**9.12.2021**

**Greetings Sherman Families and Community:**

I sincerely hope your student had a great first week at school! We were so happy to have everyone back in the building, making connections and starting a new year of learning. Welcome to our Kinder students for your first official day of Kindergarten tomorrow!  Here are a few important updates for you:

COVID HEALTH AND SAFETY:
We understand that parents may have questions about how we are working to keep children safe in school during the pandemic. Our district continues to follow state and local guidance, and each school also has a Covid supervisor to ensure health and safety protocols are followed. Each school also has its own Covid safety plan to address any unique building needs.

At Sherman as your principal I am the Covid Supervisor. Our office Coordinator Sarah Paskett is our alternate supervisor.  If you have questions about our school and Covid, please contact either one of us. We are happy to talk with you.

BEYOND THE BELL:  Are you looking for information about child care, clubs, sports, field trips? Families can register now for [Beyond the Bel](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/nvvfLzH2oTkzw97m48lYGQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjH7o1P0RFaHR0cHM6Ly9zaGVybWFuLnRhY29tYXNjaG9vbHMub3JnL3Byb2dyYW1zLWFjdGl2aXRpZXMvYmV5b25kLXRoZS1iZWxsVwdzY2hvb2xtQgphOLWGPmHjix_cUhhzcGFza2V0QHRhY29tYS5rMTIud2EudXNYBAAAAAE~)l and find "Pay What You Choose" activities at all elementary and middle schools.  Everything is all in one place. Go to our school’s website or the [TPS Family App](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/YizAn5SR9jLIESMXdV11sQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjH7o1P0QbaHR0cHM6Ly9mYW1pbHkudHBzYXBwcy5vcmcvVwdzY2hvb2xtQgphOLWGPmHjix_cUhhzcGFza2V0QHRhY29tYS5rMTIud2EudXNYBAAAAAE~) to register. Beyond the Bell programs are for elementary schools, and Club beyond is for middle school activities.

MUSIC UPDATE FROM MRS. CRAMER: I’m excited to be back in the school building this year!   My primary goal in music is to keep students safe. With the concerns about COVID and singing, we are ordering singing masks for each students but until they arrive, there will not be any singing by students in music class.  I have maximized spacing so that there is [5 feet between students in a row, and 5 feet between staggered rows](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/PGR6E0nXJSSeYBsx3WmeWQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjH7o1P0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPUhRN3MzTGNsSm0wJm1hbD0wZWFmMGNiZmQ5M2Y2ODFkMDc0YTlkNWEzNjA2MDA1OGFmNDc5MDllNTU0ZGUwOTA5N2RhODZiMmVjY2ExY2I1VwdzY2hvb2xtQgphOLWGPmHjix_cUhhzcGFza2V0QHRhY29tYS5rMTIud2EudXNYBAAAAAE~).   Before we begin singing, we will send an update.   If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at pcramer@tacoma.k12.wa.us.

BIRTHDAY GOODIES: As part of our Covid safety guidelines, we are unable to have cupcakes or similar food items consumed in the classroom.  Your student’s teacher will communicate with you regarding potential alternatives to in-class foods.  Thanks in advance for your understanding.

PTSA TEA: Join the PTSA for a [Welcome Tea](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/-6c2_ovogpS2_pqaJfUsYQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjH7o1P0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPUhRN3MzTGNsSm0wJm1hbD1mOWJkOWY5MDQxZjEzOTRlMDBkOTY4MzU1ODkxODlkNGQzMDQ0YTE4MTZjMzk3NWMzYjZjZWY1YzJlMjRhYzJmVwdzY2hvb2xtQgphOLWGPmHjix_cUhhzcGFza2V0QHRhY29tYS5rMTIud2EudXNYBAAAAAE~), Monday, Sept 13th, 9:00 - 9:30 am.  Parents and Guardians are invited to join us in Welcoming the new school year.  Hot beverages and treats will be provided in the playground-covered area.  This is an opportunity to meet and connect with members of our Sherman Community and celebrating the start of a new school year.

PTSA SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING: The Sherman PTSA will be hosting their first [PTSA General Meeting](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/s2Uu-BhLEhJiGYT2k-3LMA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjH7o1P0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPUhRN3MzTGNsSm0wJm1hbD00Mjk3ZmU0MDRhMDc5Nzg4MDgzZWQ3YzQwYzNkN2FlYTJlNjgyMmM4NGQ1MjhhNDU4NDgwMjM0NDY0YWVlOGRjVwdzY2hvb2xtQgphOLWGPmHjix_cUhhzcGFza2V0QHRhY29tYS5rMTIud2EudXNYBAAAAAE~), Tuesday, Sept 14th, at 6:30 pm.  This meeting will be hosted both virtually on Zoom and in person at Jane Clark Park.  For links and details please visit the PTSA website at [www.ShermanPTSA.com](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/JmUeOfZRdjrpLsNBcDcs9w~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjH7o1P0QaaHR0cDovL3d3dy5TaGVybWFuUFRTQS5jb21XB3NjaG9vbG1CCmE4tYY-YeOLH9xSGHNwYXNrZXRAdGFjb21hLmsxMi53YS51c1gEAAAAAQ~~).

VOLUNTEERS: We are ready and pleased welcome volunteers welcome back in schools. As always, volunteers must participate in a screening and background check. They must also follow all health and safety guidelines, including wearing a mask and social distancing. And this year, volunteers must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and show proof of that vaccination.  Please contact your teacher for volunteer opportunities and contact Michelle Paschich in the main office for Volunteer Forms.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION OPPORTUNITIES:  More [free school immunization](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/IfcZV-nSCHx61DwAs4GL-A~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjH7o1P0Q_aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudHBjaGQub3JnL2hlYWx0aHktcGVvcGxlL2ltbXVuaXphdGlvbnMvZm9yLWNoaWxkcmVuVwdzY2hvb2xtQgphOLWGPmHjix_cUhhzcGFza2V0QHRhY29tYS5rMTIud2EudXNYBAAAAAE~) [and COVID-19 vaccination opportunities](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/PpR-l40cfd1R-nKJHmH3cA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjH7o1P0RKaHR0cDovL3d3dy50YWNvbWFzY2hvb2xzLm9yZy9kZXBhcnRtZW50cy9oZWFsdGgvY292aWQtMTkvdHBzLXZhY2NpbmUtZXZlbnRXB3NjaG9vbG1CCmE4tYY-YeOLH9xSGHNwYXNrZXRAdGFjb21hLmsxMi53YS51c1gEAAAAAQ~~) are now open to you and your family.   It’s so important to get those school immunizations complete. If your student received immunizations over the summer, make sure to update our school nurse. Students without required immunizations or a valid exemption will not be allowed to attend school, as the law requires.

A COVID-19 vaccine is not required for students to attend school, but they are available for free to those 12 and up, and that includes students and families. Get more details on the TPS website or in that Sunday newsletter coming to your email.

COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS:
We all need a little help sometimes. Tacoma Public Utilities wants our school families to know help is available for those struggling to pay utility bills. This includes expanded payment assistance, extended payment plans, and relief funds specifically available for renters. Contact the TPU customer service at 253-502-8600 or 800-752-6745.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Christian Jordan

Principal – Sherman STEAM Elementary