

February 4, 2022

Dear TPS Families,

Last night at our school board meeting, we expressed appreciation to our counselors for [National School Counseling Week](#) and we shared the importance of investing in mental health. We thank all of our partners who have come together to help us support staff and students in continuing to provide the needed services to families while also helping us invest in additional mental health resources for our staff. We recognize that our school crisis teams have faced unprecedented challenges in mental health for students and staff.

We thank our staff for the incredible job they have continued to do this year to serve our students while addressing health care at schools and at home in ways they did not expect. We are all impacted by the pandemic and we recognize the toll the pandemic is taking on all of our staff personally and professionally. We believe that in order to be available to serve others, we must also invest in the mental health of the staff we love and ensure they are as healthy as possible for our children. [A video message can be viewed here.](#)

In support of our staff, our school board has approved a calendar adjustment to close school on **Presidents' Day on February 21, 2022**, in support of providing one mental health day for all staff including, but not limited to our custodians, office staff, principals, nurses, social workers, counselors, food service staff, paraprofessionals, and all educators. Partner organizations are providing our staff with low or no-cost physical and mental health services along with recreational resources on February 21, 2022.

We thank our partners who are also assisting us by providing low-cost childcare services and activities for families.

- The YWCA (offering Childcare at Whitson: Contact Mrs. Maggie at [maggiebr@ywcaneks.org](mailto:maggiebr@ywcaneks.org))
- The Boys and Girls Club (Offering child care: Contact 785-234-5601 or [membership@bgctopeka.org](mailto:membership@bgctopeka.org))
- The Children's Discovery Center (Free admission funded by the Topeka Shawnee County Library with pass checked out in advance at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Limited supply).

Any agency that wants to partner to offer resources in support of the TPS Mental Health Day on February 21, 2022, may contact Dr. Gray, Director of Instructional Services at [agray@tps501.org](mailto:agray@tps501.org) or at 785-295-3024.

Thank you for your continued support.



Dr. Tiffany Anderson  
Superintendent of Schools  
Unified School District 501