



**Trinity School of Texas
Upper 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. Upper 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 courses.

Q. Will my child still have art and music?

A. Yes. Upper school students may choose between band, choir, art, graphic design, or photography.

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

A. Yes, upper school students usually have a study hall included in their schedule. 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). **Seniors** may wear college sweatshirts on regular dress days.

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

A. Students will eat in the upper 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 upper school students have a break period?

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

Q. When is chapel for upper 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. Upper school students will be dropped off and picked up in front of the Robbins Library.

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 books and supplies; a list will be sent out. Some classes use regular textbooks while others use online books.

Q. Will my child have a summer reading assignment?

- A. Yes. It will be posted on the myTST Resources page - Preparing for the 2022-23 School Year 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, use the available resources and check out books.

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

- A. Students will need a Chromebook in upper school and are responsible for providing their own. Headphones are recommended.

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 schedule?

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

Q. Will there be a lot more homework?

- A. The US homework load is similar to that of MS. AP and Dual Credit Courses will have more homework. Students who play sports will need to meet with their teachers beforehand if they 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 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 their assignments 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 each semester. The test schedule is shared with students and parents via myTST and Titan Tidbits. Ninth and tenth grade students take the PSAT in the fall semester. Eleventh and twelfth grade students take the SAT and ACT.

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 upper school students allowed to use their cell phones during the day?

A. Yes. US students may use their phones before and after school and between classes. They should keep their phones in their backpacks.

Q. Are there regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences in upper 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, engineering, and gym.

Q. What Fine Arts classes can students take?

A. Students will choose between US Art, Choir, Band, Graphic Design, Photography, and Publications. We hope to offer Theater as an option as well.

Q. Are students provided with assistance when applying to college? What about ACT and SAT test preparation?

A. Trinity's Director of College Placement assists students with the entire college application process including building a college list, resume building, and essay writing as well as ACT and SAT test prep and applying for college scholarships. Throughout the school year, TST hosts college admissions counselors from around the country to speak with students about their programs. Additionally, TST partners with YouScience for career assessment.

Q. In what grades do students take the SAT and ACT? Where are the testing sites?

A. Ninth and tenth grade students take the PSAT in the fall semester. Eleventh and twelfth grade students take the SAT and ACT. These tests are administered at Trinity as well as other high schools in our area.

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.

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, golf and cheerleading. Students are encouraged 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 TAPPS academic competitions, Art Contests, History Bowl and other similar competitions.

Q. Is there an upper school student council?

- A. Yes, there is an upper school student government. All upper school students vote for the positions of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. Each class votes for its two class representatives. US 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 upper school?

- A. There are homecoming events as well as a Spring formal. Upper School students also attend an all-day retreat in the spring. There are many clubs open to students such as Z Club, HOSA, Spanish Club, and more.

Q. Are students required to perform community service hours?

- A. Yes, Trinity students are required to serve in the community and are offered opportunities to do so.

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

- A. Eligible students will be invited to join in the spring of their 10th-grade year. Students in 11th and 12th 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 the parent have to call the school?

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

Q. Are there opportunities for students to travel on international trips?

A. Yes. Travel opportunities are part of a well-rounded education. Past trips have included Italy, Peru, France, Spain, Morocco, and Greece. The Spanish department also offers a Summer Spanish Immersion trip to Costa Rica.

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