

**2025-2026**

**Parent Handbook**



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## TIOGA MIDDLE SCHOOL 2025-2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Semester 1 (Fall)

**First Day of School** .....Monday, August 18

School Picture Day.....Thursday, August 21

**Back to School Night** .....Thursday, August 28

Coffee Hour.....Friday, August 29

Labor Day (*No School*).....Monday, September 1

Grocery Giveaway.....Tuesday, September 9

School Picture Make Up.....Monday, September 22

7<sup>th</sup> Grade School Dance.....Thursday, September 25

Coffee Hour.....Friday, September 26

**Quarter 1 Ends**.....Friday, October 10

First Report Cards & Grocery Giveaway...Tuesday, October 14

Parent Conference.....Thursday, October 15

Teacher Buy Back (*No School*)....Friday, October 17

Quarter 1 Awards .....Wednesday, October 22

Fall Festival & Coffee hour.....Friday, October 31

Veteran's Day (*No School*)..Tuesday, November 11

Winter Concert.....Thursday, November 20

Coffee Hour.....Friday, November 21

Thanksgiving Break (*No School*).. Mon. Nov.24-Fri 28

Grocery Giveaway.....Tuesday, December 9

**Quarter 2 Ends**.....Friday, December 19

Coffee hour.....Friday, December 19

Grocery Giveaway.....Tuesday, January 13

Second Report Cards.....Friday, January 16

Winter Break (*No School*)...December 22-Januray 9

### Semester 2 (Spring)

**First day of Semester 2** .....Monday, January 12

Quarter 2 Awards.....Thursday, January 15

M.L. King Jr. Day (*No School*)....Monday, January 19

Reward Party & Coffee Hour.....Friday, January 30

Lincoln's Birthday (*No School*)...Monday, February 9

Grocery Giveaway.....Tuesday, February 10

Valentine's Day Celebration.....Friday, February 13

Presidents' Day.....Monday, February 16

Reward Party & Coffee Hour.....Friday, February 27

Grocery Giveaway.....Tuesday, March 10

Teacher Buy Back (*No School*).....Friday, March 13

**Quarter 3 Ends**.....Friday, March 20

**Open House**.....Thursday, March 26

Third Report Cards & Coffee Hour...Friday, March 27

Spring Break (*No School*).....March 30<sup>th</sup>-April 3

State Testing Window.....April 13 – June 6

Spring Fling .....Friday, April 10

Grocery Giveaway.....Tuesday, April 14

Math Reward Park Party & Coffee Hour.....Friday, April 24

ELA Reward Park Party .....Friday, May 8

Grocery Giveaway.....Tuesday, May 12

Memorial Day (*No School*).....Monday, May 25

Coffee Hour.....Friday, May 29

Grocery Giveaway.....Tuesday, June 9

**Quarter 4 Ends**.....Thursday, June 11

4<sup>th</sup> Report Card.....Thursday, June 11

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion .....Thursday, June 11

**Last Day of School**.....Thursday, June 11

## PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year. As we start the new school year together on **Monday, August 18, 2025**, the staff at Tioga Middle School looks forward to working with you and your child. Our

Tioga staff strongly believes the education of children is a partnership between the home and the school, and that parent involvement is crucial to the success of our students. Please mark Thursday, August 28, for our Back to School Night from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., where you will have the opportunity to meet our staff and receive critical information about the upcoming school year. Our Open House will take place on Thursday, March 26, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Tioga Middle School office will extend its hours on **Tuesday, August 12, 2025**, for registration. The office will be open through 7:00 PM.

Class lists will be posted on **Thursday, August 14, 2025**, on the cafeteria and/or office windows. These lists will indicate your child's advisory teacher and room number. No schedule changes will be made before **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**.

Our district will implement an early release schedule on Tuesdays of the five-day school week for teacher professional development. Please visit our district website for calendar details: <https://www.fresnounified.org/calendars/>

Regular School Day Daily Schedule: 8 am start time and 2:30 pm dismissal.

Early Release School Day Daily Schedule: 8 am start time and 1:30 pm dismissal.

Parent-teacher conference night is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Breakfast is served from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m., and our after-school program is available daily until 5:30 p.m. Please use this link for our FUSD bus route schedule: [Bus Routes - Fresno Unified School District](#)

The staff at Tioga Middle School is committed to providing an education that will prepare your child to be a career-ready graduate. We look forward to working with you toward this goal.

Sincerely,

Kevin Evangelinos  
Principal

# STAFF DIRECTORY

## **Administration Staff**

**PRINCIPAL: KEVIN EVANGELINOS**

Vice-Principal: Colleen Mahmood

Vice-Principal: Lydia Gonzalez

## **Academic Counselors**

6th Grade Counselor: Raquel Lara

7th Grade Counselor: Justin Carrasco

8th Grade Counselor: Tamiko Simmons

## **Health Staff**

School Nurse: Leslie Ogawa

## **Support Staff**

Restorative Practice School Counselor: Caitlen Mehas

School Psychologist: Kira Armbruster

Office Manager: Thalia Salas, Office Assistant: Brianna Lane, Attendance/Records: Camry Jackson

Community School Coordinator: Natalie Ellis

Home School Liaison: David Delasota

School Librarian: Kent Oliver

Student Support Services/TSA: Steven Lebda

Tier II Intervention Specialist: Maximiliano Godinez

Registered Substance Use Disorder Counselor: Marlyn Rodriguez

ERMHS Counselor: Katherine Wiles

All For Youth Clinician: Nancy Gomez

A4 Mentor: Nayeli Mozqued

Hand in Hand Mentors: Emily Sanchez & Aaron Easley

## **Extracurricular Staff**

Athletic Director: Meagan Schiller

Assistant Director: Michael Dean

Cheer Coach: Shereen Scharnick

Football Coach: Demetrius Martin

Activities Director: Franki Kaufman

Climate & Culture Director: Autumn Dose

## **Food Service Staff**

Cafeteria Manager: Socorro Castillo & Cook-Baker: Louanna Hernandez

## **Campus Safety Staff**

School Resource Officer: Noel Perez

Campus Safety Lead: Jaime Contreras & Campus Safety: Esperanza Valencia & Francisco Medrano

Noon Time Assistant Lead: Monolito Villalva

Noon Time Assistants: Victor Bullock & Freddie Gonzalez

## **Custodial Staff**

Plant Coordinator: Gabriel Cruz & Custodians: Frung Xiong, Houa Xiong, Chor Lee, Daniel Webb

## TEACHERS

### English Department

Department Chair: Joseph Bushong

*EL Resource Chair/7th Grade Lead: Ashley Demedio*

8th Grade: Kirsten Dodge & Alexandra Jackson

7th Grade: Tori Cronin & Rachel Aldecoa

### Math Department

Department Chair: Heather Valle

8th Grade: Meagan Schiller, Nancy Del Real, Kathryn Saldivar & Sal Orozco

*7th Grade Lead: Esmeralda Gonzalez*

7th Grade: Denise Klinger, Brandi Turner, Arianna Choate & Steven Kobata

### History Department

Department Chair: Katrina Gidstedt

US History: Michael Dean

US History/MWH: Chris Hawkins

Modern World History: Alfredo Gutierrez & Cindy Salazar

### Physical Education Department

Department Chair: Kimberly Lee

8th Grade: Gary Olivarez & Michael Tittle

7th Grade: Pania Vang

### Special Education Department

Department Chair: Laura Kojekian

Autism Teacher: Bryce Asadoor

8th Grade SDC: Daniel White & Todd Duncan

7/8th Grade SDC: Octavio Gutierrez, Victor Leyva & Allyson Reyes

7th Grade SDC: Angela Ramirez

7th/8th Grade Study Skills: Shareen Scharnick

### Elective Department

Music Director: Randall Robinson

Explo. Business & Finance: Misty Perez

Explo. Arts & Media: Corina Valdivia

Spanish Teacher: Teresa Sanchez

Drama: Joseph Bushong

Leadership: Franki Kaufman & Autumn Dose

### Student Success Program

7/8th History/English: Laura Kojekian

7/8th Math/Science: Ann Marie Molano

**PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2025-26**  
**“Empowering every learner, every day”**

**Mission**

At Tioga Middle School, we are committed to fostering an equitable, welcoming, and rigorous learning environment where all students are valued, supported, and challenged. We ensure every student receives the resources, relationships, and opportunities needed to succeed today and in the future.

**Values**

We are committed to building an inclusive, equitable, and rigorous learning community where every student feels safe, respected, and empowered to succeed. Guided by cultural responsiveness and restorative practices, we foster strong relationships, honor diverse identities, and ensure all learners have the support they need to grow. We believe that meaningful partnerships with families and the broader community are essential to every student’s success.

**Goals**

To ensure high academic achievement for all students through rigorous and engaging instruction, and to advance equity by identifying and eliminating barriers to success. We aim to foster a safe, positive, and inclusive school climate rooted in trust, respect, and restorative practices. To meet the diverse needs of all learners, we will provide culturally responsive professional development that empowers educators to grow and succeed alongside their students.

**OUR BELIEFS ABOUT LEARNERS AND LEARNING**

1. Every child can achieve it at the highest levels.
2. Children learn best when they are active participants in the process of acquiring knowledge.
3. Every child is unique in key ways: strengths, needs, interests, identities, and life context. One size fits no one.
4. Positive relationships are foundational to a child’s sense of safety, belonging, and willingness to challenge themselves.
5. Children must be equipped to be lifelong learners, possessing the skills and habits necessary to continue learning and growing as they encounter new contexts in and beyond school.
6. Students’ investment in their learning is the shared responsibility of educators, students, and parents.

## **ACADEMICS**

At Tioga Middle School, we are committed to delivering a curriculum that reflects the rich cultural diversity of our students, families, and community. Our instructional materials, classroom practices, and learning experiences are designed to be inclusive, affirming, and representative of the diverse backgrounds, identities, and histories of our learners.

We intentionally integrate culturally responsive teaching strategies to ensure that students see themselves reflected in what they learn and how they learn. By valuing multiple perspectives, we foster critical thinking, empathy, and respect. Our curriculum equips students not only with academic knowledge but also with the cultural awareness and understanding necessary to thrive in an increasingly diverse world.

- **Increased Instructional Minutes in Math:** We have increased math instructional time to 400 minutes per week, compared to the typical 275 minutes, helping ensure students are on track to pass Algebra and graduate from high school successfully.
- **ELA Small Group Tutorial:** Fresno State Teaching Fellows assist students who need extra support in English during the school day.
- **Assessment Retakes:** Students retake assessments until they demonstrate mastery. This ensures all students learn at their own pace and receive the time they need.

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT**

- **Counseling and Emotional Support Team:** Our dedicated team offers group and individual counseling. Students may self-refer or be referred by staff.
- **Hand-in-Hand Mentors:** Our partnership provides mentors who support small groups of students daily and maintain close communication with parents.
- **Advisory Support:** Our 30-minute daily advisory helps students complete missing assignments and strengthen their math and English skills.
- **Student Activities Director:** A dedicated team organizes engaging activities like intramural sports, music, karaoke, games, and competitions

## **SCHOOL CONNECT**

School-Connect is a leading provider of secondary school social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum. Our multimedia curriculum is designed to enhance middle school students' social, emotional, and academic skills, while also strengthening relationships among students and between students and teachers. Lessons include:

- Mod 1: School-Connect Foundations
- Mod 2: Improving Communication Skills
- Mod 3: Boosting Academic Skills & Motivation
- Mod 4: Collaborating on Group Projects
- Mod 5: Supporting Empathy & Inclusion
- Mod 6: Building Relationships & Resolving Conflicts
- Mod 7: Setting & Achieving Long-Term Goals
- Mod 8: Skill-building for Mental Health & Well-being
- Mod 10: Developing Employability Skills
- Mod 11: Planning for Higher Education

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

To succeed, students must attend school daily and be ready to learn. If your child is absent, please call the attendance clerk at 248-3670 to clear the absence promptly. Students with frequent absences will be contacted by school staff and may be subject to home visits. Those who are habitually or chronically truant (i.e., with six or more absences or missing over 10% of the school year) risk academic failure and may face referral to the School Attendance Review Board or the District Attorney, with fines of up to \$500.

We provide the following to support student attendance:

- On-site Home School Liaison: Our Home School Liaison (HSL) acts as a bridge between the school and family, focusing on building relationships, improving communication, and supporting students and families to enhance attendance, behavior, and overall academic success.
- Regular Student Park Party Celebrations. These celebrations provide students with extra time to be outside, play games, connect with friends, and engage in clubs.
- Team Attendance Rewards: The team with the highest weekly attendance gain earns early lunch privileges.
- Individual Attendance Rewards: Students with perfect weekly attendance receive a free advisory period.
- Perfect Attendance Celebrations: Quarterly rewards and activities honor students with perfect attendance.

## **BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT**

We strive for a safe and positive learning environment free from harassment and bullying. Our system includes the following:

- **Counseling for Behavior Support:** Students receive ongoing counseling to resolve conflicts and manage behavior through our Restorative Practices Counselor, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Hand-in-Hand mentors, Tier 2 Intervention Specialist, and other support personnel.
- **Weekly Class Lessons:** Advisory lessons are focused on conflict resolution, anger management, and relationship-building.
- **Alternative to Suspension:** A full-time specialist provides counseling and social skills development as an alternative to suspension.
- **Positive rewards, extra free time, and incentives:** These are meant to help provide students with additional motivation for positive behavior.
- **Parent Meetings (Per FUSD Board Policy BP 5144.4):** In some cases, parents may be asked to attend class with their student or meet with staff to discuss ways to help increase positive student behavior.

## **TIPS TO SUPPORT A STRUGGLING STUDENT**

- **Communicate with Teachers:** Work collaboratively with teachers to understand your child's needs. Our teachers use Atlas Connect as their preferred method of communication.
- **Review Your Child's Friendships:** Students are influenced by their peers. Ensure their friends are positive influences.
- **Spend Quality Time:** Build your child's confidence and connection by investing time with them.
- **Set Clear Consequences:** Enforce appropriate consequences for disruptive behaviors.
- **Reflect on the Home Environment:** Changes at home may affect your child's behavior.
- **Discuss Behavior with Your Child:** Openly discuss concerns, listen actively, and involve them in finding solutions.

Together, we can help every student thrive at Tioga Middle School.

## **DISTRICT INFORMATION**

The traditional School Year has 180 teaching days, five non-student days, two institute days, and three district buyback days.

Institute & Buyback Days are NON-Student Days

Board of Education Meetings are 2nd & 4th Wednesdays unless otherwise specified. Board Meetings are held at the FUSD Education Center, 2309 Tulare Street, on the 2nd Floor in the Board Room.

## **ACADEMIC REPORTING PERIODS**

October 10, Period 1 ends (39 days)

December 29, Period 2 ends (43 days)

March 20, Period 3 ends (46 days)

June 11, Period 4 ends (52 days)

### **Academic Reports to Parents**

September 15 through 19, 1st Progress Notice

October 14 through 17, 1st Report Card & Elementary Parent Conferences

November 10 through 14, 2nd Progress Notice

January 12 through 16, 2nd Report Card

February 17 through 20, 3rd Progress Notice

March 23 through 27, 3rd Report Card

May 4 through 8, 4th Progress Notice

June 11, 4th Report Card

### **End of Semester**

December 19 (82 days)

June 11 (98 days)

## **STATE TESTING**

State Testing Window Opens April 7 and closes June 11.

Use the link below to access the district testing calendar:

<https://www.fresnounified.org/training/test/Pages/calendar.aspx>

## DRESS CODE

Our dress code at Tioga Middle School has been created to ensure a positive and safe learning environment for students and staff. Clothing or items with words, lettering, designs, or pictures with sexually suggestive expressions or actions, gang affiliations, profanity, weapons, obscenity, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco are not permitted. All students at Tioga Middle School must adhere to our official Tioga Dress Code Policy. Students who violate this policy will be asked to correct or resolve the issue before being permitted to enter the class. Appropriate dress at school helps prepare students for success in college and their careers. Please refer to the official Tioga Dress Code on our website or in the front office. [go.fresnou.org/tioga](http://go.fresnou.org/tioga)

- Site Administration has the discretion to determine whether clothing or accessories are appropriate.
- Pants/shorts must fit around the waist. No excessively baggy or oversized clothing.
- Undergarments or shorts worn underneath pants or shorts must not be exposed.
- Shirts, pants, shoes, backpacks, and any accessories **may not be more than 50% red** of any individual item.
- No visible solid red under clothing.
- Tank top straps must be at least 2” wide.
- See-through clothing and midriff attire that exposes the stomach are not permitted.
- Shorts, dresses, and skirts may not exceed 5” above the knee.
- Shoes must always be worn at school and at all campus functions.
- Personal hygiene, such as combing hair, putting on make-up, etc., is not permitted in class.
- Students are expected to remove hoods from their heads while indoors.

***NOTE: Changes may occur during the year if clothing and/or items become a distraction to the learning environment or create a safety concern.***

## APPROPRIATE STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

Tioga Middle School does not condone public displays of affection. Holding hands, hugging, and kissing are not permitted on campus.

## ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The use of technology is a privilege at Tioga Middle School. The FUSD acceptable use policy has been included in the registration materials sent home to parents. All students must complete the form and return it signed to use technology on campus. Violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action.

## MEDICATIONS AND HEALTH CONDITIONS

If your child has a health condition and/or takes prescribed medication, please reach out to the School Nurse during the first week of school. All medications—both prescription and over-the-counter—must be stored and administered through the nurse’s office. A completed **“Medication Order for School”** form, signed by both the parent/guardian and the health care provider, is required to be kept on file. Students may only carry an asthma inhaler or EpiPen if their healthcare provider has indicated permission on the form. All medication must be in the container with the pharmacist's label attached (or in its original, unopened container for non-prescription medications).

### **Illness and Injury**

If a student becomes ill or injured while at school, the student will receive every care and consideration. Parents/guardians will be contacted about injuries of a serious nature or if a student is too ill to remain at school. If a student needs to go home due to an injury or illness, the School Nurse or their designee will contact the parent. Students will be released through the Health Office. The School Nurse is always happy to consult with parents regarding health problems and/or injuries; however, please note that injuries which occur at home should be cared for at home.

Crutches, wheelchairs, and other devices require a doctor’s prescription indicating directions for use and that the student has been educated on the proper use of the device.

If your child has ONE of the following, the student should be kept at home:

- Illness with a fever greater than 100.0 degrees F
- Illness that affects your child’s ability to participate in class
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Initiation of antibiotics within the past 24 hours.

Upon return to school after any extended illness or communicable disease, the student should follow up with the school nurse.

Contact: Nurse Leslie Ogawa for more information.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Bicycles**-Tioga provides a bike rack behind the main office for students to secure their bikes. Tioga Middle School takes no responsibility for the theft or vandalism of any bike brought to school.

**Scooters and Skateboards**- Tioga does not have a secure location to store scooters and skateboards. Please refrain from bringing scooters and skateboards on campus.

## BUS RIDERS

Taking the bus to and from school is a privilege. All students must adhere to our district's transportation safety rules and regulations for bus riders. Students may be denied entry on Fresno Unified buses if they do not follow our agreed-upon regulations. **Students must have a Tioga ID to ride on all Fresno Unified bus routes.** The first ID is provided free of charge; additional IDs may be purchased in the library.

**BUS PROCEDURES** Riding the bus is a privilege. All buses drop students off in front of the school, starting at 7:30 AM or 8:30 AM on late-start Tuesdays. Buses pick up students from school at the end of the day at the back gate behind the gym. A late bus for students in athletics or the after-school program picks up students at 5:00 PM in front of the school. Students must follow all Fresno Unified rules, as outlined in USD 5000, AR 5131.1, regarding bus procedures. Students caught violating bus procedures will be referred by the driver to Tioga administration and may go through the following guidelines:

1. The rider and his/her guardian will be given notice and warning.
2. Upon a second offense of misconduct, the rider will be denied transportation services for a period not to exceed two weeks.
3. Upon a third offense of misconduct, the rider may be denied transportation services for the remainder of the school year.
4. In case of severe violation, the Tioga administration team, in consultation with the Transportation Department, may deny student bus transportation for the remainder of the year.

## EXTENDED LEARNING DAY PROGRAM

The Tioga Extended Learning Program (ELP) provides two main components for our students. The first component is academic. All students enrolled in the ELP attend an instructional enrichment program for 45 minutes. The second component comprises clubs and activities designed to promote student engagement. All students are welcome to participate in the after-school program provided they maintain good behavior. Contact the After School Program Coordinator, Alfredo Gutierrez, for more information at 248-7280 or email at [Alfredo.gutierrez@fresnounified.org](mailto:Alfredo.gutierrez@fresnounified.org)

## **BEHAVIOR**

All students at Tioga Middle School are expected to exhibit high standards of behavior. Tioga Middle School encourages close cooperation between the home and school. When students choose to disregard school rules and procedures, the following consequences may be assigned: phone calls home, mandatory parent meetings with staff, mandatory parent attendance in class with their child, detention assigned in class, detention assigned during lunch, detention assigned after school, campus beautification, mediation, on-campus suspension, and out-of-school suspension.

## **BULLYING**

Tioga is a bully-free zone. Statistics show that over 80% of all middle school students report bullying at one time or another during the school year. Our goal is to educate our students about the adverse effects of bullying on their peers. Tioga students who bully or intimidate others will be required to go through any or all of the following:

1. Peer mediation
2. Counseling
3. Mandatory parent conference
4. On-Campus Suspension
5. Out-of-school suspension
6. Expulsion

## **DRUG FREE ZONE**

Tioga Middle School is a drug-free campus. Students found in possession of drugs or under the influence will be subject to disciplinary action, including any or all of the following: suspension, arrest, and expulsion. FUSD contracts with outside agencies providing drug-sniffing canines. These agencies conduct random visits to Tioga and classrooms. If your child's belongings are alerted by canines, they will be subject to a search for contraband. Parents will be notified on the day of the investigation and of the results.

## **CLOSED CAMPUS**

Tioga Middle School is a closed campus. Students are not allowed to leave campus without parental permission until the end of the school day.

## **CHEATING**

Cheating or plagiarism of any form is not tolerated. Students caught cheating will be subject to disciplinary action according to the rules of the classroom where the cheating occurred. Students who copy or cheat on assessments will be required to retake the assessment. Please see our website for each department's rules on plagiarism at [go.fresnou.org/tioga](http://go.fresnou.org/tioga)

## NO CELL PHONE VISIBILITY POLICY – 2025- 2026

Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, Tioga Middle School will implement a **No Cell Phone Visibility** policy. This aligns with Fresno Unified School District guidelines and recent statewide efforts to prioritize student focus, safety, and well-being.

### Why We Are Making This Change

#### 1. Reducing Distractions & Enhancing Learning

Smartphones can significantly disrupt classroom instruction and reduce academic engagement. Limiting their use during school hours helps foster a focused learning environment and encourages student interaction.

#### 2. Supporting Student Mental Health

Research has shown that excessive smartphone use is linked to increased levels of anxiety and depression among adolescents. Reducing access during the school day supports healthier social-emotional development.

#### 3. Complying with California Law

By **July 1, 2026**, all California school districts must adopt policies restricting student smartphone use. Tioga’s policy is a proactive measure that ensures compliance with this statewide mandate.

### Permitted Cell Phone Use

Students may use their phones during the school day under the following specific conditions:

- During Lunch (while seated and eating inside the cafeteria)
- To show their Fast Pass in the designated Fast Pass line
- After 2:30 PM, outside the main office gate

At all other times during the school day, including lunch recess, phones must be turned off and out of sight.

**Enforcement of the Policy** - If a student is seen using a phone outside the allowed times and locations:

- The phone will be confiscated by staff.
- It will be held in the main office until a parent or guardian comes to pick it up.

**Tioga Middle School is Not Responsible** - Please note that we are not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones, AirPods, or watches. Tioga Middle School will not take the time to search for these items, nor will our School Resource Officer. Please be careful with any items you bring on campus.

**Questions** - You may contact us at 248-7280 with any questions or concerns

## **HARASSMENT POLICY**

The Fresno Unified School Board states that all schools should be a safe environment in which to learn. The California Education Code prohibits any forms of harassment. If you feel you are being harassed in any manner by a student or adult on campus, don't hesitate to get in touch with an administrator.

## **OFF-CAMPUS SUSPENSION (OCS)**

Students violating the education code may be subject to off-campus suspension. Parents will be notified verbally and in writing.

## **PE CLOTHES**

Students are not required to wear official Tioga PE attire; however, they will still participate in physical activity during PE. Therefore, students should wear comfortable clothing that follows the Tioga dress code. Clothing must allow for safe and active movement.

## **PERSONAL PROPERTY**

All personal property is the responsibility of the student. Tioga Middle School is not responsible for the loss of personal property, including, but not limited to: sports equipment, purses, wallets, money, phones, bicycles, skateboards, or electronic devices left unattended.

## **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

Tioga school officials may search for individual students and their property when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that the student is violating the law, district rules, or school regulations.

## **RESTROOM**

Students are not permitted to loiter in or around restrooms. Students must have a pass from the teacher that includes their name, date, and time. Restrooms are closed to students for the first and last 10 minutes of each class period to encourage classroom instruction and learning.

## **CLUBS**

All students at Tioga Middle School are encouraged to participate in clubs through our award-winning ASP, or After School Program. We have over 18 students to enjoy.

## **COUNSELING**

Tioga Middle School offers a variety of counseling services, including those provided by our academic counselor, school psychologist, social worker, and licensed clinical therapist. If you feel your student requires counseling, don't hesitate to get in touch with an adult on campus for a referral.

## **GRADING**

Student grades are generated from the Summit Personalized Learning System. Students are graded on their successful completion of Focus Areas, Projects, and Concept Units. Students are required to retake assessments until they have proven proficiency.

## **HABITS OF SUCCESS**

Our Habits of Success are the attitudes and personal qualities vital for accomplishment and contribution in the workplace and society. Our 16 Habits of Success include:

- Self-Direction
- Curiosity
- Purpose
- Resilience
- Agency
- Academic Tenacity
- Growth Mindset
- Self-Efficacy
- Sense of Belonging
- Relevance of School
- Self-Awareness
- Empathy
- Executive Function
- Attachment
- Stress Management
- Self-Regulation

## **STUDENT SUPPLIES**

Students need to have paper, pencils, and pens available at all times to be effective learners. A backpack, binder, ruler, and colored pencils are also recommended. Students in need of supplies will be provided with paper and pencils. Please speak with your teacher if you need supplies.

## **TARDY POLICY**

The passing periods are 3 minutes in length. Each passing period is a tardy sweeping period. Students who are not inside their class when the late bell rings will be assigned a step on the Tioga progressive attendance program to encourage students to be in class on time. Student tardiness may result in lunch detention, after-school detention, phone calls to parents, a home visit by school officials, and/or a parent-teacher conference.

## **TRUANCY**

During the school day, the Fresno Police Department will pick up students who are off campus without permission. Students who cut class are subject to disciplinary actions. All students are expected to be in class daily. Our goal is to have all Tioga students reach grade level and be ready for high school upon completing 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **TRESPASSING**

Students walking to and from school are to use public walkways and sidewalks. Walking on or across private property is considered trespassing. This includes other schools' grounds. Students are expected to go directly home after school.

## **TEXTBOOKS and LAPTOPS**

Students are responsible for the condition of the books and laptops assigned to them. Textbooks and technology must be returned at the end of the year or when withdrawing from school. Students with unpaid bills may be restricted from participating in school activities and have the amount added to their senior bill. If an investigation determines that a student has damaged a school laptop, it is the student's responsibility to pay for the damage.

## Parent Observation Protocol

At Tioga Middle School, we welcome parent involvement and value transparency in our classrooms. To maintain a focused and respectful learning environment, we have established guidelines for classroom observations. Parents must schedule visits in advance, follow the check-in procedures, and remain quiet without disrupting the instruction. Confidentiality and student privacy are essential. This protocol ensures that observations are meaningful while protecting the integrity of the classroom experience. Full details and procedures follow below.

### Scheduling Observations:

- Parents must submit an observation request at least **two days in advance**.
- Requests should be directed to the school office, specifying the class, teacher, and preferred date/time.
- The principal or designated administrator will review requests and confirm the observation schedule and time.
- Each observation session is limited to **30-45 minutes** to minimize disruptions.
- Only one parent observer per classroom per day to avoid overcrowding.

### Arrival and Check-in:

- Parents must check in at the office upon arrival.
- A visitor badge will be issued and must be worn at all times.
- A staff member may accompany the parent to the classroom.

### Observation Guidelines:

- Parents should remain silent observers and avoid engaging with students or teachers.
- Use of cell phones, cameras, or recording devices is strictly prohibited.
- The parent/guardian should sit in the designated area assigned by the teacher.
- Confidentiality must be maintained; discussions about students other than their own are not allowed.

### Post-Observation Procedures:

- Parent/guardian must return to the office to sign out and return the visitor badge.
- If the parent/guardian has questions or concerns, they may schedule a follow-up meeting with the teacher or administrator; immediate discussions after class are not permitted.

### Special Considerations:

- Teachers may request to reschedule if an observation conflicts with tests, special activities, or sensitive discussions.
- Administrators reserve the right to deny or revoke observation privileges if guidelines are not followed.
- Emergency procedures must be followed in case of drills or real emergencies.

**Acknowledgment:** Before the observation, parents will be required to sign an acknowledgment form indicating they understand and agree to these guidelines. This protocol ensures that parental involvement is encouraged while preserving the integrity of the educational environment.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## LIBRARY INFORMATION

The Library Media Center is available to students from 7:45 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The LMC is open for the circulation of books and materials after the third week of the school year. Students can check out one book at a time for two weeks. A book may be kept longer by renewing it. Books requested by other students will be limited to one renewal. If a library book is lost or damaged beyond use, the student is charged the cost of the book. No fines are charged for students returning books late, but students are encouraged to return books on time. The LMC is closed for the last three weeks of the school year for inventory purposes, book returns, and end of the year closure processes.

### STUDENT IDS

All Students will be issued one (1) ID badge at no charge after school pictures are taken. They are expected to carry it every day. If it is lost or misplaced, one can be replaced by the library. All students must always display the school badge on themselves via a lanyard while on campus and at designated school sponsored events. The ID badge is part of the school’s uniform policy and is used for grabbing meals from the cafeteria, scanning on 5-STAR Student, and borrowing books from the library.

### TECHNOLOGY/FLATS

All eligible students in the district are issued a Lenovo Laptop and a Power Cord. Students are expected to bring their assigned device to and from school every instructional day. Each device is assigned to an individual and the responsibility for the care of the device solely rests with that individual. If the device is lost, it must be reported to FLATS as soon as possible. It may be the responsibility of the student and family to recover or replace the lost device. If necessary, the District and the police will assist in recovery. Students are expected to comply with the Acceptable Use Policy for devices, which states being good digital citizens and being responsible for their devices. For devices that have any physical damage, lost or stolen, applicable fees will be applied. Lost and stolen devices will be remotely deactivated and will no longer be usable. Fees are subject to change.

Device Type	Replacement Cost	Replacement Cost	Replacement Cost
	if Damaged	if Lost*	if Stolen* (with police report)
Student Laptop	\$40	\$100	\$0
Student Laptop power cord	\$5	\$10	\$0
Hotspot (Model T9)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Hotspot (Model T10) and Cradlepoint	\$0	\$50	\$0

Students are not required to turn in their device if they move to a different school within FUSD or promote through grade levels. However, the assigned device must be returned if the student separates from FUSD or upon graduation.

## **AWARDS AND ASSEMBLIES**

Academic and sports assemblies will take place at the end of each semester by the educational team. Students will be recognized for their academic achievements. All students participating in sports will be recognized with a certificate, medallion, or trophy by the Tioga athletic director and the coach of their respective sport. Family members are encouraged to attend.

### **STUDENT FAST PASS AND REWARD PARTY REQUIREMENTS 2025-2026**

#### **Student Reward Party Requirements**

- No more than 20 of the following Attendance Codes during the month of the Reward Party:
  - A-Absent
  - T-Tardy
  - L-Late more than 30 minutes
  - C-Class cut
  - G- Alternative to Suspension
  - PR-Parent Request Penalty
  - S-Suspension
  - X-Exclude Immunization

#### **Fast Pass Requirements**

2.0 Simple GPA. Fast Passes will be updated every two weeks. Students must meet the 2.0 GPA requirement by 2:45 PM on the Friday before Fast Pass lists are created.

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS**

No Suspensions from May 1, 2026, to June 11, 2026

Minimum of 90% attendance rate for 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Minimum 1.5 GPA Cumulative

## **COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Tioga Middle School is in its second year of implementation as a Community School. A Community School serves students from pre-K through high school using a "whole-child" approach that integrates academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community involvement. This model focuses on equity and building on students' strengths to transform schools. The California Community Schools Framework outlines six key pillars: Expanded and enriched learning opportunities, Collaborative leadership and shared decision-making, Rigorous, community-connected classroom instruction, Strong student and family engagement, A culture of belonging, safety, and care, and Integrated systems of support. Tioga Middle Community School Advisory Council will regularly review this framework as part of its evaluation and continuous improvement process. It will also be used to guide annual updates to the Needs and Assets Assessment and the implementation plan. Additionally, we provide families with access to resources and offer a monthly food distribution and a clothing closet on-site.

## **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

- Students have two years of athletic eligibility at the middle school level, beginning in the 7th grade.
- All first-time 7th-grade students are automatically eligible. Their academic eligibility will be evaluated at the end of the 1st Quarter.
- The Athletic Director conducts academic eligibility evaluations before the start of each sports season.
- Student eligibility status takes effect on the second Monday following the end of the quarterly grading period.
- Progress Reports do not affect academic eligibility.

## **ELIGIBILITY CATEGORIES**

### **ELIGIBLE**

- Students who earn a 2.0 GPA or higher and pass at least four classes (D or better).
- Students may participate in all athletic activities during the quarter.

### **PROBATION**

Students who:

- Earned below a 2.0 GPA but still passed at least four classes (D or better) and were eligible in the previous quarter.
- Students on probation may still participate in all athletic activities during the quarter.

### **INELIGIBLE**

Students who:

- Earn below a 2.0 GPA and pass at least four classes (D or better) in two consecutive quarters, OR
- Fail to pass at least four classes (D or better) in a quarter.
- Ineligible students may not participate in athletic contests or be released early from school for games.
- School sites may allow ineligible students to practice with the team at their discretion.

## CHEER POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### Mission Statement

Involvement in the Tioga Pep and Cheer program shall provide members with educational experiences and learning outcomes that contribute toward the development of the attributes of academic success, self-discipline, and good citizenship. The educational process should be enhanced, not compromised, through participation in Tioga Pep and Cheer. Our spirit teams serve as a support group for the interscholastic athletic program and are essential in administering athletic and activity contests. Squads will strive to boost school spirit, promote good sportsmanship, develop positive crowd involvement, and help student participants and spectators achieve the most worthwhile educational objectives of the interscholastic program. As one of the school's most visible and recognizable representatives, Tioga Pep and Cheer members shall be dedicated to demonstrating the highest standards of conduct through positive personal behavior and squad cohesiveness.

Cheerleaders are expected to be mentally and physically fit and athletically skilled in cheerleading. They are first and foremost representatives of their school. Because of these responsibilities, cheerleading squad members will be expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus than their peers. In or out of uniform, cheerleaders represent the **Tioga Pep and Cheer** program and the school.

The Tioga Pep and Cheer coaching staff is looking forward to a successful 2025/2026 season. GO Tomahawks!

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Citizenship and Academic Eligibility**

Students representing their schools in extracurricular and co-curricular activities shall maintain satisfactory citizenship records and conform to Fresno Unified School District credit and grade requirements. To be eligible to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities, students in grades 7-12 must demonstrate satisfactory educational progress in the previous grading period, including but not limited to:

1. Receive and maintain a minimum **2.0 grade point average** at the end of each grading period. Students who receive a GPA lower than 2.0 will be placed on academic probation. Students who receive below a 2.0 GPA for two consecutive grading periods will be removed from the team, according to CIF guidelines. (Accommodations will be discussed with the director, staff, and student if needed).
2. The Superintendent or designee may revoke a student's eligibility for participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities when the student's poor citizenship is severe enough to warrant loss of this privilege.

### **Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drugs**

Student possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco products, alcohol, or unlawful drugs—including drug paraphernalia or any substance purported to be an illegal drug—on or near any Fresno Unified property (including parking lots) or while participating in Fresno Unified-sponsored activities is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action. Suppose such an incident occurs while going to or coming from school or a school-sponsored activity. In that case, disciplinary action will likely include removal from the co-curricular or extracurricular program, as well as additional discipline, up to and including suspension. Parents will be notified of all substance-related violations and resulting discipline. If appropriate, students may also be referred to law enforcement.

The term 'tobacco products' includes inhalant delivery systems such as electronic cigarettes, vapes, e-hookahs, and any vapor-emitting devices that mimic the use of tobacco.

## **Social Media Policy**

Fresno Unified and its co-curricular and extracurricular programs recognize and support students' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. However, each student must remember that they represent Fresno Unified, their school, and their team, and that participation in these programs is a privilege. Students are expected to portray themselves, their team, and the district positively at all times.

Online social networks are not places where you can say and do anything without consequences. The information you post is considered public. Protect yourself by maintaining an image you can be proud of now and in the future.

### **Social Media Guidelines:**

1. Students are high-profile representatives and must always behave appropriately online.
2. Privacy settings may not protect your content; deleted posts can remain accessible.
3. Think before posting. Content can remain public forever.
4. Ensure posts reflect respect and integrity. College and job recruiters may view your profile.
5. Do not post content that is racist, sexist, vulgar, profane, or promotes illegal activities.
6. Do not repost or support offensive content.
7. Do not post media of others without permission.
8. Staff may monitor social media.
9. Cyberbullying is taken seriously and includes spreading rumors, threats, impersonation, or posting embarrassing content.

Fresno Unified reserves the right to discipline students for off-campus conduct that poses a threat or disrupts school activities.

## Consequences for Noncompliance with the Code of Conduct

Fresno Unified priorities are the safety of students and staff, as well as maintaining an orderly school environment. When misconduct occurs, programs will determine appropriate consequences based on each case. Disciplinary actions will be fair, consistent, and support student growth.

Disciplinary Levels:

Level 1 – Minor Offense:

- Handled with verbal/written warnings or probation
- Examples: minor social media violations, tardiness, dress code issues, profanity, misuse of phone, incomplete uniform, and minor misconduct

Level 2 – Moderate Offense:

- May include loss of leadership or limited participation
- Examples: bullying, repeated tardiness, poor sportsmanship, social media violation, defamatory statements, repeated Level 1 behaviors

Level 3 – Major Offense:

- May result in 14-day suspension or removal from team
- Examples: school suspension, hazing, performance-enhancing drugs, felony charges, harassment, threats, gang activity, theft, vandalism

Note: Level 3 violations will result in automatic removal from the program.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Practices and Game Responsibilities**

- Cheerleaders are required to attend all practices, games, and events.
- Game cheer practices will be held weekly after school. Cheerleaders may ride the bus or be picked up by a parent/guardian. Practices run from June through December, resuming before basketball season.
- Football Games: Teams cheer weekly at Saturday games (August–November). Each team aims to perform at halftime during home games, weather permitting.
- Basketball Games: Cheerleaders support home games only (December–February).
- Additional Events: Cheerleaders may be asked to participate in rallies, Back to School Night, Orientation, fundraisers, Open House, and more. Game teams do not participate in competitions unless notified by coaches.
- Pep and Cheer is a year-round commitment. Team members may not participate in other sports that conflict with scheduled duties.

### **Squad Descriptions**

#### **Pom Squad:**

- Focus: Dance (jazz, ballet, and cheer).
- Encouraged: Enroll in a dance technique class.
- Practice: At least weekly, with additional practices assigned as needed.
- Participation in practice begins in June.

#### **Cheer Squad:**

- Focus: Cheerleading (motions, jumps, stunts, cheer-dance).
- Tumbling is preferred but not required.
- Encouraged: Enroll in tumbling, dance, or cheer classes.
- Practice: At least weekly, with additional workouts starting in June.

### **Pep and Cheer Finances**

- A price estimate will be provided for campus and choreography costs. Prices may vary.
- Uniforms are required (\$300–\$400 est.) and must be paid in full before distribution.
- Uniforms must be kept clean and in good condition. Damaged, lost, or stolen items must be replaced at the student's expense.
- If fitted for a uniform, you are responsible for full payment, even if removed or if you quit.
- Fundraising opportunities are available. However, each individual is responsible for covering expenses.
- Competition teams have additional financial/time requirements that will be discussed before tryouts.

## Communications

- Weekly reminders will be shared via morning announcements. Cheerleaders must inform their parents/guardians.
- Weekly Remind updates will be sent. Parents must download the Remind app to receive updates.
- If multiple guardians are involved, each must have access to the app.

### **Parent Communication:**

- Discuss your child's concerns with the coach at an appropriate time.
- Appropriate topics: member's progress, behavior, and safety.
- Inappropriate topics: team decisions or concerns about other students.
- Follow communication steps:
  - Schedule a meeting with the campus cheer coach
  - Do not confront coaches during or after events
  - Enter practice areas only with principal or designee permission

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tioga Middle School**  
**Academic School Year 2025-26**

