

Dear Twin Rivers Parents,

August 11th, 2023

We are so excited to welcome your students back for what will be another wonderful school year at Twin Rivers!

Our first day of school is Monday, August 21. Our doors will open at 8:33, the tardy bell is 8:40. We will dismiss at 3:35. The following are some procedural items and information that we wanted to share with you before the first day of school:

- If you are dropping your child off at Twin Rivers in the mornings, please be reminded that students should be dropped off between 8:30 and 8:40 a.m. at the west entrance off Liberty St. That is our parent drop-off and pick-up location. The circle drive off Lou Lemke Lane is reserved for buses only.
- While we understand and appreciate that some parents will want to walk their children into school and to their classroom door, especially those with younger children or children who are new to the school, we ask that after the first day of school, parents allow their children to walk into the school on their own. This is because all of our students will be waiting in the hallways outside of their classrooms in the morning and the halls will be extremely congested prior to teachers welcoming their students into the classrooms to have breakfast. In addition, we've seen that this helps students develop a sense of independence that leads to a smoother start to the school day.
- During the school day, if you need to visit the school for any reason, you will need to use the doorbell at the parent entrance doors (west door off Liberty St.) before being allowed access. For the safety and security of our students and staff, please do not try to gain entry at any of the other doors or let other adults in the school once you have been allowed access.
- At the end of the school day, just as we did last school year, we will be bringing students (who do not ride a bus home) out to the west parent pickup doors until they are released to their parents who are picking them up. This procedure is again being employed this school year to help us ensure that all students are picked up safely by the appropriate adult. We are asking our parents to please park in a designated parking spot and walk over to the paved playground area to pick up your students. We do not want any students walking across the busy parking area unaccompanied by a parent/guardian. When driving in and out of the parking area, please do so slowly and cautiously. Also, please do not park in a handicapped parking spot unless you have the appropriate placard or license plate designation.

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- If not already signed up, your child's teacher will work with you to enroll you in an electronic communication tool called ClassDojo. In addition, you are strongly encouraged to visit the district website ([www.ioniaschools.org](http://www.ioniaschools.org)) and click on the Notifications Sign Up tab to enroll in the new IPS App Blackboard Notification System if you have not done so already. Finally, we will be using email addresses from Skyward (our student information system) to put together a 23-24 Twin Rivers Parent Email Group. Included with this letter you will find information on how to log in to Skyward and request a change to any information that needs to be updated. When doing this, please make sure that your email address that is listed in this information is current as it will be used for the Twin Rivers Parent Email Group. Each week, we will be compiling a Panther Pause Newsletter that will contain important school information as well as upcoming event dates. This newsletter will be posted on ClassDojo and the Twin Rivers portion of the district website. Please make sure you stay informed by consulting this newsletter at the end of each week of school.
- The Ionia Public Schools Elementary Student Handbook will be made available electronically via the district website. Please make sure that you read through this handbook as it will contain much information regarding school operations, procedures, and routines as well as behavioral expectations that will be in place throughout the school year. We will only send home a paper copy of the Ionia Public Schools Elementary Student Handbook to those parents who call the office and request a copy.
- While school breakfast and lunch are available to every Twin Rivers student for free, it is extremely important that all of our families fill out a Household Information Report, which helps our school district access important federal funding. This report is available via the district website. From the home page of the website, select Departments, Food Service, and then Household Information Report (second item down on the left) in order to access and complete this report online.
- Please be reminded that the Twin Rivers Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16th, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Parents and students should go directly to classrooms as there will not be any school-wide gatherings or presentations in the gym during the open house. We will have tables set up in the library for the technology and transportation departments, the TR FSO, and our Literacy Coach. We hope to see you there!
- If you have any questions or if there is any help or support we can give as you prepare for this upcoming school year, please call the school office at (616) 522-0005 and let us know. Thank you so much for the opportunity to work with your amazing children!

*Paul Frost* Twin Rivers Principal

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