



# T.R.U.T.H. PREPARATORY ACADEMY

TPA Newsletter

JULY 2016

## From the Founder's Desk



Dear Family & Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of T.R.U.T.H. Preparatory Academy, it is an honor and privilege to invite you to our Inaugural Celebration. Our celebration is scheduled on **Monday, August 1st, 2016 at 8:00 am** on the campus of Hamline University.

We are honored that Dr. Fayneese Miller, President of Hamline University, has so graciously opened the university to our scholars and families in an effort to celebrate a new beginning for our community. The TPA team is putting together a phenomenal program that includes: a keynote address, musical entertainment by Legacy Sounds (original members of the Sounds of Blackness), hot breakfast, and much more.

This celebration marks the first day of school for our TPA scholars. I know our scholars will embody the meaning of the T.R.U.T.H. acronym: Tenacity, Responsibility, Uplift, Teamwork, and Hope. Our team is developing instructional approaches that cultivate learning, and a culturally affirming environment that will result in our scholars outperforming their counterparts that attend other public, private, or charter schools. TPA's approach is designed to foster high scholar achievement, especially for our children who are far too often underserved by the current educational system (s).

I'm looking forward to seeing all parents, siblings, and other family members of our scholars at the Inaugural Celebration! You will receive additional information as it relates to this celebration and other events occurring at TPA in the coming days and weeks. I look forward to visiting with you during our upcoming parent/ scholar orientation. If you have any questions or comments about this announcement, please email me at [jcooper@truthmn.org](mailto:jcooper@truthmn.org).

Warm Regards,

Founder & Executive Director

*"We gain knowledge of ourselves and learn new situations for using our own gifts"*

*-Sobunfu Some*

## In This Issue

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- Culturally Affirming Curriculum
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- Academic Calendar

## TPA Rundown Report:

### Inaugural Celebration August 1st 2016 (First day of School)

Where: Hamline University, St. Paul  
Time: 8:00am

\* At the conclusion of the program, scholars/ parents and staff will parade from Hamline University to TPA for a welcome breakfast.

### - School Supply List

As your scholars begin the new school year AUGUST 1ST, here is a list of supplies that they will need;

(Back pack, Lunch bag, #2 pencils, eraser, pencil box, Pencil sharpener, Pens, Color Pencils, Highlighters, 12 inch Ruler, 5 inch blount tip scissors, Glue stick, 4oz. Glue, and 1 box of tissue.)

### Meet Your Teacher Parent/ Scholar Orientation:

Friday, July 22nd 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm (K– 2)  
Saturday, July 23rd 10am to 12pm (3– 5)  
the morning of 8/1/2016.

Free and Reduced Lunch Forms!!!  
Included with this news letter is your child's free and reduced lunch application.  
**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED BY:**  
**7/15/2016**

## **School Uniform Policy**

Please contact Donald's Apparel at (651) 288-9301 and place your order.

### Boys

- Oxford dress shirts long and/or short sleeve - white
- Relaxed Twill pants, flat front - black
- Relaxed fit Twill pants, flat front, adjustable waistband - Black
- Twill pants plated front - Black
- No white socks

### Girls

- Oxford dress shirt-long sleeve and/or short sleeve - white
- Peter pan collar blouse, long and/or short sleeve - white
- Mid-rise Twill pants flat front - black
- Mid-rise Twill pants, flat front, boot cut black
- Pleated front and back scooter Skirt - black
- No white socks

### Summer Uniforms (Boys and Girls)

- Polo shirts
- Black shorts
- White socks allowed

## **Attention Parents!!!!**

**Please Purchase Your Scholar's Uniforms At Donald's Apparel**

For your uniform alteration needs contact:  
"Stitches with Style, LLC"  
(651) 917-0582 or (651) 336-6987  
Ask for Shellene Coleman



## TPA Updates:

**New Summer  
Hours:  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Monday-Thursday  
&  
Friday  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm**



## Chief Academic Officer Update

*By Robin Francis, Chief Academic Officer*

Greetings TPA Families,

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer! I'm overjoyed to welcome you to the opening year at T.R.U.T.H. Preparatory Academy. I would like to take this opportunity to share a bit about myself as the new Chief Academic Officer.

My name is Robin McIntosh Francis and I am a Saint Paul native, graduating from Saint Paul Central High School. I have been an educator for approximately 20 years ranging from classroom teacher to building principal. I am humbled and honored to be a part of T.R.U.T.H. Preparatory Academy. I am a firm believer we will change the narrative for our students of color, and that we are the right school to make that much needed change. Our students will know "yes they can," and that concept will be affirmed for them by our staff.

With all that said, I am so excited about the beginning of the school year especially because we not only have an extended calendar, we also an extended day, which means lot's of learning for our scholars! Even as a child, the first day of school meant a fresh start, new uniforms, new friends, connecting with old friends, new teachers, and all of the wonderful opportunities a new school year can bring. This is a time to start with a new outlook and a new academic journey for our scholars. Please remind your scholar about their accomplishments from last year, and how we plan to support them as T.R.U.T.H. Preparatory Academy scholars.

This year we will introduce our culturally affirming curriculum and our STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) focus. It will teach our scholars to become critical thinkers and we will challenge them each day to meet academic goals we set as a team which is an essential part of their academic journey.

At TRUTH Preparatory Academy we have the foundational belief that, "it takes a village". In order for our village to be built, we will need everyone on board to ensure that our village is strong! The importance of parent and community participation is essential in the creation of our village and we as a staff are committed to this process as well. Included with this letter are important dates for parent participation please be sure to mark your calendars.

**August**  
**1<sup>st</sup>** Classes Begin/Fall Semester  
**September**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** School Closed/Admin Offices Open  
**5<sup>th</sup>** Labor Day – School/Admin Closed  
**October**  
**12<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup>** Fall Break  
**13<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup>** Teacher's Professional Day – School Closed/Admin Offices Open  
**November**  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** Half-day/No Uniforms  
**23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>** Thanksgiving Break – School Closed/Admin Offices Closed  
**28<sup>th</sup>** Teacher's Professional Day – School Closed/Admin Offices Open  
**December**  
**23<sup>rd</sup>** Last Day of the Fall Semester/Half-day/No Uniforms  
**26<sup>th</sup>- Jan 6<sup>th</sup>** Winter Break – School Closed/Admin Offices Closed  
**January**  
**9<sup>th</sup>** Classes Begin/Spring Semester  
**16<sup>th</sup>** MLK Day – School Closed/Admin Offices Closed  
**February**  
**20<sup>th</sup>** President's Day – School Closed/Admin Offices Closed  
**April**  
**6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>** Teacher's Professional Day – School Closed/Admin Offices Open  
**10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>** Spring Break – School Closed/Admin Offices Open  
**May**  
**19<sup>th</sup>** Malcolm X Day – School Closed/Admin Offices Closed  
**26<sup>th</sup>** Teacher's Professional Day – School Closed/Admin Offices Open  
**29<sup>th</sup>** Memorial Day – School Closed/Admin Offices Closed  
**June**  
**21<sup>st</sup>** Last Day of the Spring Semester and Academic Year  
**30<sup>th</sup>** Last Day for Teachers



T.R.U.T.H. Preparatory Academy  
 1355 Pierce Butler Route  
 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

## 2016 - 2017 Calendar

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
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DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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30																					30	31					

### Contact Us

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Office Hours  
 Monday - Thursday  
 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
 Friday  
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm