



Dear Middle School Parents and Students,

Middle School is an exciting and challenging time. We are working hard to carefully craft your Middle School student's experience here at TBS.

We challenge each student to be open to explore new experiences. Academically, spiritually, socially, and physically your student will be stretched to grow and develop into the beautiful creation the Lord has made.

We value each student and what they bring to our community and empower them to love others through a positive perspective and joy filled interactions.

We understand that as parents of a Middle Schooler it is essential that you stay informed. One of our main tools of communication will be weekly newsletters.

If you find that you are not receiving the weekly correspondence from our offices, please contact our front offices to make sure that we can get you connected to this important information.

2019 – 2020 Middle School Program Highlights

September 3rd First Day of School!

School starts at 8AM and ends at 2:45PM.

Organizational skills are vital for a successful Middle School experience. Students will learn how to implement an organizational binder system that will be used in all of their classes.

- Students are required to purchase all the items on the list and bring the **HIGHLIGHTED** materials on the supply list with them on the **FIRST DAY** of school.
- These supply lists are available on the TBS website under [Current Family Resources](#).
- TBS will supply each student with an academic planner and homework folder.

MOTUS Groups & Chapel

Our 2019-20 school theme is MOTUS (*Latin for "movement"*).

We are implementing new MOTUS groups (a weekly, spiritual mentorship program) and focusing on relational guidance. We are praying that your student will experience a community of care and compassion unlike any other year.

Our verse for the year is Philippians 3:13-14 – “Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

To support our commitment to discipleship we will be meeting with our MOTUS groups every week on Tuesdays.

Schedule Changes

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the *Regular* schedule will include 50-minute classes, a break and lunch. Tuesday and Thursday, the classes are 40 mins with a break and lunch. This will allow for MOTUS group meetings on Tuesday and MS Chapel on Thursday.

Opportunity to Participate

We are looking for two parents to help support our class advisors by helping with class events and parties, teacher birthdays, and so much more!

If you are interested, please contact Sue Ellen Rush at srush@tacomabaptist.org.

New ELECTIVES!

We are excited to announce new elective choices this year! Some of the new options include:

- Band
- Intro to Drama
- MS Yearbook

Some favorites from past years include:

- Art
- Computers
- Digital Photography
- Worship Arts

Be looking for the MS Elective and Sport Choice form in your email very soon. *Please be aware that preference is given to students based on the date/time this form is returned to the office.*

Mini-Electives!

The new schedule will enable us to provide students with time to explore some new opportunities. Students will be able to sign up for min-electives each quarter.

Mini-electives are 25 minutes long, once or twice a week. Mini-electives are not graded.

General Policies and Procedures

Dress Code

Last year we gathered student, parent, and teacher feedback on our dress code. Please review these new guidelines with your student before heading out to start school shopping. *Please note that students are no longer required to follow a separate dress code on Chapel days.* [Please see the 2019-2020 Dress Code for details.](#)

Technology

Students are given a student G-Suite account through Google. Parents need to sign access slips for these to be assigned. These forms are available online under [Current Family Resources](#).

Electronics and Phones

MS students are not permitted to use electronic devices during the school day. They are expected to keep them in their lockers or backpacks.

The TBS Secondary Handbook

The revised 2019-20 handbook will be posted on our website under [Current Family Resources](#) as soon as it is available.

Parents and students are required to sign off that they have read the handbook in its entirety.

Attendance

If your student is absent, please call or email Teena Jones (tjones@tacomabaptist.org) in the Secondary Office to excuse the absence. Teachers should be contacted directly for missed work.

If a student is planning to be absent for more than 2 days please complete a *Planned Absence Form*, also available in the Secondary Office.

Drop off/Pick Up

- Students should be dropped off and picked up from the campus entrance off 66th St before 8am.
- Late students are required to go to the office and sign in before entering class.
- The school day ends at 2:45pm. Secondary students who remain on campus after 3pm are not supervised.

Dates to Note

Here are some of the fun events we have planned for the 2019-20 school year. Our all-school calendar is available on our website under [Current Family Resources](#).

- **Back to School Night, August 27th, 5:30PM**
Visit classrooms, pick up class schedules, find lockers, and meet teachers. This event begins with a family BBQ at 5:30PM
- **First Day of School! September 3rd, 8am - 2:45PM.**
- **Picture Day / September 12th** Be watching for more information on details from Lifetouch after the school year starts.
- **Middle School Parent Info Night, September 16th, 6:30-8:00PM**
Middle School Parent will meet in the library with the Secondary Principal, Alyssa Baker, and Dean of Students, Jim Barnes. We will cover the middle school program, resources for parents and students, and information about upcoming events. There will also be a Q&A time with administrators.

Required Forms

Parents and students will need to sign and return the required forms before they can access their schedules at Back to School Night. These forms can also be found on the TBS Website under [Current Family Resources](#).

[Social Media Policy](#)

[G suite student account Access Slip](#)

[Wifi permission \(not required\)](#)

Please contact the secondary office if you have any questions at 253.475.7226 or email tjones@tacomabaptist.org.

Alyssa Baker
Secondary Principal