



## CTMS NEWS

Community & Teamwork Motivate Success  
September 6, 2020



### UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS:

#### September

- 9/2 School Closed Labor Day  
9/8 First Day of School for Students Cohort A In School Cohorts B & C Remote  
9/16 BOE Working Meeting  
**9/17 Grade 6 - Back-to-School Night, 6:00-7:15 PM \*Note the prior date published was incorrect**  
9/21 BOE Meeting 7:30 PM  
**9/22 Grade 7 - Back-to-School Night, 6:00-7:15 PM \*Note the prior date published was incorrect**  
Grade 8 - Back-to-School Night, 7:30-8:45 PM  
9/28 School Closed: Observance of Yom Kippur

#### Welcome Letter and First Day Information

Grade 6: [Sixth Grade Welcome Letter 2020-21.pdf](#)

**Grade 7 Message:** Welcome to 7th grade! We are looking forward to a great year! In order to start the year, please ask your student to complete the following before Tuesday morning:

Log in to [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com) with your school account.

For each class that you've been invited to, click Join.

1. Please check PowerSchool for student schedules. The students in school and at home should have a printed copy or handwritten copy available for the first day. Google classroom invites were sent via student email. Students are welcome to join, but please do not work on any of the assignments. If students are unable to join the classroom prior to school, teachers will assist all students on the first day. If a schedule should change over the weekend, we will help students adjust their classrooms.
2. Make sure the student's Chromebook is fully charged.
3. If you are coming into the building, make sure you have your mask, hand sanitizer, pencils, agenda, Chromebook, Chromebook case, and Chromebook charger.
4. If you are learning at home, please make sure to have a pencil, agenda, and a productive working area.

**Grade 8:** Teachers in each cohort sent out individual log in instructions for Google classroom. If you did not receive the instructions please reach out to you child's homeroom teacher

#### Links to Virtual Visitation Day Videos

 [6th Grade Welcome 2020.mp4](#)

 [7th Grade Welcome 2020.mp4](#)

 [8th Grade Welcome 2020.mp4](#)

**Chrome books:** Student chromebooks have been distributed, along with chargers.

- If you did not collect a chromebook your child will be issued one at school on Tuesday if they bring the Device Usage Agreement Acceptable signed by parent and the child.
- **No chromebooks will be issued without the return of the [Device Usage Agreement](#) form signed by a parent and the child.**
- If your child is in Cohort B or C please call the main office to arrange a time to pick up a chromebook

for your child.

- Should you need assistance, there are several options available
  - You may view tutorials on the Health site [here](#) or on the Resources page on that site.
  - You may submit a tech ticket request at [parenthelp@ctsdnj.org](mailto:parenthelp@ctsdnj.org)
  - All students are able to log into their school account on a home computer. The steps for signing in can be found [here](#).
- Student login information was sent home Thursday, via School Messenger. If you did not receive this, please contact [parenthelp@ctsdnj.org](mailto:parenthelp@ctsdnj.org).

### **Arrival and Entrance into School/Screening**

- The district will be utilizing Qualtrics platform to pre-screen students and staff daily prior to your child entering the school.
- This pre-screening platform is our district's first phase to maintain the health and safety of our children, faculty and staff. It is imperative that you complete this prior to your child's arrival to school.
  - Screening must be completed by 7 AM for CTMS.
  - Failure to complete the screening will result in contact from your school. Your child will be isolated in a supervised, respectful, designated holding area in the school. Parents will be required to come to school to collect their child and then complete the pre-screening
- Students will use designated doors for entrance and exiting
  - Grade 6: Side gym entrance
  - Grade 7: Main entrance
  - Grade 8: Vestibule entrance near the gym
- Students will wear face coverings while on the bus, exiting a car, and moving to their classroom
- Buses:
  - Students will exit the bus when directed by a staff member
  - Students will exit the bus in order from closest to the door.
- Car Drop Offs:
  - No children may be dropped off at the buildings without directly interacting with a staff member for verification.
  - Students will remain in the car until screened by a staff member and cleared to enter school
  - Students who are symptom free will then proceed to the classroom
  - Students who indicate a fever or symptoms will be sent home

### **Dismissal**

- All students and staff will wear face coverings during the dismissal process.
- Walkers will be dismissed first. Students must have completed a parent approval form for their child to be able to walk home from school. If a friend is to walk home with a student both parents must have sent in a signed letter stating the date the students is allowed to walk to the friends house.
- Buses will be called individually
  - Students will stay in their room until their bus number is called
  - Students will exit the building following the same routes to their bus
  - A staff member will be assigned to each bus and will load the bus from the back via assigned seats
- Pick Ups
  - Cars will line up on the hill between CTMS and SRS facing towards Grayrock Road
  - Parents please place a large card with your child's last name visible on the windshield of your car. The staff will call students to the carline based on this information
  - Staff members will use a walkie-talkie to direct students to their cars

- If your child has not arrived at the assembly point when the rest of the carline is ready to move you will be directed to the side parking lot to wait for the arrival of your child.
- Students will assemble in the cafeteria or outside if the weather permits
- Staff will monitor and regulate traffic patterns for student safety
- Cars will exit via Grayrock Road

**Health and Safety:** Please do not send your child if he/she is sick.

- Each morning you will need to fill out a Qualtrics survey that will be sent via email to indicate your child's health status. This will also be used to indicate other absences, in lieu of "early alert" and any changes to automatic dismissal for the day.
- Please make sure to update your emergency contact information.
- The health office "suite" will include areas for those showing possible symptoms of Covid 19 to isolate from others. Isolation rooms have been identified and students will be separated from the greater population until collected by a parent or designated adult.

**School Supply Lists:** [CTMS Supply List link](#)

The items below are in addition to those already posted on the website

**ALL STUDENTS in the A and B Cohorts** should bring the following items to school each day:

- A face covering worn into school.
- A spare face covering stored in a plastic bag, and shield if desired
- A small **paper** bag to put their face covering inside during mask break.
- A small bottle of hand sanitizer
- A small package of tissues
- Appropriate layers of clothing for outdoors
- Individual supplies. Students will not share equipment or supplies
- A water bottle



**Bus Information:** Transportation issues may be directed to Ms. Carmella Shaw at 908.236.7235 ext. 521 - [cshaw@ctsdnj.org](mailto:cshaw@ctsdnj.org)

Bus Information has been sent home with routes and times.

- Please remember that the first week of following the bus routes always has kinks to work out.
- We will send out an alert if there is a significant delay in your bus times.
- Masks must be worn on the bus at all times (unless medically exempt)
- No eating or drinking on the school buses.
- Students are not permitted to ride a different bus than assigned.
- Students are permitted to get off their own bus at a different stop, if we have a written note from both the sending and receiving parent/guardian. A bus pass will be given to students in the main office.

Appropriate behavior is expected at all times on the bus. Please review the following bus rules with your child before they ride the bus:

- 1) Be respectful - Respect and follow the driver's instructions.
- 2) Be safe - Stay in your seat, keep your seat belt on and face forward until the bus stops completely.
- 3) Be kind - Please keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- 4) Be polite – Use manners and talk quietly.



**Back to School Night:** We look forward to working with you as your child either begins or continues his/her educational journey at Clinton Township Middle School! Please mark your calendar for a Virtual Back to School Night on September 17th for Sixth Grades and September 22nd for Seventh and Eighth Grade. Additional details will follow.

**Communication:** In the event of an emergency school closing or unexpected situation, parents will be notified via phone and email through the Clinton Township School District (CTSD) alert system. Valuable information is shared on the CTSD website at [www.ctsdnj.org](http://www.ctsdnj.org).

**CTMS: Main Office Number 908 238 9141**

**CTMS Interscholastic Sports Program and Ski Club 2019-20:** \_At this moment no Fall Sports are planned. We will keep you updated as to the feasibility of the seasons as the time progresses.

The District weekly update can be found at the following link: [CTSD Weekly Update](#)

**Guidance:** The guidance offices will be relocated to larger areas to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines. Counselors will develop protocols for individual and group counseling ensuring social distancing considering social distancing.

Mrs. Mueller: 8th grade (A-L) and all of 7th grade

Mr. James: 8th grade (M-Z) and all of the incoming 6th grade.

**Health Office:** The health office “suite” will include areas for those showing possible symptoms of Covid 19 to isolate from others. Isolation rooms have been identified and students will be separated from the greater population until collected by a parent or designated adult.

**Parent Portal:** Parent Portal is live for the 2020-2021 school year. If you already have a Parent Portal account, you can access it at <https://ctsd.powerschool.com/public> and may disregard the rest of this message. Parents who need to set up an account and/or add students should read below.

**LINKING CODES:** Whether you are creating a new account or adding students, you will need the access ID and password linking codes for each student (you will get a copy of this email, with unique codes, for each child). While you only need one parent account, the codes are specific to each student.

STUDENT NAME: XXXXXX ACCESS ID / ACCESS PASSWORD: XXXXXX

**PORTAL ADDRESS** Browse to the Portal at <https://ctsd.powerschool.com/public>.

#### **IF ADDING A STUDENT TO AN EXISTING ACCOUNT**

1. Log in to the portal with your existing account.
2. Click **Account Preferences** in the left-hand menu.
3. Click the **Students** tab at right.
4. Click the blue **Add** button.
5. Enter the student's full name, Access ID and Access Password, and select your relationship to the student from the drop-down.
6. Click the blue **Submit** button.

The student can now be accessed from your account by clicking their first name in the blue bar under the PowerSchool logo.

#### **IF CREATING A NEW ACCOUNT**

1. Click the **Create Account** tab.

2. Click the blue **Create Account** button.
3. Enter your (parent's) first name, last name, email, username, and six-character long password.
4. **Be sure to record the username and password! This will be your login information.**
5. Link your student(s) using the fields under **Link Students to Account**; you will need their name, Access ID, Access Password, and your relationship to the student.
6. When finished click the blue **Enter** button.

At the login screen, enter the username and password from step three and you will have access to the Portal.

Additional information regarding the Parent Portal can be found on the district's website at [http://ctsdnj.org/resources/parent\\_resources/parent\\_portal](http://ctsdnj.org/resources/parent_resources/parent_portal).

If you encounter any problems or further questions, please email [parenthelp@ctsdnj.org](mailto:parenthelp@ctsdnj.org)

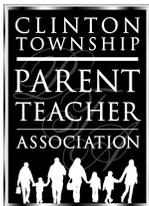


## CTMS Daily Schedule

7:40-7:55      Arrival  
 7:55-8:10      Health Screening & Homeroom  
 8:10-11:50    Academics: Five 40 minute sessions  
 11:50-12:05   Ending Period & Dismissal  
 12:05-1:30    Travel home and lunch  
 1:30-2:30      U. Arts- Instrumental & Choral Music, World Language, Support Services & Teacher Office Hours

|                             |               |         | ALL GRADES  |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------|---|
| Homeroom                    | 7:55-8:10     | 15      | SUBJECTS:<br>ELA<br>MATH<br>SCIENCE<br>SOCIAL STUDIES   |
| Period 1                    | 8:10- 8:50    | 40      |   |
| Movement Break              | 8:50-8:55     | 5       |   |
| Period 2                    | 8:55- 9:35    | 40      | One Unified Art focus for one marking period<br>Art<br>Tech Apps<br>General Music<br>Physical Education/<br>Health<br>21st Century Skills |
| Movement Break              | 9:35-9:40     | 5       |   |
| Period 3                    | 9:40-10:20    | 40      |   |
| Movement Break              | 10:20 -10:25  | 5       |   |
| Period 4                    | 10:25-11:05   | 40      |   |
| Movement Break              | 11:05 - 11:10 | 5       |   |
| Period 5                    | 11:10-11:50   | 40      |   |
| Ending Period and Dismissal | 11:50-12:05   | 15      |   |
| Travel and Lunch            | 12:05-1:30    | 85      |   |
| PM SESSION                  | 1:30-2:20     | Virtual | U. Arts lessons<br>Support Services<br>Teacher Office Hours   |

**(subject to modification)**



## Welcome back from the PTA!

Hello everyone, it's been a while! The PTA Executive Board warmly welcomes our students, their families and our dedicated teachers to the 2020/21 school year. We are especially excited to "meet" our newest students - our preschoolers at Spruce Run School, our Kindergarteners at Patrick McGaheeran School, and our older students who may be new to the district, or attending any one of our schools for the first time.

This is definitely not our typical start to the school year, but the Board is embracing the opportunity to think outside the box and be flexible, as we work on finding fun virtual alternatives to some of our traditional PTA activities. Watch this space! We even have a couple of new events in the works that we hope our students will love.

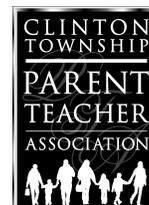
The best way to stay informed of the latest PTA news is to ensure you are registered on [our website](#), where you can find our calendar, family directory, event & fundraising flyers, PTA store, and much more! As our flyers will not be back-packed home this year, registering is the only way to ensure you receive all of our important communications throughout the year. If you're a returning family, please log on and take a moment to ensure your family information and directory preferences are both up to date. If you're a new family, please take the time to register. And of course, you can always find us on [Facebook!](#)

We hope you will consider renewing your [PTA membership](#) for the 2020/2021 school year, or joining us for the first time, to support our activities throughout the year. The need to maintain flexibility in our calendar means that our print calendars will not be offered this year. Likewise, as we are currently unable to safely distribute print directories through our traditional channels, our family directory may be accessed only online, with an active PTA membership. All volunteers at PTA-sponsored events and activities must be current members of Clinton Township PTA.

Good luck to everyone - students, parents and teachers alike - navigating this new version of school, 2020-style, whether in person in one of our buildings, or remotely from a cozy nook in your home!

### Meet your 2020/21 Executive Board!

**Jason Kiefer, President:** Jason is a stay-at-home dad, who moved to Annandale village in 2005. He has been an active PTA leader since 2015, and has a 5th grader at RVS. As President, he oversees the administration of the Clinton Township Parent Teacher Association. Jason may be contacted at [ctsdpta@gmail.com](mailto:ctsdpta@gmail.com).



**Christina McGuinness, VP Events:** Christina is a Senior Vice President at TD Bank, and President of the Clinton Township Foundation for Educational Excellence. She has a 2nd grader at PMG and a 6th grader at CTMS. As VP of Events, she oversees all PTA student events and PTA-sponsored assemblies within the District. Christina may be contacted at [cmcguinness4@aol.com](mailto:cmcguinness4@aol.com).

**Sandy Engelhardt, VP Fundraising:** Sandy works as a lunch recess aide at PMG, and has volunteered for the PTA for three years. She has a 1st grader at PMG, and 3rd & 5th graders at RVS. As VP of Fundraising, she oversees all PTA fundraisers within the District. Sandy may be contacted at [sjengelhardt28@gmail.com](mailto:sjengelhardt28@gmail.com).

**Trish Eosso, VP Volunteers:** Trish works full time as an Informational Technologist for Citi Bank. She is an active member of the Clinton Township Foundation for Educational Excellence and a board member for The Soccer Academy of NJ (TSANJ). Trish has 3rd & 5th graders at RVS. As VP of Volunteers, she oversees our team of grade level coordinators, classroom celebrations & Staff Appreciation, coordinates volunteer recruitment, and presides over the Nomination Committee to fill open leadership positions in Spring. Trish may be contacted at [pamo\\_10@hotmail.com](mailto:pamo_10@hotmail.com).

**Sameca Montesdeoca, Treasurer:** Sameca has lived in Clinton Township for more than 16 years, and has a high school freshman and 3rd & 4th graders at RVS. She manages all financial aspects of the PTA. Sameca may be contacted at [ctptatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:ctptatreasurer@gmail.com).

**Jen Chinn, Corresponding Secretary:** Jen is a stay-at-home-mom who moved to Annandale from South Jersey with her family in 2018, and has a 7th grader at CTMS. She manages all external PTA correspondence, maintains our PTA member email database, PTA website & PTA Facebook page, and publicizes PTA events & fundraisers. Jen may be contacted at [ptaannouncements@gmail.com](mailto:ptaannouncements@gmail.com).

**Angela Pearly, Recording Secretary:** Angela works as a substitute teacher in the District, and has a 4th grader at RVS and a 6th grader at CTMS. She records and distributes minutes at all PTA meetings, and prepares final copy with President's signature for archiving. Angela may be contacted at [angelapearly@hotmail.com](mailto:angelapearly@hotmail.com).

**What is Membership Toolkit?** Membership Toolkit (MTK) is the [online home of Clinton Township PTA](#). Registering with MTK is not the same as joining the PTA. MTK is the platform the PTA utilizes to provide valuable information on our events and activities; to offer updates on our fundraisers; to communicate with our families; and to offer PTA membership and other purchases - all with the convenience of a single online home.

Once registered, you may:

- access additional content just for our families
- complete your database information and designate your directory publishing preferences
- join our PTA (and pay annual dues), if desired
- access our online directory (*for current PTA members only*)

How to register with Membership Toolkit?

To register as a new user:

1. Click [here](#).
2. Register with your preferred email address.
3. Proceed to "My Account" > "My PTA".
4. Add your Family Information.
5. Select your Directory Publishing Preferences.

For existing users:

1. Click [here](#).
2. Sign in with your existing email & password.
3. Proceed to "My Account" > "My PTA".
4. Update your Family Information.
5. Select your Directory Publishing Preferences.

Questions? Contact [ctptamembers@gmail.com](mailto:ctptamembers@gmail.com).

### **PTA Community Discount Card**

Typically, your PTA raises funds throughout the school year to support our events, activities, assemblies, staff appreciation, enrichment opportunities, and more. The Executive Board has given a great deal of thought to this year's fundraising program, and has decided to proceed with fundraisers that provide a service to our families and/or support the local community. We recognize that many families may have experienced

economic hardship during the pandemic, and we fully understand that not all are currently in a position to participate. We balance that knowledge with our responsibility to ensure that the PTA remains adequately funded, both for this year and for future years.

With this in mind, we are delighted to announce our first 2020/21 fundraiser is the relaunch of our Community Discount Card, designed to support local businesses in their recovery, as well as our families, by providing specific discounts and deals to popular local merchants. Full details can be found [here](#), and cards may be purchased through the [PTA store](#) on MTK, and will be distributed via US Postal Service. We are grateful to the local participating businesses for their support, and we ask that our families consider patronizing them whenever possible.

### **How can you get involved?**

There are a variety of ways in which you can get involved with Clinton Township PTA. Most importantly, [please consider joining the PTA](#) to support our activities and events all year long. Your \$10 annual membership dues help support educational enrichment assemblies, a variety of student and family virtual activities, as well as Science Night and Gallery Time (our parent-led art enrichment program), and our annual Staff Appreciation Week activities.

An even easier way to financially support our PTA is to shop through the AmazonSmile program. Simply select Clinton Township PTA (21234) as your charitable organization when you shop at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) for the same product selection and same prices you would see at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). At no cost to you, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to our organization. Click [here](#) to select Clinton Township PTA as your default charitable organization.

You can also support the PTA simply by showing up, to whatever extent you are comfortable with, and your personal schedule dictates:

- encourage your children to participate in PTA virtual events
- attend a (virtual) PTA meeting
- volunteer to help with a PTA-sponsored event or activity
- coordinate class celebrations as a homeroom parent
- chair an event, program or fundraiser
- become a PTA Executive Board member

Contact Trish Eosso, VP of Volunteers, at [pamo\\_10@hotmail.com](mailto:pamo_10@hotmail.com) to find the right fit for you.

Finally, we invite you to participate in our fundraisers. Offered throughout the year, we work hard to bring you appealing and useful fundraisers that benefit the PTA with a portion of proceeds - from our Community Discount Card, to our Scholastic Book Fair; from Charleston Wrap paper & gifts to Gertrude Hawk spring chocolate; from our clothing drives to our annual Tricky Tray.

For all the ways in which our families, teachers and community support Clinton Township PTA, we thank you! We couldn't do it without you.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Wednesday, September 16, 7:00pm - PTA meeting (via Zoom)

Wednesday, October 21, 7:00pm - PTA meeting (via Zoom)

Monday, October 26 - Fall homeroom celebrations (virtual)

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00pm - PTA meeting (via Zoom)

Wednesday, December 16, 7:00pm - PTA meeting (via Zoom)

Monday, December 21 - Winter homeroom celebrations (virtual)

*\* Check our [calendar](#) often, as more events will be added as logistics are finalized!*