

The Dove's Nest

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF



Susie King Taylor
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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SKTCS 2019 - 20

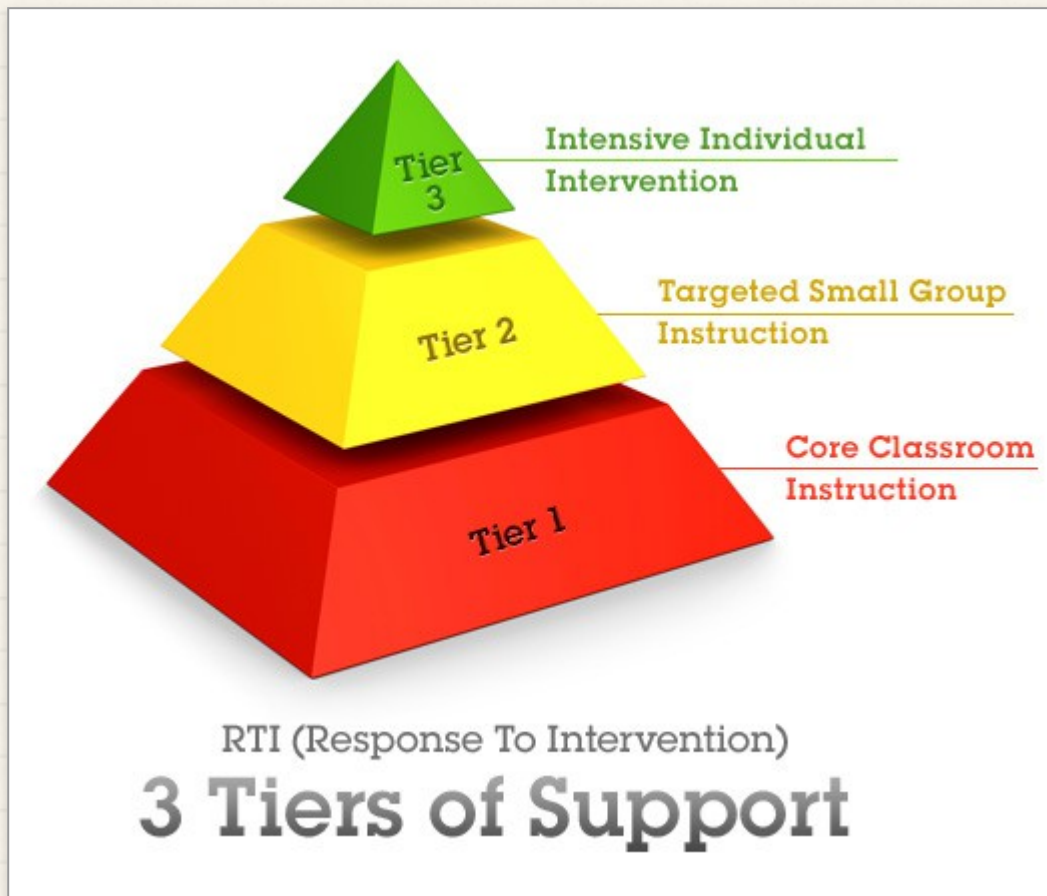
Reenrollment has ended. We are happy to have almost all of our students returning next year!! As a reminder, there will be two significant changes next year:

1. **Addition of middle school** - Next year our fifth and sixth graders will become the beginning of our middle school. Mr. Simmons will teach Humanities (Social studies and English), Ms. Holliday will teach science, and we are on the hunt for an outstanding middle school math teacher. If you know anyone who is certified, please have them contact the office. We will have a middle school parents' meeting later this winter to discuss the exciting new endeavor.

2. **Single Graded Classrooms** - Next year we are moving to single-graded homerooms. The configuration will be as follows:

- 2 Kindergartens - 36 Seats
- 2 First Grades - 40 Seats
- 2 Second Grades - 40 Seats
- 2 Third Grades - 40 Seats
- 2 Fourth Grades 40 Seats
- 2 Fifth Grade Homerooms - 40 Seats
- 1 Sixth Grade Homeroom - 20 Seats

If you have any questions or want to know more about the rationale for the changes, please come to the **Community Meeting on February 27th at 6pm** in the gym.



WHAT IS RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION AND WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION?

Response to Intervention (RTI) is an approach where specific students are identified as in need of strategic interventions in order to make academic gains. Every student starts in Tier 1 and as needs are identified they may escalate to Tier 2 or 3 where the interventions are accelerated and/or intensified.

After 12 weeks a student who does not demonstrate improvement at Tier 2 will be elevated to Tier 3. At minimum students must receive 4 weeks of interventions at each tier (maximum of 12) before interventions are changed and/or they are elevated to the next Tier. If there is no improvement at Tier 3 a student **may be** recommended for evaluation for special education services. If a student is found to be eligible for special education services there will be an eligibility meeting where the team (including parents) will decide appropriate accommodations. It should be noted that a significant discrepancy between student performance and grade level expectation as well as a demonstrated lack of progress in RTI must be evident for students to be eligible for an IEP. Simply performing below grade level or an evaluation by a private psychologist does not automatically make a student eligible for an IEP.

Your child's teacher is the expert on their performance in relation to grade level expectations. Homeroom teachers make referrals for students to be identified in a different tier, provide

interventions at the Tier 1 & 2 level, and meet with parents regarding student progress. Once a child reaches Tier 3 interventions are provided by Mrs. Jackson (our RTI coordinator), Ms. Jones (our RTI trained paraprofessional), or Ms. Griggs (our special education teacher).

If you believe your student is in need of strategic interventions please speak with your homeroom teacher or Mrs. Jackson.

If you have any questions about the RTI process or Special Education you can ask them at the next **Community Meeting on February 27th at 6 pm in the gym.**

BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT

We are reaching the end of the second year and as such there are some board members who are rolling off. That means we are in need of board member candidates. If you know someone who is interested in impacting public education (specifically choice programs) and has a specific skillset (i.e. - finance, law, real estate) that could be useful to our school please direct them to complete the board application at www.sktcs.org.

SPIRIT WEAR



The beginnings of the 2018 - 2019 spirit wear/merchandise have been added to our online store. Once on the page be sure to scroll down so that you do not miss a single item. Also, be sure to click on the item to see all of the color options.

Please visit the [site](#) to purchase new spirit wear and come back often as more items will be added as they become available.



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday February 13th

6pm - **Board Meeting** (Arts Studio)

Friday February 15th

All Day - End of the marking period.

9 am - 9:30 am - All School Meeting - Ms. Scalmato's class (gym)

6:00 - 8:00 pm - **Conversation Hearts Dance** (All students must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets may be purchased online at www.sktcs.org by Thursday February 14th, 2019)

Monday February 18th

All Day - **No School** - Teacher Professional Development Day

3pm - 8pm - Parent/Teacher Conferences

Tuesday February 19th

5pm - 8pm - Parent/Teacher Conferences

Friday February 22nd

8:30 - 9 am - Student Council (Front Office)

10 am - 10:30 am - Volunteer Orientation (Front Office)

Wednesday February 27th -

6 pm - 8pm - **Family Community Meeting** - Come meet other families, hear important school announcements, and ask your burning questions. Children are welcomed, but must be sitting with their families.

