



Timothy Edwards Middle School

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Melissa Morgan-Hostetler
Principal

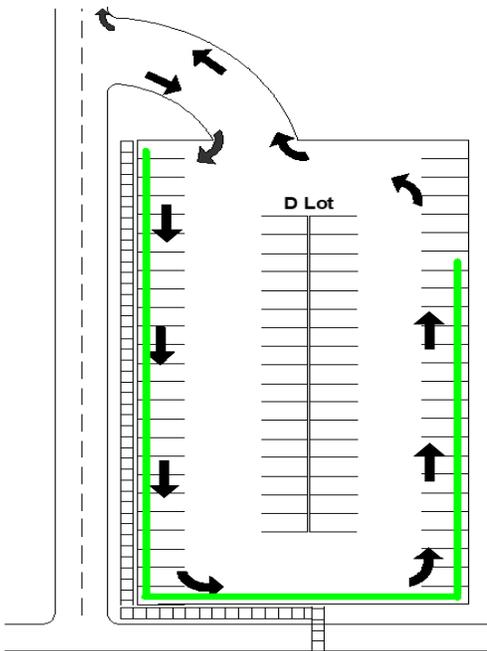
Jarrid Clifton
Associate Principal

David St. Jean
Associate Principal

August 25, 2021

Hello Timothy Edwards Middle School Students and Families!

It's hard to believe we are just a week away from our first day of school! Below please find information about our return next Wednesday, September 1st, as well as some changes you can expect at TE this school year. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions.



Morning Drop Off

Please use Lot D for drop-offs and pick-ups. We will have extra staff available to direct vehicles for the first few days. For the safety of our students, please follow the directions of these staff members.

Follow the traffic pattern indicated by the arrows and drop off your child on the **outside** of the parking lot as indicated by the green line.

Drivers, please stay inside your vehicle while in the drop off line. If you need to exit your vehicle, there are parking spots available in the center of the lot.

There are approximately 1200 students coming to TE every day, and we know that the traffic volume can be heavy! We are proud of the efficiency of the system in place, and we appreciate your patience as new families learn the drop off procedure!

TE's New Schedule

As you may recall, TE will be operating with a new schedule starting this fall. We are thrilled about the schedule's simplicity, predictability and continuity, as there will be no rotation, no numbered days and no daily rotation of classes and/or weeks! Schedules are posted on the [TE website](#). During the first days of school, homeroom teachers will take time to be sure students understand their schedules and help direct students to their classes.

In summary, students will have a total of 8 periods on their schedule.

- On Mondays, students will have all of 8 of their classes (periods 1-8), which will be about 45 minutes long. This means students see all of their teachers every Monday, setting the stage for the week.

- Tuesday through Friday students will have 4 periods, or blocks, daily. Each will last about 90 minutes.
 - Tuesday and Thursday: Students will have periods 1-4
 - Wednesday and Friday: Students will have periods 5-8

Some of the benefits of the block periods:

- ◆ 90 minute periods will allow students to explore content areas in greater depth.
- ◆ 90 minute periods will provide time for teachers to meet with small groups and conduct one-on-one conferencing to best support student learning during class.
- ◆ 90 minute periods are excellent for labs and project-based learning, such as in science or technology classes.
- ◆ 90 minute periods will provide greater opportunity to build a sense of community in classes, and students can foster deeper relationships with their teachers and classmates.

➤ WIN Period

There will be a period in every student's schedule called WIN (What I Need). This period is specifically designated for supporting all students' individual needs. The day and time of this period will differ by team. During this block of time students will meet with their teachers who will provide enrichment or extra help, re-teach concepts, confer one-on-one or work with small groups of students to strengthen skills or complete projects. During WIN, students will also receive any formal services they might require, such as math or reading intervention, Excel, speech or IEP needs. WIN will allow teachers to regularly respond to students' unique academic needs with immediacy.

Save the date: OPEN HOUSE

The new schedule, as well as other school information, will be explained further at our open house for parents and guardians. I will send details about Open House next week.

- Grade 6: September 8 at 6 PM
- Grade 7 & 8: September 9 at 6 PM

On both dates, parents and guardians are also invited to an optional technology info session in the TE auditorium at 5:30.

Other note-worthy changes for 2021-22....

- **September 1st and 8th**

On the first two Wednesdays, and ONLY on these days, TE will follow a MONDAY schedule, so that all students go to their periods 1-8 classes as we get our feet wet this year!

- **Lunch Waves**

This year there will be two lunch waves for each grade level. This will mean that lunch lines will be shorter, giving students more time to eat. With fewer students in the cafeteria, it will also mean that students are more safely spread out while eating. Specific lunch times can be found on your child's [team schedule](#).

- **Quarantining**

If a student is identified as a close contact in school and must quarantine, the following strategies will be in place for accessing instruction and assignments:

- Asynchronous instruction or assignments will be posted in Google Classrooms.
- The teacher will send their quarantined student a unique Google Meet code to access the live instruction for that class period.
- While the Google Meet may not last for the duration of class period, at minimum students will have access to the portion of the period in which the teacher is providing whole class instruction. After that, teachers might turn off the camera to work with small groups or individual students in the classroom, but they will also be able to check in with the quarantined student during that time, providing feedback on assignments or answering questions using GoGuardian, Google Docs, email, etc.
- We will continue to assess this practice for quarantining as we move forward, making changes if necessary and updating students and families accordingly.

- **Cell Phones**

All students at TE are issued Chromebooks used both in and out of school for instructional purposes. Other personal electronic devices, such as cell phones, Apple watches, AirPods, headphones and cameras, may pose a significant distraction to learning and must be turned off and kept out of sight during school hours and activities, except as specifically permitted by instructional staff.

- **8th Grade**

Here are a few changes specific to the 8th grade experience as students prepare for the “step up” to high school:

- Our 8th grade team areas within the building, or pods, have been restructured. Now our 8th grade hallways are structured as **subject area** hallways, rather than team hallways, similar to the set-up at the high school. While students are still assigned to teams, and team teachers will continue to meet daily to discuss student progress and plan team events, this new configuration will allow our 8th graders to travel more in between classes the way 9th graders do. It also gives 8th grade students from different teams the chance to interact with each other as they pass between their classes, much like high schoolers. This is something our 8th graders have been really wanting...more freedom to have cross-team interactions!
- Also similar to high school, our 8th graders will be allowed to carry their backpacks throughout the school day, keeping their materials accessible at any time.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. We appreciate your partnership, and we look forward to welcoming the students back to school next Wednesday!

Sincerely,

Melissa Morgan-Hostetler

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