SEPTEMBER 12, 2021





TIRANA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



BLACK WEEK

THE WEEK'S REMINDERS:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

ASAs start this week! MS/SEC ASA 9/10 ASA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 MS/SEC ASA 5/6/7/8 ASA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 SEC ASA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 MS/SEC ASA

9/10 ASA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 MS/SEC ASA

5/6/7/8 ASA

Above: Life is good in the TIS Preschool. This year, we have added a second 2-year-old class making 6 preschool classes total.

TIS Tiger News:

Greetings TIS families,

I want to continue to thank the TIS community for your support as we work together this school year. TIS is working to provide a safe and healthy school. We continue to implement protocol to help limit any transmission while on the school campus. We are confident, that with the safety protocol we have in place, we will limit any possibility of a COVID19 transmission on campus.

Unfortunately, we did have a Covid case reported this week in the elementary. You can use these weekly newsletters to follow along with current Covid cases and how they are impacting our community. Note, if your child is ever a 1st level contact, you will be notified. In this case, no news is good news.

Let's have another great week!

Warm Regards, Jon Mudd



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UPCOMING REMINDERS:

OCTOBER 18-22 No School: Fall Break

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

Summer Reading Log Reminder

The Summer Reading Challenge is an annual event delivered by our library, and it is designed to encourage children to continue their reading during the summer holiday break and discover the adventures that can be had with reading for pleasure.

To celebrate the joy of reading, we hold an assembly and every child who completes the Challenge receives a certificate, and a reward.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, there will be no assembly, but still, we will be having a small celebration in the library and offer prizes to honor our readers. I am happy to say that a lot of students have turned in their reading logs. If your child has completed the challenge, will you please remind him/her to turn in their reading logs by the end of this

Remember, reading is something we can celebrate every day! We're hoping to keep our enthusiasm for reading high throughout the year.



COVID19 in the TIS Community Updates:

TIS will continue to follow the safety protocol that aims to reduce the risk of infections and transmissions of COVID19 at TIS and provide a work towards provide a safe learning environment. We will continue to monitor the situation in Tirana as well as our school and aim to provide a healthy and safe campus. In order to ensure all in the community are informed of any cases that may be impacting the school, TIS will plan to share any updates to the COVID19 impacting the TIS community each week.

Students: For the week of September 6th to September 10th ,TIS was informed of two students that were confirmed positive of COVID19. The TIS COVID response team worked to track and trace both cases to confirm and define all staff and students that are defined as first level contacts.

TIS had confirmed student in the secondary 4 class on Monday, September 6. TIS had a confirmed student in the 6YO class on Friday, September 10. Due to these two cases TIS currently has 57 students that are ask to isolate due to being defined 1st Level contacts. The TIS COVID Response Team communicates directly to all families that are confirmed 1st Level contacts as soon and as quickly as possible. All 1st Level contacts for the secondary case are set to return on Tuesday, September 14. All 1st level contacts for the elementary case are set to return on Monday, September 20. We will continue to monitor the health of all 1st Level contact students and at this time we have no confirmed transmissions.

Staff: We have NO confirmed positive staff member that are currently being isolated. Due to the two cases, we currently have 12 TIS teachers that are defined as 1st Level Contacts and are currently being isolated.

TIRANA INTERNATIONAL S c h o o l

Operating Handbook

CLICK HERE

2021-2022

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



Tirana International School COVID Reporting Procedures Flowchart



Preschool News #fromthedeskofMrsFredriksson

Dear Preschool Families,

We hope this finds you well and healthy.

Another successful week in our preschool is in the books! This week we have continued to get to know each other and we have worked hard on social-emotional skills, such as being kind to one another, cooperating, and sharing. The whole preschool had fun creating a bulletin board together on the topic of kindness. All our students, from the youngest ones to the oldest, chipped in and they feel such pride every time they walk past this board!

A couple of announcements of great things that are happening next week:

- Essentials are officially starting. We have had time to adjust to school, so now it is time to introduce some new subjects like Library, Music and Exciting Explorations. During the latter, we will have fun exploring in various places outdoors- so please make sure your child wears (or brings in) comfortable and sturdy shoes! Exploration in sandals or flip-flops is tricky⁽³⁾
- The first round of After School Activities begin. This means that your preschooler is welcome to stay until 4 pm every day except Wednesdays. Please let your child's teacher (and transportation, if this applies) know in advance if your child will be staying after 3:15 pm.

Thank you.

We are looking forward to a fabulous week! Warm regards,

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



3YO Class A peak into the Tulips

The First 2 weeks of school for Tulips went by so quickly. Tulips were adjusting to their teachers and classmates and getting to know more about how the day at the preschool looks like. We are setting routines (like taking turns, washing hands) and practicing healthy habits (like drinking fresh juices). We're having lots of fun of course - popping BIG bubbles and making important friendships that hopefully will last for a long time. Because at our Preschool is super fun!



Elementary News #fromthedeskofMrWood

Dear Parents of Elementary Students,

What a thrill it is to see such active learning taking place in elementary. We have such amazing educators, and they are purposeful in engaging all children in a variety of ways to make learning meaningful. Our outdoor space is often utilized by classes during instructional time. We have other indoor flex areas as well, so there is much opportunity for movement, distancing, and outdoor mask breaks.

I have been impressed with students as I have visited classrooms. They are working hard and keeping positive attitudes.

I also applaud the students and teachers currently on distance learning. We had a good start on Friday and it will only get better. If you are a parent of a child currently learning at home, thank you for your additional support. It is appreciated.

A Note about LOE Classes (Languages other than English)

LOE classes do tend to be smaller in size than homeroom classes, and our health and safety indoor protocols continue to be used. Since we have two LOE teachers per language offering and varying levels of students, there are some LOE classes that do have a mix of students from another age level. This is to create the most effective learning environment for students and to make it more productive for them and for teachers. For example, due to the language levels of students, the 7/8-year-old Spanish has some combined students. This is true for other languages and ages but is not the case for every class.

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.qsi.org



5YO Class Busy at the Beginning

The 5-year-olds are having fun learning and practicing early literacy skills. We've been singing Willouby Wallaby Woo and Here is the Beehive to listen for rhyming words. We clap syllables in the months and in our own names. Each morning, we read a morning message together and students use their "laser eyes" to find the letter sounds we've introduced. The 5s have learned to recognize their first names and are writing them with capital and lowercase letters. We have enjoyed many books together, like The Gruffalo, Pete the Cat and the Elephant and Piggie series. After we read them, the students love to look through the books on their own. Finally, our 5-year-old writers are learning to express their interests using drawings and words. We're off to a great start in literacy!





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Elementary Intensive English News© Busy at the Beginning

We have started our Intensive English class by reading aloud the book The Twits written by Roald Dahl. Students have enjoyed listening to this story and we have discussed characters and their actions, settings, problems, and solutions. Also, students have had a lot of fun visualizing characters and parts from the story.



9/10 YO Native German Class Busy at the Beginning

The 9- and 10-year-old Native German class with Mr. Kienzle has been busy with their first unit, with the students looking excited for the chance to use their home language in class! Alongside reviewing some dreadful German grammar and spelling concepts such as that of compound nouns and pronouns, the class has discussed different ways of making a story lively and suspenseful. The students wrote a draft for a personal story with enthusiasm and will now apply what they discussed to revise their story!



Invitation from Mrs. Tempel College: prepare yourself

There are many opportunities available for Secondary students and families to virtually visit universities around the world in September and October. These are excellent opportunities to get a feel for the culture and fit of universities for individual students, as well as a chance to learn about each university's application and admissions processes, academic programs, services for students, visa support, financial information and more.

THESE FREE WEBINARS AND MEETINGS REQUIRE REGISTRATION. SIGN UP AND ATTEND AS MANY AS YOU LIKE!

East vs West Coast

Pepperdine, Emerson, University of Southern California, Northeastern, Chapman, and Suffolk Universities

RECISTER HERE!

Anonymous College Fair

You will have the ability to connect with at least 12 highly to moderately selective US universities in this fair. The names will not be released in advance, as the concept of this fair is to first learn about universities that offer a good fit for students before attaching a name to avoid the potential bias associated with highly recognizable universities.

RECISTER HERE!

College Board's 2021 Fall International University Talks

REGISTER HERE!

Application Review and Financial Aid for Students in International Schools Harvard, Pomona, Stanford, Wellesley *Registration in advance is required.*

REGISTER HERE

for the 27 September workshop

REGISTER HERE

for the 19 October workshop



UK Virtua<mark>l and D</mark>igital Op<mark>en Days</mark>

You can choose from an extensive catalogue of universities, courses, and topics to learn about throughout numerous sessions.

REGISTER HERE!

College Board's 2021 Fall International University Talks

REGISTER HERE!



Canadian University & College Fair

University of Toronto, McGill, Mount Allison, Carleton, Queen's, University of Waterloo, York, Langara College, Concordia, Ryerson, University of Guelph, University of British Columbia, Huron, Calgary, Bishop's, Mohawk College, Carleton, and the University of Alberta.

REGISTER HERE!

College Board's 2021 Fall International University Talks

REGISTER HERE!

Virtually Orange! Dutch Online University Fair

Students and parents can connect with over 30 Dutch Research Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences. (See the registration link for the full list.)

RECISTER HERE!

REGISTER NOW

Planning time! Get organized and energized!

This week Middle School and Secondary students received their 2021-2022 school planners in Homeroom. Students participated in a scavenger hunt to familiarize themselves with this new tool. Students learning from home also participated with a digital copy that they can access any time in their grade-level Team. Students at home may request their planner for pick-up, or they will receive them upon their return to school.

Planners include information that parents will also find helpful, including: the class schedule, teacher office hours, unit completion, handbook excerpts, and more. Ask your student to show you their new TIS planner!



Middle School/Secondary News #fromthedeskofMrTempel

Dear Middle School/Secondary Parents and Families,

As many of you know, we had our first COVID case that directly affected our Secondary students and teachers. As this is something we will continue to deal with throughout the school year, please know that the protocols we put in place have continued to keep all of our students and families safe. There have been no reported positive cases coming from this case, so rest assured we are continuing to keep the classroom a safe place to be!

Many of you have emailed with questions about our 10 day isolation protocol. Please understand that this is put in place to ensure all students and teachers who have come in contact with someone who is COVID positive is able to stay away from others until we are sure they do not become infected themselves. We changed the timeframe from 14 days to 10 days this year, lessening the amount of time that students and teachers have to stay home. Also, our second level contact protocol has changed, meaning that a family member/sibling of a first level contact no longer has to stay home unless they or **someone else in the home becomes symptomati**c. If this is the case, please contact the school to let them know of the symptoms as soon as possible.

We have also had inquiries about vaccinations and negative tests. At this time, the 10 day isolation period is our standing protocol for all staff and students regardless of vaccination status or a negative test. It is possible that this could change. We are looking into the many aspects of this but will still take every precaution we can to minimize the spread of COVID amongst our school community. If we make any changes to any of our COVID protocols, we will inform the community.

Please know that getting a vaccination for COVID greatly reduces this risk of serious infection for the person vaccinated and also minimizes the possibility of spreading the virus to others. We recommend that all of our students and families get vaccinated if and when possible, to continue our goal of providing a safe, positive, and productive learning environment. Thank you all for your support and understanding as we continue to navigate this pandemic.

Below is the Blended Learning Protocols for 2021-22. It is important to note that students who ARE absent for COVID related reasons ARE eligible for Blended Learning. Students who are absent for any other reason are NOT eligible for Blended Learning and will be counted absent from school.



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 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



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.
- **NEW Locks** The locks have arrived! We are preparing the locks now and will hopefully pass them out to students on Tuesday, 14 September!
 - Students will be assigned one lock and are responsible for lost or damaged locks.
 - They will be given the combination and we will keep in on record in case they forget it.
 - Administration has a key that can open all locks.
- **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 NEW Students now have their planners! (Students learning from home due to the latest COVID case will received their planners when they return to school.) The first planner will come at no cost. If a student's planner becomes lost or damaged, the 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.

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.

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.

Jeff Tempel jeff-tempel@tirana.qsi.org Middle School & Secondary Director of Instruction

Middle School Art with Ms. Entela Art from Intuition

The Middle school students started their new school year in a colorful way. They created art pieces based on their intuition by freeing their imagination. The underlying philosophy is that creative intuition is an instinct that helps guide an artist's work. Students applied a variety of art elements on their compositions without restrictions, the final results are always surprising and satisfying.





11yo Literature/Writing Narratives

The 11-year-old Literature and Writing students are learning about narratives. In Literature class, they are reading short stories and analyzing them for plot elements. In Writing class, they are learning about personal narratives and planning a personal narrative using a plot diagram. Most importantly, they are learning how to use their Chromebooks/laptops to access Teams and OneDrive. This technology is a fantastic in-class tool as well as an important resource should we need to work remotely. This week, students planned their narrative in their notebooks, shared their plans with their classmates, and then started their first draft in OneDrive.



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Athletics and Activities #fromthedeskofMrsScates



After School Activities start on MONDAY! Robotics will start on September 21st.



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.



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



Date: 2021-2022 Planning

Tirana International School 2021-2022



Academic Year Calendar

2021-2022 Tirana International School Calendar

July 2021	Summer Break	January 2022	January	
Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		
1 2 3		1		
4 5 6 7 8 9 10		2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
11 12 13 14 15 16 17		9 10 11 12 13 14 15		
18 19 20 21 22 23 24		16 17 18 19 20 21 22		
25 26 27 28 29 30 31		23 24 25 26 27 28 29		
		30 31		Terms Dates
August 2021	August	February 2022	February	Terms Dates
Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Term 1 (74 days) 26 August - 17 Decembe
1 2 3 4 5 6 7		1 2 3 4 5		Term 2 (51 days) 10 January - 25 March
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	26 August-First day of school	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	25 February - 1 March Mid-Winter Break	Term 3 (55 days) 28 March - 17 June
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	• •	13 14 15 16 17 18 19		
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September 2021	September	March 2022	March	
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18		13 14 15 16 17 18 19	18-19 March Professional Development	Quintile 3 16 December - 24 February
19 20 21 22 23 24 25		20 21 22 23 24 25 26		Quintile 4 2 March - 21 April
26 27 28 29 30		27 28 29 30 31		Quintile 5 22 April - 17 June
October 2021	October	April 2022	April	
Su M Tu W Th F Sa	000000	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	7 9 10	
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	18 - 22 October Break	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	25-29 April-Spring Break	
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November 2021	November	May 2022	Мау	
Su M Tu W Th F Sa	November	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	may	
1 2 3 4 5 6	26 November-Professional Development	1 2 3 4 5 6 7		
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	29 November-Liberation and Independence Day	8 9 10 11 12 13 14		
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	25 November-Liberation and independence bay	15 16 17 18 19 20 21		
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December 2021 Su M Tu W Th F Sa	December	June 2022 Su M Tu W Th F Sa	June	
Su M Tu W Th F Sa	20 December 7 January Winter Break	Su M Tu W Th F Sa		
	20 December - 7 January Winter Break		17 June Last Day of School	
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	17 June- Last Day of School	
		12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25		
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 4 25		
20 21 20 29 30 31		20 21 20 29 30		

