa Clipp's class began the school year reading an origin myth from a Native American Cherokee tribe as part of their first unit on early writings from the exploration of lands that would become America. The objective of the lesson was to infer from discussion and reading of the myth some important values that the Cherokee people may have held dear in their culture.

Students read the myth at home, collecting a list of scenes from the story that showed how the Cherokee believed Earth was formed and humans created. The myth spoke of how Earth was a watery place before a beetle drew mud up from the ocean to create land where plants and animals could descend from the atmosphere above to live. Eventually, the first male struck the first female with a fish to create children that populated the new world.

After a class discussion of each scene and the connections students found from the text to themselves and the world, they were asked to create sketches of the scenes to create a more visual representation, with which to infer the cultural values present in the myth, such as leadership, strength, a reverence of nature and appreciation of the circle of life.











Athletics and Activities #fromthedeskofMrsScates



After School Activities begin SEPTEMBER 13th

After School Activities registration is now closed. If you registered your child, you will be receiving an email from me with a list of the activities for which they signed up.



Middle School and Secondary Students

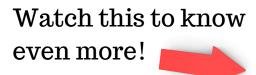
1st Annual CEESA Expand Your Impact Challenge

The aim of the CEESA Expand Your Impact Challenge is to bring students (grades 6 - 12) from CEESA schools together to create <u>student service projects</u> that make a positive impact on the world. Join the challenge to expand your impact by teaming up with international peers to work on a new project or grow an existing project across the CEESA region.

This will start with an online conference on September 24th and 25th. The CEESA Expand Your Impact Challenge will provide students with access to support all school year (from September 2021 to March 2022) to make their service learning projects a success.



Challenge Website: <u>CEESA Expand</u> Your Impact challenge website





Email Mrs. Scates: rina-scates@tirana.qsi.org or stop by my office (room 308)



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

TIS Cafeteria WhatsApp group



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



Terms Dates			
Term 1 (74 d	lays) 26 August - 17 December		
Term 2 (51 d	lays) 10 January - 25 March		
Term 3 (55 d	lays) 28 March - 17 June		
Quintiles Dates			
Quintile 1	26 August - 15 October		
Quintile 2	25 October - 15 December		
Quintile 3	16 December - 24 February		
Quintile 4	2 March - 21 April		
Quintile 5	22 April - 17 June		

