

Tokata Learning Center 2023/24 Back to School Information

August 17, 2023

Dear Tokata Learning Center Families:

Welcome to the 2023/24 school year! We hope that you've enjoyed the summer and are just as excited as our team to start the school year on Tuesday, September 5th! A special welcome to all of our new students. We have over twenty-five new students joining our TLC family this fall!

The TLC mission is to facilitate **high quality learning** within a school community where...

Stories matter
Vulnerability is invited
Barriers are challenged
Strengths are discovered
and Students are celebrated

We recognize that the journey to a high school diploma for many students is not a straight path. With the support of a well-trained staff, in a small, welcoming learning environment rich with self-directed learning options, TLC programming is designed to empower students to become independent, respectful, and responsible learners on their journey towards graduation.

Partnering with the TLC

A strong school/family partnership is essential to helping your student be successful at the TLC. Here are a few important reminders to help strengthen our partnership:

- **Back to School Open House:** We welcome you to stop by at our back to school open house to say hi and review your student's Continual Learning Plan (CLP). Student CLPs serve as the roadmap to graduation and help identify academic goals for the school year.
- **Family/Teacher Conferences:** Save these conference dates: October 17th, December 7th, February 29th and May 2nd. We welcome you to attend our family/teacher conferences each quarter to stay informed about your student's school progress and experience. Conferences are held at the TLC from 3:30 - 7:30 PM.
- **Student Progress Updates:** At the end of each progress term (approximately every 3 weeks), the advisor will email you a short summary for your student's academic progress.. This is a great opportunity to engage in a conversation with your student and/or teacher about school successes and challenges.
- **Attendance:** Please notify the TLC if your student is going to miss any school. Our attendance phone number is: **952-496-5984** . This is not only important for accurate record keeping, but it is essential to help us identify what supports may be necessary to help students be successful at the TLC.
- **Teaming Requests:** We invite problem solving and family teaming. We see the best results with student progress when they are given an appropriate level of agency to make meaningful school decisions with a strong network of family and school support. You are invited to reach out to your student's **advisor** at any time for progress updates or to make a team meeting request. Likewise, we will reach out if necessary to garner more family support and input as we work to problem solve for student success.
- **Home Structure and Support:** Any structure and support you are able to provide at home to promote healthy sleep, nutrition, and positive decision making habits at home is extremely helpful to your student's learning. Check out this [TLC Parent Support Resource](#) for more parent support ideas.



TLC Updates



- **Remote Learning Days:** The TLC will follow the Shakopee School District calendar with the exception of eleven Remote Learning Days. Students will have designated work to complete at home on Remote Learning Days. Remote learning days occur at the beginning of each 3 week progress term and can be found on the [2023-24 TLC calendar](#).
- **TLC T-SHIRTS** - a special thanks to the HEART Ministry who provided free t-shirts to TLC students this school year as part of an effort to build a strong, welcoming school community. T-shirts will be distributed the first day of school during the TLC Orientation.
- **TLC Advisory** - one the primary improvement initiatives for this school year will focus on strengthening the TLC advisory model in an effort to build a stronger, more connected learning community through various activities focused on team building, goal setting, progress monitoring, problem solving, and community building conversations.
- **New TLC Staff** - the TLC is excited to have Ms. Jeni Mavetz and Ms. Linnea Schroeder join the TLC Staff this year. Ms. Mavetz will be providing special education services and instruction to TLC students who qualify and Ms. Schroeder will be providing English Language Learning services to TLC students who qualify. We are grateful to have them on our team.

We are requesting that families complete all back to school paperwork in a digital format prior to the below noted events. In this back to school packet, there is a QR code that will take you to all of the forms that need to be completed for the upcoming school year, as well as additional back to school details. All annual update forms can be completed online in Infinite Campus.

TLC Open House: We will also host an Open House on Tuesday, August 29 from 4:00-7:00 pm, where you can pick up your students schedule. This will be your opportunity to meet teachers and TLC Counselor Paul Kelly.

This year, we are excited to streamline our handbook process and will have a digital hub available September 1st for additional school procedures and important information. Look for a link with this information in your school email on/after September 1, 2023. Also, look for more information on our Saber Nation Station, which is a community/donation funded store where students can access critical items they need to eliminate barriers for success.

Please feel free to reach out to us to discuss any concerns, suggestions or ideas you have to make this coming school year a great one!

All the Best,

Eric Serbus
TLC Principal

Translation Support

SADO IBRAHIM, SOMALI CULTURAL FAMILY LIAISON: Wixii war dheeraad ah Kala xidhiidha Sado Ibrahim Wakiilka Idman ee Soomaalida 952.496.5883.

SVETLANA MSHAR, RUSSIAN CULTURAL FAMILY LIAISON: Если у вас возникнут вопросы относительно этой информации или вам понадобится объяснение на русском языке, пожалуйста, позвоните Светлане по телефону 952.496.5094 и оставьте ваше сообщение. Вам ответят на звонок вскоре. Спасибо!

LUPITA RAY-MORALES, SPANISH CULTURAL FAMILY LIAISON: Si usted tiene preguntas o le gustaría obtener más información sobre alguna de estas formas, por favor comuníquese con Lupita Ray-Morales at 952.496.5730 y deje un mensaje. Se le regresará la llamada lo más pronto posible. Gracias!

KRIS TRANG, VIETNAMESE CULTURAL FAMILY LIAISON: Xin kính chào quý vị! Nếu quý vị cần thông dịch viên hoặc có những thắc mắc gì cần giúp đỡ, vui lòng liên lạc qua điện thoại 952.496.5146, hoặc email ktrang@shakopee.k12.mn.us. Xin cảm ơn.