



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

**GENERAL**

**Q: Will my child have an assigned locker?**

A: Yes. The locker number will be listed on your child's schedule

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

A. Middle school students follow a modified block schedule. They have 8 40-minute periods on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they have 4 80-minute periods. These will be split between their A classes and B classes. Students will also have a weekly club period and religion/seminar courses. Seminar courses in 6th and 7th grade are short (usually five or six weeks) and include topics such as Study Skills, Digital Literacy, Robotics, Coding, Mythology, etc.

**Q. Will my child still have art and music?**

A. Yes. Middle school students may choose between band, choir, or art. We hope to have Theatre as well.

**Q. Will my student have a study hall or tutorials?**

A. Yes, middle school students usually have study hall either first or second period alternating with P.E. This time can be used to ask teachers for extra help. Students may go to teachers for tutorials before and after school.

**Q. Will my student wear a uniform every day?**

A. Yes, students will wear their regular daily uniform on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. On Wednesdays, they will wear their dress uniform. Fridays are spirit dress (jeans or uniform bottoms with a TST shirt).

**Q. Will my student eat lunch with his/her class?**

- A. Students will eat in the middle school lunch section of the Commons or outside (weather permitting). There will be teachers on duty in both areas. The snack bar will also be open during that time. Students will use the EZSchool lunch app to order meals.

**Q. Do middle school students have a break period?**

- A. Yes, they usually have breaks on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Break is held in the Hollandsworth Commons. The Snack Bar is open during this time.

**Q. When is chapel for middle school students?**

- A. Middle and upper school students attend chapel in the Commons on Mondays and the all-school chapel at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wednesdays.

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

- A. Middle school students will be dropped off behind the Commons next to the Martin building. They will be picked up in the carpool line outside the Davis-Lewis building in the afternoon.

**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 call your child to the Main Office to sign out and meet you.

**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 in the main office. Permission for over the counter medications such as Tylenol may be added to the authorization form.

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

- A. Students will provide their own supplies, a list will be sent out. Some classes use textbooks while others use online books. These will be provided to the students.

**Q. Will my child have a summer reading assignment?**

- A. Yes. It will be posted on the TST Resource page and sent home with your student.

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

- A. Unlike in lower school, students will not have a scheduled library time, but they will be able to visit the library and check out books.

**Q. Will my student need a computer or other device?**

- A. Students will use Chromebooks in middle school. Students provide their own Chromebook.

**Q. Will my student's Gmail and myTST logins stay the same?**

- A. Yes.

**Q. What do I do if my child needs some extra help getting organized or figuring out how to handle the new schedule?**

- A. Julie Roberts, our learning specialist, will still be available. Teachers will also be available during study hall or before school to help.

**Q. Will there be a lot more homework?**

- A. There will be more homework, but you will be able to work on it during study hall. Students who play sports will need to get with their teachers beforehand if they will miss a class because of any away game or tournament.

**Q. Will students and parents still be able to check grades on myTST?**

- A. Yes. Teachers will still post grades on myTST for students and their parents to check. Parents and students will also be able to post messages to the teachers using myTST.

**Q. Is there a place students can look to find out what assignments are for the week?**

- A. Yes. Teachers will post their lesson plans on myTST. Some teachers also use Google Classroom to post reference materials and individual assignments.

**Q. How are students assessed academically?**

- A. Students have tests and quizzes throughout each quarter to assess their knowledge in the subject matter. They are given midterms and final exams the last week that class is in session of each semester. A modified test schedule is shared with students and parents via myTST and Titan Tidbits. Sixth and Seventh graders take the Stanford 10 online achievement test and eighth graders take the PSAT, both in the spring semester.

**Q. What is academic probation?**

- A. A student will be placed on academic probation any time he or she receives a grade below 70% in any course at the time the report card is issued. Probationary status will be re-evaluated at the next mid-quarter period. Students on academic probation are not allowed to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

**Q. What happens when a student misses school? How long do they have to make up the work?**

- A. **The parent should contact the school. For excused absences, the student will be given two days to make up the work and one day for unexcused absences.** Any work that was due the first day of any excused absence, however, will be due the first day the student returns to school. In the event of an extended absence, the faculty will devise a recovery plan for school work upon the student's return to school. If a student misses

part of a school day or an appointment, the student is responsible for obtaining missed assignments and class materials from the teacher.

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

A. It depends. If it is about attendance, they should contact the office. If it is about athletics, they should contact the coach. If it is about a grade, assignment, or classroom-related, they should contact the teacher. If it is not something that can be resolved at that level, they should contact Evan Carpenter, our Head of Middle and Upper School. General information is posted on the weekly Titan Tidbits and the school calendar found online.

**Q. Are middle school students allowed to use their cell phones during the day?**

A. No. MS students may use their phones before and after school. They should keep their phones in their backpacks.

**Q. Are there regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences in middle school?**

A. No, but parents or teachers can schedule one if needed. Conferences can be one-on-one or with all of a student's teachers.

**Q. How do transitions work? Is there a bell?**

A. Teachers will dismiss their students when class is over. They will have five minutes between classes. Most of their classes are in the same hall. Students will walk together to choir, chapel, and gym.

**Q. What Fine Arts classes can students take?**

A. Students will choose between MS Art, Choir, and Band. We hope to offer Theatre as an option as well. They will be able to choose two.

**Q. Are birthdays celebrated at school?**

A. Students are welcome to celebrate their birthday by purchasing a traditional TST birthday cookie cake from the school cafeteria (link provided in the Titan Tidbits and myTST). It will be served at lunch.

**Q. Will students get to go on any field trips?**

A. Travel is an important part of a well-rounded education. We hope to be able to reinstate our grade-level trips this year. The 7th and 8th-grade students will go on a multi-day Texas History trip in the spring. The 6th-grade students will take an overnight trip as well. In past years our students have also taken day trips such as to the Perot Museum in Dallas and to Shreveport to see plays.

**P.E., SPORTS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**Q. What sports will my child be able to play?**

- A. Sports offered at this level include football (boys only), soccer, volleyball, basketball, tennis, track, and cheerleading. Students are encouraged (and expected) to play two sports. This allows students to explore different sports and experience being on a team.

**Q. Will my child dress out for P.E.?**

- A. Yes, students will wear P.E. uniforms. The school will provide one set of uniforms (shirt and shorts). Parents may purchase additional uniforms from the P.E. department. Students will have P.E. four days a week.

**Q. Will my student be able to compete in academic competitions?**

- A. Yes, students are strongly encouraged to compete in PSIA and other competitions.

**Q. Is there a middle school student council?**

- A. There is a middle school student government that holds its election around Labor Day. All middle school students vote for the positions of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. Each class votes for its two class representatives. MS Student Government plans for and organizes events such as student dances and parties. Student officers must remain in good academic standing to participate.

**Q. What sort of social activities and clubs are offered at Trinity in middle school?**

- A. Students will have a club period once a week. Clubs are organized by the students and have a faculty sponsor. There is a retreat each spring and a dance each year. The MS Student Council organizes other fun activities for the students.

**Q. When will my student be able to join the National Junior Honor Society?**

- A. Eligible students will be invited to join in the spring of their 6th-grade year. Students in 7th and 8th grades that meet the requirements will be invited to join in the spring as well. Students must remain in good academic standing to remain in society.

**Q. Can students still play sports or participate in extracurricular events if they have a failing grade?**

- A. Academic eligibility reports are generated during each sports season. A student's name will appear any time the student has a grade below 70 in any class. Students are ineligible to participate in athletics/extracurricular activities (including student government) if his or her name appears on any two of these reports during a season. Students with an incomplete may not participate until all late work has been submitted and grades entered into the grade book.

**Q. If a student misses school because of an athletic event, do they have to make up the work? Will the coach let the teachers know or does my parent have to call the school?**

- A. Yes, you will have to make up the work. You will be expected to ask each of your teachers what you will be missing. Your coach will send a list of participating athletes to the teachers so the absence will be excused.

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