

October 2026



October 17, 2026

Dear OTS Friends and Families,

Now that we are almost finished with our first marking period (it ends November 4), we hope your child continues to do well. We ask that you continue to communicate with your child's teachers when you have questions or concerns. The teacher-parent relationship is an essential part of your child's educational experience in middle school. Please take some time to continue to review your child's grades on the RealTime Parent Portal. If you have trouble finding their grades and/or assignments, please reach out to their teachers. We want each child to achieve his or her maximum potential. Being proactive and communicating with your child about their learning helps them with their success here at OTS. OTS teachers also recognize the importance of working and communicating with parents to support the well-being of their children. If you have any questions regarding your child's grades or other matters at any time, please reach out to their teacher first. Thank you for your support.

Parent-teacher conferences will be happening the first week of November (November 2-4). We will be reaching out to individual parents/guardians to invite them to come and meet with their child's teachers. Once those conferences have been scheduled, any remaining parent/guardian who wish to schedule a conference will have the opportunity to do so on a first come first serve basis with the remaining slots using the scheduling platform PTC Fast. We will notify you when the PTC Fast platform is open. Please know we will not be offering virtual conferences. Conferences will be in person. If you are unable to schedule during this conference time, please know our teachers are available by email or for a scheduled in-person meeting if necessary.

In the State of New Jersey, the week of October 5-9, 2026, was designated as the 'Week of Respect'. Students participated in a week's worth of comprehensive and inclusive programming to celebrate and promote respect, kindness, and a positive school culture in order to create a safe and supportive learning environment for all. Our School Counselor also began teaching her grade 5-8 lessons on respect and kindness with our students. Thank you to all those who made the week special for our students.

Starting Thursday October 22, 2026 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to spend time in the library during their lunch period catching up with friends, completing assignments, or checking out a good book. Information to follow for 5th and 6th grade students. Stay Tuned!

Clubs are up and running. A special thank you to our PTA for their generous donation to support our Gaming Club, held on Fridays. Students interested in clubs can still join one, but must first register by filling out paperwork and returning it to the club advisor. [Click here for information about registering for clubs and which clubs we are offering](#). Also, now that clubs have begun, parents picking up students need to follow our pickup procedures (see below). Students are **NOT** allowed to walk across the parking lot to their parents' car. They must wait for their parents to get out of their car and go retrieve their child. Parents may also use the car rider line to pick up their child. Thank you for your attention to this matter

As for our sports teams, this week was the last week of the regular season, and our teams will soon begin the playoffs. We wish the best for our student-athletes and coaches. Please go to the [OTS homepage](#) to access our weekly schedules for sports. Go Tigers!

Important Dates to Remember

October 23 - OTS School Dance 6:30-8:30 pm

October 24 - Trunk or Treat TES 5-6:30 pm

October 30 - 5th-grade field trip to Bronx Zoo

November 2-4 - Parent Teacher Conferences

November 2-4 - Early Dismissal

November 5-6 - School Closed Teacher's Convention

Lunch and Recess

Lunches

Maschio's Food Services, Inc. is the contracted lunch provider at OTS. See the following links for more information about the lunch service provided by Maschio's as well as PaySchools, our point of sale service system. You can find their menu on our school website at the following link:

[OTS Lunch Menus 2026-27](#)

[OTS Price List 2026-27](#)

[PaySchools Central](#)

[Please click here](#) for more information on Maschio's. Below are two essential pieces of information to help you get started.

Recess

All 5th-grade students have recess every day

Grade 6-8 students have recess one day a week

Arrival and Dismissal for Busses

STUDENTS MAY NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL BUILDING BEFORE 7:15 AM

You will receive an email in the near future with your child's bus assignment and schedule from the district's transportation coordinator, Bob Hoffman

(bhoffmanjr@tewksburyschools.org).

Dismissal will be at 2:30pm and students taking the bus will go to their lockers and leave the school to their assigned bus.

Student and bus driver safety are of the utmost importance and are taken with extreme seriousness. Students are under the authority of the Tewksbury Board of Education when riding on a school bus. It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide for the safety and welfare of pupils at all times.

- The school bus and bus stop are extensions of the school day. All student Code of Conduct and expectations are extended to their time at bus stops and on the school bus. School bus transportation is a privilege. The bus driver is completely in charge of the bus and its riders at all times.
- Students must comply with all the rules and directions of the driver.
- Students are given assigned seats on their bus.
- Should a violation of the rules take place, a bus conduct report will be submitted to the school's administration.
- Consequences will follow if a student(s) is violating the code of conduct on the way to school and/or on the way home from school. Consequences could include suspension from the bus.

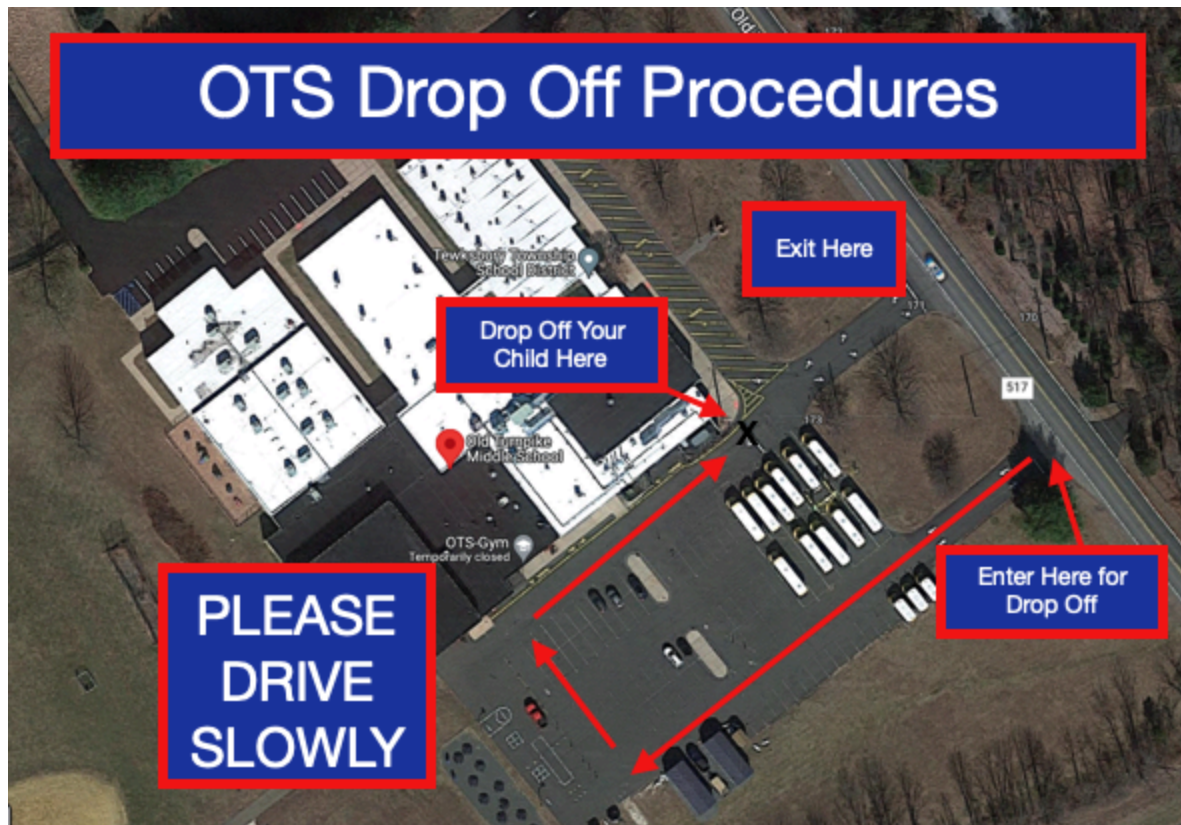
All students are assigned to a bus route and bus stop at the beginning of the year. Changing these routes and stops is not permitted. Only students officially assigned to a bus may enter or ride that bus. Any questions or concerns regarding transportation should be directed to the district's transportation coordinator, Bob Hoffman (bhoffmanjr@tewksburyschools.org). If you are going to pick up your child early from school, please inform the office by an email to Dee Krowl (dkrowl@tewksburyschools.org) or a call to Dee Krowl at 908-439-2010 ext. 4221.

Drop Off and PickUp Procedures for Cars

STUDENTS MAY NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL BUILDING BEFORE 7:15 AM

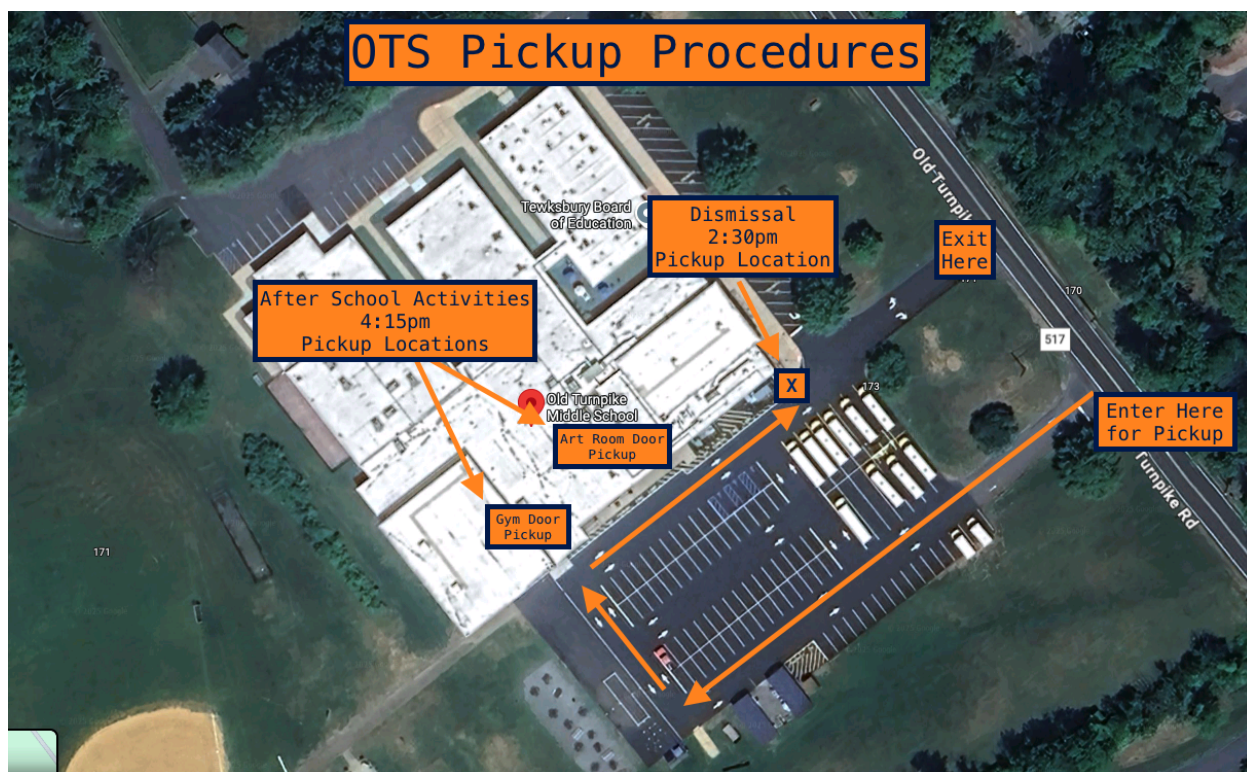
Doors to the school open at 7:15am. Students are not to be dropped off before this time as there is no supervision nor protection from the elements until then. Please understand that traffic does become heavy at times at drop off, so please plan accordingly if you are choosing to bring your child(ren) to school.

The school day begins at 7:35am. The door to school will close at that time so staff can begin their school day. If students are not in homeroom at that time, they may be marked late to school. Any cars dropping off students late will need their students to buzz into the main doors. Below is a diagram for Car Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures.



Students are *NOT* allowed to walk to their parents' car in the parking lot after school or clubs/sports. If the parent/guardian does not choose to use the pick up line after clubs/sports, they must get out of their car and go get their student by the OTS Gym door or Art room door and walk them to their car.

Parents **CANNOT** pull out of the car rider line and drive away when their child enters the car. They **MUST WAIT** until they reach the front of the line to drive away.



OTS Bell Schedule and School Calendar

OTS Bell Schedule				Early Dismissal - NO E&R		Delayed Opening - NO E&R			
5th/6th Grade		7th/8th Grade		All Grade Levels - NO LUNCH		5th/6th Grade - LUNCH SERVED		7th/8th Grade LUNCH SERVED	
Homeroom	7:35-7:40	Homeroom	7:35-7:40	Homeroom	7:35-7:40	Homeroom	9:35-9:40	Homeroom	9:35-9:40
Period 1	7:40-8:37	Period 1	7:40-8:37	Period 1	7:42-8:23	Period 1	9:43-10:22	Period 1	9:43-10:22
Period 2	8:39-9:36	Period 2	8:39-9:36	Period 2	8:25-9:06	Period 2	10:24-11:03	Period 2	10:24-11:03
Period 3	9:38-10:35	Period 3	9:38-10:35	Period 3	9:08-9:50	Period 3	11:05-11:44	Period 3	11:05-11:44
Lunch 5/6/E&R	10:37-11:34 11:03am Bell Rings for E&R	Period 4	10:37-11:34	Period 4 7th and 8th Period 5 5th and 6th	9:52-10:33	Lunch 5/6	11:46-12:25	Period 4	11:46-12:25
Period 5	11:36-12:33	Lunch 7/8/E&R	11:36-12:33 12:03pm Bell Rings for E&R	Period 6	10:35-11:17	Period 5	12:27-1:06	Lunch 7/8	12:27-1:06
Period 6	12:35-1:32	Period 6	12:35-1:32	Period 7	11:19-12:00	Period 6	1:09-1:48	Period 6	1:09-1:48
Period 7	1:34-2:31	Period 7	1:34-2:31			Period 7	1:51-2:30	Period 7	1:51-2:30

OTS Marking Period Dates 2026-27 School Year

1st MP

August 31 - November 4

2nd MP

November 9 - January 22

3rd MP

January 25 - March 25

4th MP

April 6 - June 11

Specials/Cycles Marking Periods



Old Turnpike School

5th - 8th Grade Cycles MPs 2026-27



Marking periods are trimesters for Art, Music, and STEM.
Below are the dates for their marking periods.

Marking Period #1

August 31 - November 25

Marking Period #2

November 30 - March 5

Marking Period #3

March 8 - June 11

OTSClubs

CLUB DATES 2026-2027

		Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
SESSION 1	September	28	23, 30	24	25
	October	5, 19, 26	7, 14, 21, 28	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
	November	9, 16, 23, 30	11, 18	12, 19	13, 20
	December	7, 14, 21	2, 9, 16	3, 10, 17	4, 11, 18
	January	4, 11	6, 13	7, 14	8, 15
SESSION 2	January	25	27	28	22, 29
	February	1, 8, 22	3, 10, 17	4, 11, 18, 25	5, 19, 26
	March	1, 8, 15, 22	3, 10, 17, 24	4, 11, 18	5, 19
	April	12, 19, 26	7, 14, 21, 28	8, 15, 22	9, 16, 23, 30
	May	3, 10	5	6, 13	7, 14

Dates for clubs are posted above. Each club is for a 1/2 year and will offer 13 after-school meetings. Clubs can change year to year. We will be posting a list of clubs offered this year after school begins, and club advisors will be speaking to your students about the various offerings during lunch, homeroom, etc.. We hope to run as many clubs as possible.

A child who wants to join a club must have their parent/guardian sign this [permission form](#) and pay the club fee of \$175. This form is [available here](#), and a paper copy will also be sent home. Please know that all clubs end at 3:30 pm unless otherwise noted by the club advisor.

If a club is canceled, OTS will make an announcement to our students in school that that particular club(s) are canceled and students should contact their parent(s)/guardian(s).

Students can contact their parent(s)/guardian(s) the following way:

1. Come down to the main office and call them to inform them the club is canceled and they need to be picked up or will take the bus home
2. Email them to inform them the club is canceled and they need to be picked up or will take the bus home

If they have a cell phone, **they can ask a teacher if they use their cell phone** to inform them the club is canceled and they need to be picked up or will take the bus home

After clubs, students are picked up at the side of the building by the side door entrances for the Gym and/or Art rooms. Students are not allowed to walk through the parking lot to your car, so please get out of your car and come get your child if you choose not to use the pickup line. Below are some clubs we ran last year!!!

Art Club, Craft Club, Jewelry Making Club, Gaming Club, Lego Club, Battle of the Books, Odyssey of the Mind, Homework Helper, etc

Real Time Parent Portal

Our school management software program is called Realtime. The data contained in Realtime is used as the preferred method of communication for mass emails from the district, text messages, and voice messages. This information is used for emergency situations like weather delays, school closures, etc. Please keep this information updated. You will be requested to review and update your contact information, and to whom and how you want information sent.

The Parent Portal will open on August 20 at 3:00 pm. There are several documents in Realtime that you will need to read and acknowledge prior to viewing your child's schedule and Advisor/Homeroom teacher. If you are having trouble accessing the portal, please contact our front office; dkrowl@tewksburyschools.org

RealTime is also where student records will be visible for parents including grades and any disciplinary infractions and points.

No Homework Days

FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR, HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ASSIGNED TO STUDENTS DURING THE FOLLOWING DATES, AND NO ASSESSMENT WILL BE GIVEN ON THE DAY THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL

- Rosh Hashanah (September 11 through September 13)
- Yom Kippur (September 20-21)
- Thanksgiving Recess (November 25-30)
- Winter Recess (December 23 through January 4)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 18)
- Presidents' Day weekend (February 12 through February 15)
- Spring Recess (March 25 through April 6)
- Memorial Day Weekend (May 28 through June 1)

Virtual Backpack

As a reminder, Tewksbury Township Schools uses our Virtual Backpack to share things happening in and around our community. [Click here to see what's going on!](#)

Lockers

Every OTS student will have a locker this year. We expect students to keep their lockers locked with their own lock or a school provided lock.

Students should not leave any food or water overnight in their lockers.

Physical Education

Students will not be getting changed for Physical Education (PE) and should wear comfortable clothes they can run around in as well as sneakers on the days they have PE. PE is three days a week for each student at OTS.

Chromebooks

This school year 2026-27, Chromebook insurance will be \$35 for all students. All accidental damage will be covered by our new insurance with no additional cost to parents.

Parents will pay student Chromebook insurance fees via their [Payschools portal](#). Parents will also have the option of mailing a physical check to school during the summer before school starts. Your child can also bring a physical check into school, please make sure the check is in an envelope with your student's name on it. This should be dropped off at the OTS front office.

Please mail checks to:

Old Turnpike School
171 Old Turnpike Rd.
Tewksbury, NJ 07830
Attn: Heather Valenta

Please make checks payable to:

Tewksbury Twp. Board of Education

Chromebook Handouts 2026-27:

We are eliminating the need to come to OTS during the summer and pick up your child's device. ***All Chromebooks will be in your child's homeroom on the 1st day of school.*** Each child will receive a Dell Chromebook, and a USB-C charger. The Chromebook will be clearly labeled with your child's name and in a hard shell drop case to prevent damage.

For more information about the insurance policy as well as parent/student expectations, [please click here](#).

Code of Conduct

[Code of Conduct and Student Handbook](#)

Parental/guardian support of school disciplinary actions is a vital part of the program as it aids in reinforcing consequences and improving student behavior. ***It's also important for our parent/guardian community to understand that teachers and Administration may struggle to find appropriate consequences for alleged actions that can't be substantiated.*** NOTE The

Administration reserves the right to assign penalties for offenses not listed or to adjust a particular penalty when the severity of the offense warrants. Additionally, a counseling component may be included if necessary with all general discipline procedures. Lastly, while we understand your desire to know the consequences for a student who may have done something to your child, we are not legally allowed to share this information with you. This information is between the school and the parents/guardians of the child who committed the infraction. We ask for your understanding.

Tewksbury PTA



We have a very active PTA and hope you will join!

TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP PTA

Membership

The Tewksbury Township PTA is committed to providing events and opportunities that embody and promote the spirit of our school and community.

Now more than ever your membership is needed so that we may continue to empower our teachers and support our students. Membership dues go directly toward assisting us in providing educational and social opportunities as well as financially supporting our teachers and support staff with purchases that would not otherwise be possible.



WHY JOIN THE PTA?

When you join the PTA, you join a community that encourages student achievement and enriches the learning environment for all students. We believe **TOGETHER** we can help our children be successful! It is a great way to get involved in your child's school and the greater community—if you choose! PTA Supports: Family Events, After School Clubs, Teacher Grants, Spirit Wear and much more.



WHO CAN JOIN THE PTA?

Anyone can join the PTA. Parents, Grandparents, Teachers/Staff, Alumni, Friends, Family, Neighbors... every membership helps to support our children!



HOW CAN I JOIN?

Membership is just \$25/family (\$10 for teachers/staff). We invite you to visit www.tewksburynjpta.com to learn more and register.

Once you have registered and paid, you will receive email communications, have access to school social events, programs, and workshops, and you will receive a school directory.



DO I HAVE TO VOLUNTEER?

NO, but we would love it if you do! If you are interested in volunteering, or have suggestions or ideas for events or programs, please reach out: info@tewksburynjpta.com



Ready to sign up?

Visit www.tewksburynjpta.org to purchase a membership and learn more about available volunteer opportunities.

Or scan here! ----->



Tewksbury Education Foundation

The Tewksbury Education Foundation (TEF) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization established to bring innovative, inspiring, and cutting-edge events and programs to the students in the Tewksbury Township School District. In collaboration with teachers, the TEF procures enrichment programs for each grade as well as assemblies for each school. The TEF also partners with outside organizations to bring parent speaker programming and provides mini-grants directly to teachers. This year, look out for exciting community events such as STEM Night and the Barn Dance! Please visit our website <https://www.tewksburytef.org> to find out how to get involved and donate, and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @TewksburyTEF.