**9.19.2021**

**Greetings Sherman Families and Community:**

**I hope you were able to get outside today and enjoy the fresh air that this weekend’s rain has provided us with. Wishing you all a great start to the week. Please see pertinent updates below.**

**STUDENT COVID TESTING:** To keep others healthy, please keep your child home if they are sick, have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19. Starting Sept. 20, students who show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school can take a free, voluntary test to confirm whether they have the virus. Parents, you must give permission for your child to take the test.  Results will be reported back to you and the school within 24-48 hours, at which time appropriate quarantine and contact tracing protocols can start, if needed. Take a look as a young TPS student shows how easy it is to take the COVID test at school: [Story Detail - Tacoma Public Schools (tacomaschools.org)](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/3JMgMZleFaMB9iIwT2JNqw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjKPSzP0SjaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGFjb21hc2Nob29scy5vcmcvYWJvdXQvbmV3c3Jvb20vc3RvcnktZGV0YWlsL35ib2FyZC8yMDIxLTIwMjItc2Nob29sLXllYXIvcG9zdC9mcmVlLXZvbHVudGFyeS1jb3ZpZC0xOS10ZXN0aW5nLW5vdy1hdmFpbGFibGUtdG8tdHBzLXN0dWRlbnRzLWF0LXNjaG9vbFcHc2Nob29sbUIKYUAzwUdh494TWlIYY291cnRuZXlmbHlubjJAZ21haWwuY29tWAQAAAAB)

**SAFE WALKING ROUTES TO SCHOOL:** The City of Tacoma, in partnership with the Tacoma School District, is updating suggested walking route maps for elementary schools and wants to hear about your experience.[Visit the interactive web map from this flyer](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/y0J2e9AVu2AILqHfWkyLfQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjKPSzP0R1aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNvbS9tLz9zPWQyUDg3eWV2bGtRJm1hbD01OGVlMTE2Y2IwODYxOGM2MjFkZTAxNTNkN2M3MGI3MmM4NDVkZWQyMTk2M2NmY2ZmZTRjNThkZjIyZWRmMmFhVwdzY2hvb2xtQgphQDPBR2Hj3hNaUhhjb3VydG5leWZseW5uMkBnbWFpbC5jb21YBAAAAAE~) to tell them what works well, what is challenging, or what routes you think children should use to walk to school. Your feedback will help to identify suggested routes and will be used to inform future projects.

**STUDENT LEARNING DURING QUARANTINE:**Students who can’t attend school because they have COVID-19 or are required to quarantine will learn from home using lessons and support materials provided by their teachers. TPS has developed learning plans for various remote-learning scenarios - including small groups or entire classes - for students missing in-person school for up to 14 days. [Get more details on the learning plans here.](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/EqN1T3PPZm0cLxb7DsIJYQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjKPSzP0SRaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGFjb21hc2Nob29scy5vcmcvYWJvdXQvbmV3c3Jvb20vc3RvcnktZGV0YWlsL35ib2FyZC8yMDIxLTIwMjItc2Nob29sLXllYXIvcG9zdC9sZWFybmluZy1wbGFucy1pbi1wbGFjZS13aGVuLXN0dWRlbnRzLW11c3QtcXVhcmFudGluZVcHc2Nob29sbUIKYUAzwUdh494TWlIYY291cnRuZXlmbHlubjJAZ21haWwuY29tWAQAAAAB)

**CONTACT TRACING PROCESS:** Our district works in partnership with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to conduct contact tracing to determine if anyone may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.The health department determines who is a close contact and gives specific dates for isolation or quarantining and returning to school. The district then provides school principals with communications to notify the family of the student who is deemed a close contact.

* **Close contacts who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine unless they are symptomatic.** They are encouraged to get tested 3-5 days after exposure. If your student is identified as a close contact and is vaccinated, you must show proof of vaccination to your school to return to school.
**Close contacts who are NOT fully vaccinated are required by the health department to stay home for a total of 14 days past the date of exposure.** If you choose to have your child tested before they experience any symptoms and the test is negative, they must still quarantine for the entire 14-day period.

Those who are not close contacts, but have been in the same classroom or workspace as someone who is Covid positive, are also provided notifications when there is a positive case. Additionally, [TPS also publishes information on the district website each time there is a COVID case in a school or district office.](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/cmILCdU1Ja3izJMEBvfXCw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjKPSzP0Q5aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGFjb21hc2Nob29scy5vcmcvZGVwYXJ0bWVudHMvaGVhbHRoL2NvdmlkLTE5VwdzY2hvb2xtQgphQDPBR2Hj3hNaUhhjb3VydG5leWZseW5uMkBnbWFpbC5jb21YBAAAAAE~)

**LIMITED MENU ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL MEALS:**
Challenges with food supplies to schools continue to affect Tacoma Public Schools, as well as many other school districts both locally and across the nation.

What this means for TPS and student meals:

* School menus will be very limited for the near future
* Menu plans may change frequently and vary from school to school
* Meal accommodations are limited and may be delayed

[Get more details here.](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/jy7EjvvlkPMgdd7Zaqd6uQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjKPSzP0SWaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGFjb21hc2Nob29scy5vcmcvYWJvdXQvbmV3c3Jvb20vc3RvcnktZGV0YWlsL35ib2FyZC8yMDIxLTIwMjItc2Nob29sLXllYXIvcG9zdC9zY2hvb2wtbWVudXMtaW1wYWN0ZWQtYnktdGVtcG9yYXJ5LWZvb2Qtc3VwcGx5LWxpbWl0YXRpb25zVwdzY2hvb2xtQgphQDPBR2Hj3hNaUhhjb3VydG5leWZseW5uMkBnbWFpbC5jb21YBAAAAAE~)

**PTSA COSTUME EVENT: The PTSA has some surplus costumes to provide to families free of charge.  If you’d like to check out the costumes they have, please visit the PTSA at the Makerspace Garage Door on Friday, Sept 24th and October 1st @ 3:15 – 3:40.  Please remember that once classes are coming out of school, please avoid blocking the track for classes to get through beginning @ 3:25.**

**STUDENT LAPTOPS:**  Families, just a friendly reminder about the importance of bringing your laptop each day and making sure it is charged each evening.

**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.

**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.

Sincerely,

Christian Jordan

Principal – Sherman STEAM Elementary