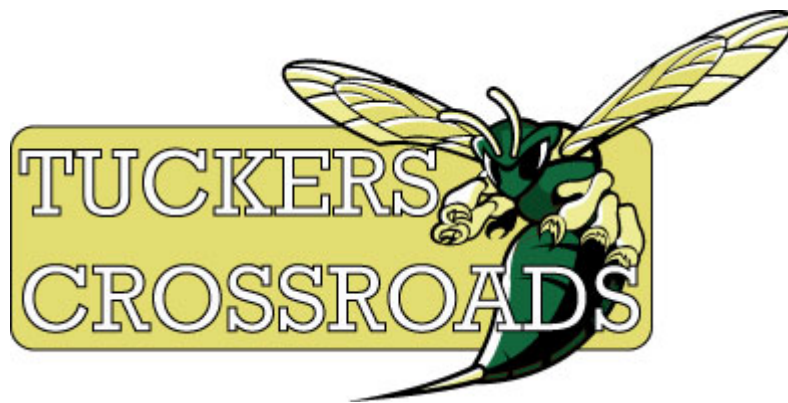


Tuckers Crossroads School

Student Handbook

2008-2009



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General School Information

Tuckers Crossroads School was originally established in 1921. At that time the school serviced students in grades 1-12. At present we have grades K-8.

Tuckers Crossroads became accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in the spring of 2000. To maintain this status, the professional staff completes a school wide study and improvement plan every few years. A tremendous amount of data and input from the staff, students, parents and community is used to write goals and an action plan for continuous school improvement. The following statements are part of our current SACS School Improvement Plan (SACS SIP).

Vision and Beliefs

Vision: Tuckers Crossroads School will empower students with the necessary tools to become productive citizens in a global community.

Mission Statement: Tuckers Crossroads School is a community of learners whose mission is to provide child centered, challenging educational programs in an environment of honesty, integrity, respect and responsibility.

Belief Statements:

1. Learning is a collective effort of teachers, administrators, staff, students, parents, families and community involvement. (learning)
2. Students must be individually challenged using a variety of strategies to reach their maximum potential. (instruction)
3. A wide variety of formal and informal assessments should be used in order to insure the academic success of each learner. (assessment)
4. Good decision-making must be based on a variety of appropriate analyzed data. (decision making)
5. All educational policies should be developed with the best interest of the child in mind. (policy)
6. Students and staff must feel safe and comfortable enough to take risks in order to enhance their learning experiences.

Administration

Susie Breedwell, our principal, began her position in March of 2008 when Mrs. Hassell, the former principal, was chosen to be the principal at a new elementary school in Mt. Juliet. Mrs. Breedwell comes to Tuckers Crossroads with 17 years experience and over nine of them in administration.

Prior to coming to Tuckers Crossroads, she was one of the assistant principals at Wilson Central High School and helped open that school in 2001. Before then she was the first assistant principal at West Elementary for 2 ½ years. Her background in Wilson County also includes seven years as the librarian at Stoner Creek Elementary. Prior to that, she taught high school English in California.

A native West Virginian, she received her bachelor's from West Virginia University in 1975. In 1999 she received her Master's from Trevecca Nazarene University.

Mrs. Breedwell is very excited about being part of the TXR family. "The high quality of faculty here at Tuckers Crossroads and the involvement of the staff and community is second to none!" The programs that were begun by the previous administration will continue and she hopes to only make it better.

Mr. Jeremy Willis is our new assistant principal. He comes to us from Mt. Juliet Middle School, where he has taught and coached for 11 years at both Mt. Juliet Jr. High and then Mt. Juliet Middle School. Prior to moving to Tennessee, Mr. Willis taught for three years in Illinois. He grew up in a small farm community in West Central Illinois, where he learned the value of hard work and the importance of having integrity in all aspects of life. This philosophy guided him through college, marriage and his educational career. He has earned a Bachelor's Degree in History at Southern Illinois University and a Master's in Administration from Middle Tennessee State University. After teaching for 13 years, he accepted the challenge of Assistant Principal at Tuckers Crossroads. He lives with his wife, Carie, and his one year old daughter, Piper Marie.

Teaching Staff

Tuckers Crossroads has an incredibly dedicated and talented teaching staff. All teachers have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in education and certification in the area they are teaching. All of our teachers are Highly Qualified. A minimum of fifty percent of our teachers have a master's degree or higher. Each teacher receives a minimum of 5 days of additional training each year. At TXR we are committed to keeping up with the latest research and practices in all areas of learning.

We currently have three special education teachers and three educational assistants working with our K-8 resource students and our new CDC classroom that serves students in grades K-6. We also have a school psychologist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, and physical therapist that serve TXR on a part time basis.

Children entering kindergarten at Tuckers Crossroads receive a screening assessment at the beginning of the school year. Our kindergarten program offers a one-week phase-in period, during which small groups of children receive daily instruction through cooperative activities and social interaction in order to familiarize them with a regular school day routine. Teachers also take the groups around the building to familiarize them with their surroundings.

We recently added Study Island to our curriculum. This is a computer program that offers tutorials and games in basic skills. Second through eighth grade students may access this on their own home computers at www.studyisland.com. Each student has their own user name and password. If they do not have this information they can get it from their teacher. This is a great tool to use at home to increase academic skills. We also offer Academy of Reading to our at-risk readers. Students who are below grade level in reading go to the computer lab twice a week during their reading class to work on this program.

We offer our gifted students a program called Students Expanding Exploring Knowing (SEEK), which is designed to challenge the students' abilities and help prepare them for the future. We currently have 48 students from grades three through eight enrolled in SEEK. The SEEK program sponsors the "Geography Bee" and the "Wilson County Spelling Bee." Our SEEK students also participate in the Know Bowl. Our seventh grade SEEK students are currently participating in the ACT program, which allows students with high Terra Nova scores to take the ACT. Several of their major projects include: "Mystery Role Models", item collections, developing a family history, problem solving, and planning careers. These independent studies last all year and are completed independent of regular classroom curricula.

We offer Title 1 services to at-risk readers in our early grades. Our Title 1 instructors, Daniell Bennett and Debbie Rittenberry, maintain an average class of five students per session. Title 1 offers a variety of parent workshops throughout the school year. These cover topics such as study skills, math skills, and phonics. Title 1 also offers before and after-school tutoring to help children who are struggling in reading. Students up to the sixth grade are benefiting from this service. Title 1 funds are also used in staff development.

Our guidance counselor, Jada Boyd, offers one-on-one sessions to any student in need. She serves all students at Tuckers Crossroads. Mrs. Boyd can also work with parents. Character Counts and Peaceable Schools, programs intended to promote healthy decision making and to cut down on violence, are part of her monthly classroom instructional sessions. Our middle school students participate in small advisory sessions each week. These are designed to give our students the

opportunity to build closer relationships with a caring adult here at school. Our STARS (Students Taking a Right Stand) coordinator, Matt Gress, offers small group sessions in areas such as death, coping with divorce, self-esteem and drug related issues. To contact Mrs. Boyd or Mr. Gress, please call the school office.

In addition to our core academic middle school curricula, students are also offered Creative Writing, Yearbook, Life Skills, Communications, technology, band, chorus, P.E., advanced Algebra, and Study Buddies. Another unique middle school program allows students to volunteer to be teacher aides. They help the teachers with art projects and also work with younger students one on one. Each morning, observers can see many of our middle school students reading with younger children. These opportunities develop skills that our middle school students will use again in the future.

At Tuckers Crossroads, we feel that it is important to reward positive student performance, both academic and behavioral. Rewarding academic performance is a school-wide event. We conduct Academic Celebrations following each nine-week marking period, rewarding students based on attendance and academic achievement. Every student is rewarded with free time to enjoy a treat and a fun activity.

The middle school grades offer Student Council and Beta Club to their students. Membership to the Beta Club is offered to students who maintain an A/B average and who exhibit good moral character. Every fall, the middle school student body offers Student Council elections, giving each student an equal opportunity to campaign for a position. Each middle school grade level has representatives, with the eighth grade providing a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

With the growing number of both single-parent homes and two-income families, we see a strong need for quality before and after-school care. The director and staff of our Kids Club program ensure that every student at Tuckers Crossroads has a safe, caring place to go both before and after school. The staff offers a well-rounded schedule including a nutritious snack, homework time, organized athletics or play sessions, field trips, and various special interest classes to the students who attend Kids Club. Kids Club also operates during intersession, extended vacation periods, during snow days, and throughout the summer. Please contact director Anne Hall at 449-8781 for information on costs or registering your child. Children must be registered in Kids Club prior to attending. Parents cannot call school to have their child go there after school unless they are already registered.

Parent Teacher Organization

We have an active parent teacher organization in our school. Information will be sent out about the PTO. We encourage parents to become involved with their child's school as much as they can and this is a wonderful way to have that involvement and receive information. We realize that in many homes, both parents work or there is just a single parent. Our PTO understands and would like to take any help that you can give; an hour at a function or dropping off supplies. The PTO and Tuckers Crossroads School will host a "Meet N' Greet" night along with the school's Annual Open House on Tuesday, August 26th at 6:00 p.m. It will also be the first monthly PTO Meeting. This would be a great time to find out more about the PTO. At the Open House, teachers will be looking for a person to be a Class Parent and ask that you share contact information with the PTO. It's a great way to keep everyone informed and exchange ideas. Upcoming events include a consignment sale at the Gladeville Baptist Church, and a Family Fun Festival in the fall. Then there is a spring fun run, and teacher appreciation week. More details and requests for ideas and help will be coming.

Athletics

Tuckers Crossroads is proud to offer girls volleyball, football, cheerleading, boys and girls' basketball, baseball, and softball. Students in grades five through eight are allowed to try out for these teams. The school enjoys a great deal of community support for our athletic programs. Along with a PTO, there is also an All-Sports Booster Club where parents are encouraged to become involved. This group usually meets monthly following the regular PTO meeting. Please be sure to check school newsletters for meeting dates, times, and location. The sports schedules are now posted on our school website and on the school calendar.

Wilson County Middle School Athletic Grade Policy

Every student-athlete will turn in a grade check to the Athletic Director every three weeks. All student-athletes must maintain a 2.0 GPA and no F's or Incompletes during their season. Failure to meet these academic expectations will result in the following consequences:

- 1st Warning
- 2nd 1 week suspension from game(s) and study during practice
- 3rd 3 week suspension from game(s) and study during practice
- 4th Removal from team

School Hours

School hours are 8:00-3:00. Breakfast is served from 7:30-7:50 each morning. Students who arrive between 7:30 and 7:50 will be kept in the gym or cafeteria under teacher supervision. Students are dismissed to the classrooms at 7:50. Parent and student cooperation is requested in observing the daily schedule. Please see the “**Transportation**” section in this handbook for further details.

Attendance

Absences: If your child must be absent from school, please call the office at 444-3956 between 7:30 and 8:30 to report the absence. If you do not call the office, we will call you to verify your child's safety and well-being. Please note that you must provide written documentation in order for the absence to be excused. A phone call to or from the school is not sufficient to excuse a child from school. The written documentation must be provided within 3 days of the child's return to school. According to county policy a child may be excused from school 5 times each semester using a parent's note. After the 5th parent's note a doctor's note will be required. Refer to the Wilson County Schools Attendance Policy located on page 10 in the student agenda for more information on excused and unexcused absences, tardies, and perfect attendance.

Perfect Attendance: Perfect attendance means a child is present every day school is in session. The child may not have any tardies or early dismissals to have perfect attendance. Perfect attendance ribbons will be awarded each nine weeks. All-year perfect attendance certificates will be given out at the end of the school year.

Check-Out Procedure

If a student leaves during the school day, they must be signed out of the office. Adults checking students out early may be required to show a picture I.D. Students will only be dismissed to parties listed on their registration form on file – no exceptions. As part of our school safety procedures please do not go directly to the classroom. Come to the office and someone will be happy to assist you.

Safety Procedures

Wilson County Schools continues to take proactive measures to protect the safety of all students and staff members.

At TXR, we have safety and security plans which were designed with the help of school personnel, as well as local law enforcement, emergency management and public health officials. Plans are regularly reviewed and updated. These plans include procedures to respond to critical incidents such as fire or tornado, intruders and other safety concerns. The school has established practice drills to ensure we are fully prepared for any emergency. These drills are practiced regularly.

School Visits

We love for our parents to be in the building and involved at school. As part of our safety plan, all visitors must enter the building at the front of the school and report immediately to the office. Everyone must sign in and get a badge.

While parents and grandparents are encouraged to visit school frequently, please remember that no one is permitted to visit teachers or classrooms before, during or after school unless this has been pre-arranged with the teacher. This is in accordance with the legally binding Education Agreement between Wilson County Schools and its teachers. So, if you need to speak with your child's teacher, or want to volunteer, please write a note in their agenda book or call the school office and leave a message. Parents and grandparents can join the children for lunch any day. This does not have to be pre-arranged. We have a special table set up in the cafeteria for family members to have lunch with their child.

Transportation

Afternoon dismissal is often one of the most stressful times of the school day, especially for young students. This is especially true when their transportation routine changes frequently. For this reason, ride changes (i.e. car rider or bus rider) should be avoided as much as possible. If a ride change is needed, please notify the office before 2:00 p.m.

Bus riders: See agenda book page 9 for bus code of conduct.

Walkers: Students who walk home must have a permission note on file in the office signed by the parents. If, on occasion, you want your child to walk home or someplace else after school, you must send a note to the office that day stating your wishes. If the student has no note, they will have to ride the bus as usual.

Car-riders: Please remember that these procedures should be followed by all parents, and that they are to ensure the safety of all students. *Please do not use this time to talk to teachers about your child. Feel free to hand them a note or call them at another time.*

Morning drop-off: This takes place in the back of the building. You need to enter the marked drive and get in line. The morning line is single file. The teachers on duty will come out to assist you at 7:30 a.m. and they will stay until 7:58. If you arrive after 7:58, you need to pull to the front of the building, park in a marked space, and bring your child into the office to be signed in late. If you arrive before 7:30, you must wait with your child until the teachers arrive, as the gym door will be locked until 7:30. For the safety of your child, please don't leave them until a teacher is there. If the teacher is there, someone is inside also to supervise the students. This does not start until 7:30 for car riders. No child should ever be dropped off as a car rider in the front of the building.

Afternoon pickup: Afternoon loading takes place in the back of the building from 3:00 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. If you arrive after that time, you will need to drive to the front of the building to pick your child up in the office. No child may be picked up in front unless a parent has parked in a marked space and comes into the office to sign the child out. Please note that if our buses arrive after you park, you could be blocked in until the buses depart. Thank you for following the correct procedures. Children are our most precious commodity and we want all to be safe.

Please note that supervision is not available for students prior to 7:30 a.m. or after 3:15 p.m. unless your child is enrolled in Kids Club.

School Supplies

A supply list for each grade level is available. Each child should come to school with the necessary supplies. If you need supplies provided, please see the guidance counselor or an administrator. Basic school supplies, pencils and paper, are in the bookkeeper's office. Your child may purchase them as needed in the morning.

Emergency School Closings

If it is necessary to close schools because of inclement weather or for any reason, the closing will be announced by utilizing a new communication tool, **ConnectEd**. You will receive a message

through whatever contact information you have listed in our database, whether it is email or phone about any changes. You can also get the information from area television and radio stations. You may call a recorded message at 443-8727 to hear updated information. Your child will be dismissed according to the emergency letter we have on file. Please keep a record or copy of the information you gave us on the snow letter to help you remember the instructions you have given us. These letters will be sent home in the fall.

Telephone

If you wish to speak to a teacher, please call the office and leave your phone number, and he/she will return your call as soon as possible. Please understand that it may be the next day before your call is returned due to limited planning times and phone access. Teachers will also provide their school e-mail address at the beginning of each year. This, along with the agenda book, is an excellent tool for communicating with the teachers.

Emergency Numbers

Please notify the office any time you have a change in jobs, home phone numbers, get a new cell phone number, etc. In case of illness or an emergency, the parents will be contacted first. If you cannot be reached we will call the other people you have listed on your registration form. Should there be an emergency involving an accident and we cannot reach you, 911 will be called and these calls are usually transported to University Medical Center for emergency treatment at parent expense.

Discipline

It is our goal at Tuckers Crossroads to provide an atmosphere throughout the school in which children feel safe, secure and happy in addition to having the maximum opportunity to learn. In an effort to accomplish this goal, the Wilson County Code of Conduct adopted by the School Board is followed school wide. A Code of Conduct booklet was issued to each student on the first day of school. In addition, information on classroom rules and procedures are located in this handbook in the section that pertains to your child's specific grade level.

Lesson Line

Lesson line is available 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. at 777-7474. Please call to check messages from your child's teacher(s). Most teachers have a web page accessible through our school website: www.wcschools.com/txr. All teachers will either call Lesson Line or maintain an updated web page.

Dress Code

TXR follows the dress code adopted by the Wilson County School Board. We do our best to enforce the dress code fairly and consistently. Most violations are unintentional and are easily rectified. We appreciate your cooperation when we have to call to have different clothes brought to the school. This is necessary to have all students in correct dress. When one child is out of dress code in the classroom or hallway and others see them, they think it is okay. Therefore, according to our policy, we keep all students who are out of dress code in the office until proper clothes are available. We encourage every 6th – 8th grader to keep an extra belt in their backpack. This is the most common dress code violation, so an extra belt can come in handy when your morning has been hectic. Thank you for your help in following the dress code.

Physical Education

P.E. is offered for all elementary students in kindergarten-fifth grades and as an elective for middle school students. If a student's participation has some limitations, it will be necessary to submit a written note to our P.E. teacher, Gary Hannah. Continued limitations will require a medical doctor's written excuse on file. Regular school clothing is appropriate for most physical education activities. No street shoes are allowed during P.E. Please wear athletic shoes on P.E. days.

Textbooks

Textbooks and agenda books are furnished free. If textbooks are lost or damaged, parents will be charged for the damages or for full replacement value. Lost agendas can be replaced for a cost of \$8.00, if available.

Lost and Found

Clothing and personal belongings that are brought to school should be labeled with your child's name. Recovered articles are turned into the school's Lost and Found. You will find the lost and found items in the hallway outside the cafeteria. Unlabeled or unclaimed property is turned over to a welfare agency monthly.

Cafeteria Policies and Procedures

Each student has an account in the cafeteria with a unique pass code number. Parents may send money on a daily, weekly or monthly basis for use on their child's account. Wilson County Schools is proud to offer Parent Online, a safe and secure way for parents to make on-line payments and monitor meal account activity for their children. For more information, visit www.Parentonline.net. We also have a link on our school website for your convenience. Breakfast is \$1.00 and lunch is \$1.50 for students. Visitor breakfast is adult \$2.25, youth \$1.50 and lunch is adult \$3.00, youth \$2.25.

Breakfast is served each morning from 7:30-7:50 a.m. Wilson County Schools has a no charge lunch policy. If a child forgets his/her lunch money, they may borrow from the office and pay back the next day. Students may not bring carbonated drinks for lunch in the cafeteria. Glass bottles may not be brought to school for safety reasons.

Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their children at the parent/child table. You must first sign in at the office and get a visitor's pass. We have a special set of tables in the cafeteria for the parents and their students. According to federal guidelines food purchased from restaurants or other vendors may not be brought in to the cafeteria.

The cafeteria may not accept checks during the last two weeks of school.

Medication

If it is necessary for your child to take a prescribed medication at school please contact the school nurse for the necessary paperwork. Do not send any medication to school with your child. This includes prescription and/or over the counter medicines (including cough drops). Medication must be brought to and picked up from the school office by a parent/guardian.

Please refer to the WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS medication policy located in the agenda on page 1 for complete details.

Returned Checks

Wilson County Schools is now a part of the Federal Automated Recovery System, Inc. (FARS) to handle all checks. This system will electronically debit your account for the face amount and fees allowed by your state.

Please sign this page, remove it and return it to your child's teacher on the next school day.

I acknowledge that I received a copy of the Tuckers Crossroads School Handbook.

Parent Signature: _____

Child's name: _____

Teacher's name: _____

Date: _____

Please allow PTO to have my contact information: _____ Yes _____ No