

Welcome to Tenafly Middle School

**Grade 5 Parent Orientation Meeting
February 5, 2025**

**John Fabbo, Principal
Patrick Comey, Vice Principal
Cathy Paz, Vice Principal
Ellie Zerling, Guidance Counselor**



What makes a middle school?

Association for Middle Level Education model for middle schools

“Every day, twenty million diverse, rapidly changing 11 to 14 year olds enrolled in our nation’s middle level schools are making critical and complex life choices. They deserve schools that support them fully during this key phase of life.”

- Association for Middle Level Education; This We Believe



Our Mission and Vision

Tenaflly Middle School

A Community of Caring and Excellence

“ Tenaflly Middle School, in partnership with parents and the larger community, is dedicated to the growth and development of young adolescents by providing an environment that promotes academic rigor, academic integrity, social responsibility, and lifelong learning.”



Guiding Rules

“One of the most heartening examples we've encountered is a middle school that operates as a robust community of students, faculty and staff by agreeing that all behaviors and decisions are based on three rules, and just three rules.

**Take care of yourself. Take care of each other.
Take care of this place.**

These rules are sufficient to keep them connected and focused, and open enough to allow for diverse and individual responses to any situation.”

- *Margaret J. Wheatley*





From Elementary to the Middle

The single most defining characteristic of both a middle school and its students is change.

- Physical
- Social/Emotional
- Intellectual



Moving to the Middle:

Overview of Transition Activities



- **Visits to Elementary Schools**
- ***5th Grade Parent Orientation Evening Meeting***
- **Course selection form available soon**
- **“Stepping into the Middle ”
5th Grade Parent Meeting
sponsored by CAP (Chemical & Alcohol Prevention) in June, TBA
7:00pm**
- **5th Grade Student Visits to TMS**
 - **Building Tour**
 - **Classroom Visits**
 - **Drop off at TMS**
 - **Dates - May or June TBD**
- **Grade 6 Meet & Greet (Students only)**
 - **August 21, 2025**
 - **10:00 - 12:00pm**
 - **Tour and activities for students -
a fun morning for meeting other
6th graders!**

- **Wednesday, August 27:**
First day of school 1/2 day for
6th graders - 8:00-11:30 AM
- **Back to School Night: Sept. 17**
- **Club Fair, Sept. 25, after school,**
For Students Only
- **Reach Out Trip: September 30**
 - **Extended Day Trip to
Club Getaway, Kent, CT.**
- **Friday, Oct. 31: Halloween Party
for 6th grade, after school**



Moving to the Middle:

Overview of Transition Activities

continued...

Team Structure

- Each 6th grade team is composed of a language arts, math, social studies, science and special education teacher.
- Students are placed on teams based on counselor and teacher input, with a balance of students from all four elementary schools.
- A generic 6th grade supply list for all teams will be posted on our website in the spring. Some additional materials may be requested in September. Please consider purchasing through the TMS HSA promo.
- Students' schedules, with their team assignments, will be distributed on the first day of school.



- **8:15am** Entry Bell
- **8:27am** Homeroom
- *Advisory*
- **Per. 1:** Performing Music
/Integrated Arts rotation/P.E.
- **Per. 2:** Math
- **Per. 3:** Science
- **Per. 4/5:** Lunch/World
Language/Literacy Skills
- **Per. 6/7:** Language Arts
- **Per. 8/9:** P.E./Integrated Arts
- **Per. 10:** Literacy/Study Skills
- **Per. 11:** Social Studies
- **2:57pm** Dismissal Bell



Typical 6th Grade Schedule

World Language at TMS

Languages offered:

- Spanish
- French
- Mandarin Chinese

Three year commitment

Italian is offered at THS



Performing Music at TMS

- **Band**
- **Chorus**
- **Orchestra**



Please help yourself to a Most Frequently Asked sheet regarding the performing music program



World Language and Performing Arts Choices due February 16.

Form posted on our website: <https://tms.tenaflyschools.org>
under the Parents menu

The screenshot shows the website for Tenafly Middle School. The navigation bar includes 'Our School', 'Departments', 'Parents' (highlighted with an orange underline), 'Teams', 'Students', and 'H.S.A.'. Below the navigation bar, there are eight menu items arranged in a 2x4 grid:

- TMS Athletics**: Registration information, forms, and due dates. Icon: Running figures.
- 5TH TO 6TH**: 5th to 6th Grade Transition. Everything you need to know to get you ready for the 6th grade in 2024-2025. Icon: Box with '5TH TO 6TH' text. An orange arrow points to this link with the word 'Here' written inside it.
- 7TH GRADE**: Grade 7 Information. Events just for our 7th graders! Icon: Box with '7TH GRADE' text.
- Attendance Matters**: Reporting Absences, Tardies, or Early Dismissal. Icon: Hands raised.
- After School at TMS**: Clubs, Homework Help, etc. Icon: Apple with 'After School' text.
- 8th Grade Information**: Important dates, events, and everything else! Icon: Box with '8TH GRADE' text.
- Yearbook Sales**: Deadline January 31, 2024. Icon: Yearbook.
- Supplies**: All the items you will need to get your school year started! Icon: Backpack.



Integrated Arts Courses

- Physical Education and Family Life
- Exploring Music
- Art- Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Crafts
- Computer Science and Design Thinking
- Personal Financial Literacy
- Theatre
- Performing Music
- Digital Art and Photography with 3D printing



School Counselor

How and why do parents contact the school counselor?

Concerns about

- student achievement
- social skills
- family difficulties
- family health

The school counselor will reach out to you in the fall to talk about your child.

Call or email the school counselor at any time to talk on the phone or set up an appointment.



How and when does a student see the school counselor?

- Students can drop in
- Parent or staff referral



6th Grade Angst!

- Lockers
- Caring for their school-issued Chromebook
- Building layout and room numbers
- Getting to class on time
- Organization of materials
- Time management
- Cafeteria



Lunch Service - Cafeteria

- All students eat lunch in the cafeteria.
- No one is excused to go home for lunch.
- Students may buy lunch or bring it from home.
- No drop-offs - includes lunch or money!



Lunch Services

Menus, Orders, Pricing

Paying for lunch:

- Set up a lunch account. Students with a lunch account enter their student ID on the keypad at the register and the cost of lunch is drawn from the account.
- Information on setting up an account is found on our website.
- If you do not set up an account, students can pay with cash only. Small bills or exact change, please!

Look for this icon under the Parents Menu for info & to set up an account



School Nurse

Ms. Tammy Rueger



“ Welcome to the TMS Health Office. My door is always open. By working together it is my goal that we make this a happy, healthy, safe and successful school year for your children. ”

“Health Office” page is under the “Our School” menu on our website.



Health Office Information

- We have two nurses who work in the health office
- All incoming 6th grade students need:
 - A complete physical with hearing and vision within 1 year
 - Two new immunizations the Tdap and the Meningococcal
 - Field Trip Emergency Contact Form - will be included in the Welcome Packet sent in August
 - Athletic Participation Forms (Fall Cross Country and Spring Track)
- Students who require medication or with special medical needs require an Administration of Medication Form
 - All forms needed are linked on our website under the Parents menu and the Health office webpage

Please contact Ms. Rueger before the start of school to ensure everything is in place: trueger@tenafly.k12.nj.us



Extracurricular Clubs and Activities

- Varied and extensive offerings
 - Academic
 - Service
 - Athletics
 - School Publications
 - Hobbies and Interests
- Opportunities before and after school
- Club Fair in September for students
- Encourage involvement in at least one activity
- Check out the list of clubs updated over the summer





Resources and Support

- Teachers
- Teams
- School Counselors
- School Secretaries
- School Custodians
- School Nurses
- Supervisor of Curriculum
- Vice Principal
- Principal
- TMS Website
- H.S.A
- Peer to Peer Programs:
 - 6th and 7th Grade Ambassadors
 - 8th Grade RAPP Outreach
 - H.S. Peer Leaders
- Special Services: CST
- Speech & Language Specialist
- Intervention & Referral Services Committee (I & RS)
- TMS Advisory
- Care Plus Social Worker

Home School Communication

- **Parent/Counselor/Team Conferences**
- **District Website: www.tenaflyschools.org**
- **TMS Website: tms.tenaflyschools.org**
- **E-mail: xteacher@tenafly.k12.nj.us**
- **TMS Parent Manual and Student Handbook - under the FAQs icon on the Parents section of our website**
- **HSA meetings and HSA Newsletter**
- **Blackboard Notifications and Alerts**
- **Genesis Parent Portal**



The PHONE!

- Social Media
- Texts
- The world at your fingertips!
- Google whatever you want...



HSA - We couldn't do it without you!

The HSA Board is composed of dedicated parents who work together to provide practical support for our school.



Tenafly Middle School
Home School Association

Join our HSA! Vacancies for 2025-2026:

- 6th Grade Co-President
- Additional Board Secretary
- VP Performing Arts
- VP Directory
- VP Fundraising

Interested in joining? email: TmsHsa17@gmail.com



HSA - We couldn't do it without you!

Get involved and pay dues -
once a year, \$50 per family

Funds allocated for...

- 6th Gr. Halloween Party
- 6th Gr. Pool Party
- Movie and Bingo Nights
- Skate Day
- 7th Gr. Hang-out Night
- 8th Gr. Yearbook Party
- Staff Appreciation Lunches
and much more!



Three Phases - Three Goals

1. Enhance a welcoming learning environment for students and teachers
2. Expand and utilize learning spaces outside the classroom
3. Compliment Referendum capital projects



Thank you and Welcome to TMS

John Fabbo, Principal - jfabbo@tenafly.k12.nj.us

Patrick Comey, Vice Principal - pcomey@tenafly.k12.nj.us

Cathy Paz, Vice Principal - cpaz@tenafly.k12.j.us

Ellie Zerling, Guidance Counselor - ezerling@tenafly.k12.nj.us

Loreny Saxenian, Secretary to the Principal - lsaxenian@tenafly.k12.nj.us

