School Schedule and Curriculum Updates for the 2025-2026 School Year

Presented by
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August 20, 2025

Old Turnpike School Schedule

- **57 minute classes:** Math, Science, English Language Arts, and Social Studies
- PE/Health: three times a week, with once a week grade level PE with two teachers
- Spanish: Grades 5-8 twice a week, plus:
  - Continued extra Spanish time for some 8th graders
  - Continued extra Spanish time for some 6th graders
- Specials: Art, General Music, and STEM
- All 5th grade students have Chorus one day a week
- **(NEW) Students meet with their Advisor on Thursdays during E&R**

OTS 5th Grade

- ***New* Advisory Teams (5th and 6th grade groups like the Dens at TES)**
- **5th Grade Hallway (castle themed)**
- Organization Skills (time management, taking notes, projects, transitions between classes, or anything else that helps them transition to middle school)
- Locker Practice
- Continued Tiger Goals
- Continued Student Grade Tracker
- **5th grade BTSN September 2nd or 9th**

OTS Lunch and Recess

- Lunch 26 minutes
- 5th and 6th grade lunch Period 4 (sit with grade-level peers)
- 7th and 8th grade lunch Period 5 (sit with grade-level peers)
- Grade 5: Recess five-times a week for 20 minutes
- Grade 6: Recess twice a week (once on Friday during E&R and once during Social Studies)
- Grade 7 and 8: Recess once a week (on Fridays during E&R)

E & R at OTS

- Built into the lunch block: Periods 4 & 5 **(31 minutes)**
- Meet with teachers for extra help
- Grades 5-8 ASAP (Basic Skills):
  - 1 day per week, ELA and Math, for identified students starting in mid-September
- Grades 5-6 Math Aspire and Grades 5-8 ELA Aspire (Revised this year with pilot program)
  - 1 day per week for identified students starting in mid-September
- Grades 5-6 Strings: 1 day per week
- Grades 5-6 Orchestra: 1 day per week
- Grades 7-8 Strings: 1 day per week
- Grades 7-8 Orchestra 1 day per week
- Grades 7-8 Chorus 1 day per week

OTS Extra-Curriculars

- ***Expanding*** Inspiration Cafe (3 guests booked already)
- Continuing Fall Theater Club for Grades 5-8
- Continuing School Musical- Grade 8 students still encourage to participate and take lead roles, Grades 5-7 students can participate in walk-on parts and other supporting roles
- Continuing Model UN and Youth and Government Clubs for Grades 5-8 with support of YMCA

OTS Code of Conduct and Student Handbook

  - Continuing rules of use of Electronic Recording Devices, Cell Phones, and Smart Watches and Social Media recommendations
  - Tiered responses to student absences and behavioral infractions:
    - **Students will be referred to the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) committee for a behavior review after 6 points**
  - **Refined list of infractions and consequences with points and a point reduction program**
- Parent and students sign-off on agreeing to the Code of Conduct at home and in Advisory
- Discussions with students and staff on consistent implementation of Code of Conduct rules
- Chain of Command
- **Honor Roll Updates**
  - **No Grade 5 Honor Roll**
  - **Grades 6-8:**
    - **Honor Roll: 83-92 (B to A-)**
    - **High Honor Roll: 93 and above (A to A+)**

Tewksbury Elementary School Schedule

- Math: 60 minutes per day
- ELA: 120 minutes per day
- Science/Social Studies: 30 minutes per day
- Special Areas: Art, General Music, STEM, Library, and Spanish- once a week
- Kindergarten - Art classes twice per week
- PE/Health: 120 minutes per week for Grade K, 150 minutes per week for Grades 1-4
    - Grade K: “full grade level PE” with two teachers three times per week
    - Grades 1-4: “full grade level PE” with two teachers two times per week, “homeroom PE” two times per week

TES Schedule (Continued)

- **Added general education para educator for 3rd grade support**
- **Added weekly cross-building articulation period for PE, Art, Technology, and Spanish**
- **Pushed lunch start ahead five minutes to accommodate transition time**
- Schoolwide Enrichment: Interest-based, once per week, open to Grade 1-4 students during recess time, starting in October
  - Grades 1-4: TECH and Art
  - Grades 1-2: Music, Spanish, Media Literacy

TES Programs

- Tiger Den Program
- Capstone Projects K-4
- The Great Kindness Challenge
- Global School Play Day
- Morning Meeting Resources
  - Responsive Classroom/Character Education
- Pawsitive Referrals and PBSIS Rewards

Special Education

- Monthly Newsletter for Families of students with an IEP
- Continued Professional learning for educators on Inclusion Strategies in the Classroom to support students with special needs
- **Workshops and coaching on Co-teaching strategies**
- **Training and support for 504 Program**
- **Behavioral Threat Assessment team now led by Supervisor of Special Education**
- **New Unified Club at OTS**
- ***New* Sensory Room at OTS**

Multi-tiered System of Support

- Updating the description of MTSS on Website
- Continue to collect more student achievement data AimsWeb testing for Math and Reading K-4 (twice a year testing)
- Three Tiers
  - Tier 1-Students succeeding with current curriculum with support from classroom teacher
  - Tier 2-Support for students needing targeted intervention from classroom teacher
  - Tier 3-Intense intervention for students from intervention specialist outside of the classroom
- Continued data collection on support programs (ASAP and Aspire) to assess program and students' needs
- ASAP Grades K-4 (Basic Skills): Support program for math and reading
  - Identified Tier 3 students will meet at least 4x per week with intervention specialist
  - Identified Tier 2 students will have (2) support from classroom teacher
- ASAP Grades 5-8 (Basic Skills): Support program for math and reading
  - One additional period of ELA and/or math a week for Tier 2 & Tier 3 students during E&R
- Continued Homework Helper Program- OTS After-school for Math and ELA

Gifted Program (*Aspire*)

- **Updated Criteria for identifying gifted students** (on website)
- Parent Letters go out first week of school
- Continued Parent Advisory Group for Aspire
- TES Enrichment Opportunities for ALL Students
  - School-wide Enrichment Program
  - After-school enrichment opportunities through various clubs
- TES Aspire
  - Grades 2-4: pull-out program, twice per week for identified students
  - Grades K-1: push-in support within the classroom for identified students
    - Project-based enrichment for the whole class throughout the year.

Gifted Program (*Aspire*)

- OTS Aspire
  - Aspire Grade 5 and 6 Math meet **together** once a week with two teacher experts in that content area
    - Students study two units from the grade level above
    - Focusing on Advanced Geometry and Algebra concepts
  - Grade 7 Math Honors course and Grade 8 Honors Algebra Course for identified students
  - **New Grades 5-8 *English Language Arts Honors Pilot Program* for identified students**

Professional Learning

- Literacy Coach for K-8: **Classroom Strategies for Writing**
- Continued support for math teaching and learning with expert consultant
- **Best Practices for Inclusion, Co-teaching, and supporting 504s PreK-8**
- Professional Learning Communities **with Data-informed Student Learning Goals, Teacher-led**
- Increased opportunities for articulation between teachers, among the grade-level teams, and within the content areas
- Workshops to support Hands-on Learning and Engagement

S.T.E.A.M.

- Project Lead the Way at OTS
  - Grade 8 Automation and Robotics Unit of Study
  - Purchased Additional 3-D Printers
  - *Project Lead the Way* support materials for OTS teacher
- Technology connections to Art at TES and OTS

World Language

- Continue with additional class of Spanish for Grade 6
- Spanish Reading Buddies for Grades 5 and TES Students
- Exploration of opportunities for connections to other world languages

Health and PE

As we did last year,

- In Fall: Information and Guide on Health Standards will be updated and sent to parents (this is also on the website)
- In Winter: Letter to parents of students in Grades 5, 7, and 8 to choose units of study for Health taught in May
- First Aid Unit will be the optional replacement unit for Human Relationships/Sexuality and Child Abuse Prevention in Grades 5, 7, and 8
- First Aid studies supported by school nurse and Tewksbury EMS (if available)

- ***NEW* LEADs Program for Grade 5 led by Tewksbury Police Officer**

Parent Information

- Curriculum Workshops:
  - Family Math for Grades 3-4 in the fall
  - Special Education Presentations for Parents
  - Winter Parent Workshop on Middle School>High School Mathematics/Science Courses
  - Voorhees HS Transition Workshops- OTS School Counselor
  - OTS Grade 5 Transition Workshop-OTS Principal and School Counselors
  - Social Media Night
- Parent Letters
  - Monthly Letters from Superintendent
  - Monthly Updates from Principals
  - Twice-monthly short form reminder cards with upcoming events
  - Aspire and ASAP Information Letters from Supervisor
  - Monthly Special Education Newsletter

Parent Information

- All school curriculum is on our website
  - Tewksburyschools.org
  - Under “Curriculum” > “District K-8 Course Curriculum Overview” > “Click Here”> “All Curriculum”
- This presentation will be shared on our website

Tewksbury Township Schools

Optimistic for a great school year 2025-2026!