

## Letter to Young 5s, Kindergarten and 1st Grade Parents

February 3, 2017

Tecumseh Public Schools is embarking on a journey to create an educational experience supporting each and every child in identifying his or her gifts and talents; harnessing these talents to improve the learning experience for each and every child and family we serve. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to serve your child!

Your child will be entering a new era in education and will experience the efforts of over one year of planning and preparation when they enter one of our Young 5s/Kindergarten/1st Grade Early Learning Centers at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year! These Early Learning Centers, located at our current Sutton Elementary and Tecumseh Acres locations, will represent an educational environment that is learner-centered based on the needs of each child. Our Preschool program will continue to be housed at the current Sutton Elementary building. Incoming Young 5 learners as well as Kindergartners and 1st Graders will be assigned to one of our Early Learning Centers based on where they live and/or transportation needs. We will still honor Building of Choice requests for each Early Learning Center.

Your child's education in one of our Early Learning Centers will reflect a new way of looking at our educational structure. We recognize the importance of meeting our youngest learners where they are developmentally as well as academically. Our educators will work together to ensure that there is the right balance of developmentally appropriate activities as well as academic opportunities. We recognize that, even at this early stage in their educational career, learners have a particular style of learning that can be stifled in the traditional environment. We will work together to identify those learning styles and support each learner; giving them the opportunity to grow in their best learning environment.

Each learner will be assigned a homeroom teacher. It is so vitally important that our learners develop strong, positive relationships with the adults working with them each and every day. Your child will have the opportunity to excel. Through daily collaboration, our educators will work to ensure that each child is met at his or her instructional level, regardless of age or grade assignment. Learning styles will inform customized learning paths that will enable your child to begin a journey to foster individual growth and creativity.

Mr. Carl Lewandowski will serve as the principal at one of the Early Learning Centers (currently Tecumseh Acres). Mr. Lewandowski began his career working with special needs students as an instructional assistant. He attended Eastern Michigan University, earning a Bachelor's degree in special education. Mr. Lewandowski continued his learning, earning a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Wayne State University. He began his teaching career with Tecumseh Public Schools in 1992. He served as an elementary teacher until 1997, when he was hired as the principal at Tecumseh Acres. Mr. Lewandowski is a lifelong learner,

continuing to take courses in Love and Logic as well as working with Bob Sorensen on early learner strategies. Mr. Lewandowski enjoys spending time outdoors gardening, kayaking and fishing. We will be posting for the Principal at the other Early Learning Center (currently Sutton Elementary) early this spring. We are excited to bring on board a principal who has a strong background working with early learners and understands the importance of developing early literacy skills.

We are still working out the scheduling details and finalizing staffing assignments. We do know that we will continue to provide physical education, music and art courses each day to support the learning process. We will continue to share additional information with you as it becomes available.

If you have any questions, please let us know! You can reach by email or phone as listed below. You can also contact Mr. Lewandowski via email at [clewandowski@tps.k12.mi.us](mailto:clewandowski@tps.k12.mi.us) or by telephone at 517.423. 9744

This is such an exciting time for our district, and we are thrilled that you and your child will be part of this wonderful educational experience!

Respectfully,

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