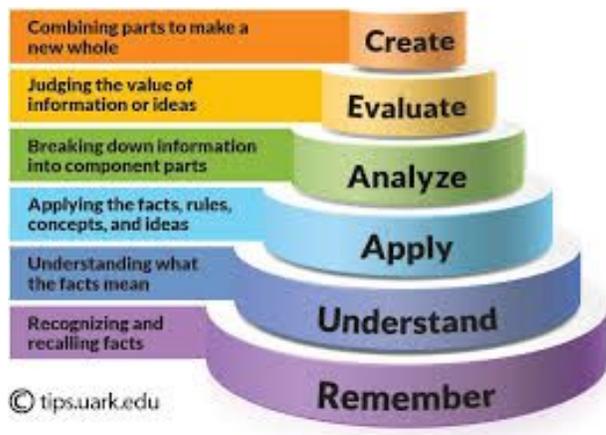


Welcome to TCS Parents Connect!

Dear families,

Over the past few years we have experimented with different ways of connecting to TCS families; email blasts, e-newsletters, back-pack mailers, robo-calls...just to name a few. We are excited to launch this new format where parents and families can communicate back to us, opening a two-way conversation that is responsive to the needs of our families. I want to recognize our parent liaison and creative genius, Mrs. Lisa Butler for creating this exciting new format.

Creating is something that is near and dear to our hearts at TCS. If you study Bloom's Taxonomy in education, you learn that creating is at the highest level of learning. The ability to take learned information and to produce new original work from the components is a level of learning that we aspire to with all children at TCS.



That said, we also know that the building blocks of autonomy as a learner are constructed on a solid foundation of prior mastery. It is for this reason that we launched our Wilson Foundations instruction in grades Kindergarten to Third grade this school year. Clear and effective writing is one of the most important academic assets a student can have in their toolbox. Writing is the primary basis upon which one's work and learning will be judged—in college, in the work-place and in the community. In their daily Foundations work, our students are learning the building blocks of words, how they are constructed, how words are spelled, how they sound, how they are assembled to create meaning. This work provides the basic tools that will allow our students to understand, apply, analyze, evaluate and create written work that is sound, meaningful, and inspiring.

Foundations activities for learning letter-keyword-sound, alphabetic order, and letter-formation skills. So where are the weekly spelling lists and tests you may ask? These practices are replaced by understanding how words are built so that any word can be spelled correctly, not just the 10 words on the weekly list. The latter practice is so 1980! Take a look on Twitter to see Foundations work in action in our K-3 classrooms. Here is a wonderful clip of a Kindergarten student leading her class in a letter-sound review:

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1177723240048930816>

We thank our PTO, our School Advisory Council, and our parents for supporting the purchase of these materials for our classrooms. Ask your child's teacher about how Foundations learning is going in their classroom!

See you around the school!

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More info.....

**Wilson Foundations:**

Wilson Foundations provides research-based materials and strategies essential to a comprehensive reading, spelling, and handwriting program. Foundations makes learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for life-long literacy. Students in grades K-3 receive a systematic program in critical foundational skills, emphasizing:

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics/ word study

High frequency word study

Reading fluency

Vocabulary

Comprehension strategies

Handwriting

Spelling