



Timothy Edwards Middle School

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August 10, 2023

Greetings Timothy Edwards Middle School Students and Families-

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the start of the 2023-2024 school year. I hope that each of you have found time this summer to enjoy what you like most with those you love. Middle school is a unique and special time for students and their families. Students gain greater independence and autonomy, test boundaries, and navigate changing selves and relationships. Our goal this year is to support each one of our students as they work towards their own personal success. In addition to the high-quality educational experiences within our classrooms, we hope that our middle school learners take advantage of the many opportunities to explore interests and hobbies through our extracurricular offerings.

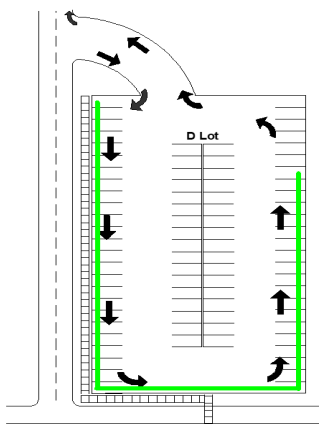
This letter offers important information about what to expect at the start of this year. You can also expect ongoing communication from me each month. The ***Cougar Roar Community Bulletin*** will provide important updates and information throughout the year. I welcome any and all opportunities to connect with families, so please do not hesitate reaching out. I am interested in hearing how families want to engage with our school this year. Please [click here](#) to access a quick survey about family engagement. I look forward to partnering with all of you this year to make it the best one yet.

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Important Dates

August 30, 2023	First Day of School
September 4, 2023	NO SCHOOL: Labor Day
September 5, 2023	Grade 6 Open House, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
September 6, 2023	Grades 7 and 8 Open House, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
September 21, 2023	TEMS PTO Meeting, 6:00 p.m. in the Library
September 22, 2023	School Picture Day
September 25, 2023	NO SCHOOL: Yom Kippur

Drop-off/Dismissal Information



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 TEMS 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!

PowerSchool

We ask that you sign into your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account to verify contact and emergency contact information in addition to completing the Annual Parent Update forms. The information you are verifying/providing is data that is used for school and district communications, such as School Messenger. Please verify and complete these forms prior to the first day of school. Any questions regarding your PowerSchool Parent Portal account or School Messenger, please contact Lisa Nagle at lnagle@swindsor.k12.ct.us

- Student schedules/team assignments will be available on PowerSchool Parent Portal beginning this **Thursday, August 17th at 3:00 p.m.**
- If you have not done so already, please login to PowerSchool Parent Portal to complete the annual updates :
 - 2023 – 2024 Form A – Student Contacts
 - 2023 – 2024 Form B – Health Information
 - 2023 – 2024 Form C – Annual Notices and Acknowledgements
 - 2023 – 2024 Form D – Acknowledgement of Completion
 - 2023 – 2024 Transportation Information Form

Student Early Dismissals

If you need to pick up your child early during the school year it is helpful to call ahead or enter “Early Dismissal” into PowerSchool. You will be asked to show a photo ID to confirm that you are listed as a verified pick-up person. We appreciate your support of our efforts to maintain a safe school environment.

School Counseling Updates

NEW STUDENTS - School Counselors will be conducting building tours for all **newly** registered students on **Wednesday, August 23rd** and **Thursday, August 24th** at **9 a.m.** and **9:30 a.m.** These tours are for new students only, and will last approximately 25 minutes long. School Counselors will be outside of the main building entrance to greet students. Interested students should sign up [here](#).

TEMS Parent Teacher Organization

Please join us for the first TEMS PTO meeting on **September 21, 2023 at 6:00**. In addition to supporting many student events and activities, the TEMS PTO meetings serve as an open forum for families to connect with building administrators and teachers. This is an invaluable partnership that allows us to provide the best opportunities to our children. You can visit the [TEMS PTO website](#) for updates and meeting information.

Cougars R.O.A.R.

This year, we will continue to utilize schoolwide expectations to support safe and productive educational experiences at TEMS. It is helpful for families to promote these expectations so that we can all enjoy a safe and welcoming school environment.

We aim to support learners in meeting schoolwide expectations by teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors. When students demonstrate behaviors that do not meet expectations, we have a robust student support team that is available to help manage conflict and ensure safety at TEMS. This team includes our Associate Principals, School Counselors, Family Engagement Specialist, Student Behavior Coordinator, School Psychologists and Social Workers. We work with learners to build, maintain, and restore relationships with peers and adults at TEMS. As we aim to work in a partnership with families, you can expect direct communication from a member of our team when we are working with your child to help build social skills or to share information about consequences.

Cell Phones

All students at TEMS are issued Chromebooks for use 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.

Please help us maintain a safe and productive learning environment by reminding your children about the use of personal devices. We recognize that families depend on cell phones to communicate important information to students, but we also ask that if you need to reach your child during the school day that you call the main office. We will make sure that your child receives necessary messages.

We will be hosting a parent learning session focused on cell phone use and social media. Access to social media sites such as SnapChat, Instagram, and TikTok have had notable negative impacts on our youth. We appeal to families to help limit access to these platforms and to monitor cell phone usage.

Attendance

Daily attendance is crucial to the success of our students. Please help us ensure that your child comes to school each day that they are well. Students are considered chronically absent when they miss 10% of the school year for any reason. Students are considered truant when they have 4 or more unexcused absences in a month, or 10 or more in a year.

Honor Roll Certificates

In an effort to be more environmentally conscious, all academic honor award certificates will be mailed electronically. These will be formatted using a template which will allow them to be printed at home.

Fall Sports

Timothy Edwards Middle School offers a variety of interscholastic sports. Our fall teams include Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country and Field Hockey.

Visit the [TE Athletics](#) page of the website for detailed information about fall athletics, registration and payment. Registration must be completed by September 5th.

Please note: In order to participate in fall sports, all parts of the online registration form must be completed. This includes submitting a current [Physician's Statement](#) (not a new physical) dated after June 1, 2023 to the Timothy Edwards Middle School main office.

Student Accident/Interscholastic Sports Insurance 2023-2024

Once again we are offering parents/guardians the opportunity to purchase student accident insurance for their child. This is an affordable insurance plan that is available to all students on a voluntary basis which covers medical costs related to student injury or accidents. It can supplement existing health plans or act as a standalone plan. The Board of Ed carries the required school district insurance; however, the district's coverage does not provide accident or injury coverage for students if they are injured at school or a school event, that is the responsibility of the student's parents/guardians.

The voluntary insurance coverage will be with Health Special Risk, Inc. (HSR) . All information regarding the plan description and enrollment will be online. The only information to be sent home is [this letter](#) which will guide guardians to the insurance website.

In addition, we have once again purchased interscholastic sports insurance with Bollinger on behalf of our students and it does cover other areas such as weight training, band, gym class, non-sport extracurricular activities and non-sport one-day field trips.