

Tillman Family Update

January 7, 2024

Tillman Family - We hope you and your family had a terrific holiday season and have had a wonderful start to the new year. We're excited to have our students back and are very much looking forward to a successful second semester.

One conversation we've been having over the last few months has focused on how and when we can get families back into our school and our classrooms in meaningful ways. In-person participation has understandably taken a back seat in recent years, due primarily to the pandemic and school safety concerns. The truth is, however, we are a better school when our parents and guardians feel welcome in classrooms and are immersed in what we do, as much as they wish to and are able. This is not to say you haven't been engaged already, and we fully recognize the wide range of what engagement may look like for different families. But we're excited to explore ways to partner even more in the near future, starting with our new Fourth Friday events (see below). We look forward to seeing you at conferences this week and encourage you to review additional opportunities below and in our [updated family calendar](#).

Thanks for your continued support of Tillman and our students.
Bryan, Max, and your team at Tillman

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- Jan 11 (Th) - Parent-Teacher Conferences, Book Fair in library;
- Jan 15 (M) - No school, Celebration of MLK, Sustainability work day in courtyard
- Jan 16 (T) - Planned changes to arrival/dismissal routines (weather permitting)
- Jan 23 (T) - PTO meeting/Summer Camp Informational Fair
- Jan 26 (F) - Fourth Friday Reading, 3rd-5th grade Spelling Bee
- Feb 3 (Sa) - Tillman Ribbon Cutting & Open House
- Feb 8 (Th) - Tillman Night at The Magic House
- Feb 15 (Th) - Tillman Night at the Blues Game
- Feb 16 (F) - No school, staff professional development
- Feb 19 (M) - No school, Presidents Day
- Feb 23 (F) - Fourth Friday Reading
- Feb 29 (Th) - Tillman STEAM Night
- Mar 2 (Sa) - Tillman Trivia Night

New/Updated Information

Report Cards Available Monday

Second quarter report cards will be available for viewing tomorrow at 9am, via the [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#). You can find directions and important reminders about report cards [at this link](#), which will again be shared with you on Monday morning.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for this week, with most taking place on Tuesday and Thursday evening. While September's intake conferences leaned heavily on your voice and insights, you can expect to hear more this round from our teachers about student strengths, potential challenges and goals, and what to expect over the next few months. Our goal is always 100% participation, so please let us know if circumstances may require special arrangements for any of your conferences.

- As a reminder, eight classrooms (all third grade + Corr, Fehl, Schuler, & Taylor) are now located in our new wing. Ms. Rose has also moved, as have our counselors.
- Please note that our art, music, and PE teachers will also be holding drop-in conferences in their classrooms. They LOVE meeting with families and talking about kids, so please don't hesitate to visit them - especially if you have any questions or concerns.
- We hope you'll visit our new library and the Book Fair, located on the main floor of the new wing.
- While you're on campus, please check out the extensive Lost & Found (see video below) and use the wall space outside the library to add your ideas to our visual maps about enhancing STEAM learning for all students and closing gender and racial gaps in science, technology, engineering, art/design, and math.
- Official directional signage is not yet installed, so look for temporary signs around the building.
- We are watching the weather for Tuesday and will make adjustments, as necessary, to ensure the safety of our staff and families.

Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair will take place next week in our new library, with previews during the day and open purchasing during the hours listed below. As mentioned above, we hope you'll stop by while you're at Tillman for conferences.



- **Tuesday, Jan 9**
 - 3:30-8:00 pm (during conferences)
- **Wednesday, Jan 10**
 - 7:30-8:45 am (students must be with an adult)
 - 11:15 am - 1:50 pm (student recess)
 - 3:30-6:30 PM
- **Thursday, Jan 11**
 - 11:15 am - 1:50 pm (student recess)
 - 3:30-8:00 pm (during conferences)

4TH FRIDAY @ TILLMAN

Fourth Friday Celebrations

As mentioned in the introduction, we value having our families on campus and in our classrooms in ways that are meaningful and safe to all involved. We're excited to roll out one specific opportunity for engagement this semester, with our new "Fourth Friday" events.

- On the Fourth Friday of each month, starting on January 26, we are inviting parents, family members, and other guests to read, play math games, or do design tasks with our Trailblazers. We're starting with reading, likely for the first few months, and we hope you'll join us to share in our love of books. No tests, no quizzes – just good books shared among friends as we start our day together.
- Additional parking will be available behind Tillman on these mornings, and our doors will open at 8:20 to help us manage ID stickers and security. All students and guests will be invited into classrooms at our normal 8:25 arrival time. The tardy bell rings at 8:40.
- We will read until approximately 8:50, at which time families are invited to watch our live announcements from classrooms.
- Families will be strongly urged to register in advance, and we'll have stations at each door set up to gather your pre-printed ID stickers. More information will be provided about this soon.
- After our announcements have concluded, family members and guests are invited to enjoy light refreshments and good conversation in the cafeteria, courtesy of our PTO.

Ribbon Cutting & Open House

We're excited to invite all members of our Tillman Family and the broader KSD community to our official Ribbon Cutting & Open House on **Saturday, February 3** at 9am. More information will be coming soon, but we wanted to share the date as soon as possible. In addition to a ribbon cutting, guests will have the opportunity to tour the building and see our new and repurposed spaces.



Addressing Gaps in STEM & STEAM Subjects

STEAM in education refers to an intentional focus on using Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Design, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. STEAM broadens the focus of STEM by including art/design and recognizing the importance of creativity, design processes, and iterative thinking. *We want all students, boys and girls, to excel in STEAM-related subjects and with STEAM-related tasks.* Just as important, we want our boys and girls to value math, science, technology, engineering, and principles of art/design AND believe in their abilities to be successful in these areas, even when - especially when - the tasks are challenging.

There are a number of racial and gender gaps in our data, across multiple disciplines, but none stands out more than what we've seen specific to math and science - the STEAM fields most frequently assessed. Addressing STEAM gaps is one of several district-wide areas of focus, and we'd like to engage families as partners in eliminating these gaps. For more information about the [gaps](#) at Tillman, please visit our growing [STEAM Initiative website](#).

Families are encouraged to offer their ideas and insights about closing and eliminating these gaps while you're at Tillman this week for conferences. Please look for and add to the visual concept maps that will be hung on the walls outside our new library.

PLEASE Visit the Lost & Found

The Lost & Found is very full and (for the time being) VERY organized. Watch this short video to identify lost items and send your Trailblazer to the front hallway on Monday to retrieve it. Or be sure to claim items next week, in the hall near our main office, during conferences and the Book Fair. We appreciate your help as we work to thin this out!

Tillman Lost & Found - January 2024



Changes to Arrival & Dismissal Routines Coming Soon

Plans are in the works to shift morning and afternoon carpools to the rear of the building, similar to how they were pre-construction. In conjunction with these changes, we will shift bus traffic into

the circle loop and away from the outer chute. Changes will likely occur on or around Tuesday, January 16, so please watch for additional information and revised maps later this week.

Repeat (and Still Important) Information

STEAM Night Donations Needed

Instead of just recycling those wrapping paper rolls and cardboard boxes. why not donate them for use at Tillman's STEAM Night? Please drop off your broken-down, corrugated cardboard boxes and wrapping paper rolls (paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls too) to the front office.

A number of additional items that were previously shared in the Sunday Update are still relevant. In an effort to streamline our weekly communication, we've shifted these repeated items to our Tillman website, under **Our School** --> **Family Updates** --> [Ongoing Family Information](#). Please look to the website for information about the items listed below.

- Volunteer in the Library
 - Magazine Donations for Counseling Center
 - Volunteering on Field Trips
 - Work on Bioretention Basin
-

PTO Information

Additional information about PTO can be found on our [Tillman PTO website](#).

Mark Your Calendars - PTO Summer Camp Fair on January 23

PTO is once again inviting local camps to our summer camp fair on January 23 (7pm) in Tillman's gym. Parents can ask questions, gather informational materials, and decide which programs would be a good fit for their children. Non-Tillman families are welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided.

Tillman Express Fund

Express Fund is the PTO's no-hassle/no-selling fundraising tradition and one of the largest sources of income for our organization. All students directly benefit from the PTO, which provides teacher grants and stipends, funding for school projects and field trips, community building activities, and financial assistance as needed in the school community. A donation of \$35 per student is recommended for meeting our budget goals, but any amount helps. There is also an optional "Trailblazer Level" of \$100 which comes with the opportunity to win various prizes throughout the year! You can make your tax-deductible donation via [MySchoolBucks](#).

A number of additional PTO items that were previously shared are still relevant. In an effort to streamline our weekly communication, we've shifted these repeated items to our PTO website, under Our School --> PTO --> [PTO Updates & Information](#). Please look to the website for information about the items listed below.

- New Position for PTO Board

- Tillman Express Fund
- Tillman Night at the Blues Game - Feb 15
- Trivia Night - March 2
- Tillman Unite Book Club
- Spirit Wear (now available ALL year)
- Sign-up Parties for Adults
- Room Parent & Classroom Party Volunteers Needed
- Additional Volunteer Opportunities - Sustainability, 5th Grade Celebration, Tillman Unite
- New Student Welcome Sign Return
- Buzz Book

KSD Information & Updates

STEAMfest Volunteers Needed

KSD is looking for event STEAMfest volunteers to greet guests, assist with a hands-on activity in a science room, and grade projects on Saturday, February 10. If you're Interested and willing to help, please complete our STEAMfest [volunteer form](#). Interested volunteers will need to fill out the volunteer form highlighted above or visit www.kirkwoodschoools.org/steamfest



Latest KSD Spotlight



Family Update Archive



Latest BOE News



Tillman Peachjar



Buzz Book



Spirit Wear

Digital Flyers

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Monday January 15, 2024
1:00 –2:00 p.m.
Keating Center, Kirkwood High School
801 West Essex 63122

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

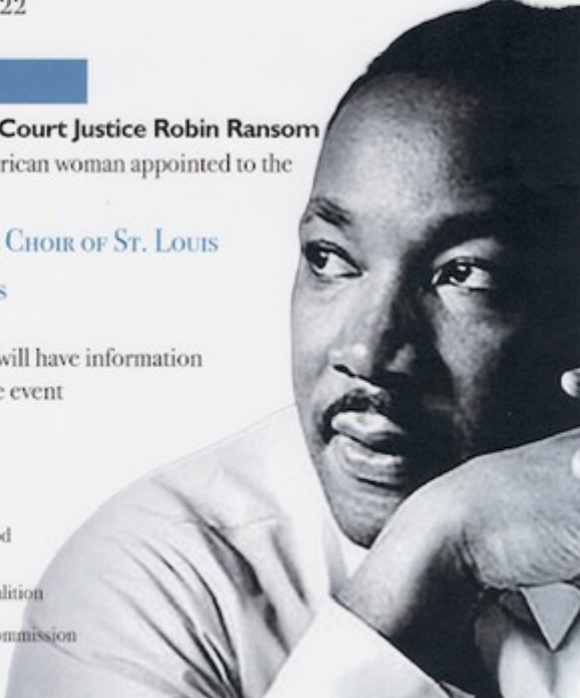
Missouri Supreme Court Justice Robin Ransom
The first African-American woman appointed to the
State Supreme Court

COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR OF ST. LOUIS

Student Participants

Social Justice groups will have information
tables before/after the event

SPONSORED BY:
Meacham Park Neighborhood
Improvement Association
Kirkwood Social Justice Coalition
Kirkwood Human Rights Commission
Kirkwood School District



Tillman Elementary School

Email: tillman.news@kirkwoodschoools.org

Website: <https://www.kirkwoodschoools.org/tillman>

Location: [230 Quan Avenue, Kirkwood, MO](#)

Phone: [314-213-6150](tel:314-213-6150)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TillmanElementary>



Tillman Elementary

Tillman is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters