Dear Terra Linda Parents and Guardians:

Students enjoyed Homecoming festivities last week in addition to a fun dance on Saturday evening. Today, Monday 10/18 is a non-student day and students will return to school Tuesday following our A Block Bell Schedule. I wanted to provide a few updates for the week below:

School-Based Testing:
This week we will begin offering rapid on-site testing opportunities for students, teachers and staff, in collaboration with Marin Public Health. Testing will be conducted on Fridays in the lobby of the Performance Hall. More information will be shared prior to testing.

Student Survey:
Terra Linda is partnering with Equal Opportunity Schools, a non-profit education organization, to examine and develop the learning culture within our school and to develop strategies to increase participation in challenging high school coursework among students of color. To support these goals, we will be asking all students and staff at TLHS to take a 40-minute survey. Students will be taking the survey in their English classes next Monday, October 25. This is a District-led initiative to ensure all students have access to advanced courses.

Smarter Balanced Assessments:
The Equal Opportunity Survey on October 25th will take students a full 40-60 minutes. Based on the SRCS Assessment Calendar, the optional Interim (practice) SBAC test would have been administered during the same time frame. Due to covid, we did not give the Interim SBAC last year. Recognizing that with the pandemic these test scores are not being utilized in the same manner and students are just easing back into school and already stressed about PSAT and SATs, I have canceled this additional practice exam. Our English and Math Departments will instead be providing juniors with less formal modes of practice for this spring test, including, but not limited to practice performance tasks, rubric analysis, and scoring activities.

1st Quarter Grades:
A reminder that the grading period for 1st Quarter grades ended last Friday, October 15. Report cards will be mailed out this coming Friday, October 22nd. In addition, grades will also be visible in AERIES Parent and Student Portals.

8th Grade Parent Night & MSEL Parent Night:
Our annual 8th Grade Parent Night will be held virtually on Monday, October 25th at 6 PM via zoom. During the presentation, we will showcase our varied academic, extracurricular, and athletic offerings. The presentation will begin with images of our updated campus, followed by a brief overview of our curricular and co-curricular offerings by the Terra Linda High School Administration and our Counseling and Guidance Department. In addition, our 8th Grade MSEL Parent Night will be the following evening on Tuesday, October 26th at 5pm. Zoom links for both events will be located on the front page of the website.
The 24-Hour Play Festival:
Students can still sign up to participate in the 24-Hour Play Festival, showcasing students’ creativity under pressure. Interested students should contact Drama Teacher, Alex Pryor at apryor@srcs.org. Teams will gather at the Black Box Theater at TL at 7 PM on Friday, October 22, where they will receive a theme or a prompt, which they will use to write a 10-minute play. They will spend two hours brainstorming and writing at TL, and then will go home to continue working into the evening. At 9 AM the next day (Saturday, October 23), everyone will reconvene at the TL theater, where they will rehearse and revise their plays. We will feed them lunch, and they will continue to create. That afternoon we will have tech rehearsals and dress rehearsals, and at 7 PM that evening teams will present their plays for a live audience.

Halloween:
On October 29th, we will be celebrating Halloween Spirit Day. Students are encouraged to wear costumes; however, all costumes worn on our campus must be appropriate, in good fun, and suitable for high school-age students. Fake weapons of any type are not allowed, nor are excessively revealing costumes. Clown costumes and masks that cover the entire face are also not permitted. Students wearing costumes deemed inappropriate by Terra Linda High School administration will be directed to remove their costumes and wear regular clothes. Please discuss costume options with your student in advance of 10/29.

Thank you for your partnership and please email me at kdunlap@srcs.org if you have any questions.

Katy Dunlap | Principal | Terra Linda High School