

TonkaOnline

Tonka Online K-8

Issue #1 | September 24, 2021

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Greetings, Tonka K-8 Families!

The air is beginning to feel crisper, the leaves are changing colors, and the sun is going down a little earlier each day--fall is officially here! We are also finishing up our third week of school and getting to know your amazing students!

Research from the Minneapolis Search Institute has found that when "young people experience strong developmental relationships across different parts of their lives, they are more likely to show signs of positive development in many areas" including:

- increased academic motivation
- increased social-emotional growth and learning
- increased sense of personal responsibility, and
- reduced engagement in a variety of high-risk behaviors



Thank you for your support these past few weeks and the opportunity to serve your student(s) and your family.

With Gratitude-
Nicole Snedden, Ed.S. (NBCT)
Tonka Online K-8 Program Coordinator

Important Dates

- **Sept. 13- Oct. 8** - NWEA Testing - information will come from your student's teacher regarding dates and times.
- **Sept. 27** - Spirit Week! See information below.

- **Sept. 28-** Curriculum Night - links will be shared by teacher
 - 4:30pm - 5:00pm Grade 1
 - 5:30pm - 6:00pm Grade 3

 - 6:30pm - 7:00pm Grade 5

- **Sept. 30** - Curriculum Night - links will be shared by teacher
 - 4:30pm - 5:00pm Grade K
 - 5:30pm - 6:00pm Grade 2

 - 6:30pm - 7:00pm Grade 4

- **Sept. 30-** Material Pick Up (District Service Center)
- **Oct. 1** - 2 hour early release; Homecoming
- **Oct. 11 -Oct. 24** - Virtual Scholastic Book Fair K-8
- **Oct. 14** - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4pm-8am
- **Oct. 15** - Parent/Teacher Conferences 8am-4pm
- **Oct. 21 & 22** - No School; MEA
- **Nov. 4** - Material Pick Up and Picture Day! (District Service Center)
- **Dec. 2** - Material Pick Up (District Service Center)

Attendance Line

952-283-8127

Family Helpdesk

952-401-5123
familyhelpdesk@minnetonkaschools.org

District Service Center

952-401-5000

Spirit Week!

Next week marks Homecoming in Minnetonka Schools. As a way to celebrate our district and Tonka Pride, students are invited to participate in our daily events, described below. Please note, this is optional for students. *Kindergarten families-students are working on their 2nd week of colors, and therefore their events will focus on colors.

Monday - Pajamas Day (Kindergarten - **Blue**)

Tuesday - Tropical Tuesday (Kindergarten - **Purple**)

Wednesday - Wacky Wednesday (Kindergarten - **Black/White/Silver** - any/or- all of these)

Thursday - Sports Day (Kindergarten - **Pink**)

Friday - Tonka Pride or wear Blue (Kindergarten - **lots of colors or your favorite** color)

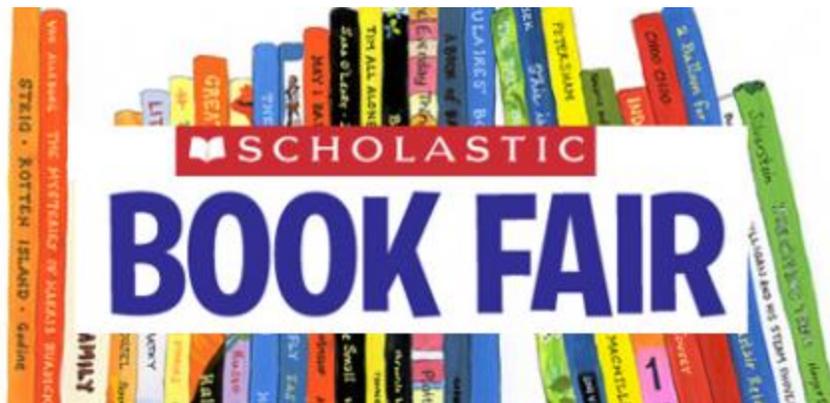


Skyward

Entering Absence Requests

If you know of a future absence for your student(s), you can complete an absence request in Skyward by following the steps below:

1. Go to Skyward and click on Attendance from the left column.
2. From Attendance, click on Enter Absent Request.
3. From here, each of your children will be listed. Click on Add Request for the child you are entered an absence for.
4. Enter Start Date – Time, End Date – Time and the Reason and optional Comments



Tonka Online is excited to be offering our first Scholastic Book Fair! It will be held **online this fall**. The virtual event starts Monday, **Oct. 11**, and runs through **Oct. 24!**

The fair will feature:

- An entirely virtual Book Fair experience where students and families can browse nearly 300 titles by grade.
- Direct access to over 5,000 additional titles with family-friendly prices.
- Rewards for our school (Tonka Online), with 25% of sales going toward new books for our program.
- FREE shipping on book-only purchases over \$25. Shipping takes 7-10 days.

More information to come in the upcoming weeks!

Material Pick Up

Material pick up will take place again at the Minnetonka District Service Center (5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka 55345) on:

- **Thursday, September 30** - 10am-2pm
- **Thursday, November 4**- 10am - 2pm (*This is also picture day!)
- **Thursday, December 2**- 10am - 2pm

Thursday, September 30 Pick Up - Please review the list below to see what material, if any, you will have for this pick up date. Grade levels listed indicate material will be ready for pick up.

- Kindergarten
 - 1st Grade
 - 2nd Grade
 - 4th Grade
 - 5th Grade
 - K-5 Spanish Language Supplemental Experience
 - K-5 Chinese Language Supplemental Experience
 - 6th Grade Language Arts
 - 7th Grade Language Arts
 - 7th Grade Science
-

Pictures



Mark your calendars for **Thursday, Nov. 4!**

*Note, this is also a material pick up day.

Strawbridge Studios will be sharing more information via email in the upcoming weeks regarding how to purchase your student's pictures online. Watch for an email from me with the information. If you are unable to attend this date, we will accept a head shot photograph for your student which will be included in our yearbook. More information to come regarding the yearbook.

Child Tax Credit Program

The IRS is working with schools throughout the country to help inform parents about advanced Child Tax Credit payments. The IRS says most families in the U.S. are automatically getting advance payments of the Child Tax Credit every month. To learn more and see if you qualify, visit the IRS website at:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e8f71feb/scoICOqrDoCrZgwBxqVoyw?u=http://www.irs.gov/childtaxcredit2021>

Volunteering Opportunities

Are you interested in being more involved? If so please consider signing up to volunteer this year in our Tonka Online K-8 Program. This might include reading to a class, virtual field trip support, planning and/or organizing programs, and more!

Click [HERE!](#)

2 Hour Early Release

On Friday, October 1, Minnetonka teachers will be participating in professional development across the district. The elementary and middle school day will end early. Please see the information below. More specifics will be shared with you from teachers early next week.

The elementary day will end at 12:40pm.

The middle school day will end at 1:55pm.