

Uniform Information

- Required uniform is to be worn on Mondays—See the Uniform Policy and Standards on the TCS website.
- PE uniforms are required for all students and may be purchased from Flynn and O’Hara.
- Be sure to get the correct length Blackwatch kilt, which is no shorter than 1” above the knee.
- Please read the shoe policy carefully before shopping for shoes.

Summer Work

Summer work packets have been given to students. Please be sure to read them carefully and have your child follow the directions. Students who do not follow the directions may have a difficult beginning of the school year because they may be asked to redo some of the summer work during the first weeks of school.

Textbooks

Textbooks for middle and upper school classes are to be purchased by the students’ families. Please note the following:

- The middle school textbook list is available on the Community Life page of the website.
- All textbooks are available through Follett Virtual Bookstore. Links are provided on the TCS website.
- Many parents also find reasonably priced, used books through other online sellers.
- *Wordly Wise* as well as the spelling and vocabulary books for Eng 06 need to be purchased new as they are workbooks. Do not purchase used copies of these.
- Have your child put his/her name in ink in the front cover of the books as soon as you get them. If the books are lost without a name written in them, anyone may claim them from the lost and found.

Open House

Trinity holds its Open House the Friday before Labor Day weekend. This is an extremely important day for sixth graders. Please make every effort to attend. Students may put their materials and books in their lockers, they may practice opening and closing their locks, and students will have an opportunity to walk through their schedules on that day.

Athletic Team Expectations

Middle school athletic teams are to have commitments no more than three days per week. This could vary widely in terms of actual time of day as practices and games may be scheduled as early as 4:00PM or as late as 8:00PM. Students do not get extensions on due dates for assignments because of their sports schedule, so time management is important. The athletic fee for the 2009-2010 year was \$150. Full details on the athletics program can be found on the TCS website.

Elective Expectations

Electives are graded classes that carry the same credit as non-electives. This means that the drop/add policies which apply to other classes apply to these classes as well. These are not classes that a student should “try” and then decide mid-year to “try” something else.

- **Drama** – There is one evening performance in the spring. In addition, there are several after school rehearsals right before the performance. Students may be expected to supply some of the costume pieces.
- **Band** – Students are expected to practice 20-30 minutes, five days per week. Instruments as well as associated equipment are to be purchased by the student’s family. Books for the course will be purchased from the instructor at the beginning of the year. The cost of band books is listed on the student supply list. Band students will perform a minimum of three times during the school year. Performances are held in the evenings and after school rehearsals may be required.
- **Strings** - Students are expected to practice 150 minutes per week. Instruments as well as associated equipment are to be purchased by the student’s family. String students will perform a minimum of three times during the school year. Performances are held in the evenings and after school rehearsals may be required.
- **Art** – Supplies for work done in class are provided by the school. Students will need to purchase their sketchbook from the teacher at the beginning of the year as noted on the supply list. Supplies for work done at home will need to be purchased by the student’s family. Students may be required to visit art museums outside of school hours.
- **Chorus** – Chorus students have several evening performances during the school year. Chorus members wear choral uniforms for performances. Some pieces of the uniform are provided by the school, but families are also required to purchase some of the items.

Club Expectations

Information regarding clubs will be sent to families around the beginning of the school year. Most clubs are open to all students. Some of the clubs require students to bring in supplies, such as Fashion Club. Students may not “try” a club for a few weeks and then “try” another club for a few weeks, etc. They are to commit to their clubs for the year.

Behavioral Expectations

As students get older they assume more responsibility for themselves and for those around them. Students are expected to pay attention in class and to not distract others from learning. Class interruptions will be dealt with quickly. Teachers will give the student one warning. If the disruption continues, the student will be asked to leave the classroom and will remain in the hall until the teacher has time to address him/her, and his/her parents will be contacted. If the student disrupts class again, the student will be sent to the middle school office to see the principal. Please discuss this protocol with your child prior to the beginning of the school year.

Absences

Students are to get makeup work from classmates and teachers for any absences that are less than two days. Homework is also posted on teachers’ websites. If a student is absent for more than two days the parent may call the office and request that work be gathered for the student. It is advisable to discuss with your child which students would be reliable resources in the event of an absence.

Signing Students In and Out

While middle school students are older and more responsible, parents are still asked to sign their children in and out through the middle school office, except if the student is less than ten minutes late to school in the morning, then the student may enter on his/her own to sign in for the school day. If a student needs to leave a class for an appointment, please send a note with him/her in the morning. The student is to give the note to the staff in the middle school office. The middle school office assistant will give a pass to the student to give to the teacher of the class from which they are leaving early. The student may then simply exit that class on time to meet his/her parent in the middle school office. This eliminates unwanted class interruptions.

Study Guides

Faculty members are not required to give study guides for every quiz and/or test. Certain subjects, such as math, do not lend themselves well to study guides. Additionally, while study guides can help, they can also become a crutch for students and can impede a student's academic progress. Teachers are not required to include every question on a test on the accompanying study guide. If everything on a test was included in the study guide, we would not be able to measure the students' ability to apply the knowledge they have learned to a new situation, which is critical for developing thinking students. However, faculty members are required to provide thorough study guides for all semester exams.

Quizzes and Tests

Middle school faculty maintain an internal, comprehensive calendar of all quizzes, tests, and project due dates in order to prevent too many of these assessments occurring on one day.

- We endeavor to have no more than two tests on a day, but this is not always possible. There will be days when sixth grade students will have more than two tests scheduled on the same day.
- When keeping track of the number of quizzes, tests, or projects due per day on the internal calendar, we count a quiz as one half of a test.
- Quizzes that occur every week on the same day for the whole year do not count towards this total. These include the weekly vocabulary quizzes, spelling quizzes, and memory verse quizzes.
- We are sensitive to the number of quizzes and tests that a student may have on the same day and in the course of a week, but we also need to be sure to have enough quizzes and tests in every class so that students' grades are a fair picture of their understanding of the material.
- If a teacher only gives a few quizzes or tests in a quarter, a student's grade can be dramatically affected by one bad score.
- It helps students to stay on top of their learning if they know that they will be quizzed on a regular basis.
- Students actually do better with more quizzes over less information than with fewer quizzes over more information.
- If you become concerned that there are too many quizzes and tests in a specific week, please notify the middle school principal immediately so that adjustments can be made, if necessary.
- We also invite students to talk to their teachers if they feel that they have too many tests and quizzes on one day.