

The Gecko



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Dear TCS Families and Supporters:

It is hard to believe we have been in pandemic mode for a year! I am ready for some sense of normalcy, as I am sure you are. While we are not at the end, we are closer than ever now that vaccinations are being administered. Some TCS staff members have received the vaccine and all other staff members are anxiously waiting for their turn. I am hopeful that with teachers being prioritized by the state and federal governments, our entire staff will be vaccinated by the end of March.

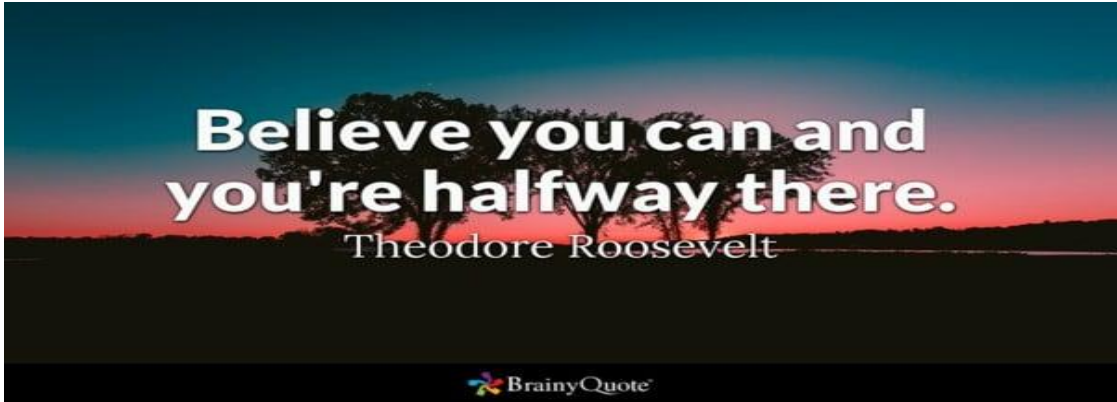
Pennsylvania has lifted some quarantining requirements for out of state travel. You no longer need to report your travels to me. I would simply urge our families to exercise good judgement and continue to wear masks and distance yourselves if you travel out of state.

The TCS Board of Directors will be meeting at the end of this month and will set the tuition rate for next year. After that occurs, I will be sending out early registration information and encourage you to let us know your plans for next year so we can prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

Finally, let me say how excited all of us are to be returning to in-person learning. While many students excelled with virtual lessons, we know students learn best by being together, in classrooms, with our teachers. We appreciate all that you have done at home to help your son or daughter. I am hopeful that in-person learning will be how we start the 2021-2022 school year, as well!

Sincerely,

Bill



**Believe you can and
you're halfway there.**
Theodore Roosevelt



As human beings, we can feel MANY emotions. This pandemic experience has likely made us feel all sorts of different ways; we may feel happy that we can be at home and binge-watch a new TV series, but we might also feel anxious about not knowing when we will have a Covid-19 vaccine. We may feel sad over not being able to socialize with our friends like we used to, but also angry toward those that we are living with because we are around them all day long. All of these feelings are NORMAL, but we do not want any of them to overwhelm us to the point of negatively impacting our well-being.



Back to School Schedule

The Concept School will be gradually returning to in-person learning. See schedule below:

School day starts at 9:00am and ends 2:00pm

In-Person Dates:

**March: Monday, 3/8/21, Wednesday, 3/10/21, and Friday, 3/12/21
Monday, 3/15/21, Wednesday, 3/17/21, and Friday, 3/19/21**

Starting March 22, 2021, we will be FULL-TIME, 5 DAYS, IN-PERSON, until the end of the school year - last day of school, June 17, 2021.

We will be closed for **Spring Break - March 29th - April 2nd** and all other holidays previously noted on our Academic Calendar

Health tip of the month:

Top Three Benefits of Quality Sleep

- Healthy Brain Function & Emotional Well Being
- Physical Health
- Daytime Performance & Safety

5 Tips for a Better Night's Sleep

Sleep is vital to your health and a critical part of life. You need it to recharge your brain and body for another day. Stress, everyday demands, and even your smartphone are some of the culprits affecting your sleep.

To sleep better and wake up feeling more rested, follow this advice:



1

Eat your meals around the same time every day. Dinner should always be two to three hours before bedtime.



2

Limit naps to 30 minutes or less, and nap between 1 and 3 p.m. for the most benefit.



3

Stay active—any activity is good. Try to move for 20 to 30 minutes most days, at least five to six hours before bedtime.



4

Limit your caffeine intake and avoid it after 12 p.m. Avoid stimulants (such as decongestants and nicotine) as well.



5

Try to go to bed at the same time every night and get up at about the same time every morning—even on weekends.

**Congratulations to all our students who made the
2nd marking period Honor Roll!**

2nd Marking Period Honor Roll

All A's Honor Roll

Addie Althouse
John Krajicek
Arden Lisnoff
Sam Mandell
Faith McAfee
Kade Morin
Nick Moscufo
Jack Ryan
Elena Whitman

Honor Roll

Luke Alansky
Henry Deputy
Romeo Gonzalez
Mark Mack
Preston Micklesavage
Alex Miller
Sean O'Hara
Maliki Pettiford
Justin Simeone
Sam Van Dryn

Outstanding Citizenship

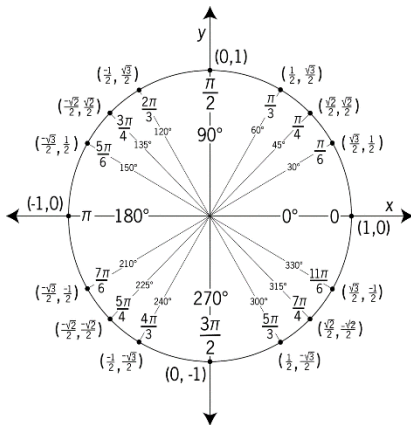
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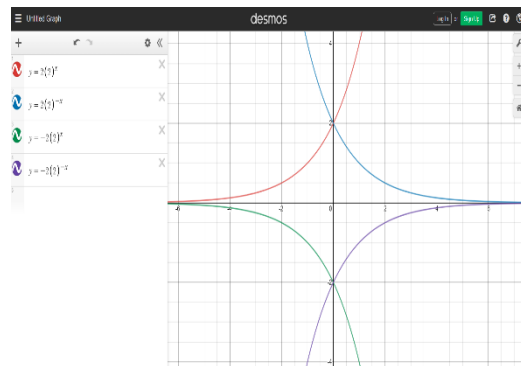
Look what we've been doing! The Concept School classes have been virtually buzzing. Take a look at what is going on!

In Mr. Burch's Math Class:

Preston Micklesavage and John Krajicek are diving into the wonders of the Unit Circle.



Alex Miller and Nick Moscufo are exploring the Wonders of exponential functions.



In Mrs. Frederick's Technology Class:

In her 5th & 6th period technology classes, they just completed programming "Space Alien Games" in Scratch. They added a background and sprites. They programmed a scoreboard and "lives board" and programmed the main sprite to interact with other sprites. Depending on which sprite, the score either added or subtracted a point. Additionally, some sprites took away a life!



In Mrs. Culler’s History class, kids shared what they like about National History Day:



Henry Deputy: “I like learning how to organize my information better. This has taught me how to organize work for big projects.”
Jack Ryan: “I like learning about stuff I’ve never learned in any other history class. I had never heard about the suppression of language before.”
Michael Carpenter: “Coding basically changed the world. If we didn’t have coding, we’d have a really different world, I like that I can do my project on coding.”
Arden Lisnoff: No comment

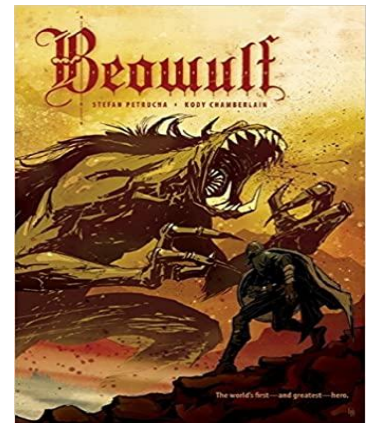
Mrs. Griffith’s English students are reading and creating!

First Period: We are learning new vocabulary words, reading a short story, and preparing to read *Beowulf*.

Second and Sixth Periods: We are nearing the end of *The Hate U Give*, writing, exploring myriad themes, making relevant connections to our present day, and learning some grammar on the side.

Third Period: We have completed our study of *Hamilton* and are preparing to write our own legacies, discuss the elements that comprise a tragic hero, write some more raps, and enjoy watching the play! Really, it’s “Non-Stop”! The energy and linguistic prowess of this group lets me know they are not “Throwin’ Away [Their] Shot!”

Fourth and Fifth Periods: Students are nearing the end of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, creating slideshows about their own lives, understanding the Hero’s Journey as it pertains to our protagonist (as well as to ourselves). Fifth period flew over London in a flight simulation prepared by one of our students!



All of Mrs. Griffith’s classes studied Amanda Gorman’s “The Hill We Climb” after watching her performance at the Presidential Inauguration. Keep your eye on her!



Ms. Timon’s Environmental Science Class:

Zada Campbell’s panorama project

A day in pictures



