



TIMES² Academy

THE EAGLE



Students Report, Buses Roll—Another year begins

The start of the new school year at TIMES² Academy was not typical. In the face of COVID-19 concerns, along with bussing issues, the Middle-High School opened its doors to partial in-person learning on September 14th, while the elementary school opened entirely remote. On September 22nd, the Ocean State yellow school buses finally traversed the city to transport 140 K–6 students and delivered them safely to waiting staff at the door for temperature checks and greetings from their classroom teachers.

Fast forward to the end of September and you would have seen K–11 students being assessed in reading, math, and science utilizing the new school-wide assess-

ment tool known as the NWEA. The entire faculty and specialists of TIMES² endeavored to assess all 727 either remotely or in-person, even stopping to school parents on how *not* to help their child take the tests. The final results of the beginning of the year testing will be shared with parents by the end of October and will be used by teachers to plan instruction tailored to the individual child's needs.

As we head into October, we will reach the half-way mark of the first quarter with progress reports being generated midway through the month. We can guarantee that our new normal will bring many opportunities to think outside the box when trying to meet

with families regarding student successes and challenges. TIMES² has proven time and time again that they have the fortitude to meet any challenge head-on to ensure the success of every child they teach.

The start of year also begins the implementation phase of the TIMES² Academy Charter Renewal process, which will include a visit from RIDE in the spring. Staff and faculty are working to implement new curriculum, a new assessment tool, and collect student work artifacts to add to the evidence that TIMES² is meeting all conditions needed to be renewed.

The 2020-21 school year promises to be one for the memory book. Stay tuned for more to come!

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Inside this issue:

A Message from the T ² School Counseling Department	2
A Letter from Andy Barnes, School Social Worker	2
NWEA MAP—New School Assessment Tool	2
Remote Learning Attendance and Truancy	3
Reporting an Illness	4
Farewell message from Mrs. Galloway	4
October Calendar	4

School announces positive COVID cases—an update

As you know, every division of The Academy has seen a case of COVID. Ms. Fisher and I, along with nurse Rachael Cassidy have followed protocols mandated by the state. Upon receiving notification from the Department of Health (DOH), our team went to work. We supplied the DOH with seating charts, student's schedule, and contact-tracing information. We also answered any other questions they had that centered around the positive case. We were charged with asking each teacher on the child's schedule their mode of teaching to deter-

mine exposure. The DOH examined all the information submitted. They let us know who would be quarantined and they would reach out to the families affected. In one of the cases, they could not reach some families. They notified us and we sent robocalls and emails, as well as standing at the door with the list of names. As we scanned temperatures, we kept an eye out for any student who may not have gotten the message. No one showed up from that list. This is a very stressful time and we are following every precaution.

Special points of interest:

- 55% of T² Elementary students have opted for in-person learning.
- 20% of T² Middle-High students are attending in-person

From the T² School Counseling Department

Important information for high school students:

1. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opens on October 1st for the 2021-2022 school year. The FAFSA needs to be completed for all seniors planning on attending college in the summer and/or fall of 2021. If you have questions regarding how to access and complete this form, please contact Rachel Kurek, our grade 9-12 School counselor, at rkurek@times2.org
2. College Crusade is hosting a "FAFSA Fall Fest" on Saturday, October 17th. This event is open to all seniors in Rhode Island and their families who would like assistance completing the FAFSA. The event will be held at Kennedy Plaza from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Please register at: <https://bit.ly/2Rw9GUd>.
3. The SAT, PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 will be held during the school day in October. All students taking the exam must report to school on the day they are scheduled to take the exam. There is no option to take the exam remotely.
 - ⇒ 12th, 11th, and 10th grade students will take the SAT or PSAT/NMSQT on Wednesday, October 14th. All students in these grades must report to school in person on this date. Information on the start and end time of the school day will be sent out shortly. On this day, all 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students will DISTANCE LEARN for the day and will not report to school in person.
 - ⇒ 8th and 9th grade students will take the PSAT 8/9 on Tuesday, October 27th. All students in these grades must report to school in person on this date. Information on the start and end time of the school day will be sent out shortly. On this day, all 7th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students will distance learn for the day and will not report to school in person.
 - ⇒ Students who have been distance learning will be placed in stable groups for testing and will not be testing in the same space as those students who have been attending school in person.
 - ⇒ Contact Rachel Kurek, our grade 9-12 School Counselor, with any questions regarding the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, or PSAT 8/9 at rkurek@times2.org
 - ⇒ Contact Chris Darigan, our grade 6-8 School Counselor with any questions regarding students in grades 6-8 at cdarigan@times2.org

Welcome from Mr. Barnes!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am Andy Barnes, the new School Social Worker at TIMES² Academy.

I will be at TIMES² for most of the year. If as the year gets into full swing you feel your child is in need of social-emotional, educational, or behavioral support, please reach out to me. A lot of times these issues can be addressed during school hours. If not, we will work together to find a community resource for you and your child.

It is very helpful to address all concerns sooner rather than later. Some problems will solve themselves. However, the majority of school concerns need our attention in order to be resolved. Typical needs you may see in your child include: anxiety, sadness, lack of motivation, isolation from peers and family members, and attendance issues. During these tough times and with the increase in illness and death within our community, bereavement services may be in order.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can maximize your child's school experience.

My office is located in the elementary section, in the library/STEM area. My email is abarnes@times2.org, or simply call the school.

I look forward to helping out in any way possible.

Andy Barnes, MSW, LICSW
School Social Worker



TIMES² uses a new assessment tool to aid student success

Along with a new set of curricula for ELA and math, TIMES² has engaged a new assessment tool known as NWEA MAP (Northwest Evaluation Association Measure of Academic Progress). NWEA.org is a non-profit organization that has assessed over 4.5 million students, and has a presence in 49 countries, 50 states, and 3400 school districts.

What is MAP?

- The NWEA MAP assessments are proven to accurately reflect the instructional level of each student and measure their growth over time in addition to being aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- MAP is an adaptive computerized test that adapts for everyone at their pace and level.
- Every student has a different set of questions, with the difficulty of each question based upon how well the student answered the previous questions. If the student answers correctly, questions will

become more difficult. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half of the items correctly and half incorrectly.

- It IS NOT a test of what a student already knows, but rather what a student is READY to learn.
- Detailed results provide teachers with information including a total score, sub-category scores, and college-readiness benchmarks.
- Scores translate to instructional readiness skills and standards a student is ready to learn, including areas of strength and weakness.

Who is testing at TIMES² Academy and when?

Each student K–11 will have been initially assessed using the NWEA MAP Growth Assessments in reading, mathematics and science by the beginning of October. Students will again be testing in the winter and spring to monitor their progress.

How long does it take to complete

each test?

The assessment is untimed and usually takes students about one hour to complete each assessment.

What are MAP tests used for?

- The data that is generated will help our school specialists and teachers to measure each student's progress and growth in school.
- Based on the results of the assessment, TIMES² and its faculty may adjust instruction and program offerings for individual learners, groups of learners, or entire classes.
- The results will be used in conjunction with other assessment information provided by our curriculum programs to improve and enhance program design.
- Results will guide individual and group instruction and help the teachers and students to monitor progress and set goals to achieve proficiency in these content areas and grade-levels.

Remote Learning—Attendance & Truancy

Attendance is required. The Rhode Island Department of Education has made it very clear that they are not changing the compulsory attendance requirement for students grades K–12 even in these times of COVID. All students are expected to attend school, whether they opted to attend in-person or remotely. Each district exports data to the state on a daily basis to monitor school attendance. A new set of attendance codes reflecting learning options has been instituted this year. These codes include: **Absent** (in-person or remote); **Tardy** (in-person or remote); **Present** (in-person) and **Present-remote** (remote learners).

The expectations for TIMES² students are still the same. Students must be in school by 8:00AM or they are tardy.

YES, even if you are a remote learner, you will be marked tardy if you are not present in class by 8:00AM. Students who arrive after 10:00AM will be marked absent for the day, unless a doctor's note is provided.

If a child is absent from school, whether they attend remotely or in-person, the parent must report the absence to the school, especially in the event of a possible positive COVID case or other illness. All present students—in-person or remote are coded as present based upon how they are participating in school on that particular day. If a child calls in an absence, but attends class remotely, the child will be marked present-remote. **HOWEVER**, moving between in-person and remote for a reason not related to illness should be

avoided at all costs, as it impacts the student's academics and the classroom dynamic.

All students are expected to be in school from 8:00AM until official dismissal time for the school—2:30 for elementary, 2:45 for middle-high. So any student who believes its okay to log off early or does not return from lunch to attend class will be marked absent-unexcused and be processed for cutting class.

Calls home for both in-person and remote students have already started. A child who is identified as truant will be sent a letter and be placed for review by school administration for a formal recommendation to the state truancy court.

Reporting an absence for your child

Per the school administration and , Rachael Cassidy, RN:

If your child is sick and not able to report to school in-person or remotely:

- Contact the school at 401-272-5094
- Give your child's name and grade
- Indicate the reason for child's absence
- Leave a call-back number
 - You may receive a call from the school nurse to confirm the reason for the absence.
 - A recommendation may be made to keep your child home for an additional 24-hours to ensure that the child is well enough to report to school. These recommendations are based on the CDC protocol for COVID.
 - 1 symptom = 24 hours
 - 2 or more symptoms of COVID, must get the test before returning to school.
- The test must be **NEGATIVE** before returning to school when they have had no fever for 24 hours without using a fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved
- If the test is **POSITIVE**, the person must follow the RIDOH isolation instructions.
- **YOU MUST** contact the school **IMMEDIATELY** if your child tests positive for COVID.

COVID testing is available through the RI Department of Health by calling (844)857-1814. Check out the [TIMES2.org](https://www.times2.org) website for the Nurse's COVID letter to families with links to testing sites and quarantine guidance.

A Message from Mrs. Galloway...

To all friends and families.

I am not saying goodbye, but I am saying see you soon. It's been an honor to be part of this institution for the past 18 years and specifically as a staff member for the last 8 years. As many of you know, I was an active parent of 3 wonderful boys who attended this school. I served as the Vice-President of the P.T.O. I sat on the board, chaperoned many dances and events, and when the availability presented itself, I became a staff member. I was presented with this amazing opportunity to change my career and so October 6th will be my last day. This place has been a staple to me and my family since we moved to this state and it's been an honor to work alongside many of you parents and students. I do believe in the, African Proverb, *"It takes a village to raise a child,"* and I appreciate that I was part of your children's village.

JUST AS IMPORTANT!!! Families, you have all been my best recruiters for this school and I need your assistance once more. Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year will begin on November 1st and I ask you to share that information with anyone that you know. They will be able to complete an application online on our website at [TIMES2.org](https://www.times2.org). Even though COVID has changed our sense of normalcy, TIME^{S2} Academy continues to work with exposing your children in the areas of STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Math*). Families, you have been choosing us since 1998 and I ask you to continue to choose us for many more years to come.

October Happenings:

- **12th**—NO SCHOOL
Columbus Day
- **14th**—SAT & PSAT/
NMSQT for all 12th,
11th,, 10th graders
Distance learning for grades 7-9
- **15th**—End of Progress Report period for
Quarter 1 for K-12
- **17th**—College Crusade—FAFSA *Fall Fest*;
Kennedy Plaza (see pg2)
- **19th**—Distance Learning for ALL students
K-12; Teacher Professional Development
- **27th**—PSAT 8/9 for all grade 8 & 9 students;
Distance Learning for grades 7th, 10-12



Every **STUDENT** *can learn,*
just not on the same day, or in
the same *way.*

Check out our website for the latest news!

[times2.org](https://www.times2.org)