



## TAMARAC ELEMENTARY

### SCHOOL

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August 14, 2019

Dear Tamarac Tiger Family,

It is with great honor and enthusiasm to welcome you to the 2019-2020 School Year as your new Principall!! I come to Tamarac Elementary with over 24 years of experience in Broward County with nine of those years serving as a Principal at Lauderhill Paul Turner Elementary and last year I served as an Intern Cadre Director, working with several Principals throughout the district. As we begin this new school year, I hope each of you had a wonderful summer and are prepared for a fantastic new school year. I am looking forward to meeting all of the students, parents and community members at-large. My goal/our goal is to bring Tamarac Elementary back to an "A" School" and our theme this year is "Success Under Construction". I chose this theme because we will be building something here that in the end will be successful both academically and socially for all. I am confident that with your support and open/inclusive lines of communications the future is bright at Tamarac Elementary.

Upon arriving to campus, you may notice a few differences implemented to ensure we maintain safety as our number one priority. This letter will also serve as our first Community Newsletter, as **there will be some very important changes this school year that will need your immediate attention.** Please read the remainder of this in its entirety as it contains very important changes to the way we will be doing things at Tamarac.

Effective immediately: All faculty and students will wear ID badges while in school. To keep the student badges safe, your classroom teacher will hand out and collect them daily. If your child comes home with their badge, please ensure its safety and return it to school the following day. Students will incur a charge for re-printing if their badge is lost. **(This process may take about two weeks of school for full implementation).**

- All classroom doors will remain locked at all times
- All visitors must be processed through the STAR system (**parents and caregivers must bring a photo ID**)
- All perimeter gates will be locked at 9:05 am
- **New entrance for visitors and guests after 9:05 am, instead of coming to the gate on University, you will now come through the parking lot by the City of Tamarac Gymnasium and come to the visitor parking spaces on campus.**

- We have added additional staff for safety and security; we now have a full-time campus monitor and a new School Resource Officer Deputy Toussaint for the 2019/2020 school year.

If you attempt to enter the campus and the gate is locked with no staff member near the gate, please contact the front office at (754) 322-8600 and a staff member will come out to allow you onto campus. During the early dismissal process parents are still expected to bring their ID and sign their child out. Students will not be dismissed for early dismissal after 2:30 pm. **Students will not be released to anyone who is not on the registration card as an authorized pickup person.** I apologize for any inconvenience these processes may cause you or your family. Please understand these measures are necessary to ensure the safety of all students and staff at Tamarac Elementary.

- Parents with students participating in our VPK, ESE PRE-K program or the ASD class will have further instructions from their teachers during the Meet and Greet and first three days of school.
- Official adult school supervision begins at 8:30am but we do offer before care (starting at 7:30am) and aftercare (up to 6:00pm) through ASP. For information regarding before and aftercare, please call ASP at ....
- **You will be allowed to walk with your child/children to class on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the first week of school. Please be reminded that this is NOT the time to engage teachers in conversation, as they will be supervising their classroom. Please drop off your child at class, say goodbye, then exit the school and enjoy your day. On Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, students will begin their independence by walking to class themselves with the exception of VPK, Pre-K and Self-contained ASD students.**
- In addition to the monthly fire drills, we will also be conducting monthly code-red (lockdown) drills. I will inform the students, staff and parents prior to the drill. **Due to this, please make sure that all phone numbers, email addresses, home addresses, and emergency contacts are up to date with the school. The hardest part of our job can be the inability to reach a parent during an emergency.**
- Broward County Schools practice two (2) fire drills, one (1) tornado drill, and one (1) Code Red Lockdown drill during the first two weeks of school.
- Tamarac does not have a mandatory School Uniform policy. However, PTA does offer a variety of Tamarac uniform polo and t-shirts for purchase to make things easier on you. If not wearing a Tamarac polo or shirt, please have your child dressed in the appropriate clothing and shoes for school. Consequences can result for students out of dress code for school.
- Please understand that our commitment to safety and security is not only priority, it is state statute; and we will only be as strong as our own personal commitment to ensuring these are implemented with fidelity. I am asking for your patience, understanding, commitment, and willingness to keep Tamarac as safe and secure as possible.
- Volunteers have not been cleared and trained at this time. Once trained and cleared, volunteers must have a scheduled volunteer assignment. Parents/guardians/grandparents may not volunteer in areas where their child is present (classroom/cafeteria/special).

- In order to make your school year most productive, please access the **Broward School Parent Tool Kit** at <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/41096>. Here you will find a wealth of information regarding back to school, in addition to general information that relates to students and families. Please read all about volunteering at school at <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/32043>. You can also register online from this link.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*** To expedite the beginning of year paperwork, you can access the **Back to School Online Forms** portal at <https://scaweb.browardschools.com/bts/> and fill in the forms. To ensure you have completed every step, the final page you receive needs to be printed, signed, and brought to school and given to our IMT (Ms. Munoz). This form has a code that will enable our registrar to access the information and roll it in to our database, so please bring in the signature page as soon as possible.

I want to leave you with some general information that will positively assist you in navigating Tamarac Elementary.

- Websites
  - Broward County Public Schools – <https://www.browardschools.com/>
  - Tamarac Elementary School - <https://www.browardschools.com/tamarac>
  - Student Single Sign On (SSO) – <http://browardschools.com/sso> (see p. 6)
  - Online School Payments – <https://estore.browardschools.com/OSP/default.aspx>
- Students have at home all the online educational resources they have in school, including online textbooks and the *iReady* program, our online learning tool that supports the Florida Standards. Students access their own SSO Launchpad at <http://browardschools.com/sso>. I HIGHLY encourage you and your child to utilize iReady at home for Reading and Math. Please contact your teacher for more information.
- We also will be getting Worldly Wise i3000 – this is an online tool to assist with vocabulary development and is individualized to your child.

#### Upcoming Events:

- **Wednesday, August 14, 2019 - 1<sup>st</sup> day for students**
  - **9:00am – 3:00pm (doors open at 8:30am)**
- **Wednesday, August 28, 2019 – OPEN HOUSE**
  - **6:00pm (All grades)**
- **Monday, September 2, 2019, Labor Day, No School**

I look forward to the year ahead and attaining our: **Success Under Construction!!**

Educationally,



Richard M. Garrick  
Principal

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. The School Board also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Director, Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department & District's Equity Coordinator/Title IX Coordinator at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158.

Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, (ADAAA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158.

## **ACCESSING SINGLE SIGN-ON (STUDENT)**

1 – Enter <http://browardschools.com/sso> into the URL bar

2 – Find the purple tab titled Register Now / Login

Click link to be directed to login page

USERNAME – 10-digit student number beginning with 06

PASSWORD – Pmm/dd/yyyy

ex. Birthdate of Jan 1, 2004 = P01/01/2004

## **ACCESSING DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS**

1 – Log into SSO as STUDENT (same directions as above)

USERNAME – 10-digit student number beginning with 06

PASSWORD – Pmm/dd/yyyy

ex. Birthdate of Jan 1, 2004 = P01/01/2004

2 – Find the APP titled – ONLINE STUDENT TEXTBOOKS

Click on app

3 – Find the tab on the left side of the screen titled HOME

Below HOME is ELEMENTARY – click on ELEMENTARY

4 – You should now be on the webpage that is titled ELEMENTARY TEXTBOOKS

At the bottom of the screen is Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

5 – Click on the subject area you want – then scroll below to find your child's grade level

Click on the student book link

## **AM / PM CAR LOOP PROCEDURES**

This serves as a friendly reminder about our procedures for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up in the main car loops. There is no student drop off in front of the school on University Drive. The loop in front of the main office is for buses only. Late arrivals must park and parents must sign students in the front office. To be proactive and ensure that everyone knows the procedures and we create the safest environment possible, please adhere to the following:

### **AM DROP OFF NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE CAR LOOP:**

- **Please drive through the loop slowly. The car loop is single lane only. Students should be exiting vehicles on the side closet to the curb for student safety.**

- Please use the car lane closest to the school for drop off and pick up; the outer lane is a thru-lane for the parking lot – stopping to let off your child puts them in danger of being hit and you by causing a potential collision. Students should exit the car from the door closest to the sidewalk, not from behind the driver
- Upon arrival, please pull to the end of the driveway, or up to the car in front of you
- **PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING YOUR CELL PHONE / TEXTING WHILE IN THE CAR LOOP**
- DO NOT EXIT the car; your child should be the only one exiting
- Please do not drop off students in the parking lot
- Please refrain from conversations as this is the time to drop off only; if you have a concern, or need to assist your child with something (i.e. sign an agenda), please park in the lot – DO NOT remain in the car loop as this stops traffic. Please walk your child across the parking lot to school – do not let them walk alone.
- Do not weave in and out of the lanes unless directed to do so – this will eventually end up in a collision
- After your child exits, please exit the car loop in a safe fashion and have an excellent day 😊

#### **PM PICK UP:**

- Please use the car lane closest to the sidewalk for pick up
- Upon arrival, please pull to the end of the driveway, or up to the car in front of you
- **PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING YOUR CELL PHONE / TEXTING WHILE IN THE CAR LOOP**
- DO NOT EXIT your car; we will assist your child if needed
- Please refrain from conversations as this is the time to pick up only; if you need to speak with the teacher, please park in the lot – DO NOT remain in the car loop as this stops traffic
- After your child enters the car, please exit the car loop in a safe fashion and have an excellent day 😊

If we follow the procedures set forth, TES will continue to remain a safe and secure school, especially during our drop off and pick up times.

#### **Things parents can do to help:**

- When dropping off students for ASP (After School Programs), do not park in the fire lane or in assigned parking spaces at the front of the school.
- It is against FL State Statutes to mix buses and cars. **Please do not attempt to drop off students in front of the school.**
- **There is no supervision on campus prior to 8:30 AM.** DO NOT drop off your child prior to that time unless they are enrolled in ASP's before care program.
- **School is dismissed at 3:00. All children should be picked up no later than 3:15. The front office closes at 3:30.** After 3:30, there are no "on the clock" personnel remaining to supervise children. ASP is the only staff on campus and they only take students who are registered to their program.
- All changes in dismissal must be communicated in writing to the child's teacher. No changes may be taken over the phone as we cannot identify the caller's identity.
- Please be patient with staff. We will always err on the side of caution for the safety of a child.

Thank you very much for your assistance!! ☺

## **PROCEDURES FOR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

- Please provide proper ID for the STAR process.
- This celebration is to provide a sweet treat for your child and his/her class. Please do not bring lunch food (i.e. pizza, Chick-Fil-A, etc...) to feed the class.
- **Items given out to children must be store bought and brought to school unopened.**
- Please provide either cupcakes, donuts, or cookies. Sheet cakes and ice cream are not permitted. Also, please provide plates and napkins for the students.
- Do not bring candles, balloons, games, and goodie bags.
- Students that are in your child's class are the only recipients of the birthday treat.
- Privacy is highly protected, so please do not take pictures of other students, as it is a direct violation of the FERPA law (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). Please visit <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html> for more information.

## **UNIFORM POLICY: UNIFIED DRESS CODE**

**Tops:** White, burgundy, hunter green or royal blue polo-style. Students may also wear TES spirit T-shirts.

**Bottom:** Navy or Khaki slacks, plaid, khaki, or navy shorts, skorts, or jumpers. **Regular blue jeans on Fridays only.** (No baggy or oversized jeans).

**Shoes:** Athletic shoes are recommended, however. Students must follow School Board Policy regarding footwear. Students may not wear backless shoes.

**Belts:** Required for pants or shorts with belt loops.

As per school board policy no backless shoes, no hats, bandanas, or other head coverings, no sunglasses. Please see the student code of conduct for clarification.

### **On Cold Days:**

Dress code must be adhered to everyday including cold days. Students may not wear sweat pants, jogging pants or another non-uniform pant. Uniform shirt still need to be worn, sweatshirts and jackets are allowed. During the cold weather season jeans may be worn, but you will be given a parent link or note from the school. Long sleeve shirts may be worn under a short-sleeved uniform shirt.

Waivers for sincerely held religious beliefs only, may be requested during the first 10 days of school.