

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021



**TIRANA INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**



Above: Middle School Science students take to the microscopes

ORANGE WEEK

THE WEEK'S REMINDERS:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

MS/SEC ASA
9/10 ASA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

MS/SEC ASA
5/6/7/8 ASA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

SEC ASA
12:30 - 1:00 Virtual MS/SEC Chat w/
Mr. Tempel & Mrs. Tempel

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

MS/SEC ASA
9/10 ASA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

MS/SEC ASA
5/6/7/8 ASA

TIS Tiger News:

Greetings TIS families,

I hope this newsletter finds each of you happy and healthy. We had another great week at TIS and are looking forward to the same this upcoming week!

Students are learning, enjoying each other, and loving school - all good things that we are grateful for!

I do understand that many of us were hoping this year would be drastically different than last year in regards to the pandemic. Unfortunately, we continue to see cases of COVID in our TIS community and, at this time, feel it is best to be cautious with the health of our students.

Thank you for choosing TIS for your child's education and trusting us with their health and safety. Both are a responsibility that we don't take lightly and the source of many sleepless nights.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend and have a great week!

Kind regards,
Jon Mudd



UPCOMING REMINDERS:

SEPTEMBER 29

Parent Support Group (PSG) Meeting
@ 8:15am at TIS
Preschool Virtual Chat w/ Ms. Jennie
@ 1:00-1:30pm

OCTOBER 1

Normal school day for students

OCTOBER 6

Elementary Virtual Chat w/ Mr.
Wood @ 10:30-11:00am

OCTOBER 18-22

No School: Fall Break

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: rina-scates@tirana.qsi.org

**COVID PROCEDURE
HANDBOOK**

TIS WEBSITE

LUNCH WEBSITE

ACTIVITIES WEBSITE



September
Lunch

MENU

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 week updates to the COVID19 impacting the TIS community as well as school data.

TIS had confirmed student in the 7YO class on Tuesday, September 14. TIS had a confirmed student in the 10YO class on Friday, September 15. Thank you to the family of the 7YO student for keeping their child home on Monday and Tuesday. Due to the student staying home, there was no direct contact with any other students or staff at TIS. The 10YO sibling of the 7YO student was tested on Wednesday, September 15 and was confirmed positive. Due to the confirmed first level contact of the 10YO student, there were 19 student first level contacts and 4 TIS staff. We will continue to monitor the health of all 1st Level contact students and at this time we have no confirmed transmissions.

2021-2022
TIS School Case Count Statistics

[illegible]

You are invited to **TIS COFFEE CHATS**

Date: Wednesday,
September 22

Time: 12:30 - 1:00 PM

Venue: Meet online via
ZOOM

Topic: MS/SEC things
with Mr. Tempel, the
Director of Instruction &
Mrs. Tempel, the MS/SEC
School Counselor



If you prefer to meet virtually, please use the below ZOOM information

Meeting ID: 422 488 4701

Passcode: JTempel

JOIN US



.....  JOIN US FOR THE FIRST 

PSG MEETING

OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

WHO?

Parents
Teachers
Students
Grandparents
TIS Staff

WHEN?

Wednesday,
September
29th
at 8:15am

WHERE?

TIS outdoor
area and Zoom.
You choose.

Meeting ID: 856 4461 6256
Passcode: JckJ4N

..... WHY?

All parents are encouraged to become actively involved with the school through the Parent Support Group. The goal of the Parent Support Group in QSI is to make the learning environment the best possible place for children. To achieve this goal, the Parent Support Group (PSG) will:

- Work to enhance communication among parents as well as between parents and the school.
- Organize educational and social events for QSI students and/or the school community.
- Assist classroom educators in ways that allow for more efficient and productive use of classroom management time.
- Enrich the regular classroom curriculum.
- Promote fund-raising events in order to purchase items or services the school might not easily obtain.
- Develop events that encourage student involvement and understanding of the local community or host country.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Preschool News

#fromthedeskofMrsFredriksson

Dear Preschool Families,

I hope this finds you healthy and happy.

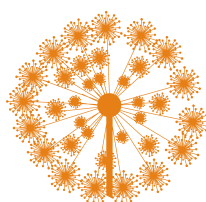
The TIS Preschool students have had a wonderful week learning about themselves! After having settled in properly, all classes have now begun their first unit and I have seen lots of lovely self-portraits, name practice, and vocabulary building activities.

We have also had so much fun exploring our outdoor facilities, where we have met some new friends: Little Grey Squirrel and Big Brown Squirrel. Everyone really enjoyed gathering acorns for our new buddies in the forest and picking flowers for family members in our gorgeous gardens. It has been so nice seeing friendships blossom between peers and that students are feeling comfortable and happy at school!

Looking forward to a great week ahead!

Warm regards,

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



SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

3YO Class

A peak into the Marigolds

Things here at the Marigolds class are “Falling” into place very well, as the first autumn leaves start to fall down!

The children are getting used to their class routines and social interactions as well as becoming more independent. They are also learning to love, to help, to be kind to each other, to take turns, to be under control, and many, many other things!

Marigolds already had their first group experiment with shaving foam and food coloring, first big painting, first water fun, and even first exploration with Miss Jennie! Doing things together with your friends can be lots of fun!



SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Elementary News

#fromthedeskofMrWood

Dear Parents of Elementary Students,

Weekend greetings to everyone!



We begin our NWEA MAP assessments this coming week and teachers are sharing their individual class schedules with you. In the fall, this is an assessment for 6-10yo elementary students. 6 and 7yo students will be testing in reading and math, and the other ages in reading, language usage, and math. There is nothing for students to do to prepare for these assessments – just get plenty of rest, eat a good breakfast, and do their best. MAP provides another data point, a snapshot in time, of your child's progress. There are many data points that teachers use to understand the abilities and the support needs of students. The results inform teachers of student strengths and areas to support them further in their education.

We thank all parents for helping to support the students who have been out due to COVID-19 impacts. Blended learning and distance learning is no easy task for anyone, so we are grateful for your support as well. We are fortunate to build on our experience from the past year and look forward to dates when affected students and teachers return to campus. The good news is that learning does continue regardless. As a reminder, our blended learning protocols can be found in past weeks' newsletters and the TIS Operating Handbook 2021-22.

This week, I enjoyed sharing a short story with individual 7 and 8yo classes, as well as students in Intensive English. It was a lot of fun to discuss the story with them in order to understand the author's purpose and to see what message can be taken from the story. I look forward to sharing in such a time with the other age levels in the future.

Have an enjoyable, safe, and healthy weekend.

Sincerely,

Mike Wood

Elementary Academic Coordinator

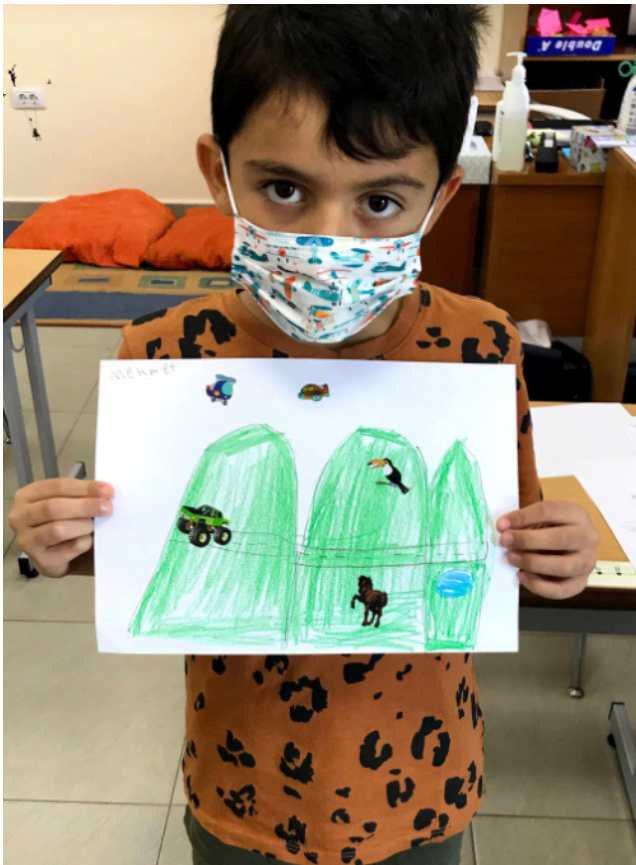
Mike-wood@tirana.qsi.org

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

6YO Class

Text Features

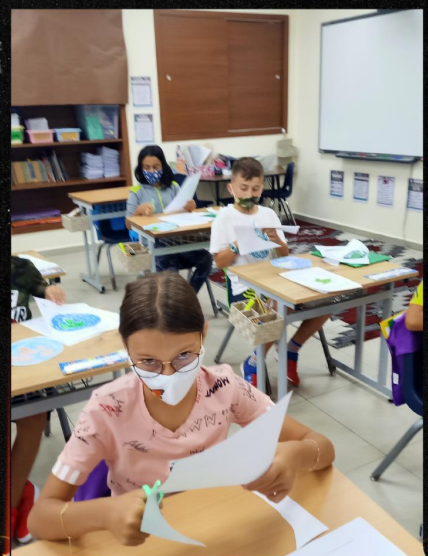
The 6 -Year-Old Black Class has been learning the importance of labels for art/illustrations and as text features. Students created a background and then selected 5 stickers to place on their backgrounds. Then the students labeled the stickers on their artwork. Way to label, 6-Year-Olds!!



What's up with 8's



Ms. Thurner's 8-year old class is in full gear learning mode. We have been working in collaborative groups and using hands on tools to learn!



Middle School/Secondary News

#fromthedeskofMrTempel

Dear Middle School/Secondary Parents and Families,
Great news! Nearly all Middle School and Secondary students are back in the building as of Tuesday of this week! It was so great to see so many faces back on campus!

A few health-related things to keep in mind:

- We have had some sickness going around the Middle School recently. Many students have taken COVID tests and they have come up negative which is great news! However, we still ask that you take caution with any type of illnesses in your home.
- If a student is sick, please do not send them to school until symptoms have been gone for 24 hours.
- If you suspect COVID, please get them tested.
- Keep in communication with school regarding symptoms, test results, and spreading amongst members of the household.
- Thank you to all of the parents/families that have emailed us frequently in regards to illnesses at home.

It takes all of us to continue to keep our students as safe and healthy as possible! Thank you for your continued support!

Below are the protocols we continue to keep in place in regards to Blended Learning. I have also kept the Mask Protocols in the newsletter as we are still having to remind many students to wear their masks over their mouth and nose. The addition of air purifiers in most of our classrooms is a welcome addition to our school environment, but we still need students to be mindful of covering their mouth and nose to minimize spread of viruses and illness.

Blended Learning Protocols 2021-2022 School Year

Covid Related Reasons in Which Blended Learning Will be Supported

- Student contracted Covid
- The student 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)

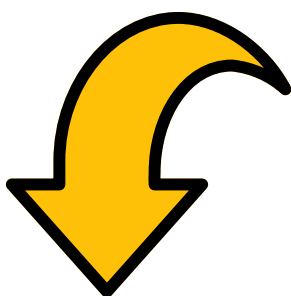
- Students who qualify for blended learning will be expected to attend each class synchronously unless otherwise directed by the teacher.
- Any parents requesting blended learning for their students must fill out the [Blended Learning Form](#). This will be provided to parents each week in the TIS Newsletter. 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



Reminders of Expectations for Students



As we now have completed three full weeks of school, I sent an email to students reminding them of the daily expectations we have for all of our Middle School and Secondary students. Below is the email I sent, so you know what has been communicated to them:

To All MS and Secondary Students

Subject  Important Reminders

1. Phones - Now that you have locks on your lockers, there are no more warnings. Phones will be taken if phones are out without permission.

- If there is an emergency and you NEED to use your phone, come to my office and you can take care of what you need there.

2. Locks - Yay locks! Just remember, as with your locker, these are your responsibility. Do not give your combination to others and keep your lock LOCKED on your locker!

3. Breaks/Lunch -

- Please ONLY hang out in designated/supervised areas during lunch/lunch recess.
- Phones are NOT allowed to be out during lunch. (They should be locked up in your locker.)
- Secondary students eat in the cafeteria during Secondary lunch.
- Middle School student eat in the cafeteria during Middle School lunch.
- Anyone can eat outside during either lunch. If you take trays/plates/utensils/cups from the cafeteria, you must bring them back when you are finished.
- CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!
- If there is an Elementary class having PE in the gym, STAY OFF THE GYM FLOOR. Please go around another way.
- When eating in the cafeteria, your mask should be worn at all times unless you are eating.

4. English Only Policy - It seems many of you are still having difficulty remembering to speak English while in class, the hallways, and other common areas at school. This policy has not changed and ALL students are expected to speak the one common language, English.

5. Tardies - I have noticed more and more students taking their time getting to class. There is no reason you should not be able to make it to class on time. We are now in WEEK 3, so teachers will be counting you tardy if you are late. Don't be surprised if there are some "tardy sweeps" in the near future. 🙄

6. Coffee/Snacks/Food in the Classroom -

- There is NO food or drink in the classroom.
- You are to finish your coffee and snacks in the cafeteria before you leave.
- Students will not be allowed to take their coffee/hot chocolate/snacks out of the cafeteria during break.
- If you are late to class because you had to stay and finish your coffee and/or snack, you will be counted tardy.

7. Masks -

- All students will wear masks over their mouth and nose at all times unless:
 - They are eating outside or in the cafeteria.
 - They are drinking outside or in the cafeteria.
 - They are outside and distanced from their peers.
- Masks should not come off to take drinks in the hallway or other common areas.

ALL things in this email are extremely important. Please adhere to all the expectations listed above as well as other common expectations not listed.

MAP Testing Begins THIS WEEK!

The time has arrived for all of our Middle School, Secondary I and Secondary II students to take the MAP test! This will give us valuable data regarding where are students are and how are teachers can best teach our students and help them find success.

Students will be testing in the subject area class as follows:

Writing Class – Language Usage test

Literature Class – Reading test

Math, Algebra I – Math test



Below is this week's schedule for testing. Please remind students to get a good night's rest and to eat a healthy breakfast so their brains and bodies are prepared for the test! Keep in mind that the test does not affect their grades. We use this data to get to know the students better, their strengths, and their areas of improvement. If they miss the day of the test, we will have make up testing the week of October 4-8.

Monday, 20 September:

Literature 13 – Mr. Ehrler – Reading test

Math 12 – Ms. Graves – Math test

Tuesday, 21 September:

Writing 13 – Mr. Ehrler – Language Usage test

Writing 11 – Ms. Hall and Ms. Slougher – Language Usage

Intensive English – Ms. Shehu – Language Usage

Literature 13 – Mr. Sellers – Reading test

Literature 12 – Ms. Titus – Reading test

Wednesday, 22 September:

Writing 13 – Mr. Sellers – Language Usage

Literature 12 – Ms. Clipp – Reading

Thursday, 23 September:

Math 11 – Ms. Hall and Ms. Slougher – Math test

Math 12 – Mr. Ehrler – Math test

Friday, 24 September:

Math 13 – Ms. Turner – Math test

Algebra I – Mr. Griswold - Math test

Students continue to impress me every day with their fortitude and resilience! They are working and playing hard and I am already proud of the work they are doing! Thank you for your continued support at home...enjoy your weekend!

Jeff Tempel

jeff-tempel@tirana.qsi.org

Middle School & Secondary Director of Instruction

13-year-old science

Life Science

In the first unit of 13-year-old science (life science), students learned how to use a microscope and practiced by viewing potato cells and onion skin cells. They learned that different stains helped them to see different parts of the cell. The cell walls in the long, rectangular onion skin cells were very apparent using a blue dye (methylene blue) while the nucleus of the cell was visible with a different stain. Large starch-containing granules were numerous in the irregularly shaped potato cells. The challenge was to use their cell phones (with permission, of course) to photograph the microscope slides they had prepared through the eyepiece of the microscope.



SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Athletics and Activities

#fromthedeskofMrsScates

It was so wonderful to see our campus abuzz with students in their after school activities this week!

Reminder that all elementary activities end at 4:00 p.m.

Middle school and secondary activities end at 4:00 p.m. EXCEPT:

- Middle School Boys Soccer (Tuesday and Friday until 5:00 p.m.)
- Cross Country (Monday and Friday until 5:00 p.m.)
- Baking (Friday until 5:00 p.m.)

Upcoming Virtual Events:

Virtual Cross Country -- October

Virtual Middle School Robotics -- November



SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

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

REGISTER 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.

REGISTER 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 Virtual and Digital Open Days

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.)

REGISTER HERE!

REGISTER NOW



REPORTING TO THE SCHOOL

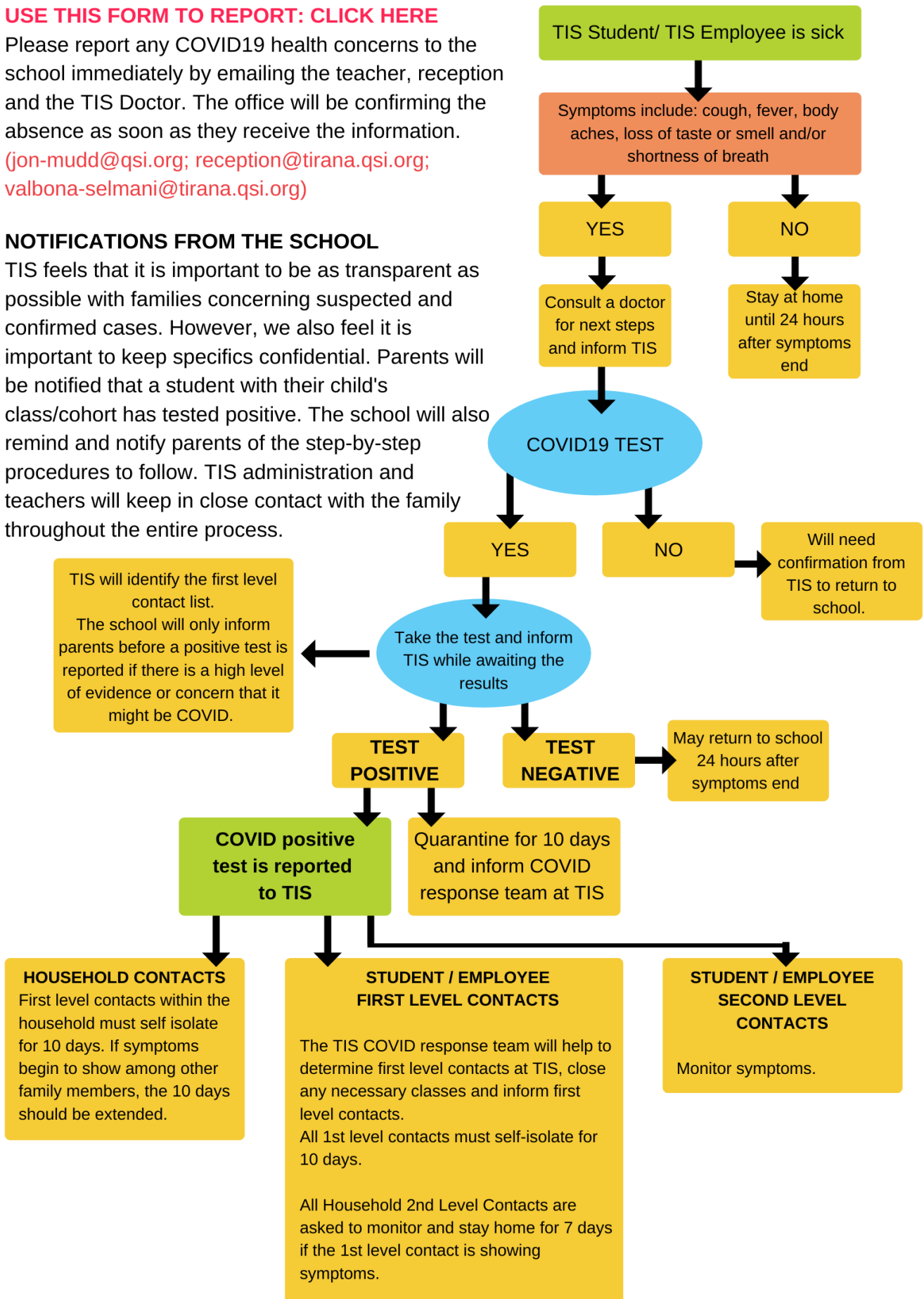
USE THIS FORM TO REPORT: [CLICK HERE](#)

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.



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.

2021-2022
Planning



Terms Dates	
Term 1 (74 days)	26 August - 17 December
Term 2 (51 days)	10 January - 25 March
Term 3 (55 days)	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

