

TONY'S NEWS

Tony Clement
Center for Education

Message from Principal Scott Thompson

Welcome to the year of SANKOFA here at Tony Clement Center for Education (TCCE)! We are continuously focusing on the academic advancement and personal growth of our scholars.

Sankofa is an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana. The literal translation of the word and the symbol is "it is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind." (See the symbol, bottom left.)

Sankofa teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so we can achieve our full potential as we move forward.



Sankofa is TCCE's theme because we are fetching back to our roots and retrieving our excellence. COVID-19, relocating and many staff transitions in the past year have affected our school. We now are working to return to the roots of our mission, gathering those important elements to make our greatness shine.

With the second quarter ending, we would like to continue to increase our parent partnerships by sharing our community updates.

If you have any questions, please contact the TCCE Main Office at (518) 475-6525.



Scholar spotlight

Surmar Williams is a junior at TCCE. He has met expectations of excellence by achieving a second quarter average of 91.3%, which places him on the Principal's List.

We are excited to witness his academic and personal growth here at Tony Clement. Continue to strive for excellence!



SAVE THE DATES

- March 3** Black History Month Celebration, 5 p.m.
- March 4** Second Quarter Honor Roll Celebration, 10 a.m.
- March 24** The Women's Brunch, 10 a.m.



Community spotlight: Albany518SNUG

We are excited to highlight our community partner Albany518SNUG. The Albany518SNUG outreach team has been a staple within the TCCE community, building positive relationships with our most at-risk youth. Here at TCCE, we designed a program called “The Blockademics” that allows community partners to connect with students in school and after school. Through this program, members of the Albany518SNUG outreach team hold team-building circles during class, assist with TCCE community events and activities, and show our scholars how the academic and personal life connects. We currently have 10% of our scholars who are participants of the Albany518SNUG Program. We will continue assure they are on track to graduate.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

The TCCE family welcomes back Assistant Principal Teresa Adalian, who was at TCCE before the pandemic. She was an assistant principal at Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School for most of the last school year. We are thrilled to have her back and excited for her to continue the positive relationships she has created with scholars and staff.



Family Engagement Survey: Tell us what you think!

This a friendly reminder to complete our Family Engagement Survey if you haven't already done so. The relationship between your family and our school is central to your student's success, and your feedback is important for our school improvement efforts.

Here's how to access the survey for our school online:

- albanschools.org/FamilySurvey
- Use the QR code at right from your smart phone

The password to log in to our school's survey is **Tony2022**

Please note this password is case sensitive. The survey will be **open through March 1**.

It's easy to complete online – just follow one of the two links and enter the password. There are 25 questions that are rated on a five-part scale. There also are three open

questions for you to offer your comments.

All survey responses are anonymous. We ask that there be one survey per household (if you have students in more than one school, then one survey per household for each of your children's schools; you will receive a similar letter from those schools with the password to login to that survey).

We appreciate your assistance and your input. If there are questions or if you need clarification, please contact the City School District of Albany Office of Curriculum and Instruction at (518) 475-6060.



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Winter attendance update

We're getting better, but we have a long way to go. Our attendance goal for the 2021-2022 academic year is to decrease the number of scholars who are considered chronically absent from 81.6% to 71.6%.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing more than 10% or 18 days in a school year. During the second quarter, TCCE scholars demonstrated a commitment to attending school on a regular basis. Attending school daily is critical to the success of each scholar and ensuring they have the skills and knowledge to graduate and reach their full potential.

Students get many benefits from attending school. They grow academically, socially and emotionally. Being in school also allows students to build important supportive relationships with their peers, teachers and staff members.

Here are some ways you can help your student get to school:

- Make sure your student keeps a regular bedtime and establishes a morning routine.
- Turn off all electronics including TVs, phones and tablets at bedtime.
- Check with our school nurse or office staff if you are not sure about when to keep your child at home due to illness.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or medical appointments during school hours.
- Ask teachers and counselors for advice if your student feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop backup plans for getting your student to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor or another parent to take your student to school.

Please let us know how we can best support you so your student can get to school each day, on time.



Student ID reminder

For the safety of all, student IDs must be visible and readily available at all times. In addition, all students must present an ID to any staff member upon request.

It's important for us to know and be able to account for all the students in our building.

If your student loses their ID, please ask them to report it to Ms. Conti so we can get a replacement ID, which costs \$5.

Mobile health van at TCCE

Whitney on Wheels – the mobile health van operated by Whitney Young Health – is at TCCE every other Wednesday to provide physicals and other health services to any student or family member.

Services the WOW van provides include:

- Annual and sports physicals
- Sick visits
- Vaccinations
- Health and nutrition education
- Referrals to specialists
- Asthma checks



This van is open to all students, family members, community members and others who want to use it. **Please note that you need to either be, or become, a Whitney Young patient to receive services from the van.**

To make an appointment, contact school nurse Barbara Cearley.

Second-quarter scholars to be honored

Tony Clement Center for Education will celebrate its academic superstars from the second quarter at a special ceremony March 4.

The school will recognize students who made either Honor Roll, with an average of 84.5 or above, or Principal's List, with an average of 89.5 from both the High School Program and the Choices Program.

High School Program scholars include:

- William Arrington, junior, Honor Roll
- Markel Brown, junior, Honor Roll
- Iquanna Carter, sophomore, Principal's List
- Amazjanay Glass, sophomore, Honor Roll
- Heaven Luthers, senior, Honor Roll
- Christian O'Garro, junior, Principal's List
- Nyasha Miller, senior, Honor Roll
- Ciara Peden, junior, Principal's List
- KaVon Shipman, junior, Honor Roll
- Kalissa Williams, sophomore, Honor Roll
- Surmar Williams, junior, Principal's List

Choices Program scholars include:

- Anthony Cintron, sophomore, Honor Roll

Congratulations to all of these scholars! Keep up the great work!



Community school corner

As a community school, TCCE has many events, programs and partners to enhance your student's academic experience and support you.

Students can take part in after-school activities including Tony's Bulldog Basketball, Tony's Bulldog Dance Team and Push4Mastery Tutoring Program. Those programs run from 3:30-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

As parents, you have access to resources such as Tony's Pantry, Tony's Closet, Tony's Laundry and our GED prep program.

You and your student also can get health care at the WOW van (see [page 3 to learn more](#)).

If you have questions about events, programs or resources, call Community School Coordinator Marshay Hines at (607) 424-4307 or email mhines@albany.k12.ny.us.

Who's who at TCCE

Principal: Scott Thompson

Assistant Principal: Teresa Adalian

Guidance counselor: Colleen Conti

School nurse: Dana Hotaling

Choice social worker: Sarah Murphy

High School social worker: Anika Dottin-Wilson

Psychologist: Jacquelyn O'Connor

Head of security: Ken Dittmer

Home school coordinator: Sentaria DePass-Murray

Community school coordinator: Marshay Hines

Office manager: Jedda Ray-Gayle