

TESFA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Global Minds with Minnesota Hearts

| www.tesfainternationalschool.org

Mission

Tesfa International School is committed to providing an equitable and empowering education for all. Our scholars will engage in a transdisciplinary curriculum supported by conceptual and inquiry based learning. Side-by-side with dedicated educators, scholars will develop the knowledge, skills, and characteristics necessary for active citizenship throughout the world.

Upcoming Events

School Board Meeting

January 28

No School

January 18- Staff Development

January 21- MLK Jr. Day

MAP Assessment

January 14 - January 25

Did You Know?

We still have a few openings at each grade level! As a parent of Tesfa scholars, you are our best voice in the community to spread the word about our amazing little school. Please tell your family, friends and neighbors about the amazing work of our scholars and teachers. Encourage them to stop by and talk with us about enrolling today!

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable break. We have many exciting things planned for this month and look forward to a terrific second half of the school year. During the weeks of January 14th and January 21st students will take the MAP assessment in Reading and Mathematics. The assessment allows us to measure your child's academic growth and helps us to identify where your child needs to go next in their learning. We are excited to see how much your child has learned with us this year. Assessment data is an important tool that helps us individualize learning to meet each student's specific needs. Homeroom teachers will share your child's results during the March parent-teacher-student conferences.

This month we will be focusing on the PYP Attitudes of Independence and Curiosity. Showing independence means students think and act independently, make their own judgments based on reasoned principles and are able to defend their judgments. Being curious means students understand that it is important to wonder and ask questions about the nature of learning, the world, its people and cultures. Please help your child practice these traits this month!

Tesfa Team

Field Trips in January

Field trips are an important aspect of students' learning experience at Tesfa and enrich learning. Each grade level takes approximately 6 field trips during the year that are aligned to their PYP Units of Inquiry. Teachers and scholars use the field trips to make transdisciplinary connections between what they are learning in the classroom and the real world. Below are currently scheduled field trips for January/February:

January 9: Fourth grade is visiting the Minnesota State Capitol



Bus Expectations

It is extremely important that all students follow the rules of the bus. We need these rules so students stay safe on the bus.

1. Stay seated when the bus is moving
2. Face forward
3. Use peaceful, quiet voices
4. Stay out of the danger zone
5. No eating or drinking on the bus
6. Keep your body and property to yourself.

Safari Bus Company 763-439-7063

Riding the bus is a privilege. Students who do not follow the rules will be removed from the bus!

Gentle Reminder About School Uniforms

Students need to come in uniform every day. We require **white, light blue, navy blue or any other shade of blue shirts.** Sweaters in school colors may be worn over the shirts. Bottoms must be **navy blue or khaki.**

Please make sure your child is in uniform every day.

For safety, kids need to have gym shoes at school every day.

January 11: Kindergarten is visiting Basecamp

January 15: Second grade is visiting the Science Museum

February 6: Third grade is visiting the Stepping Stone Theatre

February 19: Fifth grade is visiting the Children's Theater Company

Supporting Your Child in Science!

Science at Tesfa is not as simple as memorizing facts and formulas. It is about creating questions, inquiring into concepts, hands on experiences, understanding processes and drawing conclusions. Science is all around us. If you are looking to support your child as a scientist it is actually quite simple and very enjoyable. Encourage them to ask questions then experiment to find the answer, take them outdoors and they will naturally talk about nature, involve them in some cooking, plan a weekend trip to a museum, read and discuss nonfiction texts together. Most importantly learn together. If you are having conversations about daily life and encouraging your child to ask questions then you are helping them to think scientifically. When they ask 'silly' questions such as "dad, why do we have earthquakes?", or "mom why does my face go red when I get hot?", be sure to follow up with your child and find out some answers together. You never know where the inquiry will take you!

ACCESS for ELLs Assessment

Beginning next month, English Language Learners will begin their ACCESS for ELLs assessment. Students will take the state mandated exam in all four language domains (reading, writing, language, and speaking). The assessment results will be shared with parents in the Fall of 2019. Best of luck to all our scholars!