

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can I contact if I have a question or concern?

Our Lead Administrative Staff is always available to hear your questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Rajasri Govindaraju, Curriculum Supervisor/Special Education; Mr. Alpaslan Ozdogan, Project Coordinator; or Mr. Oguz Yildiz, Lead Person. Our Lead Administrative Staff may be contacted by emailing admin@energysmartschool.org.

2. What is being done to improve the hallway traffic during class changes?

We are working on implementing a new system to have a member of our security team and/or a teacher available to monitor and control the hallway traffic at all times. Next year there will be modifications made to both the hallway cubbies and the class schedules to allow for more space in the hallways and reduce the crowding.

3. How can I customize or make changes to my child's lunch options?

You may logon to the MealTime Online system we have available on the school website at <https://www.mymealtime.com/signin.aspx> or you may contact our meal provider directly at maschio@energysmartschool.org.

4. How can I join the PTO or contact someone on the PTO?

The PTO is open to all parents and always welcomes new members. You may contact them about joining or any concerns or questions you have by emailing pto@energysmartschool.org.

5. How do I find out about the afterschool programs available at the school?

On the school website under the drop down menu Documents you will find a listing of the clubs and their descriptions along with the form for signing up. Please click on the following link to get the form: http://www.energysmartschool.org/club2014_2015.pdf

6. What is the procedure if I need to pick my child up early from school?

For security purposes, we require notification for all early pickups. Please send an email to your child's teacher as well as the main office (info@energysmartschool.org), so that we may alert our security staff of your arrival. Upon arrival, please check in at the security desk in the main building. Security will have your child ready at the appropriate time or escort you to the appropriate building.

7. When is the first and last day of school next year?

For the 2015/2016 year, school will commence on September 1, 2015 and end on June 15, 2016.

8. Is there any information available about the new location?

TEECS' new school will be located at 150 Pierce Street in Somerset. This building will be big enough to accommodate additional grades up to and including high school. We are currently in the process of working with the contractor to build out our space to include a cafeteria,

kitchen, gym, labs, bathrooms, and enough classrooms for everyone. We will be moving to this new location in September of 2016.

9. Will TEECS be applying for an extension to include high school?

Our charter renewal comes up in September/October of this year. We will be applying for an extension to high school. Because we are a Tier 1, high performing, top10 district school, we will most likely get approved.

10. What are TEECS' achievements over the last 3 years and how is the school ranked?

TEECS is ranked 10 out of 610 NJ school districts and 27 out of 1360 NJ Public Elementary Schools. See attached link for our report card from the state:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/pr/1314/80/806081967.pdf>

11. How will the Robotics Clubs be managed next year?

TEECS has hired an outside company for the Robotics Clubs as well as Rutgers students to help with the new VEX competitions. The schedule for these clubs will be adjusted so that students involved in band will not have to choose one or the other.

12. Will TEECS provide more of an opportunity for students to strengthen their language arts skills?

TEECS understands the importance of Language Arts in the school as well as for our student's future. We will offer our students writing workshops and writing competitions to strengthen their skills as well as the opportunity to create a school newspaper with their own writing submissions. Teachers will provide more opportunities for students to debate in the classrooms.

13. Are there any temporary facility improvements being made to the current campus for next year?

TEECS is working on getting a lab for next year. We are working with the landlord to get approval and space, looking in to the cost, researching the right company and getting approval from the Township.

14. Are there AP courses available?

There will be AP courses available for the high school level.

15. Can you describe the Middle School College Access Mentoring Program (CAMP)?

CAMP is offered to our 6th graders. It is an opportunity to encourage great academic skills and to nurture a fully developed student with a strong curiosity towards knowledge. Success is not only about achieving perfect scores, most of the time those who have the most success have a great personality as well. We realize that our school has strong potential in terms of academics, but we also want to step forward and create a well-rounded graduation resume for top colleges when that time comes.

CAMP consists of multiple disciplines and activities combined into one package by working in small groups with the mentorship of a TEECS Volunteer Teacher. Each Mentoring group will

have approximately 3-4 students and the Volunteer Mentor Teachers will follow the CAMP curriculum with a CAMP Coordinator. This program will evolve with developing and continuously improving curriculum and instructional system.

16. Are there opportunities for the younger grades to participate in competitions?

TEECS will offer NANO, JrFLL and VEX IQ next year for the younger grades starting at 1st grade.

17. Where can I find the teachers' Parent Communication Policy, Homework Policy, Grading Policy, Curriculum, Unit Plans and Syllabi?

All parents can view their student's teacher information on our website at www.energysmartschool.org under the drop down menu Academics under Curriculum.

18. How does the school plan to resolve the lack of cubby/locker space for your students?

All 5th, 6th, and 7th grade teachers have devised a plan to resolve the issue for their students, so they are not carrying large backpacks and all of their books throughout the day. Each teacher has their own system and has advised the students on where to put their books and bags for the day. It's been brought to our attention that although space has been made available, some students have still decided to carry all their things with them. Please work with your teachers and encourage your children to follow the plan set up for their class.

As the weather gets colder, the need for space will increase due to the winter outerwear the students will be wearing. The school has set up a coat rack outside the doors of Building B, so any student that does not have room in their cubby, locker or classroom will be able to hang their things on the rack. A tarp will be put up on either side of the bridge to protect the rack and the clothing from the weather.

Each classroom is being dealt with individually to accommodate the student schedules. We are asking all teachers to keep the Administration aware of any issues as they come up so the system can be tweaked as necessary for their students. We would like the parents to do the same. If your child is having issues, please email Jeannette Allison (jallison@energysmartschool.org) so that we can try to work it out.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to email them to FAQ@energysmartschool.org.

