

weekly trib

Summer 2018

What's Ahead

August 22

Family and Staff Welcome Potluck

Bienvenido Potluck

August 23 - 24

Family Orientation Meetings

Reuniones de Orientación Familiar

August 27

First Day of School for K-8th and

Transition Day for PS and PK

(full day for half of the class)

Primer Día de Escuela y

Día de Transición

August 28

Transition Day for PS and PK

(full day for half of the class)

Día de Transición

September 3

Labor Day - School Closed

Día del Trabajo - Escuela Cerrada

September 13

Back to School Night for 3rd-8th

Noche de Regreso a Clases para Padres Grados

3-8

September 17

Back to School Night for PS-2nd

Noche de Regreso a Clases para Padres Grados

PS-2

Teachers Learn all Summer!

Two Rivers teachers are learners, too! This summer, teachers and staff participated in a variety of professional development opportunities. Middle school teachers McKenzie Baecker and Monica Powell attended an EL Education Institute in Milwaukee. K/1 teachers Jessica Cisneros and Susan Freye presented and spoke at a panel at Gender Spectrum in California. Elementary school teachers Rachel Owens, Alice McNeill, Max Williams, Elizabeth Weiss and Katherine Dunn attended Responsive Classroom training. Middle school special educator Rebecca Wenstrom visited the Churchill Northern Studies Center in Manitoba, Canada to study climate change! Rebecca's trip was funded by EL Education's Fund for Teachers, a selective program that provides resources for teachers to build their knowledge through work in the field at sites around the globe. We're so glad you grew your brains this summer, teachers!

Red Line Closures

The Red Line will be shut down between NoMa-Gallaudet U and Fort Totten from July 21 through September 3. Free shuttle buses will replace trains between Fort Totten, Brookland-CUA, Rhode Island Ave and NoMa-Gallaudet U stations. For more information, read the WMATA brochure at tinyurl.com/RedLineBrochure or visit wmata.com.

Buildings Closed for Orientation

In order for all Two Rivers staff members to participate fully in our staff orientation and to allow our facilities team to complete necessary repairs, Our 4th Street campuses will be closed August 6 through August 10. In addition, staff will not be available to assist families by phone on August 7 and 8.

Leadership News

We welcomed Jessica back from her year-long sabbatical in Spain on August 1st. She has resumed her role as Executive Director. David Nitkin has accepted a new role with Two Rivers as Chief of Staff. Please join us in welcoming Jessica back to the Two Rivers crew this year!

Share Your DC Returns!

We are excited to announce that Share Your DC, our parent and staff expedition, will return this fall! Join us as we explore how our identities as Washingtonians and members of the Two Rivers community bind us and as we uncover the ways in which we are each unique. During this expedition, you'll challenge bias and stereotype, learn about medium of photography, and produce a lasting artifact of your learning. Hear from some of our past participants at tinyurl.com/SYDCListen!

If you're interested in joining us this fall, please mark your calendar with the following dates: October 17, November 7, November 14, and November 27. Register now at tinyurl.com/SYDCFall18. Reach out to Khizer (khusain@tworiverspcs.org) with any questions!

Crew Lists

How do we decide which students belong in which classroom? We give it a lot of thought! If it is not a looping year, your child's current Two Rivers teachers meet with the teachers of the next grade level and a team of administrators. The team discusses the needs of each child academically and socially. They consider the teaching style of the new teachers and the learning style of the students. They ensure that each child has friends in the class, and that the students are compatible. In addition, the team makes sure that each class has a balance of students by age and skill level, and that the students have an opportunity to meet new grade-level peers.

In the middle school, students are assigned a crew and crew leader using the same process. Crew leaders are teachers who work with a small group of middle school students over the course of the year. Students in the same crew will transition together, eat lunch with each other, and will frequently (though not always) have academic classes together. If you have questions about your child's crew placement, please see Ms. Caroline or Ms. Keisha.

School Supply List

The school supply list is included and available electronically on our website, www.tworiverspcs.org. Go to the 'Community' tab and select 'Information for Parents and Families' from the drop-down menu. Note that there are different lists for many of the grades. If you have already searched in vain for an item on the list (e.g. big pencils), don't worry! If there is an item that is not readily available, the school will order it for classes. Remember, most school supplies at Two Rivers are shared among students. Some families in the Two Rivers community may not be able to purchase supplies and others may be able to purchase extras. Please contribute what your family is able.

Transition Days for PS & PK

Our early childhood specialists have found that the best way for our little ones to start school is to transition in over several days. Your preschool or pre-kindergarten child will start school with half of his or her class for a full day on August 27 or August 28. The other half will then have a chance to go to school before everyone joins together on Wednesday, August 29. This gives teachers more opportunity to give nervous students and everyone a chance to get better acquainted. Please note that because August 29 is a Wednesday, all students will have early dismissal at 1:15PM, and appropriate pick-up plans should be made. Your child's transition day is noted on his or her class list.

Stay Connected with the 4th Street Listserv

Each grade at Two Rivers has its own email listserv in which families and staff in the Two Rivers community are encouraged to participate. If you subscribed last year, you do not need to do anything, but you may want to log in to update your preferences or email address. To join a Two Rivers email discussion group, follow these steps:

1. Go to lists.tr-psa.org
2. Select "Discussions" in the Directory of Groups and then select the appropriate list. (There is one for each grade at Two Rivers.)
3. Click "Subscribe" on the left hand side of the page

Please note that subscribing requires authentication of your email and approval by the listmaster. Your subscription may take a day or two to become active

Uniforms Sales

All Two Rivers students are required to wear a uniform shirt to school each day, starting on the first day of school. Uniform pricing starts at \$7 for short sleeve Two Rivers tee shirts, which come in a variety of colors. If you are struggling to afford uniforms, please see your buildings' principal(s). Two Rivers will be selling uniforms only at the Young campus (820 26th Street NE) at the following times:

Saturday, August 4, 9:30AM - 2:00PM
Monday, August 6, 9:00AM - 2:00PM
Thursday, August 9, 12:00PM - 6:00PM
Saturday, August 11, 9:30AM - 2:00PM
Tuesday, August 14, 9:00AM - 2:00PM
Wednesday, August 15, 12:00PM - 6:00PM
Friday, August 17, 12:00PM - 6:00PM
Saturday, August 25, 9:30AM - 2:00PM

Uniforms will not be sold during the first week of school.

Arrival Safety

Please observe basic safety rules during arrival and dismissal time. If you are in a car, you may use the drop-off lane in the morning from 8:15 to 8:30; please do not allow your child to exit the car prior to the time that a school administrator opens the front door of the building at 8:15. Please remember to only allow children to get out of the car onto the sidewalk (not into the middle of 4th Street). Adults should stay in the car. If you choose to use the drop-off lane, your child needs to be independent enough to exit the car on their own.

While the drop off lane is open, please pull up as far as you can on 4th Street to allow others to pull in behind you. If you are driving near the school, please be careful! Alleys adjacent to the elementary and middle schools are active and parking is not permitted. Finally, please make sure that you cross the street at the crosswalk and follow the directions of our staff and crossing guard out front.

Middle school students may cross at the crosswalk and walk over to the middle school building at 1234 4th Street NE. Please do not pull your car up to the middle school building to drop students off; 4th Street is not large enough to accommodate drop-off lanes on both sides of the street. **Please be aware that the right side of 4th Street (in front of the former Grainger building and in front of the middle school) is now a bike lane and may not be used for parking or drop-off.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

What is Family Orientation?

Two Rivers sets aside time before the beginning of school for each family to visit their child's classroom and meet his or her teachers. Our families have found these meetings to be great opportunities to get to know the teachers and share information about their students. Students are also encouraged to attend Family Orientation.

This year's Family Orientation will take place on Thursday, August 24 and Friday, August 25. All families are invited to select a time slot for their orientation using an online conference scheduling system called My Conference Time. Sign-up online for your conferences from August 4 through August 16. To sign up for your orientation time, visit myconferencetime.com/tworiverspcs, select your child's teacher or crew leader, and click on the time that best fits your schedule. Please note that this sign-up is specifically for family conferences (TR's parent-teacher conferences, which happen three times during the school year) and not for requesting meetings with teachers at any other time.

For families with more than one child at the same campus, you will have the option to sign up for multiple conferences at once to ensure that you coordinate schedules. Families requiring an interpreter will have their conferences coordinated by the school. We will email you the dates and times.

Please sign up early as orientation times are available on a first come, first served basis. You will not have to create an account in order to sign up, but if you choose to enter your email address, you can receive email confirmations or correspondence from your student's teacher. Please sign up for your orientation time by Wednesday, August 15. Any families who have not selected a time by the deadline will automatically be placed into an available time slot.

Please plan to pick up a Family Handbook in the elementary school lobby. An administrator will be there to go over the Family Handbook and answer any questions that you may have. This is your chance to make sure you're up on the Two Rivers way before school starts. For middle school families, please stop by the gym before or after conferences to learn about the Family Handbook, after-school programming, and the My High School Search process.

Extended Day Program

Two Rivers has developed relationships with several aftercare providers to serve the Two Rivers community. Springboard provides on-site aftercare to students and families, and several local providers pick-up students at Two Rivers at 4th Street to transport them to their site for aftercare. These include Capitol Hill Arts Workshop After School Arts, Pilgrim Baptist Church After School Care, and Kingman Boys and Girls Club After School Care. After School All Stars provides after school programming for middle school students. More information about these programs can be found by visiting their websites of through the following phone number(s):

- **Springboard**
springboardkids.com
- **Capitol Hill Arts Workshop After School Arts**
chaw.org/yap-after-school-arts
- **Pilgrim Baptist Church After School Care**
(202) 547-1815
- **Kingman Boys and Girls Club After School Care**
kingmanbgc.org
- **After School All Stars**
afterschoolallstars.org

School Messenger Notification Service

Two Rivers uses a communication service called School Messenger that helps us notify families by phone and email about special events, unexcused absences, inclement weather, or other unplanned events. All families are automatically enrolled in this service. All Two Rivers families have an additional option to receive important information by mobile text alerts from our messaging service. If you subscribed last year (and your phone number has not changed), no further action is required. If you are a new family, an existing family that did not previously subscribe, or had a change in your cell phone number, you will receive a text message from School Messenger during the week of August 20 with instructions on how to enroll. You can opt in or opt out of this service any time. If you have any questions regarding School Messenger, please contact our Director of Operations, Gail Williams, at gwilliams@tworiverspcs.org or 202-388-1360. If you would like to learn more about School Messenger, visit their website at www.schoolmessenger.com.

Dismissal

Elementary school students dismiss at 3:15PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, our elementary school students dismiss at 1:15PM. If you are picking up your child from school, you will need to go to the classroom to pick them up. Students will not be sent to the front lobby. Please make every effort to be on time for pick up as our staff uses after school time for meetings and professional development.

School Lunch

Two Rivers is once again teaming up with Revolution Foods to provide delicious and healthy lunch options for your child. Visit revolutionfoods.com/in-schools to take a look at sample menus. Families are welcome to purchase lunch on a monthly basis. We've enclosed the school lunch order form for the first month of service and will begin accepting payment and forms on Monday, August 13. If you would like your child to receive school lunch on the first day of school, please return the form to the 4th Street Elementary School front desk with payment no later than Friday, August 17. Order forms for the upcoming months will also be available at the front desk on the first day of school.

Email Your Attendance Notes

If your child is absent, late, or will be picked up early, please be sure to notify the front desk by providing a written note or by email to 4ESattendance@tworiverspcs.org (for students in the elementary school) or 4MSattendance@tworiverspcs.org (for students in the middle school). Excuse notes must be submitted within 5 days of the student's return to school. Please also copy your child's teacher on the email. Be sure to provide your student's full name, grade level, teacher's name, and a brief explanation.

Medication Authorization

Maximize your time at the doctor's office! If your child takes prescription medication that the school will need to administer, you will need to have a Authorization for Medication Administration form filled out and signed by a doctor. This form can be found on our website: tworiverspcs.org/medical-forms. Hard copies are also available at the front desk. Please remember that these forms must be renewed every year; if you had a permission form for 2017-2018, you must have a new one on file for 2018-2019 in order for Two Rivers to administer the medication. The completed authorization form, along with your child's unopened prescription medication, should be dropped off at the front desk before August 17.

Medical & Dental Forms Due

Don't forget those medical and dental forms! All students must have current forms on file in order to return to school. If you have not already done so, please contact your doctor as soon as possible; many offices have significant delays in filling out school forms during August. Please note that Two Rivers must maintain up-to-date immunization records for all students and by law children are not permitted to attend school in the District of Columbia without updated immunization records. Forms are available on our website: tworiverspcs.org/enrollment and at the front desk. The Department of Health also requires that students entering grades 6 through 12 receive the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, or that their parent or guardian complete an HPV Opt-out Certificate. The opt-out certificate can be found on our website: tworiverspcs.org/medical-forms or at the front desk, should you choose not to have this vaccination. Families who opt-out must still have an annual physical and submit a Universal Health Certificate.

All medical forms are due no later than Friday, August 17 in order for your child to start school on August 27.

Transportation Task Force

The middle school's move to Young in 2020 offers exciting new opportunities, but it also might cause transportation challenges for some families. Last year, we created a family/staff task force to generate transportation solutions for our growing network of schools. We will update the community on the task force's work via the Trib as it unfolds over the next two years. If you are interested in joining the task force, we would love to have you - email isparks@tworiverspcs.org to sign up!

Document Translation Services

Two Rivers documents are available in multiple languages upon request. For translation services, please contact our Director of Operations, Gail Williams, at gwilliams@tworiverspcs.org.

El Manual de la Familia está disponible en varios idiomas bajo petición. Para servicios de traducción, por favor contacte a nuestra Directora de Operaciones, Gail Williams, en gwilliams@tworiverspcs.org. Para acceder al Family Handbook en nuestro sitio web, visite tinyurl.com/TRhandbook17.

See you soon!