



February 2019

Dear TCS Families,

As we enter the second semester of the 2018-2019 school year, I thought it would be helpful to give you an update on the work we have done as a result of our strategic planning endeavor from last school year. I believe you will be impressed at the progress we have made!

- The Board of Directors formed the following committees to address our plan of action:
 - Program and Culture – building a meaningful curriculum and improving the culture in our school
 - Teachers are writing/editing curriculum maps for each course offered
 - Developed a profile of the ideal TCS student to use in admissions decisions
 - A committee will be created to create a meaningful transitions program
 - Staffing – how can we attract and retain outstanding staff
 - Staff evaluation forms and procedures were revised, including soliciting parent input
 - Studied the feasibility of having student teachers at TCS
 - Developed a staff development plan
 - Space – how can we best utilize and update our facility and land
 - A parent is creating a master plan of our land (including the Nature Area)
 - Another parent's construction company took aerial pictures of the building, using a drone
 - Researching having a consultant review our building and create suggestions on changes or additions that would enhance our programs
 - Community Outreach – how to better engage the community and get the word out about TCS
 - Created a list of summer festivals we could visit to advertise TCS
 - Discussed various ideas on how to better market TCS

Separate from the committee work, several suggestions from the plan were implemented:

- A full-time school counselor was hired
- A second, full-time math teacher was hired
- A new website was created
- Grant opportunities are being pursued using parent and community volunteers
- Our mission and vision statements were re-written

While there is much that remains to be done, I feel we have made great strides in using the results of the strategic planning process to make us an even better school. Stay tuned for more updates.

Sincerely,
Bill

Important dates to mark on your family calendar:

February 18th – School Closed, Presidents' Day

February 27th – Open House for prospective families, 9:15 a.m.

March 13th – Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 p.m.

March 15th – TCS National History Day Presentations, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

March 27th – Open House for prospective families, 9:15 a.m.

March 29th – end of 3rd marking period

April 11th – 12:00 dismissal, Parent Teacher Conferences, 1:00-7:30 p.m.

April 12-19 – School Closed for Spring Break

From the School Counselor by Ethan Kline (ekline@theconcepts.school.org)

We have been continuing our schoolwide PBIS program, in which each month we target a behavior we would like our teachers to focus on the students displaying. For the month of January, we focused on being responsible. When students are observed displaying these behaviors they receive a "Way to Go Gecko" which is a certificate that acknowledges the students for displaying the target behaviors. If students earn a set number of certificates within the month, there is a reward at the end of the month. For the month of January the students were able to earn a pizza party in the afternoon (which every student earned!). Our February target behavior is being respectful. The end of the month reward that the students can earn is playing different kinds of games versus the staff. Some ideas for the games include badminton, four square, board games and if the weather permits possibly some basketball on the black top. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to your child or family!



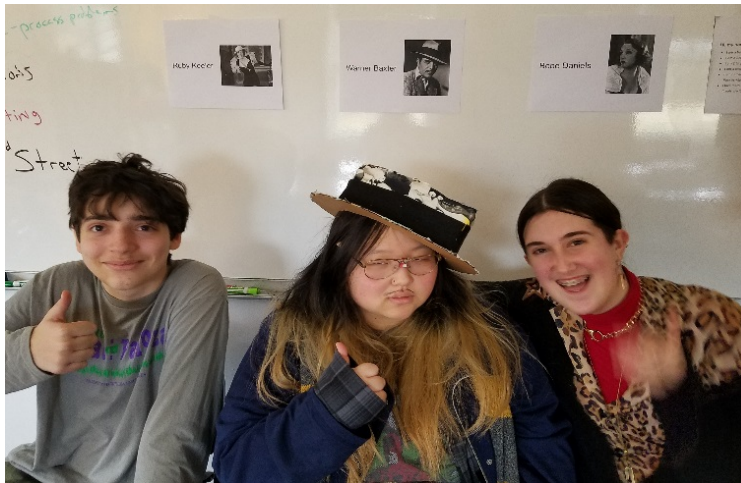
In Mrs. Culler's Earth Science class, students grew crystals using Epsom salts and sugar. The students were able to see how the different materials create different crystal structures. Romeo and John enjoyed the lesson!

Transitions Program – Marti Phillips, Coordinator

Students continue to make progress as they work toward becoming independent young adults. We have been working on interviewing skills and students are creating their own resumes. We have discussed post-graduation goals, helped students apply for college and one of our seniors successfully participated in a job shadowing opportunity. Next semester we will have one of our classes focusing on building employment skills by starting a small school-based business.

Cinema

For their assessment, students role-played the main characters in the 1933 musical classic, 42nd Street. They answered questions on early musicals, the Great Depression and more.



Photography

The second marking period's concentration was composition. The students learned: "Rule of Thirds:" place points of interest on the intersections and important elements along the lines; Leading Lines: natural lines to lead eyes into the picture especially to an interesting subject; "Diagonals:" diagonal lines create great movement; "Framing:" use natural frames such as trees, or man-made such as windows and doors; "Fill the Frame:" Get close to your subjects; and "Patterns and Repetition:" patterns, especially patterns in nature, are aesthetically pleasing, but the best is when the pattern is interrupted. Then for fun, we did light painting. Light painting needs a very dark room, and a slow shutter speed. Then, you "paint light" using items such as a flashlight, glowsticks, laser pointer, and finger lights.

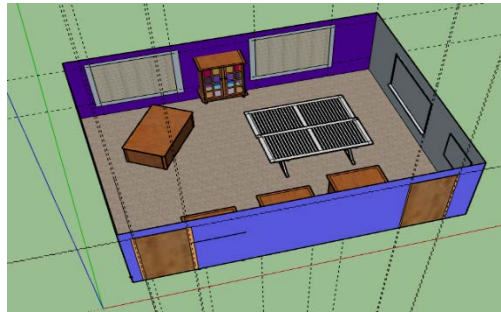


Intro to Coding:

We just started Game Design. The students are learning the basic of Javascript in both blocks (easier) and text (harder) formats. Our current concentration is on Sprites: what they are, how to create them, and how to put them on the screen.

STEAM Foundations

We just finished 3D modeling in "Sketchup." The students created a scaled model of Room 2, and redesigned it meeting certain criteria. They needed to have 2 desks, table where students could work, a bookcase and storage. They were required to measure the room and include the exact dimensions of the room, the doors, and the windows. We are starting roller coaster physics: learning the science behind roller coasters including Newton's Laws of Physics.



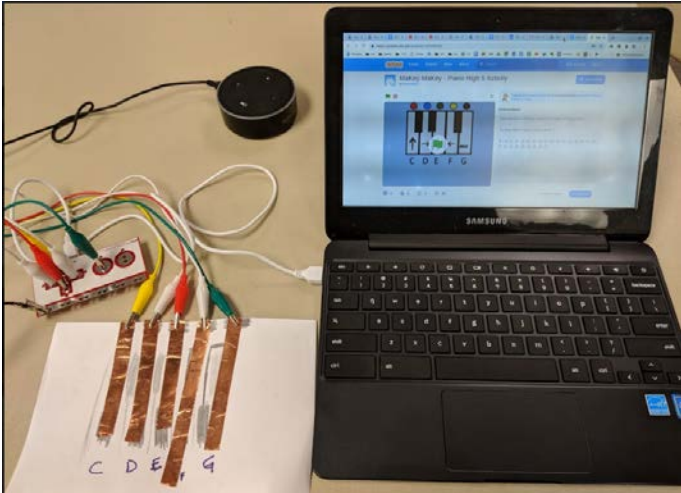
Video Editing

This class just completed Green Screening. The students decided on a subject and found a picture or video for their background. They wrote their own script, and practiced saying it. Then, they performed in front of a green screen. Then they imported the video(es) and picture into the WeVideo editor. Then used chroma key to remove the green.



Advanced STEAM

We just finished circuits and explored marble launching. In our exploration of circuits, we created a piano with copper tape attached to a circuit board and chromebook. We then played the piano using an online program. Next, we created a DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) floor pad with cardboard and aluminium foil attached to a circuit board and chromebook. Then they had fun dancing to DDR. Finally, we explored the science behind marble launching.



Annual Fund

Please consider making a donation to TCS as the tax year winds down. Your gift, of any size, enables us to continue doing the things that sets us apart from other schools. All gifts to The Concept school are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. You can click the link below to make a donation. Thank you!

<https://www.theconceptschool.org/giving/where-to-give/>

TCS Food Drive to Benefit West Chester Food Cupboard

Thanks to all of the families that donated food and supplies for the West Chester Food Cupboard during our food drive. The students delivered 200 pounds of food and supplies to the pantry at the beginning of the month. We will continue to to collect food donations here at Concept until the end of the school year.

Help Support the Concept School!!

(At no cost to YOU!!!)

Our PTO has undertaken to continue to support our school by managing many areas that, with your support, provide monetary benefits to The Concept School. Please sign up for these opportunities!!!

Happy clipping!



Please continue to clip Box Tops! You can find Box Tops on many of the products you will be using for dinners and parties. For a list of participating products, go to **BTFE.com**.

Thanks for your support. **Thank you to Mrs. Friel (Connor's mom) for coordinating this activity.**

Amazon's Smile.amazon program: This program allows you to shop on Amazon and when you do, a portion of your purchase comes back to The Concept School. All you do is log on to smile.amazon.com and fill in "The Concept School" as your organization of choice. A link to explain this program is attached.

<https://smile.amazon.com/about>

Giant A+ School Rewards

1. Register for an online account or sign into an existing one.
2. Access your account settings.
3. Select The Concept School to reward #40184

WE'RE HAVING A FOOD DRIVE!

To benefit the



West Chester Food Cupboard

Needed: Store Gift Cards (Giant, ShopRite, Acme)

Unexpired, Non-Perishable Food Items Needed:

Canned Tuna
Pasta w/Meat
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Hearty Soups
Rice
Pork and Beans
Shampoo, Soaps
Baby Food

Canned Chicken
Chili
Spaghetti Sauce
Side Dishes
Canned Fruits
Canned Beans
Hot Cereals
Toothpaste
Diapers

Sardines
Spam
Pasta/Noodles
Mac N Cheese
Vegetables
Dried Beans
Cold Cereals
Toilet Paper
Feminine Products

Visit wcfood.org to learn more.

The Concept School

Ends December 20, 2018

Please bring donations to school and place in labeled boxes.

Questions? Ask Mrs. Wright or Mrs. Phillips

Shakespeare Permission Slip

It's the most wonderful time of the year ---the annual Shakespeare Festival! Not only is this event an annual TCS tradition, but it is a wonderful opportunity for our students to build confidence, gain fluency, and learn about Shakespeare's incredible influence on our language and culture. The excitement is already building!

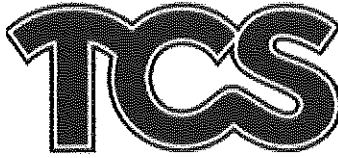
To ensure a successful show, we need everyone's full cooperation! Please thoroughly read the following important details, and then complete and return the bottom portion of this page to school by Monday, December 3rd.

1. If anyone will have a planned absence due to a family trip please inform us so we may plan accordingly. If a child is unable to participate for this reason, an alternate assignment will be given in lieu of participation in the performance.
 2. **This year's show will be held on Thursday, December 20 at 7pm.**
 3. Our students are already immersed in preparing the program and completing Shakespeare-related activities in addition to the performance of the play. Their active participation is expected and will be assessed as a part of this marking period's Language Arts grade.
 4. Your child will need a pair of *black pants (shirt apparel provided by the school) by no later than December 19.*
 5. Your child will remain at school after dismissal on the day of the performance on December 20. Students will then eat dinner and get ready for the evening's show. If you would like to donate food or help serve and/or clean up dinner, please visit this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f44aaaa2fa20-shakespeare>
6. **You will need to cancel your child's regular transportation from school on Thursday, December 20.**
7. **Your child will need transportation after the evening's performance.**

Thank you for your cooperation! We look forward to sharing this fun and educational annual tradition with you! **Please complete and return by Monday, December 3rd.**

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- My child **will be available** to participate in this year's Shakespeare performance.
- I understand that the annual Shakespeare performance will be held on Thursday, December 20 at 7pm.
 - My child has my permission to remain after school on Thursday, December 20 until the show's conclusion.
 - My child **will NOT be available** to participate because _____.
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- I understand that my child's participation in the show (or an alternate assignment) will be considered part of my child's Language Arts grade for the second marking period.
 - I understand that my child will need a pair of long black pants no later than Wednesday, December 19.
 - **My child's T-SHIRT SIZE is:** _____
 - I understand that my child's dinner will be provided.
 - I will provide an alternate meal if there are dietary restrictions.
 - I **will cancel** my child's regular transportation home from school on *Thursday, December 20.*
 - I **will ensure that my child has transportation home** after the performance.

Student Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____



THE CONCEPT SCHOOL
Field Trip Permission Form

Dear Families of Concept School Students,

Some students will be taking a field trip to: **WCU Observatory on December 6, 2018**

We will be leaving school at approximately **9:20 a.m. and returning by 12:00 p.m.**

Means of Transportation: School Bus

Relaxed dress that is comfortable is the dress for the day Cost of trip: **\$10.00 per student**
Please sign the form below and return it to school as soon as possible.

I give my permission for my son/daughter _____
(name)

to take the field trip to **WCU Observatory on Dec. 6, 2018**. In the case of an emergency, I give my permission for my child to be admitted and treated at the nearest hospital. I can be reached during the field trip at this number:

Phone Number

Signed: _____
Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____



Field Trip Permission Form

Dear Families of Selected Concept School Students,

All students will be taking a field trip to: **The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology**. 3260 South St, Philadelphia, PA 19104. The date of the trip is **Friday, December 14, 2018**

We will be leaving school at: **8:45 am and return by 2 pm**

Means of Transportation:

Relaxed dress that is comfortable is the dress for the day. Shoes that are sturdy for walking and can get dirty.

*****Bring a bagged lunch**

Cost of trip: **\$30** for transportation, 1-hour guided tour, and 1-hour workshop at the museum

Please sign the form below and return it to school as soon as possible.

I give my permission for my son/daughter _____
(name)

to take the field trip to The Penn Museum . In the case of an emergency, I give my permission for my child to be admitted and treated at the nearest hospital. I can be reached during the field trip at this number:

(phone number)

Signed: _____

(Parent or Guardian Signature)

(Date)