



TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

HOCO 2021 was a resounding SUCCESS! I would like to thank all of our parents, community members and TCHS staff for helping to make this week so special. Our District and facility contractor, Culpepper Engineering, pushed hard to get our courtyard, awnings, stadium and facilities ready for wonderful Homecoming events...we are truly thankful for their energy and efforts.

Beginning next week there will be adjustments to our Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up location as our gate systems begin to come online. Please review the attached information on this and other important topics (Early Dismissal Forms, Food Drives, Free Tutoring, etc.) to help your Toro have a great day at TCHS.

Important Updates and Announcements:

- **Homecoming Dance** – Saturday, October 30th
 - 7:00 pm to 9:30pm in the TCHS Courtyard (last dance played at 9:30pm)
 - Students MUST have a digital or card ID
 - Tickets – **No Tickets sold at the door**, Students must bring their TCHS ID and your ticket. You can bring a physical ID, or your Digital ID. If you bought your ticket online, your receipt will be your ticket.
 - Desserts and Refreshments Provided
 - Parking – Student parking Lot
 - Drop-Off/Pick-up – Bus Loop
 - No Re-Entry policy enforced
 - Bag and Security Checks will be conducted
- **2021 Midterms/Finals** - Midterms and Finals will take place between December 16 – December 21. District-created midterms/finals cannot be taken early. You will either make-up the midterm Tuesday, December 21st after the 7th period exam or when we return from winter break. Please click the link below for the detailed midterm/finals schedule. [2021 Midterm Exam Schedule](#)
- **Fall Food Drive** - TCHS has partnered with St. Johns Technical High School for a fall food drive. This will be a first period class competition. The winning class will earn a catered breakfast from Canopy Road Café. The drive runs Nov. 1-Nov. 12. Best Buddies and National Honor Society have partnered up to organize this event.
- **Early Student Dismissal** – [Please review HOW TO CHECK YOUR STUDENT OUT EARLY](#)
 - **Students are not to be picked up/checked out after 3:00 pm on M,T,TH,F and not after 2:00 pm on Wednesdays unless a Pre-Dismissal Form has been completed.**
 - **Completing the [EARLY DISMISSAL FORM](#) allows your student and teacher to be informed of the need for check-out AND makes the process fast and easy for all parents (especially when in a hurry) IMPORTANT – If you do not use the [EARLY DISMISSAL FORM](#), then there will be a delay (at times 10-15 minutes) in getting your student from class.**
 - **Dismissal at Lunch**- If you need to check your child out during their lunch time please be patient. You are welcome to text your student upon arrival to the school to help speed up the process. Please know that you will still need to come into the school to sign out your child and show proper identification. If you have any questions about attendance, please use the link below. <https://www-tchs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/attendance/>

- **Parent drop-off/pick-up** - Locations will be shifting **NEXT WEDNESDAY** to the middle of Buildings 1 and 5 as soon as our awnings and student entrance gates are installed. When this occurs, students will use this entry point (gates will open at 7:45am) when getting dropped off/picked up, waiting areas for loading/unloading will occur in front of the gym and the front doors of the school will be no longer be used during these times. We ask for your patience and understanding while this portion of our school opens, students learn new pathways and drivers learn new protocols. As always, cellphones should be off/not used while entering the drop-off/pick-up loop to allow for 100% focus on student and driver safety.
- **Robotics Club Takes Off** - Thanks to generous donations from parents, the community, Faver Gray, Home Harbor Financial, Pragm4tic, and most recently the award of the INK Grant sponsored by Community First CARES Foundation the Robotics Club at TCHS is ready to step up their game with competition level robots. Mr. Brux, Academy of Leadership in Emerging Technologies teacher, has been hosting over 30 students twice weekly while they learn how to build, code, and operate robots all in preparation for the first competition in November.



- **Free Tutoring** -National Honor Society tutoring is available during Toro Time, after school Wednesday, and before school Thursday. Toro time tutoring for this coming week is canceled due to behavior expectation chats.
- **Congratulations to the NHS 2021-2022 Officers** - Front left-right: Caitlin Lasswell- Treasurer, Brandon Almaria- Co-President, LilyRose Sarchie Cassamassima-Co-President Back left-right: Kristin McKay-Secretary, Peyton Braden- Vice President of Scholarship, Isabella Hall- Vice President of Service



Respectfully,

Jay Willets

TCHS HAS PARTNERED WITH ST. JOHNS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL TO PROVIDE 75 FULL THANKSGIVING MEALS TO FAMILIES IN NEED IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY

THANKSGIVING
FOOD DRIVE

ITEMS NEEDED:

MASHED POTATO MIX	GREEN BEANS
MINI MARSHMALLOWS	CANNED YAMS
MAC AND CHEESE (BOX)	GRAVY
FRENCH FRIED ONION RINGS	RICE
CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP	STUFFING
CRANBERRY SAUCE	CANNED CORN
CRYSTAL LIGHT AND KOOL AID PACKETS	

FIRST PERIOD COMPETITION
WINNING CLASS RECEIVES CANOPY ROAD BREAKFAST
WINNERS WILL BE THE CLASS WITH THE HIGHEST PER STUDENT AVERAGE

ORGANIZED BY BEST BUDDIES AND NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Help us WIN the High School Toys for Tots Collection Competition!
October 25 - December 3
Donate packaged toys to collection bins found in the Main Office or The Hub

Rules on Type of Toys:
-Toys must be new and unwrapped
-Clothing, food, and toy guns (including nerf guns) are not accepted

Each packaged toy donated gives you one entry into the drawings for prizes. Simones will be catering lunch for the top donors.

Free Ticket:
Come out on Nov 23 to either the Home Basketball Opening Game, or Boys Soccer Game and receive FREE Admittance when a toy is donated!

Save the Date

- Nov. 1 – 5 Auditions for Musical Theatre –“Amalie”
- Nov. 6 Band Competition @ Ridgeview High School
- Nov. 15 Picture Retake Day
- Nov. 17 General Arts Booster Meeting 7:00 – 7:30 pm in the Hub
- Dec. 11 Midterms Begin [2021 Midterm Exam Schedule](#)
- Dec. 15 General Arts Booster Meeting 7:00 – 7:30 pm in the Hub

Toro Week at a Glance

- Monday 11-1** Spring Musical Auditions Begin, Toys for Tots and Food Drive
- Tuesday 11-2** SAC Meeting 8:10 am in The Hub
- Wednesday 11-3** Toro Expectations – Juniors and Early Release
- Thursday 11-4** Toys for Tots and Food Drive
- Friday 11-5** Home Football Game – TCHS vs. Pedro Menendez High School
Spring Musical Auditions End

Athletics Calendar

5	November, Friday	7:00 PM	Football (11 man)	VR	Menendez (St. Augustine)	TCHS Stadium	Non-District
6	November, Saturday	TBA	Cross Country, Boys	VR	TBA - FHSAA Regional		Post Season
6	November, Saturday	TBA	Cross Country, Girls	VR	TBA - FHSAA Regional		Post Season

INTERESTED IN TCHS TRACK & FIELD?

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
3:55 PM
CAFETERIA

**~BOYS & GIRLS~
PLEASE JOIN
COACH MCAFEE
FOR AN INTEREST MEETING.**

ALL PROSPECTIVE ATHLETES MUST COMPLETE THE ATHLETIC CLEARANCE PROCESS AND BE CLEARED PRIOR TO TRYOUTS AND PARTICIPATION. [CLICK HERE FOR INSTRUCTIONS](#) OR SEE COACH MCAFEE.

Please review the following information and weekly reminders:

Picture Day – Picture Day was Monday October 11th through student English classes. Picture makeup day is **November 15**. To order pictures, please use the following link <https://new.leonards.com/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=/Codes.aspx> Access code: C559724

TCHS Clubs – Virtual Club Rush week has officially ended, and activities will begin soon. Please be sure to have your Toro get dates, times, and locations of their selected club to put on family calendars. If your Toro is still interested in joining a club, click on the [Clubs-Tocoi Creek High School-2021-2022.pdf](#) to find out more about each club, talk to the sponsor or look for announcement posters around the school.

Parent Drop-Off/Pick-Up – When dropping off/picking up students in the front of the school, we ask that all drivers fill in the gap in front of your vehicle to allow all available loading/unloading space to be used. **If you are passing a vehicle in front of you, please use your blinker to indicate a lane change.** The front of the line begins at the edge of Building 5 (Gym) where the Toro Student Drop-Off sign is placed. Thank you in advance for pulling forward to help our line move more efficiently.

Yearbooks – TCHS Yearbooks are on sale! Order your inaugural yearbook at discounted pricing before we sell out.

- 10/01/21 - 11/30/21 \$70.00
- 12/01/21 --02/14/21 \$80.00
- 02/15/21 - Sold Out \$100.00
- Order at: <https://buytheyearbook.pictavo.com/PictavoSchool/FindSchool> School ID: 700659

Drivers Education Courses – TCHS is pleased to collaborate with The St. Johns County Tax Collectors Office to provide drivers education courses to our students. Please visit [SJCTC DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM – St. Johns County Tax Collector \(sjctax.us\)](#) or <https://sjctax.us/student-driver-education/> for more information.

Attendance - We are excited to share that our TCHS Attendance Page is now available on our website. This page will allow you to upload all early dismissal and absentee information digitally, including doctor's notes, so there is no need to turn in any documents to the front office due to an absence. This is the "one stop shop" for everything attendance and is compatible with any computer or phone.

[Please Click Here to Access the TCHS Attendance Information Page on our School Website](#)

After turning in information to the TCHS attendance page, please allow 48 hours for us to process information in HAC. We sincerely appreciate your patience as we work to help you and your student. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the front office at (904) 547-4260 if there is anything that you need.

Tardies – Students who are late to school (not in 1st period by 9:20am), or in their scheduled classroom after the warning bell and class start signal, then they are to report to offices in Bld 1 (first floor) and Bld 4 (first, second and third floor) tardy kiosks where they enter their student ID or scan their digital/hard ID to receive a tardy slip to class, this tardy will automatically be uploaded to HAC attendance.

Lockers and Textbooks – If your Toro did not select a locker yet, please have them report to the Deans Office with their selections.

TCHS Gear – Visit the OFFICIAL [TCHS Toro Team Shop](#) to purchase your spirit gear! Go Toros!

COVID Protocols – TCHS has implemented all COVID mitigation protocols that are standard at all SJCS D school sites. For more information please review the [SJCS D Health and Safety](#) updates.

PE Uniforms – Our PE Department is in contact with Baker Sporting Goods to work through unexpected supply chain challenges. Distribution will continue as orders come in along with in-person sales, online sales are currently open on [SchoolPay.com](#) or students can bring in cash/check directly to their PE/HOPE. *What if the uniform doesn't fit?* Coaches will assist in sizing/swapping uniforms as needed and if a specific size is not available, a student may bring in a pair of shorts/t-shirt until orders are fulfilled.

Breakfast and Lunch Services – Want to know what your Toro is eating throughout the day? [PayPams](#) will be used to load your student's lunch account, view balances and check to see what type of "feed" your Toro is eating. Students are REQUIRED to use their digital/hard ID when checking out to assist with line movement.



Student Life

TCHS Arts News



Please see the attached for membership information and Arts Account registration [Click Here for Document](#)

Nov. 1 – 5	Auditions for Musical Theatre –“Amalie”	
Nov. 6	Band Competition @ Ridgeview High School	
Nov. 17	General Arts Booster Meeting	7:00 – 7:30 pm in the Hub
Dec. 15	General Arts Booster Meeting	7:00 – 7:30 pm in the Hub

Please follow us on Facebook @ Toco Creek Arts

Would you like to learn more about becoming a sponsor for your Toro Arts Programs? Please see the attached [sponsorship letter and form](#) .

Would you like to purchase ad space in the All Arts “One Toro” Playbill. Please complete the attached form along with your payment. This can be dropped off for Mrs. Lay at the front office, or with your student's Arts teacher. [Play Bill Sponsorship Form](#)

<https://www-tchs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/arts/> You can reach us by emailing: TocoiArtsBooster@yahoo.com.

Student Club Life

Beaches Go Green Club - Last weekend Beaches Go Green sponsored a community cleanup in Jacksonville's Riverside neighborhood. This is from the News4Jax website (link here: <https://www.news4jax.com/positively-jax/2021/10/03/hundreds-of-volunteers-pitch-in-to-clean-up-banks-of-st-johns-river/>)

In two hours, 273 volunteers collected 56 bags of trash, 16 bags of recyclable material and 4,426 cigarette butts. The event contributed \$17,325.24 in volunteer hours and trash abatement to the city. More than 10 local schools sent volunteers including students from Mayport Middle School, Ponte Vedra High School, Nease High School, Bartram Trail High School, Mandarin High School, Toco Creek High School, Fletcher High School Greenwood School, Episcopal School of Jacksonville and Bishop Kenny High School.

Happenings at The Hub

All 9th grade English classes have started working on a research project. Classes are coming to The Hub to learn research skills including choosing valid sources, avoiding plagiarism, making a works cited page, using databases, and the importance of picking an interesting topic. For more research help please visit our website at <https://www-tchs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/research/>

Did you know that ALL TCHS students and staff have access to eBooks and digital audiobooks through our library? Click [here](#) to learn how!

The Hub website has a lot of helpful information and more is being added each day. Please visit it at: <https://www-tchs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/>

Toro Athletics

Are you wondering how you can purchase tickets for any athletic event, bookmark our [TCHS Athletics Page](#) for future game schedules, purchases and specific sport information.

**INTERESTED IN TRYING OUT FOR
TCHS WINTER SPORTS?
DATES ARE BELOW**

Girl's Weightlifting	10/11	7:30 am	TCHS
Competitive Cheer	10/13	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	TCHS Gym
Girl's Soccer	10/18	4:00 pm	Mill Creek
Boy's Soccer	10/18	4:00 pm	Mill Creek
Girl's Basketball	10/25	4:00 pm	TCHS
Boy's Basketball	11/1	4:00 pm	TCHS
Wrestling	11/8	4:00 pm	TCHS



*ALL student athletes are required to complete the Athletic Clearance process prior to any participation.
Instructions are available by visiting the following link:
<https://www-tchs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/athletics/clearance/>

School Advisory Council

Our second School Advisory Meeting (SAC) will be held on the first Tuesday of each month, in the TCHS Media Center “The Hub”.

Date: 11/2/21

Time: 8:10 AM

Facilitators: Mr. R. Bruns & Mr. J. Cabrera

Location: TCHS Media Center, 2nd floor of Building 1

Guidance Corner

The School Counseling Department is excited to welcome a third counselor to our team! Mrs. Blount will be taking over students with the last names A-G. Mrs. Gibbs will shift her caseload slightly and take over working with students with the last names H-N. Mrs. Smith will continue working with students with the last names O-Z. All of the counselors contact information and appointments links are listed on the TCHS School Counseling website here: <https://www-tchs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/>

Students interested in Dual Enrollment should plan to attend our upcoming Dual Enrollment information sessions. Sophomores should plan to attend during Toro Time on 11/3/21 and Juniors should plan to attend on 11/10/21. Interested students are encouraged to check out the Dual Enrollment section of our website (<https://www-tchs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/dual-enrollment/>) prior to signing up. Student planning to attend the assembly should sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/r/4ScU9T5yXB>

Rachel Blount's Tocol Introduction:

Hi, my name is Rachel Blount and I joined TCHS on 10/18. I absolutely love it here! I have been a School Counselor for 7 years. Most recently I was at Gamble Rogers Middle School, here in St. Augustine. Before that I was at Gruening Middle in Eagle River, Alaska. I lived in Alaska for 27 years, and in North Carolina for 12. I moved to St. Augustine in 2019 and am looking forward to making Florida home. The winters here are the best! I have a 5-year-old daughter named Amina, and 4 stepchildren: three boys and one girl. Along with the two dogs and cat, it's kind of like the Brady Bunch in my home.

I look forward to meeting you all and being a Toro!

Guidance – Visit our [Guidance Services](#) page to find out how to connect with our school counselors about schedules, college planning or counseling services.

Bright Futures – New rules regarding [Bright Futures Scholarship Service Forms/Rules](#) are posted on the District Web Site and will be available in the TCHS Guidance Services office.

Additional School and District Information

TCHS Café News

Dear SJCS D Families,

As a result of COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing nationwide disruptions to manufacturing, supply and distribution channels and it is impacting our school meal program. In short, we're having trouble getting foods, supplies and staff to support our program. Your student(s) may notice that we're serving different items than we've served in the past or different items than were listed on the menu. This situation is something that school districts across the country are experiencing. We are doing our best every day to come up with solutions to these challenges.

To reduce the demand on our supply chain and accommodate current staffing levels, the St. Johns County School District will **return to normal food service operations on Wednesday, December 1, 2021**. Students who qualify for free or reduced meals based on direct certification or a family income application will continue to receive meals at no or reduced costs. Students who are not eligible based on income will return to a **PAID status**.

Beginning today, October 25 through Tuesday, November 30, families are encouraged to complete the family lunch application if they feel they qualify for free or reduced cost meals. Applications are located on the SJCS D Website at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/free/>, your student's school or the Food and Nutrition Services Office located at 3015 Lewis Speedway, Building 7, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Eligibility status is protected by very strict disclosure regulations. Students use a PIN or Student ID in the serving line. The student's eligibility is private throughout the transaction.

If your student(s) attend(s) a Community Eligibility Program School, there is no need to complete an application. All students will continue to receive no cost meals through the end of the school year. These schools are as follows: Webster Elementary, Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary, South Woods Elementary, Mason Elementary, The Transitions School, Gamble Rogers Middle School, Murray Middle School, Sebastian Middle School and St. Johns Technical High School.

Beginning Wednesday, December 1, 2021 Meal Prices will be:

		<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
Elementary:	Paid	\$1.25	\$2.80
	Reduced	\$0.30	\$0.40
Middle/High:	Paid	\$1.25	\$2.95
	Reduced	\$0.30	\$0.40

Prepayments into student lunch accounts can be made by using PayPams. The link to this service is located at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/paypams/>.

We will continue serving our students a variety of nutritious foods. While there may be some menu changes, please know that we will strive to meet nutrition guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). We will also continue to accommodate students with special diets and allergies. We appreciate your patience and understanding. If you have questions, please contact the Student Nutrition Services Department at 904-547-8931.

Sincerely,
Sean Prevatt
Director of Food and Nutrition Services

School and District COVID Protocols

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The DOH has adjusted the student quarantine guidelines as of yesterday. There has been information sent out via the news stations but I wanted to communicate it clearly to you so that you understand your choices if you are notified that your child is a close contact of a positive COVID individual.

On 9/22/2021, the Department of Health has updated their emergency rule (64DER21-15) to include student quarantines.

1. *Student quarantines: (3)(a) Parents or legal guardians of students who are known to have been in direct contact with an individual who received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 **may choose one of the following options:***
 - a. *Allow the student to attend school, school-sponsored activities, or be on school property, without restrictions or disparate treatment, so long as the student remains asymptomatic; or*
 - b. *Quarantine the student for a period of time not to exceed seven days from the date of last direct contact with an individual that is positive for COVID-19.*

Based on this new ruling, you have a choice whether to quarantine your child or not, if they have no symptoms. Below is the new email communication that you will receive notifying you of your choices if your child is a close contact:

We have been advised that your child, [student name], has potentially been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual on [exposure date]. In accordance with the FL DOH Emergency Rule, you may choose to keep your child home to quarantine for a period of time not to exceed seven days. Your child does not need to seek COVID-19 testing or produce a negative test result to return to school tomorrow if he/she is without any symptoms.

If you choose to keep your child home to quarantine, please call the District COVID Support Team at 904-547-8230 to report your child on quarantine.

If you have health-related quarantine questions, we have set up a quarantine call line at 904-819-1101.

To be clear, if your child has NO symptoms and is on quarantine, they may return to school if you choose. This begins today. If you choose to quarantine, you need to contact the District COVID support team and report that you are opting to quarantine your child. This also begins today.

Due to this change in policy, it is more important than ever to monitor your child for symptoms and keep them home if they are not well. We want students to be in school learning and we also want children healthy and safe. We are in this together and will continue to work together to navigate this new normal.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have any questions, please call 904-547-8230 for further clarification.

Sincerely,

SJCSD Administration