



Newsletter Date: October 5, 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL:

The 2021-2022 school year is off to a great start! The students and staff are excited to be back in person and are doing well with our masking requirements. Also, 100% of staff and 85% of students are vaccinated against COVID-19. We are getting ready to begin a testing program at school. I hope you will consider allowing your child to be part of this important program.

Thank you to the many families who were able to attend our Back-to-School Night on September 22. We had a nice turn-out and our teachers shared a lot of information about their classes. Please be sure to reach out if you have any questions.

I would like to ask that if you send an email about a student being absent, leaving early, or coming in late to please write to both me and Mrs. Piccone. This provides a back-up in case one of us is absent. Our email addresses are:

wbennett@theconceptschooll.org
cpiccone@theconceptschooll.org

Finally, I hope you consider having your son or daughter attend our Halloween Party on Saturday, October 23rd. It will be a great opportunity to build social skills and have a fun time at the same time.

Sincerely,
Bill



October 21: 12:00 Dismissal – Parent Conferences

October 22: School Closed – Teacher In-Service

October 23: Halloween party (flyer attached)

November 2: School Closed – Election Day

November 11 – Non-Senior Picture Day

November 24-26 – Thanksgiving Break



Every Friday, we do a Gecko-Slip drawing to reward students for positive behaviors. The 5 selected students get to come to my office and select an amazing prize from my amazing prize table. A Gecko-Slip is handed out to students for any or all of the following positive behaviors:

Act of Kindness
Being Responsible
Positive Attitude
Self-Control
Being Respectful

WAY TO GO GECKO!

Student Name _____

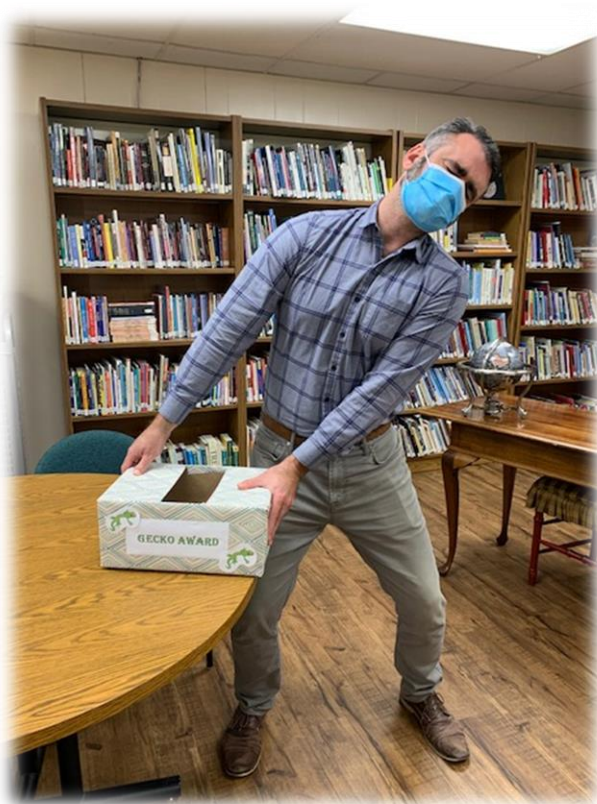
— Act of Kindness
— Being Responsible
— Positive Attitude
— Self-Control
— Being Respectful

Teacher's Name _____

Date _____

Our students have earned so many Gecko-slips from their teachers, I'm having a hard time lifting the Gecko-Slip box to do the drawing!

But seriously, I've been truly impressed by positive behaviors our students exhibit here at TCS. Although the transition back to school can be a challenge, our students have done very well. I'm very proud of all of you. Let's keep up the good work!



Mr. Schullery struggling to lift our very full Gecko-Slip Box.



**Congratulations to all our students who made the
4th marking period Honor Roll!**

4th Marking Period Honor Roll

All A's Honor Roll

Luke Alansky
Henry Deputy
Anthony Kehner
John Krajicek
Mark Mack
Alex Miller
Preston Micklesavage
Kade Morin
Nick Moscufo
Jack Ryan

Honor Roll

Nate Aguilar
Addie Althouse
Zada Campbell
Romeo Gonzalez
Javon Hill
Arden Lisnoff
Faith McAfee
Sam Mandell
Tor Munson
Sean O'Hara
Justin Simeone
Sam Van Dryn

Outstanding Citizenship

Luke Alansky
Mark Mack
Jack Ryan

END OF YEAR EVENTS

School Dance

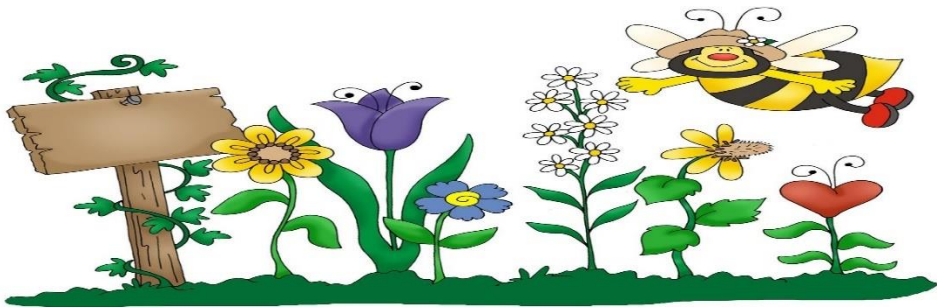


National Honor Society Induction Ceremony



The National Honor Society (NHS) is a nationwide organization for high school students in the U.S. Chapters of the NHS can be found in high schools across the country. Selection is based on four criteria: scholarship (academic achievement), leadership, service, and character. TCS is home to the Mark Tucker Chapter of the National Honor Society. Each year interested students in grades 10-12 are encouraged to consider applying for admission to the National Honor Society. The formal admission process will begin near the end of 2021 for admission to the NHS in the spring of 2022. If you are in grade 10-12 and are interested in the NHS, please consider applying. The TCS NHS Steering Committee consists of Mr. Burtch, Ms. Kohlbrenner, Mr. Schullery, and Ms. Tilmon. If you have questions, please ask one of them or another staff member. Just remember, admission into the NHS requires some sort of service to the community, school, or other organizations.

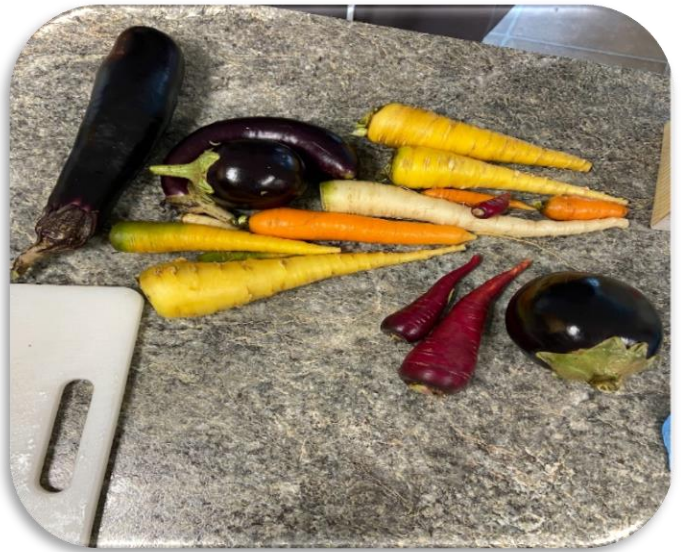
Graduation



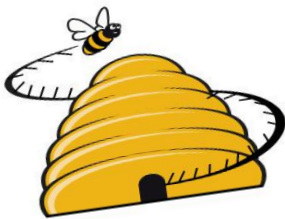
Garden Power Updates!

The TCS garden is flourishing! After a very bountiful summer, we are still reaping the benefits of our hard work last spring.

Students in Ms. Riggio's gardening and bee class planted some beans last week that will hopefully be a successful fall crop for us. The students have been enjoying picking all the ripe veggies!



Our bee colony has grown!





Classroom construction is complete and looking great for the students.

Beautiful decorating job Mrs. Griffith & Mrs. Phillips!

Before...



After...

Room 8 – Mrs. Griffith



Room 12B – Mrs. Phillips



If anyone is interested in helping with the PTO and did not get a chance to sign up at Back-to-School Night, please email Georgie Krajicek at ghkrajicek@comcast.net.





In Mr. Burtch's Math class:

The Personal Finance course is off to a great start. Three seniors are beginning this course with an exploration of expenses. This includes completion of a major project that will teach students about real expenses, real data sets, the functionality of spreadsheets, expense analysis, and business-related writing.

In Mrs. Frederick's Classes:

STEAM & Environmental Awareness

Mrs. Fredericks's STEAM and Environmental Awareness classes are researching The Spotted Lanternfly to try to find a solution to the problem. We've learned that they came from China and were first discovered in Berks County in 2014. We've learned the life cycle, and when is a good time and how to kill them. Our research says that there are a few



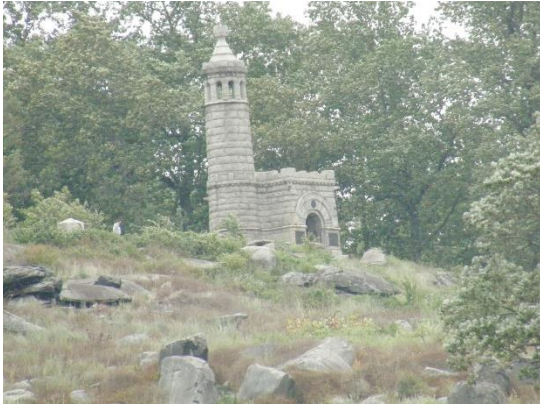
predators: spiders, assassin bugs, and praying mantis. We've also discovered that Milkweed (which the Monarch Butterfly needs to survive) is poisonous to them! So, let's start planting Milkweed!

Photo Editing

Mrs. Fredericks's Photo Editing class is learning the basics of photo editing this marking period. We're using an online photo editor: Pixlr. The students learned how to crop images (free and constrained crop); change brightness/contrast; change hue & saturation; and straighten an image. They're now learning how to do multiple steps in an image: the basics we already know; vibrance, saturation, tint, exposure, highlights & shadows, sharpen, clarity, vignettes, and dehazing. The students are using images that I took, so there are no copyright issues. For example, we transformed this image.

Video Editing

Mrs. Fredericks's Video Editing class is learning the basics of editing a video. We've taken a video that was 6 minutes long and cut various segments to decrease the video to 30 seconds to 1 minute long. We added a title before the video. The students learned the importance of music in a video, and how it changes the "feel" of a video. It can change the whole perception of a scene. We muted the video's soundtrack and added music that showed what the student's perspective was. Our next step is to add transitions between clips and edit audio tracks.



In Mrs. Phillips Transitions Class:

We have been very busy in Transitions Class with career exploration. We have visited a farm and discussed jobs in the field of agriculture, taken career interest surveys and have had a presentation from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR). We are working with Ms. Angelica Webster from the OVR with their Pre-Employment Transition Services, which you can read about in the flyer at the end of this newsletter. If you have any questions, please let me know by sending an email to mphillips@theconceptschoool.org. Also, check out the virtual college fair provided by the Chester County Intermediate Unit. If you would like to participate in this free event just follow the instructions to sign up.

In Mrs. Griffith's English Classes:

Mrs. Griffith's English classes have been writing daily six-word memoirs and practicing sentence structure in our daily journals.

First period has started reading and discussing the non-fiction essay collection *This I Believe* and will eventually write their own credo.

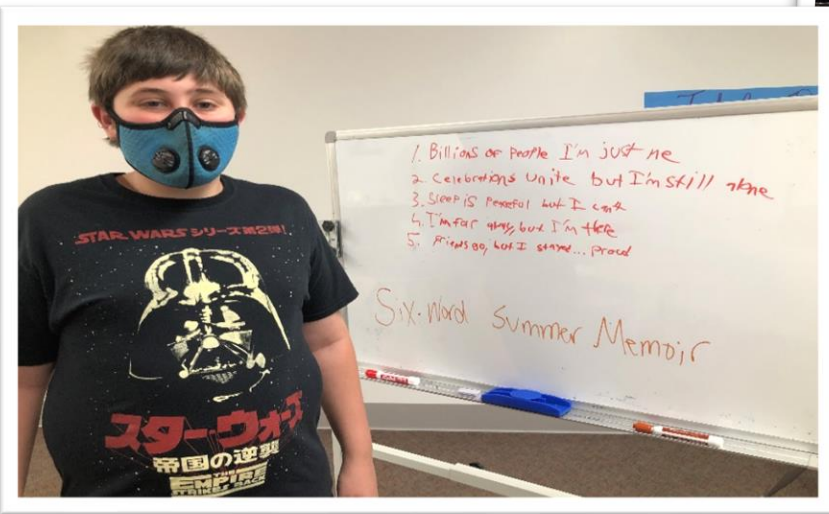
Second and Fourth periods will begin reading *Hatchet* next week.

Sixth period may start the YA thriller *One of Us is Lying* next week.

Eighth period will be reading the short story "The Scarlet Ibis" before delving into a longer text.

Theater class has been up and out of their seats playing warm up games. We are developing trust with one another and laughing...a lot. By the way, "These pretzels are making me thirsty!" We memorized poems and recited them in the nature center and are currently studying "All the World's a Stage" in preparation for our Shakespeare Night in December. We are all off to a super start!

Maliki and LeSabien playing "Eight Ball" after completing their work in English class.



Sam Mandell's Six Word Summer Memoirs for Mrs. Griffith's English class.

In Mrs. Culler's classes:

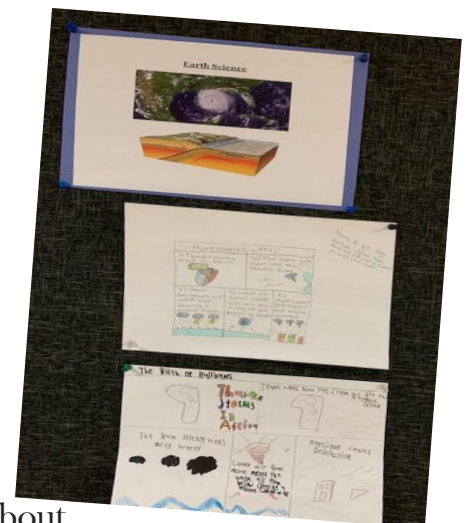
Science Classe students are working on hands-on projects in Earth Science and Life Science. In Life Science, students are making 3-D models of cells. In Earth Science, students made "hurricane jars" that mimic the appearance of a hurricane as seen by satellite.



In **History**, Ancient Civilizations, students are creating cartouches (Egyptian nameplates) using hieroglyphics while they learn about

Ancient Egyptian society and culture. Students in History

Through the Arts have been exploring the life of Ben Franklin, including his writings and portraiture. In October, we'll study political cartoons from the American Revolution and create our own! We'll also be watching the musical 1776 and Hamilton!





Tabletop Game Club begins at TCS this October!

Our first meeting is Wednesday, October 27th from 3:30-5PM

Students will have a chance to learn new board and card games as well as bring favorites to share. Students remain after school and must be picked up by a parent or carpool **promptly** at 5:00 PM.

Snacks, new games, old favorites, and fun provided!
Hosted by Mr. Burtch, Mrs. Culler, and Ms. Tilmon.

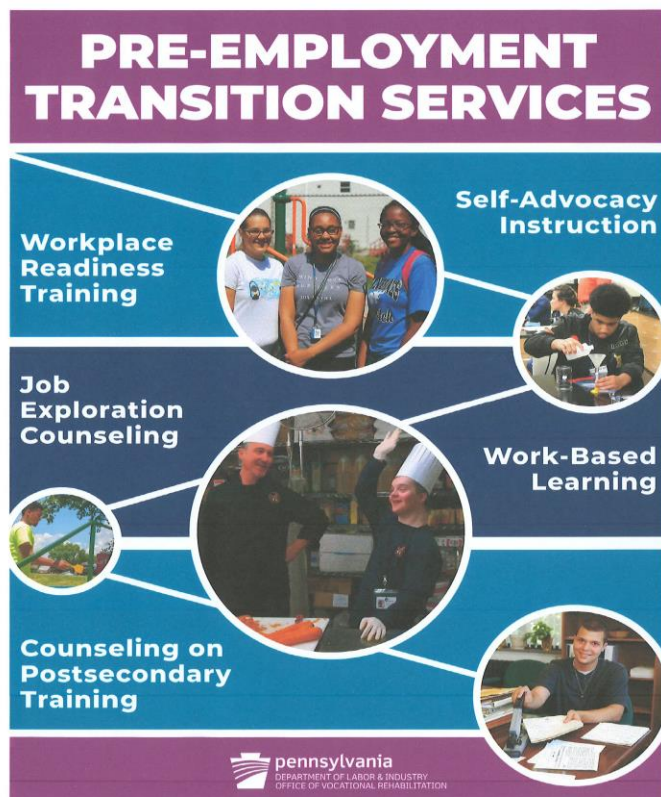
Look for a permission slip soon!



Picklepuff is still completing her rounds as the TCS
Chinchilla!



Informational Flyers...





OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Hello,

Thank you for your interest in working with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) whose mission is to assist individuals with disabilities in securing and maintaining employment and independence. To request services, complete and submit the online pre-application using the instructions below. If you have difficulty completing your pre-application, please contact your local OVR office for assistance.

1. Go to <https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/>
2. Click the "Sign In/Register" button at the top right corner of the page.
If you have already registered with PA Career Link:
 - i. Sign in using your Keystone ID and password. Select the "Career Services" tab on the top right of the page and choose the "Programs and Services" menu item.**If you are a new PA Career Link user:**
 - ii. Click "Register" and follow the online registration process using the on-screen instructions. An email address is required in order to register. On the "Registration Confirmation" screen, select "Request Staff-Assisted Service" button.
3. On the "Request Services" page, select one of two options for OVR services:
"Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services"
OR
"Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Bureau of Blindness & Visual Services"
4. Select "Request Services" on the bottom of the screen. A pop-up notification will appear providing an explanation of OVR's mission and basic eligibility criteria. Follow the on-screen instructions, choosing "YES" or "NO".
 - o Choosing "YES" will take you to OVR's Pre-Application for Services.
 - o Choosing "NO" will return you to the previous page.
5. Once you reach the Pre-Application page, use the "START" buttons to complete each section.
 - o You may start your pre-application and finish it later by clicking "Save and Finish Later". Your incomplete pre-application remains available on your PA Career Link Dashboard for up to 90 days.
6. When all sections are complete, select the "Submit Application" button. This will send your completed pre-application to the OVR District Office that covers your county of residence. Within 15 days, you will be contacted by OVR to discuss the next steps by phone, mail, or email.

Sincerely,

Department of Labor & Industry | Office of Vocational Rehabilitation | 1875 New Hope St | Norristown, PA 19401 |
Phone#: 484-250-4340 | Fax: 484-250-4356 | www.dli.state.pa.us

*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*