



When should students arrive for school?

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, school begins at 8 a.m. Students should arrive before the opening bell at 7:55 a.m. School doors open at 7:30 a.m. Any student arriving before 7:55 a.m. should report to the Forum until the opening bell. On Monday and Friday, the school day begins with our Middle School Morning Meeting. On Wednesday, the school day begins with advisory.

Tuesdays and Thursdays have a late start. Students should arrive by 8:45. Advisory will begin on these days at 8:50. Students arriving early on Tuesdays/Thursdays can attend a study hall/time for socializing from 7:30 to 8:55 a.m. in the Forum. Bagels will be available in the Dining Hall from 7:45-8:30.

Daily attendance is taken in advisory. Students arriving after 8 a.m. (8:55 a.m. on Tuesdays/Thursdays) must check in to the Middle School office. The office needs to hear from a parent or guardian via email, phone call, or note to excuse any tardiness.

When are students done with their day? Where do I pick them up?

When classes end at 2:35 p.m., all students report to their Afternoon Program activity (an athletics or arts activity). All Middle School students are required to participate in our Afternoon Program each season, and every student must participate in at least one athletic activity a year. Afternoon Program lasts until 3:45 p.m. Interscholastic competitions will take place once per week (unless otherwise noted). Game days will be Fridays unless this is not possible, in which case there may be a Tuesday game. Pickup occurs after scheduled practices and/or games, so please visit [THAYER.ORG/PARENTS/ATHLETICS](https://www.thayer.org/parents/athletics) for your team schedules.

If a student needs to depart before 3:45 p.m., a parent or guardian must notify the office staff prior to pickup. The student must check out with the staff in the Middle School office prior to leaving the building.

Where should I drop off and pick up my student?

Morning drop-off occurs directly in front of the Middle School. Pickup occurs in the bus lane next to the athletic fields. The line will queue along Tremont Street. Please see the maps included in this mailing.

Can my student stay later than 3:45 p.m.? Is there supervision after practices?

Any student not picked up by 4 p.m. must report to the study hall until their ride arrives. Study hall after 4 p.m. will be held in the Student Commons on Main Campus. A faculty member will walk students over to Student Commons at 4 p.m. Supervision in the Student Commons ends at 6 p.m., so students must be picked up by that time.

What's the absence/tardiness/dismissal policy?

If a student will be absent, tardy, or dismissed early, parents and guardians must email Mrs. Hancock (THANCOCK@THAYER.ORG) or call **781.664.2252**. Nurse Burgess is the Middle School nurse. Students should consult Nurse Burgess if feeling ill. Parents or guardians will be called if a nurse determines the student should go home. Students should

not contact parents or guardians directly to request a dismissal from school.

How do I know if school is cancelled?

Thayer uses an automated service to contact families in case of a school-wide emergency or school closing due to weather. Text messages and emails are sent, and information is posted on the website as well as provided to local TV stations. Families will be invited to opt in to the text alerts in the fall. Please notify the Middle School office of any changes in contact numbers during the school year.

Where is homework posted?

New daily homework assignments are shared during class and by 4 p.m. on the class page of MySchoolApp. Thayer daily planners are given to all students at the beginning of the school year. Students are encouraged to write their homework in their planners before they leave each class to ensure that they capture long-term projects or weekly assignments such as Membean. Parents and guardians can view their student's homework assignments in MySchoolApp as well.

What should Middle School students wear?

Thayer Academy's dress code reflects the belief that how we present ourselves is an important demonstration of our respect for ourselves, each other, and the occasion. Thayer recognizes that clothing is critical to personal comfort and also a meaningful opportunity for self-expression. As such, the dress code is intended to help guide students, parents, and guardians in upholding these values. Students, with the help of their parents and guardians, are asked to adhere not only to the letter but also to the spirit of Thayer's dress code.

Middle School students are expected to participate in athletics on an almost daily basis. While sports are in season, students should wear athletic attire to school to be ready for their afternoon activity. The clothing they wear should reflect the needs of that sport; and students should layer their clothing for indoor and outdoor attire. Students can change footwear before practice. In addition, on Assembly Dress days in the Middle School, students are asked to dress more formally for all-school gatherings and celebrations. The first two days of school are Assembly Dress days. For complete details, please visit [THAYER.ORG/DRESSCODE](https://www.thayer.org/dresscode).

Where can I find info about buses & public transportation?

The most up-to-date information regarding transportation options can be found at [THAYER.ORG/PARENTS/TRANSPORTATION](https://www.thayer.org/parents/transportation).

Where will Middle School students eat lunch?

Middle School students receive a daily lunch in the Middle School dining hall. Lunch is included in tuition, so there is no need for students to have money on hand.

Is there a snack time?

Yes, there is a 10-minute snack break at 9:50 a.m. on most days. Students may also grab a snack from 2:35 to 2:45 p.m. in the dining hall. before their afternoon program. Bagged snacks, cheese sticks, and fruit are provided. Students may bring their own bagged snack: chips/pretzels,

Goldfish crackers, fruit, or a nut-free protein bar.

- ▶ Snacks are to be eaten at the designated snack time — morning snack time and 10 minutes before afternoon program — and in the designated snack areas — the patios or dining hall.
- ▶ NO snacks containing peanuts or tree nuts are allowed.
- ▶ Snacks should be kept in a container (snap-top plastic containers are suggested) or a closed wrapper in a student's locker until snack time.
- ▶ Snacks must be shelf-stable or dry to prevent spoiling food in lockers. No snacks needing refrigeration are permitted.
- ▶ Students should only bring in one day's worth of snacks for themselves.
- ▶ Student beverages are limited to water and drinks provided by the school.
- ▶ Candy is not permitted.

Will students have lockers?

Yes, all Middle School students have full-size lockers to store their belongings. Plenty of breaks are built into the day so students only travel with the books and materials needed for upcoming periods. Backpacks, coats, additional books and materials, and other belongings stay in the locker for the duration of the school day. While there is a shelf at the top of the locker and three hooks, students may bring in non-permanent accessories like a small locker shelf for the bottom to help with organization. There is also a sports storage room for any large sports equipment.

Can students use their phones?

Cell phones / smart wearable devices are unnecessary for the Middle School experience. If a student needs to communicate with their parents or guardians during the day, that student can use the office phone or send an email. Phone use is not permitted during the academic day and should be stored in their locked YONDR pouch in their locker. Additionally, phones should never be used to photograph or video others without their consent.

What sports gear will students need?

Middle School Athletics Director John Reid and coaches will address team gear by individual sport. While sport-dependent, students generally need a durable sports bag, clothing, shoes, uniforms, and a water bottle each day for practices and games. Please be sure to label all clothing and equipment since many students have the same gear. A link to the lists of required Middle School Sports Attire and Equipment by sport can be found at [THAYER.ORG/PARENTS/ATHLETICS](https://www.thayer.org/parents/athletics) (under "Helpful Links").

Where can I find team rosters and schedules?

Team rosters and schedules can be found on each individual Team Page. Access Team Pages via the Parents section under "Athletics" ([THAYER.ORG/PARENTS/ATHLETICS](https://www.thayer.org/parents/athletics)) or in the main Athletics section under "Teams, Schedules, and Results." The website also offers instructions on how to set up athletics text alerts and how to make your student's team's schedule appear on your default Calendar app.

Additional information about your student's sports participation (like practice times and schedules) can be found in MySchoolApp ([THAYER.MYSCHOOLAPP.COM](https://www.thayer.org/myschoolapp)).

What happens at Extra Help?

On Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, students have 30+ minutes for studying, doing homework, or seeking extra help. Students must first check in with their advisor in their advisory, and then they may sign out to seek extra help with one or more of their teachers. It is a student's responsibility to seek out and set up these meetings. Students are also encouraged to set up other meeting times if more help is needed or there is a schedule conflict.

What happens in the arts electives block?

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, there is a school-wide electives block. This is an opportunity for students to participate in a trimester-long elective course experience during the school day. There will be various opportunities each trimester that include the musical, ensemble, chorus, and TATV (Thayer Academy Television) as well as working on yearbook or Tiger's Tale. If a student does not select one of these in a trimester, they will attend an assigned study hall. 5th and 6th graders must sign up for two electives each year, and 7th and 8th graders one elective. Sign-ups occur in the summer, and students will receive their placement at the start of the year when they receive their schedule. Elective classes can be dropped or added within the first week of the trimester if space permits.

What are Activities?

Twice per year, all students participate in an activity of their choosing between sports seasons for five days from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. These activities are a chance for students to explore new interests or familiar passions with different age groups. Students can lead an activity if they choose, and they are invited to find a faculty sponsor and propose new activities. There are many activities to choose from. In the past, activities have included Book Club, Recycling/Garden Club, Positiviteam (service), Dungeons and Dragons, Creating Marble Runs, Fishing, Board Games, Baking, and many more. Students are asked for their top activity choices prior to the end of the trimester and are then placed in an activity. The first activity dates are 11/10 and 11/12 and 11/17-11/19 and the second activity dates are 2/23-2/25 and 3/2 and 3/3.

Where can I find the most up-to-date Thayer information?

Thayer's website is the primary resource for students and families. Please take some time to browse [THAYER.ORG](https://www.thayer.org) and the Parents section at [THAYER.ORG/PARENTS](https://www.thayer.org/parents). This is where you'll find resources like the Student Handbook, calendars and schedules, general athletics information, form links, activities happening at Thayer, and ways to get involved. For assistance logging in to the secure Parent Portal, contact HELP@THAYER.ORG.

Student-specific information about academics, athletics participation, health records (Magnus), and billing (Tuition Management) may be found in the MySchoolApp ([THAYER.MYSCHOOLAPP.COM](https://www.thayer.org/myschoolapp)).

What is the TNN?

The Tiger News Network (TNN) is a weekly newsletter for Thayer families. Emailed Fridays throughout the school year, the TNN provides up-to-date, need-to-know information with helpful links. It is a must-read for parents and guardians who want to stay current with campus events.