

# Turtle Talk

September 2020

## Welcoming Back Families!

### September Dates to Remember

**Mon., Sept. 7th**  
No School - Labor Day

**Tue., Sept. 15th - Thur., Sept. 17th**  
New Student Conferences  
(After School)

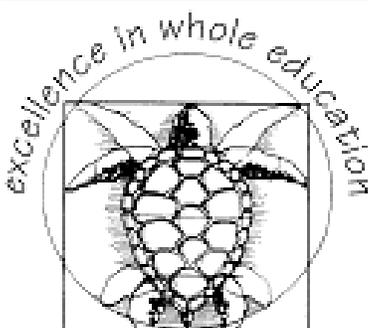
**Fri., Sept. 18th**  
Peace Day Assembly

**Tue., Sept. 22nd - Thur., Sept. 24th**  
East Campus Portrait Days

**Wed., Sept. 30th & Thur., Oct. 1st**  
West Campus Portrait Days

**Mon., Sept. 28th**  
No School - Fall Holiday

**Sat., Oct. 17th & Sun., Oct. 18th**  
Sibling & Virtual Student Portrait Days



### Back to Work and Fun!

It feels good to work together and play together! After a long and different kind of break, we are back in action, both in person and virtually. We want to personally thank you for entrusting us with your children as we teach them and grow with them during these new times. Please read on to see what we have been doing to keep the in-person students and teachers safe, and to enrich and connect with our virtual students.

### Safety is #1

#### Temperature Checks

Every morning we take temperature checks of our students and staff. We have installed touch free thermometer readers in different parts of the school and have walk up thermometer readers for any individual that may need to enter.

#### Disinfectants/ Sanitizers

Foggers are used twice a day to sanitize the classroom. In the afternoon a milder, non-toxic disinfectant is used. This is called 'Force of Nature' and is an EPA registered product, for use against SARS - COV-2 the source of COVID-19.

After the children leave, all classrooms are fogged one more time with a stronger non-toxic and non-corrosive, disinfectant called Effersan.



### Plastic Barriers

Plexiglass barriers have been erected (and are moveable) in various parts of the school. Classrooms have been supplied with plexiglass barriers to provide safety for our teachers during lessons or students who are collaborating at a table.

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## Classroom Bubbles

Each classroom is confined to its own “bubble” or “pod”. This means that classroom students do not interact or mix with other students. Even our After Care program is separate for each classroom keeping students separated in their own section of the school or playground every day to prevent commingling. Recess is staggered to avoid commingling classrooms.

## Fresh Air System

The west campus being a L.E.E.D. Certified green building has a special system that constantly brings in fresh air as it takes out the stale air. This makes for excellent indoor air quality that a green building must have.

## UV Lights

In addition to these procedures that are followed daily, the East Campus is using 4-5 large UV light units that are rotated around to each room at the end of the day after students have left. The UV lights are used to kill any viruses that may be present.

## Virtual Learning

This Fall, our school has adapted to the needs of our Turtle River families and staff. We currently have TRM's first Virtual Kindergarten Program is taught by our Lead Teacher, Ms. Sara Medina. Virtual Lower Elementary Program, is taught by Lead Teachers, Ms. Christy Escoto and Ms. Caroline Self. Finally, we have integrated virtual programs with our in-person Upper Elementary and Junior High programs. Students 4th-8th grade who choose to learn virtually, are involved in real time, with their in-person classmates and teachers. Every Friday, teachers work hard to organize supplies and materials for their virtual families to pick up and bring home. Google Classroom is actively used, and communication is constant and ongoing.



*(Caption: Above you'll see Gardenia Room's virtual supply bins for family pick-up before the first day)*

This whole new experience has brought us together to adapt in ways we could never have imagined. Ms. Bublil has been the source for many thoughtful projects at the school to make staff, teachers, and students comfortable. This includes projects like adding a multitude of canopies to the outdoor playground area for outdoor learning options, a paved outdoor patio outside of Poinciana and Cedar classrooms and buying portable headphones with speaking devices for teachers.



*(Above, Glenn and Beau interact with Cedar Virtual students. Cedar and Poinciana Room integrates all their class lessons to have virtual and in person students. Currently, each virtual student is paired up with an in-person student to prepare for a debate, the culminating project for their Unit 1, Early Colonization.)*