



Twin Rivers Elementary School



435 Lou Lemke Lane Muir, MI 48860 (616) 522-0005

August 11, 2021

Dear Twin Rivers Families,

We are so excited to welcome you and your family to a new school year!! For 2021-22, we have planned several exciting changes in our staff and around our building!!

I am Paul Frost, the new principal at Twin Rivers. I started my educational career teaching 5th grade at TR. I have been teaching Social Studies at Ionia Middle School for the past 13 years as well as coaching several sports and running the IMS Washington DC trip. My wife, Christina and I have three children. Our oldest two children, Abby and Adam both attended Twin Rivers and are now in college. Our youngest son, Charley is starting his freshman year at IHS. I am fired up to return to TR as the new principal! I know how strong the connection is between the Lyons/Muir community and Twin Rivers and I am excited to be a part of it again and to help it continue and grow!

We do have some staff changes in addition to myself:

- Sam Beckett will be the new teacher of Specialized Instruction, replacing Mrs. Heniser. Mr. Beckett did his student teaching here at TR last year, so he is a familiar face that we are happy to welcome back.
- Mrs. Christina Frost will be our new Literacy Specialist. She is coming to us from Rather 5th grade and is replacing Mrs. Honeysett. She has taught for 21 years, and you may have seen her this summer on the Words on Wheels bus here at school.
- Our ASD 3-5 classroom will be taught by Angela Perry. She is replacing Mrs. Rau. We are excited to welcome her to TR!
- We also welcome Christina Ramos who will be our new KinderStart teacher, replacing Mrs. Bentoske who is moving to Rather.
- Mrs. Sarah Bennett will replace Mrs. Shanda Bennett as a Title One Para.

We are hoping that this year feels much more “normal” than the past year and a half have been. We have some COVID-19 protocols in place this year like hand sanitizers and sanitizing wipes available in every classroom. We still need to limit the number of people allowed into the school. We are requiring students to wear masks on busses, but we are not requiring them in the classrooms. We are following the MDHHS and Ionia County Health Department requirements, so if those change, our protocols could change as well. Please look for updates on ClassDojo, Seesaw, and the IPS website.

While masks are not required in the buildings, students are more than welcome to wear them at school if you and your child are more comfortable with that.

Here are some procedures that you need to know before we start the school year:

MORNING DROP-OFF If you are dropping your student off, please use the west door by the parking lot. Do not use the east doors by the circle drive, that drive is for the busses. You can drop students off between 8:40-8:50 am. Doors open at 8:48.

While we understand and appreciate that some parents will want to walk their children into school and to their classroom door, especially those with younger children or children who are new to the school, we ask that *after the first day* of school parents allow their children to walk into the school on their own. We ask this because all of our students will be waiting in the hallways outside of their classrooms and the halls will be extremely congested prior to teachers welcoming their students into the classrooms to have breakfast. In addition, we've seen that this helps students develop a sense of independence and confidence which can lead to a smoother start to the school day.

AFTERNOON PICK-UP Just as we did last school year, we will be bringing students out to the west entrance area by the parking lot where they will wait in line by grade level until they are released to their parents who are picking them up. This procedure is again being employed this school year as we will have many students being picked up and we want to ensure that students are picked up by the appropriate adult. We will be releasing Kinderstart, kindergarten and 1st grade students at 3:40. 2nd and 3rd graders will be released at 3:45. 4th and 5th graders at 3:50. Parents will not be able to come into the building at the end of the day to pick up their students to ease congestion in the hallways and help ensure safe social distancing in the hallways.

OPEN HOUSE We hope to see you at the Twin Rivers Open House which is scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Parents and students should go directly to classrooms as there will not be any school-wide gatherings or presentations in the gym during the open house.

If you have any questions or if there is any help that we can provide as you prepare for the school year, please call the Twin Rivers office at (616) 522-0005. School will begin on Monday, August 23. We can't wait to see you then!

Sincerely,

Paul Frost
Twin Rivers Elementary Principal

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Important Information for the 2021-22 School Year

Covid Protocols:

- Sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.
- Masks are required on all IPS school busses.
- Masks are optional in school.

Procedures:

- Student drop-off and pick up is at the west doors by the parking lot.
- Drop-off times at 8:40-8:50 am.
- Doors will open at 8:48 am.
- Breakfast will be provided free of charge for all students in their classrooms.
- Class begins at 8:55 am.
- Kinderstart-1st grade will be released at 3:40 pm.
- 2nd and 3rd grades will be released at 3:45 pm.
- 4th and 5th grades will be released at 3:50 pm.
- Parents are not allowed to come into the building for drop-off or pick-up of their students.

Important Date Reminders:

- Open House - Wednesday, August 18, 5:30-6:30pm.
- First Day of School - Monday, August 23, 8:55-3:50.
- Fall Pictures-Thursday, September 9th