



**Trinity School of Texas
Lower School
Frequently Asked Questions
2022 - 2023**

Q. What type of daily schedule will my child have?

A. Lower School begins at 8:00am each morning and is dismissed at 3:00pm. In addition to classroom learning, students enjoy “specials” classes each week such as art, music, p.e, Spanish, computers, library and chapel. Lower School students have the option to go to Extended Enrichment from 3:00 - 6:00pm.

Q. Are the teachers certified?

A. Yes, Lower School teachers are certified teachers.

Q. Will my child have art and music?

A. Yes. LS students have art and music twice a week.

Q. Will my child have computer class?

A. LS students go to a computer class once each week.

Q. Does my child need to bring a computer to school?

A. Kindergarten through 2nd grade students will be issued a chromebook to be used for some assignments. 3rd through 5th grade students will bring their own chromebooks to school for assignments and homework.

Q. Are Lower School students exposed to Spanish or any other foreign language?

A. Lower School students will go to Spanish class two times a week.

Q. Will my child go on any field trips?

A. Yes, field trips are planned for students in Pre-K and up.

Q. Will my child get to perform in any programs?

A. Yes, students perform on Family Day, La Posada Christmas program, and in a spring musical each year.

Q. Do Kindergarten students take daily naps?

A. Kindergarten students have quiet time after lunch where they can read,

Q. Will there be an aide in my child's classroom?

A. Lower School classrooms have a low teacher to student ratio and aides are not necessary.

Q. How large are the classes in Lower School?

A. Kindergarten is limited to 15 in a classroom, 1st grade has up to 16, 2nd and 3rd have 16-17, 4th and 5th have up to 18 in a classroom.

Q. Will my student wear a uniform every day?

A. Yes, students will wear "daily uniform" on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. On Wednesdays, they will wear "dress uniform." On Fridays, students may wear a Trinity spirit t-shirt and uniform bottoms.

Q. Will my student eat lunch with his/her class? Do they get snacks during the day?

A. Students may bring a snack to school. All LS students will eat lunch at school with their class.

Q. Will my child have recess every day?

A. Yes, as long as weather permits.

Q. Will my child have P.E. every day?

A. LS students go to P.E. every day for 30 minutes.

Q. When is chapel scheduled for Lower School students?

A. LS students attend chapel twice a week at the church.

Q. Where will my student be dropped off and picked up?

A. LS students in Kindergarten through 5th grade are dropped off at the Martin Building - first awning. Each family will be issued a carpool tag to be placed in the front window of the vehicle driving through the carpool line. For pick up, Kindergarten through 2nd grade are picked up where they were dropped off at the Martin Building. 3rd through 5th grades are picked up at the 8th street carpool line. For those families who have multiple children, please drop off and pick up at the carpool line of the youngest child. When picking up children at Extended Enrichment, parents may walk in and sign them out from the classroom.

Q. What should I do if I need to pick up my child during the school day for an appointment?

A. Please check-in at the Main Office and a staff member will get your child from the classroom and bring him/her to you.

Q. What happens if I need someone else to pick up my child?

- A. If someone other than the parent or those listed as emergency contacts, they will need to show their ID upon pick-up. Prior to pick-up parents should contact the Extended Enrichment office to let them know who will be picking up their child.

Q. Will my child buy his/her own school supplies?

- A. School supplies are included in school fees and will be received the first day of school.

Q. Will my child have a summer reading assignment?

- A. Lower School students have summer reading assignments that are listed on the myTST Resources Board - Preparing for the 2022-23 School Year.

Q. Will my student get to go to the library?

- A. Yes, LS students go to the library for 30 minutes each week. They are allowed to check out a book weekly.

Q. Are there Learning Standards that teachers use to prepare their lessons?

- A. Our teachers use the TEKS, grade-level learning objectives, and benchmarks.

Q. How do your teachers stay current on child development and new teaching methods?**What types of professional development do they participate in?**

- A. We are active members in the SAES (Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools) learning community and also a member of Region VII. Our teachers also seek out learning opportunities through TCEA (Texas Computer Educators Association), and other sources. We have many professional development opportunities that we take advantage of through these memberships.

Q. How do teachers communicate with parents?

- A. All parents are encouraged to use their myTST account to communicate with teachers and see what their children are learning each month. Teachers are available by email or phone as well. Teachers share newsletters and pictures from the classroom via MyTST.

Q. How is discipline handled in the classroom?

- A. Trinity believes in restorative discipline with natural consequences. Teachers utilize "time away" when a child needs to be removed from a situation. Teachers work with students on problem solving and righting a wrong. Teachers are in touch with parents regarding any needed discipline issues and enjoy working alongside parents in guiding the student together.

Q. Are your teachers CPR/First Aid trained?

- A. Yes, teachers are CPR/First Aid trained every two years.

Q. Is there a place parents can look to find out what their child is learning in the classroom?

A. Yes. Teachers post their lesson plans on myTST.

Q. How much time do you spend outside?

A. Recess is 30 minutes. Teachers also take advantage of nice weather by relocating lessons outdoors on occasion.

Q. What happens when a student misses school?

A. The parent should contact the school by phone or at office@trinityschooloftexas.com to notify the school of an absence.

Q. If parents have a question or problem, do they call the teacher or the office?

A. If the question is about attendance, parents should contact the office. If it is classroom-related, they should contact their classroom teacher.

Q. Are there regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences in Lower School?

A. We have two parent-teacher conferences - One in the Fall -October and one in the Spring - March.

Q. Can parents volunteer in their child's classroom?

A. Trinity welcomes parental involvement in all facets including the classroom. Teachers let parents know ways they can be involved in the classroom life and typically have sign-ups. Parents may always reach out to the teacher and let them know if they are interested in assisting in the classroom.

Q. May I join my child for lunch occasionally?

A. Yes, parents may check-in in the main office and meet their child in the Hollandsworth Commons for lunch. There is a designated table for parents and students to eat together. Please notify your child's teacher ahead of time.

Q. What type of progress assessments are given to students in the classroom? How do you monitor learning and student growth?

A. Students are formally assessed three times a year in reading and math. Formal and informal assessments are ongoing throughout the school year in all subject areas. Information from these assessments are shared through quarterly report cards and parent teacher conferences conducted in the fall and spring.

Q. Does my child need to bring his or her lunch every day or can we order a lunch? What about drinks as well?

A. Students have the choice of bringing lunch from home or ordering lunch from the school cafeteria. Monthly lunch menus are provided as well as an app for ordering lunch. If your child forgets lunch, you may call the school to order a "911" lunch.

Q. What if my child needs medication?

- A. Complete the parent's authorization for medication (found on myTST or in the Main Office) and submit it with the medication in a labeled ziplock bag. The medication must be in the original prescription container with the identity and usage label. An approved faculty/staff member will administer the medication to your child.

Q. Does my child need a backpack, water bottle, or any other items?

- A. Lower School students should bring a backpack and reusable, leak-proof top water bottle to school each day.

Q. Will my child have a locker or cubby?

- A. Lower School students in Kindergarten through second grade will have a cubby and coat hook in their classrooms. Third through fifth grade students will be issued a locker in the hallway of the Davis-Lewis building.

Q. How are birthdays celebrated at school?

- A. Students are welcome to celebrate their birthday with a treat for the whole classroom. Something may be sent in from outside the school or you may purchase a traditional TST birthday cookie cake from the school cafeteria (link provided in the Titan Tidbits and myTST). Parents are also invited to attend their child's birthday blessing at EC/ LS Friday Chapel on the Friday of their birthday week.

***For additional information, please refer to the *Trinity School of Texas Parent-Student Handbook* found online on the myTST Resources Board.**