

# TYRRELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

### AUGUST 2010

#### From the Desk of Mrs. Tansley, Principal

As we look forward to the start of a new year, we must say good bye to Mr. Norcross. He will be assuming the Principal position at Frisbie School. Congratulations and best wishes are in order. Frisbie's gain is certainly Tyrrell's loss. Mr. Norcross has been loved by all members of our Tyrrell community. He will be missed. Fortunately, Mr. Simpson, our former guidance counselor, has been appointed as the new assistant principal at Tyrrell. Mr. Simpson will step in for an easy transition. I am personally very relieved to have Mr. Simpson as an assistant. His presence will make losing Mr. Norcross a bit less stressful.

Tyrrell students will have ten (10) extra minutes to sleep each morning. Our new Tyrrell School hours will be 8:00 A.M. to 2:25 P.M. After school activities and clubs will conclude at 3:45 P.M. This change in schedule was adopted to accommodate the busses that were unable to arrive at 8:00 A.M. due to the high school schedule. It was very stressful for students who rode these busses to arrive during or after morning announcements each day. I am very relieved to know that all students that ride busses will be arriving, on time, to be in their homerooms before announcements each day.

Students will begin school on August 30<sup>th</sup>. For the first time in several years we will be attending school for five (5) consecutive days for the beginning of the school year. Please refer to our website at [wolcottps.org](http://wolcottps.org) if you have any questions concerning the upcoming school year. Homeroom assignments will be posted at 2:00 P.M. on August 27<sup>th</sup> in the windows at the entrance to the school.

I look forward to the start of the 2010/2011 school year.

Mrs. Tansley  
Principal



#### September • October 2010: Save the Date:

- 8/30 – First Day of School
- 9/9 – Grade 6 to Camp Mataucha
- 9/17 – Author Visit – Eric Berlin
- 9/17-10/4 – Fundraiser Kick-off
- 9/28 – PTO Meeting – 7pm Auditorium
- 9/28 – Pictures – Grade 6
- 9/29 – Pictures – Grade 7
- 9/30 – Pictures – Grade 8
- 9/29 – Progress Reports
- 10/ 5 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- 10/ 14 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm



# Tyrrell Middle School Attendance Policy

## ABSENCES

Regular attendance is expected from all students. An "excused" absence is an absence due to an illness, injury, or other medical reasons, court appearances, family tragedies, death in the immediate family, religious obligation, an emergency, other exceptional circumstances, and serious family business. The school may also excuse absences for school approved educational experiences. A student's parent must verify an absence, either by telephoning the school's 24 hour automated attendance system at **(203) 879-8151, ext.1**, emailing the school's 24-hour address at TMS Attendance@wolcottps.org, or writing a note and submitting it to the Main Office during school hours. Absence verification must be completed within two (2) days of the student's return to school. Any absence not verified within two days will be considered "unexcused". A student who is absent from school may not participate in any school-sponsored activities that day or night. A student exceeding fifteen (15) days of absences will be considered for retention (5113a). The total of excused and unexcused absences is to be used in applying the Board of Education Attendance Policy.

All absences from school must be verified by said child's parent/guardian within two days of the student's return to school. Any absence not verified will be considered as an instance of an unexcused absence. The total of excused and unexcused absences shall not exceed fifteen (15) classes or days per school year. Only absences due to Board of Education approved school activities or homebound instruction policy will be considered as exceptions to this rule. Under no circumstances will truancy or cutting of classes be sanctioned. If assigned make-up work is not turned in, after it is assigned for an excused absence, a grade of zero shall be assigned at the expected time. The expected time is one day absent one day to do make-up. If you are out two days, you get two days to turn in make-up work. Make-up work for truancy or class cutting is due within one day of its assignment. Any child enrolled in school shall attend school regularly and punctually. Any student, who is frequently tardy to school, shall be warned and reported to the parent/guardian. Penalties for tardiness shall be imposed via discipline referrals and grade reduction for frequent offenders. Exceptions to this policy shall include certain out-of-school activities approved by the school administration and Board of Education and prolonged absences which fall under the stipulations of homebound instruction policy. Official notice of such approved out-of-school activities shall be appropriately communicated to parents/guardians. In order to receive academic credit for a course or grade advancement, a student shall have earned a passing grade and shall be absent from class no more than fifteen (15) days from a full-year course or seven (7) days from a semester course. Absences will be prorated for courses meeting other than five periods per week. Absence from class for more than the required number of days will result in loss of credit for that class.

Students who exceed the allowable number of absences per this policy and who are passing the course may complete a full session of summer school in the particular subject area, at the students own expense if he/she wishes to attain credit and the course is available in the summer. The number of unexcused absences may not be greater than the number of summer school days. Students must complete the full session and pass the summer course in order to attain credit.

## **TARDINESS TO SCHOOL**

A student is tardy to school after 8:00AM. A student tardy to school must sign in at the Main Office and receive a pass to homeroom. A student habitually tardy to school will be subject to disciplinary action. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd tardy will result in a warning; the 4th, 5th, and 6<sup>th</sup> tardy will result in an administrative after-school detention, and the 7th tardy and everyone thereafter will result in in-school suspension. The school will notify parents (5113.11). Every 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy is recorded as an absence.



## **DRESS CODE**

In an effort to assist you while shopping for school clothes the dress code policy is defined below. Please read this policy carefully so that you can dress in accordance with the policy guidelines.

### **POLICY**

The dress code is adopted due to safety concerns and the need to preserve an environment conducive to learning. Therefore, specific items are prohibited because of their propensity for causing or contributing to injury or causing disturbances or distractions among students, thereby interfering with the classroom atmosphere and educational process.

The following attire is specifically prohibited from wear during the academic school day:

**Tops:** tank, fishnet, or halter tops; athletic style undershirts; undergarments as outer-garments; half shirts; tops that expose cleavage, the abdomen, back, chest, or underarm; see-through tops; bathing suits; coats, jackets, or attire normally worn as outerwear;

**Bottoms:** shorts or skirts that reveal the upper thigh; bathing suits; pajama bottoms; Spandex bottoms; undergarments as outer-garments; see-through bottoms, or bathing suits;

**Footwear:** sandals; flip-flops; slippery-soled shoes; excessively high heels; backless shoes; clogs; untied sneakers, or footwear that marks and/or damages floors;

**Accessories:** sunglasses; gloves; jewelry that poses a distraction or safety concern; head coverings of any kind, such as but not limited to scarves, bandanas, masks, kerchiefs, athletic headbands, hats, caps, or hoods; spikes or studded bracelets; oversized or multi-finger rings, belts, or chains;

**General:** attire that is sexually explicit, vulgar, lewd, indecent, or profane; attire that is frayed or torn; attire that depicts, advertises, or encourages the use of drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages; attire that relates to gang membership or gang activities; clothing, hair arrangements, or other personal adornments or embellishments that disrupt, distract, or interfere with regular school operations.

If a student violates the dress code, the student will be issued a verbal warning and immediately be required to make the change necessary. If the problem remains uncorrected or is repeated, the student will face disciplinary action (5132c).



## Tyrrell Clubs

The Board of Education has graciously awarded middle school students after-school programs for the 2010/2011 school year. Soon after school begins students will have the opportunity to participate in a club.

Students will be able to join one or more of the following after school clubs:

- **Chess Club**
- **Construction Engineering**
- **Dance**
- **Writing**
- **Homework tutorial** – Monday – Thursday 2:45-3:45) A certified teacher will be available to assist students with homework. Students must bring a note from a parent or call to inform parent they will be staying. The late bus will be available. Students staying for homework assistance will do so on a volunteer basis. Students will not be scheduled into this program.

The Writing Club, and Construction Engineering and Dance Team will meet approximately one (1) afternoon per week for most of the school year. Students will be able to sign-up to be a member of the club or team within the first three weeks of school. Students participating in most of these programs will have the opportunity to use the late bus as a means of transportation. The only exception is the Dance Team, where students traditionally meet until 5:00 P.M.



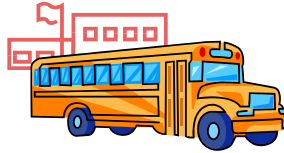
## Food Service Office

**The Food Service Offices have a nutrition book on file containing the nutritional information and ingredient list of the products that are served to the students. Parents are welcome to review this information. Please check with the food service manager.**

## Bullying & Harassment Policy Reminder

The Tyrrell Middle School community promotes and fosters respect for all. Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated in our school. According to state law, “bullying” means any overt acts by a student or a group of students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or intimidate the other student while on school grounds (or) at a school-sponsored activity, or on the school bus, which acts are repeated against the same student over time. If this is taking place, it should be immediately reported to a teacher, school counselor, or administrator. Parents and guardians of the involved students will be notified.

## SCHOOL BUS



Every child is assigned one seat on one bus. Students are not permitted to ride other buses. If students need to arrive at alternate locations in the afternoon or get on the bus at alternate locations in the morning parents are responsible for providing those modifications. Please understand that the safety of our students is our prime concern.

The safety of each student riding the bus is of the utmost importance. Therefore, individuals utilizing bus transportation must obey the driver, remain in their assigned seats, and keep body parts inside the bus. Students must refrain from throwing objects, eating or drinking, or causing any damage to bus company property. The Tyrrell Middle School administration reserves the right to suspend students from transportation services for up to 10 consecutive days for conduct that endangers persons, damages property, or violates a publicized policy of the Board of Education. In the case of a bus suspension, the student's family is responsible for providing transportation to and from school.

**The Wolcott School system will be using Worhunsky Bus Transportation Company again this year; if you need to contact them they are located in Terryville, Worhunsky Corporation – phone # 860-283-0922 or # 203-879-1334.**

## SCHOOL HOURS

**8:00 A.M. - 2:25 P.M.**

## **PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL**

Please make sure you park near the auditorium and gymnasium entrance to Tyrrell when you are dropping off your child at school or picking up your child in the afternoon. This will help keep cars and buses from interfering with one another during the busiest times of the day. Thank you for your help and for keeping student safety a priority.

## **Request for Early Dismissal**

If it is necessary to pick your child up from school prior to dismissal at 2:25 P.M. you must send a note with your child notifying us of your intended arrival time. **The student must bring this note to the office prior to the start of the school day.** He/she will be issued a pass to come to the office so they will be waiting for you at the designated departure time.

If someone other than a parent will be picking the child up please include the name of that individual and a telephone number where you can be reached if we need to contact you.

## **Electronic Devices**

No student shall possess or use paging devices, cell phones, personal music devices, DVD players, or laser pointers. If a student is found to be in possession of an electronic device, it will be confiscated. Any electronic device that is reported stolen **will not be investigated by the administration** based on the premise that the device was prohibited from student possession in the first place.

## WEAPONS/DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of all students and school personnel in school and at school sponsored activities, the Board of Education prohibits student possession and/or use of a weapon, a reasonable facsimile of a weapon, or other dangerous instruments in any school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school sponsored activity. Violation of this policy may be a violation of criminal law and may be reported to the local law enforcement agency. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to a recommendation for expulsion.

Weapons/dangerous instruments will be defined as any article or substance which is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

## WOLCOTT PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEBSITE

Most information that is pertinent to Tyrrell Middle School can be found on the Wolcott Public Schools website, <http://www.wolcottps.org>. Please utilize this site to access our student handbook, staff directory complete with email addresses, and sports schedules.

## PTO NEWS

Please plan on attending the first PTO meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 P.M. in the Tyrrell auditorium.

PTO Meeting Dates: September 28<sup>TH</sup>  
October 26<sup>th</sup>  
November 23<sup>RD</sup>  
January 25<sup>th</sup>

February 15<sup>th</sup>  
March 22<sup>ND</sup>  
April 12<sup>th</sup>  
May 24<sup>th</sup>



The PTO fundraiser will be **Yankee Candle/Gift Wrap**. This will run from **September 17<sup>th</sup> through October 4<sup>th</sup>**. Please plan on participating. The money raised from this endeavor funds numerous cultural programs for our students as well as providing funding for field trips and the Washington trip in Grade 8.

## PROMOTION POLICY

**Please note that the following promotion policy is in effect:**

A student may fail no more than (1) major subject (reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, world language) per academic year. Furthermore, a student may fail no more than one (1) enrichment subject (art, band, chorus, family & consumer science, music, physical education, technology education, etc.). An 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student must pass reading, writing, and mathematics to be promoted to the high school (5123a). The final decision for promotion will rest with the principal who will make his/her decision (5123).

