

MIDDLE SCHOOL

5TH GRADE THROUGH 8TH GRADE

Dear Middle School families,

Although the last two weeks have presented significant shifts in our reopening plans, we remain resolute in our ability to open successfully for on-campus learning while also adhering to social distancing guidelines outlined by federal, state, and local authorities. The Middle School teachers and I continue to work tirelessly to prepare for the first weeks of school, and we look forward to reconnecting with all of our students, both in person and online.

As a reminder from our reopening plan, our current Middle School classroom spaces allow us to appropriately social distance all 5th- through 8th-grade students on campus each day. Students will be in classroom cohorts to minimize large group contact, and teachers will travel between classrooms and cohorts. Students and faculty will wear masks throughout the school day, and scheduled handwashing will take place at the start of the day, before lunch, and just before the end of the school day. Transitions to lunch, PE, or outdoor classroom locations will be carefully scheduled to reduce hallway traffic throughout the day.

Start of School

As you know, the first day of our new school year is Wednesday, August 19. While that date remains the same, not all students will report on that first day. Instead, we are utilizing a staged reopening that will help us to accomplish two major goals. First, there are new protocols around hygiene and social distancing, technology, and other community activities that will require extra training and discussion for students in all grades. This is especially true for 5th- and 6th-grade students as it relates to our Middle School-specific expectations as well as iPad setup and Canvas use. Additionally, this gradual reopening will allow us to practice and fine-tune the protocols we have in place, including drop-off, handwashing, and pick-up procedures, before we have all students on campus together. Detailed schedules and times will follow at a later date, but for your planning purposes:

- Wednesday, August 19 - Only 5th-grade students will report to school for the duration of the school day.
- Thursday, August 20 - Fifth- and 6th-grade students will report to school for the duration of the school day.
- Friday, August 21 - Fifth- and 6th-grade students will report to school for the duration of the school day. Seventh-grade students will report to school from 8:15 - 11:15, and 8th-grade students will report to school from 11:45 - 2:45.
- Monday, August 24 - All MS grades report for the duration of the school day.

TLC

Many of you have done so already, but please take a minute to complete the [survey](#) from Ms. Lowry's Wednesday communication asking families to indicate their preference for on-campus learning or the Trojan Learning Connection option. The survey closes at 8 a.m. on Monday, August 3. Trojan Learning Connection (TLC) will be a robust online-learning experience that includes real-time, synchronous class attendance throughout the entire school day. Though the specific numbers will dictate some of the smaller details, parents can expect an online integration into the daily experience of what is happening in our classrooms on campus. This will of course include breaks for lunch and at other times that coincide with transitions happening at school. TLC students will also participate regularly in advisory and Middle School assemblies. In addition, in the days leading up to the start of school, teachers will make personal home deliveries of class resources and materials to all TLC students.

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For clarification, although our 7th and 8th grades follow a semester-long grade reporting period for all students, the TLC option is elected on a quarterly basis, rather than by semester. Each quarter lasts roughly nine weeks, and families will have the opportunity to re-elect TLC or choose a transition back to on-campus learning at the conclusion of the first quarter. For your reference, the first quarter ends on Friday, October 16. Toward the end of the first semester, we will reassess our community's need for TLC for the second semester. Additional details will be communicated to the families who elect TLC.

Health Protocols

In collaboration with the doctors who serve as our acting medical advisors and with representatives from the Tarrant Health Department, our nurses have developed the COVID Protocols linked [here](#). We will be using a self-reporting app that will require parents to do a temperature check and answer a handful of screening questions each day before their child may be on campus.

I would like to express my deep gratitude for the many positive sentiments we have received amidst this extraordinarily challenging summer, and I appreciate your willingness to always assume positive intent. Your patience and partnership is essential as we all work to provide the very best educational experience for every single TVS student.

Sincerely,
Jeff Snyder
Head of Middle School