



School Faculty 2020-2021

Allison Ady—Older Primary

Sydney Cosso—Older All
Days

Trasey Graybill—Older All
Days

Lexi Hundley—Part Time
Programs

Tasha Lyon—Older Primary

Tonya Palsulich—Younger
Primary

Maite Petersen—Part Time
Programs

Alyson Peterson—Younger
All Days

Andy Shadduck—Younger
All Days

Olivia Smith—Part Time
Programs

Rebecca Stalder—Part Time
Programs

Alex Thornton—Primary
Programs

Maria Wagner—Older All
Days

Darcie Wickard—Younger
All Days

Sarah O'Dell—Executive
Director

Nicole Shadduck—
Education Director

From the Directors: Welcome to our 40th Year!

By Sarah O'Dell, Executive Director and Nicole Shadduck, Education Director

We are so happy to be welcoming you to The Children's School's 40th year. The school was founded in 1980 by Mary Clagett Smith. We moved to our current location in 1983, remodeled our school building in 2010 and built an addition in 2016. While the last 40 years have been filled with changes, it seems that the last few months have had many (maybe 40 years' worth) of changes! We experienced a long term closure for the first time. We are wearing masks to school and our relationships are being built online.

We would like to share with you a snapshot of the summer that helped bridge our past and our 'new normal'. TCS closed in March 2020 and did not reopen for full time care for 101 days! During that time, we hosted Facebook groups, invited families to pick up art bags and said goodbye to the 2019-2020 school year with a car parade. Did anyone notice the teachers were drinking rootbeer? Some families may remember that we end our school year with rootbeer and ice cream parties and we hope to do that again in May 2021.

On June 15th, we began to learn what it is like to have daily screenings and temperature scans. We heightened our health and safety policies and we clean a lot. We have reworked our teacher and class scheduling to keep everyone in their own 'pods'. These systems have proven to be successful and will continue into the school year. We are so happy to tell all of you that during our summer programs (11 weeks), there were no positive cases of COVID-19 and no closures. We will work our hardest to continue on this trend.

TCS is welcoming a full group of families back this fall! There are 62 families and a lot of sibling pairs. 28 of our families are brand new to the TCS community! We do have a mix of returning and new families in every class this year. Welcome (or welcome back) to all!

It feels a little strange to be welcoming a new school year with a list of thanks, but we want to acknowledge all of the support we have received over the last few months that has given us the 'push and energy' needed to start this year with success.

Thank you to our TCS families! Your words of gratitude and encouragement have kept us going while we deciphered the swirl of information around us to safely and sanely reopen TCS.

Thank you to our TCS teachers! Your dedication to keeping your classroom a safe place to be a kid to play and learn is why we are here, every day!

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Important Details

Please see the Weekly Updates and the school calendar for a comprehensive list of events and closures.

Friday, September 11th,
Last day to prepay
2020-2021 tuition with
check, cash or money
order to receive a 3%
discount.

'VIRTUAL POTLUCKS'
continue for the Part
Time Programs,
6:00PM-7:30PM

Monday, September
14th, Younger Part Time

Wednesday, September
16th, Older Part Time

New to TCS Family Orientations via Zoom.

*If your family is new to
TCS this year, please
join us for **one** of these
gatherings to hear about
our philosophy and meet
other new families.
Invites will also be
emailed.*

Monday, September
21st, 9:30AM-10:30AM

Tuesday, September
22nd, 11:30AM-12:30PM

Wednesday, September
23rd, 6:00PM-7:00PM

Tuesday, September
22nd, 6:00PM-7:00PM,
P-TCS meeting

**Friday, October 2nd,
TCS In-Service Day,
SCHOOL CLOSED**

Thank you to our TCS Board of Directors! Your guidance and support as our sounding board and assisting with decision making is one of our biggest resources. Your time and service do not go unnoticed.

Thank you to Mary Clagett Smith, TCS founding director! Your thoughtful words and responses to our emails affirm for us that your intention for TCS and the work you began at The Children's School is strong today in our 40th year! We hold your words and ideals in the highest regard.

And thank you to our own families! We would not have been able to put in the work required without your support when we needed it and personal space when we needed that, too.

To our 2020-2021 school families—we are excited to share in your child's early years. Please reach out to either one of us (or both) to talk, ask questions, share information, celebrate your child's successes and/or commiserate about the struggles, too. We are truly 'in this together'.

Keep an eye out for our weekly and monthly emails. We look forward to getting to know you and your children this year, even when it is tricky from behind our masks.

P-TCS News: Greetings from P-TCS!

By Max Christiansen, P-TCS President

Greetings TCS! My name is Max Christiansen, and I have the privilege to be this year's new P-TCS president. My wife Kristina and I are proud TCS parents of our sons, an Older Prime student and an Older All Day student. Having previously been a teacher myself for eight years in schools, both public and private, grades Kindergarten through 12th, and having delivered curricula ranging from beginning reading to high school computer science, I am very excited to hold this position in our community. To those new to TCS, I extend a heartfelt – Welcome! I have no doubt that you will be as impressed as we are by the level of care and education that TCS provides. And to those families whom I have not yet met, be you new or returning, I greatly look forward to our meeting and collaboration.

Given the current state of our world, the 2020-2021 school year will look and feel quite different from that of which we are accustomed, and likewise so too will our fundraising efforts. Over the summer, P-TCS's vice president Tamera Kelly and I have been brainstorming tech-based solutions for our usual in-person fundraising activities – the Fall Carnival and the Spring Auction. We have generated some good ideas so far, and I plan on personally building a website to host a silent auction and raffle in the spring. We gladly welcome input, expertise, and participation from our community in this regard. We are actively seeking volunteers for a variety of jobs. Please join us at our first P-TCS meeting to learn more about supporting TCS on Tuesday, September 26th from 6:00PM-7:00PM via Zoom.

Now more than ever our school needs your support so it can continue to be the bright and shiny beacon of child development that we all love. Please feel free to email me at dmaxchristiansen@gmail.com or text me at 414-242-9119. See you soon and go TCS Tulips! ☺