



Skinner Middle School Newsletter

March 2013

*The legacy, the passion, the opportunity
Educating and motivating life-long learners who explore,
create and achieve.*

A Note from the Principal...

Dear Skinner Middle School Families,

Students have worked diligently to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for academic success. The time has come for us to demonstrate this learning and thinking. TCAP season has arrived!

Below are the testing days for this year's assessment. Please ensure students are at Skinner on time and ready to focus and do their best. **Students should arrive to school no later than 7:30 on each and every testing day!**

TCAP Testing Schedule

Testing Days	Testing Sessions
Tuesday, March 12 th	Writing #1 Writing #2
Wednesday, March 13 th	Reading #1 Reading #2
Thursday, March 14 th	Writing #3 Reading/Writing #3
Tuesday, March 19 th	Math #1 Math #2
Wednesday, March 20 th	Math #3 Science #1 (8 th Grade Only)
Thursday, March 21 st	Science #2 (8 th Grade Only) Science #3 (8 th Grade Only)

Students will test each morning and we appreciate families scheduling all appointments for your child on alternate dates. Perfect attendance during school and testing time is the first step to success! Let's support our students so that they can perform well each and every day! Thank you for all your support!

Upcoming Important Dates for March

- March 2nd ~ Saturday School
- March 5th ~ PTO 7pm in LMC
- March 9th ~ Saturday School
- March 11th ~ TCAP Starts
- March 16th ~ Saturday School
- March 22nd ~ 8th Grade Continuation Photos (only for students meeting 8th grade requirements)
- March 22nd ~ TCAP Social (for students with perfect attendance for all assessments)
- March 25th - 29th ~ SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

Upcoming Important Dates for April

- April 3rd ~ Collegiate Fair @Skinner (*Mandatory* for all 7th and 8th grade students)
- April 5th ~ 7pm to 7am : Lock-in (students in good standing will be invited to attend)

Tips to help support your scholar for TCAP and with regular school:

- Make sure your child gets a good night sleep
- Breakfast is served in the Skinner cafeteria from 7:10-7:25. Students attending breakfast on TCAP mornings will receive a special ticket to be entered in a drawing for a prize.
- Make sure your scholar is at school on time.
- Before your scholar leaves for school each day, offer them encouraging words like: "Do your best!" And "You can do it!"

Attendance - Skinner

The Middle School attendance goal is 95% or higher. Skinner Middle School values students being in class every minute of every day. Students with 95% minimum will be rewarded at the end of the school year not only with a great education, but with an additional incentive reward.

Below is our overall attendance rate for the school year as well as the rate for each grade level. Additionally is our information for **the two snow days** in February. Please ensure your student is at school each and every day. Teachers are not able to replicate lessons for students who are absent, especially students who are chronically absent or who take extended vacations.

	2012-13	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Feb-21	Feb-25
All Grades	92.67%	96.47%	94.64%	93.88%	91.79%	89.55%	91.49%	89.68%	73.92%	67.85%
6	93.75%	95.28%	95.46%	95.34%	93.38%	89.51%	93.35%	91.71%	79.81%	70.18%
7	93.13%	97.99%	95.28%	94.53%	92.67%	89.42%	91.26%	89.37%	72.73%	65.76%
8	90.85%	96.21%	92.91%	91.46%	88.86%	89.76%	89.55%	87.62%	68.18%	67.57%

A study conducted in Chicago Schools a few years ago found that: *nearly 90 percent of freshmen in Chicago public schools who missed less than a week of school per semester graduated within four years. **Missing five to nine days a semester was enough to drop the graduation rate to 63 percent!*** ~ Allensworth, E. M., and Easton, J. Q. (2007). *What matters for staying on-track and graduating in Chicago public high schools*. Chicago, IL: Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago.

Upcoming Fundraiser 3/21/13

Skinner will have a school-wide fundraiser at Big Time on Thursday, March 21 from 6-8 pm. Cost for 2 hours of jumping is \$10/person and Skinner Middle School will receive 50% of the proceeds. Big Time is located at 7330 W. 52nd Ave in the Sam's Club strip mall. More details to come!!

Bus Pick-Up and Drop-Off Location CHANGE



Starting March 7th, afternoon bus pick-up will take place on 41st Avenue. Morning bus drop off takes place in the rear of the school as well. We expect this shift to assist with the afternoon traffic congestion on 40th.

After School Pick-Up

ALL Skinner students should be in an activity (PIE, Neighborhood Center, Athletics) by 2:50pm. All remaining students should be picked up, or off campus by 3:00pm. Any student remaining on campus after 3:00pm will be placed into ASI. ***It will then be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to sign that student out of ASI.*** Skinner staff are not available to supervise students not participating in after-school activities after this 3:00pm time. For the safety of your student, please know your child's after-school plan(s).

Skinner T-Shirt Recall

It has been brought to our attention that the logos on some of our new 2012-2013 black and green Skinner logo t-shirts have been peeling off. We have contacted the t-shirt company, and they have agreed to replace these shirts with an identical shirt in the same size.

Please bring your 2012-2013 black logo t-shirt to Ms. Chavira in the Main Office, and she will exchange it for a new, identical shirt in the same size.

We apologize for the inconvenience!

Mark Your Calendar

3rd Annual Pre-Collegiate Fair
4-3-13

Mandatory Event for All 7th and 8th Grade Skinner Scholars! More details to come in a separate flyer.