

VOLUME 23 • NUMBER 4

AUGUST 2021

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FOR THE PARENTS,  
STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY  
OF TEAGUE MIDDLE SCHOOL



# TIGER PRINTS

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Teague Families:

The new school year is quickly approaching, and my anticipation is growing. In just a few weeks we will begin again. I am excited and hope that you are as well. Summer breaks seem to have that effect, thankfully...and I do hope that your summer has been restful and relaxing.

We are planning for the transition back to full face to face learning here at Teague. We have had an opportunity to consider what worked best for our students and families during a very difficult year, and what areas we can improve upon. We are all hoping that this year, with less angst about Covid, will allow us more opportunities to gather as a school community and celebrate our students.

We have been busy with the master schedule, cleaning the buildings, fine tuning reading, math, and writing initiatives, and wishing you were here! We are also expanding our footprint as an *INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION*, which will mean so many more engaging opportunities for our students. We have a tremendous job...*to ensure that every child in our school achieves*. We are committed to making that happen!

Our students' first official day back is Tuesday, August 10th. Schedule pickup will be held on Friday, August 6th, from 9:00 – 12:00.

We have added several new staff members. I know you will join me in welcoming them aboard. They are:

- Dr. Jessica Webb – Assistant Principal
- Ms. Tanisha Gullede – ELA Instructor
- Ms. Jennifer Bennett – ESE Support Facilitator
- Ms. Nyesha Simmons – ESE Support Facilitator
- Ms. Mercy Merino – ESOL Instructor
- Ms. Sherrita Alexander – Graphic Arts and Creative Photography
- Ms. Emilee Stevens – Art Instructor
- Mrs. Amelia Del Castillo-Vazquez – Guidance Secretary
- Mrs. Ginny Dean – Secretary
- Mr. Skyler Swiderski – Technician, Learning Systems

We have included the Bell Schedule in this newsletter, as well as several other information items to begin your preparation for the new year.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer vacation! I look forward to seeing you all at schedule pickup on Friday, August 6th, from 9:00 – 12:00.

**ROAR!!!! TEAGUE TIGERS!**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Connie E. Collins'.

Connie E. Collins, Ed. D., *Principal*

**Positive Behavior Support Mission Statement:** *To institutionalize a consistent positive culture supported by the school community where expectations are clearly identified, communicated, and understood for positive behavior and mutual respect.*

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## SCHEDULE PICKUP

Teague will be hosting Schedule Pickup on Friday, August 6, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We know how daunting it can be starting a new school! This will be an opportunity for our new students to pick up their schedule, as well as walk the campus and meet the teachers. We will have representatives from Transportation, Dining Services, and PTSA available. You will also be able to purchase PE uniforms.

## DAILY SCHEDULE

This school year, we will be on a two-day block schedule. Students will attend all seven classes Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. Block days will be Wednesday and Thursday.

Students will be able to enter the campus at 9:10 – 9:25 for breakfast. Please be aware that there is no supervision available before 9:10. The first bell will be at 9:30 and school will dismiss at 4:05.

Please check the Teague website for the exact bell schedule.



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## 2021-2022 OPEN HOUSE

Our Open House will be September 14, 2021. This will be an opportunity to come to school to follow your child's schedule and meet the teachers. Teachers will review their syllabus and curriculum. Further details will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

## STUDENT PLANNERS

All Teague students will be receiving a complimentary planner at the beginning of the school year. This planner will be used by students to track their assignments, as well as for hall passes. Students will need to make sure they have their planner every day! If necessary, a limited number of replacement planners will be available for sale at a cost of \$5.00.

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## FALL PICTURE DAY

The date for our Fall Picture Day is Friday, September 10, 2021.

## STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is absent, students are to bring in a written excuse or doctor's note to their first period teacher within three days after returning from their absence. Once a student accumulates 10 unexcused absences, a truancy meeting will be set up with the school social worker, so please be sure to keep track of your students' absences and deliver excuses in a timely manner. Please make sure that your child requests any make-up work they missed from his/her teachers. If your child will be out for several days, please contact the front desk at (407) 320-1554 to request your child's make-up work for the days missed. Please allow teachers 24 hours to provide this for you. Make-up work can be collected at the front office.

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

To schedule a Parent-Teacher Conference, please reach out to the Guidance Office at 407-320-1554. Conferences will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:40 – 9:10.

## BASIC LIST FOR 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH GRADES 2021-2022

- Loose-leaf paper (wide-ruled)
- Graph paper 4 or 5 square per inch
- 7 Three-prong pocket folders (1 per class)
- Pencils- No. 2
- Pens- Blue, Black, and Red (each color needed)
- Highlighters (2 colors)
- 2-Expo markers
- White board eraser or old sock or washcloth
- Colored pencils (box of 12 or more)
- Page protectors- 1 pack (to be used in all classes)
- Calculator-Texas Instrument TI-30XS Multi-view
- 2-Composition Notebooks



Please, no permanent markers of any kind

\*Please note: This is a basic supply list and certain teachers may request additional items. More information will be available at Schedule Pick-up



'TIGER PRINTS'

August 2021

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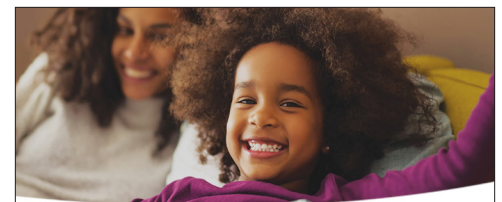
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# MIDDLE SCHOOL SURVIVAL TIPS

Beginning middle school can be challenging for many students, but it doesn't have to be! Here are some tips to help make the transition from elementary school to middle school.

## 1. Plan on having seven different teachers.

Coming from elementary school, students are used to having just a few teachers. In middle school, students will have seven different classes with seven different teachers. It is helpful to be prepared for this change!

## 2. Find your way around the campus.

One of the best ways to clam the nerves before starting a new school is to learn your way around the campus. Schedule pick-up on August 6, 2021 from 9:00 – 12:00 is an excellent opportunity to do so. Maps of the campus will be available. Make sure you find the restrooms and stairwells in each building, the Dining Hall (Cafeteria), Gym, and the Media Center.

## 3. Find an organization system that works for your child.

Every student is different and developing an organizational system that is effective for them is essential. Many students, especially incoming sixth-graders, struggle to keep up with the number of classes and expectations. All Teague students will be provided with a complimentary planner that they will need on a daily basis. This is a great place to write down important dates and to keep track of assignments.

## 4. Have a dedicated time to review the day and for homework.

Taking the time to review your child's day is an excellent way to keep up with what is going on and to keep them on track. Additionally, having a dedicated time for homework can help to develop a routine. Students may receive a significantly different amount of homework than they are used to in elementary school. Having a set time each day will set the expectation. If your student doesn't have any homework, have them read a book.

## 5. Be aware of the school and district rules and policies.

Please make sure that you are aware of the rules and expectations on our campus and across the district. Make sure that your child follows the dress code and comes to school prepared. From a safety standpoint, all students will be expected to wear their school ID.

## 6. Know your child's friends.

Middle school is a time where many students make lifelong friends. But it can also be a time where some students struggle to fit in. Make sure you know who your child is hanging out with. Be aware of their social media activities. If you have any concerns, reach out to the school. We are here to partner with you for your child's success.

## 7. Get involved.

Now that school is starting to get back to normal, we will have more chances for parental involvement on campus. Keep an eye out for emails regarding school events and volunteer opportunities. We welcome your support!

## 8. Consistently acknowledge and reward efforts at school.

Many parents expect the school to provide the incentives for their child's accomplishments. While our school do have a lot of motivation programs, parents need to recognize their child's successes too. When your child works hard, your acknowledgment motivates him to persist.





# SOCIAL WORRIES

Middle school is social maze compared to elementary school. Students are changing classes each period and you will be in classes with a lot more students than in elementary school. This can be overwhelming for children that like the comfort of a single classroom with a group of the same children each day. Students are also thinking about the fact that they are the youngest in this maze. It is easy as adults to downplay our children's fears, but middle school brings a lot of pressure to be social. Here are some ideas if your child is worried about the social aspects of the transition to middle school:

- Remind your child that they will have the opportunity to meet a lot of students by changing classes each period. Talk about this change in a positive light and emphasize the opportunity for more potential friends.
- Encourage your child to get involved at school. There will be a lot more activities to join than there were in elementary school. Sports, clubs, and other activities can help your child find their niche.
- Have a heart-to-heart talk with your child about being who they are. It is more important to be yourself than to be "cool" and to fit in. Encourage them to hang out with kids they like and are comfortable with. Talk about the importance of not compromising their beliefs and convictions to gain "friends".
- Some children need to go over some basic social skills. Talk to your child about how to join in conversations without interrupting and how to be a good friend.



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# COUNSELOR CORNER

We hope that everyone had the opportunity to relax and recharge over the summer. We are looking forward to seeing all of our new and existing tigers in the near future. Middle school is a time of discovery and much personal and academic growth. This can be hard to manage as we all navigate through this time of change. It is always the goal to come out on the other side with independence and accountability for your student. Please know that your guidance team is here to help support you and your student through this process. Please see below for some useful tools and tips for a smooth transition to middle school...

- ☆ Make sure that you and your student have access to Skyward. This is where students and families are able to access current schedules and grades. Students should be able to access this though the SCPS portal. Parents and guardians are also able to have a family login for shared access. If you need assistance gaining access to Skyward please contact the guidance department and we will be able to assist you. Skyward is a vital tool for monitoring your student data and progress.
- ☆ Familiarize yourself with eCampus. This tile can be found in your students SCPS portal. Your student should have a tile for each class. This is where you and your student will find specific information, assignments and announcements pertaining to the subject area. In the event that your student has to be absent from school, this is the first place to look to see what material or assignments they may have missed from class. Each class is organized differently so feel free to explore the way that each section is set up.
- ☆ By partnering together we can help your student reach their full academic and personal potential. Middle school is a time of transitions and learning. Please know that we are here to help support you and your student through this process. Don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school counselor if we can be of any assistance.

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# COUNSELOR CORNER

... continued

☆ Help your student be accountable for their own learning. Ask your student about their day and their classes. It can often be beneficial for you and your student to review data such as grades, attendance, and scores together to facilitate academic conversations. Encourage your student to ask if they have questions pertaining to classwork, policies, or grading. We understand that this can sometimes be uncomfortable for students however having them take the initiative helps guide them to be an active participant in their own learning as well as transitioning them to become more independent. In the event that you feel that you need to step in to assist please know that you are always encouraged to contact your students teacher directly and if needed schedule a parent teacher conference. This can be accomplished by contacting the guidance office at (407)320-1554.

\*Michelle Butler- Students who receive ESE and ESOL supports

\*Aleisha Kraft- Students with last names starting with A-K

\*Jill Halsey- Students with last names starting with L-Z



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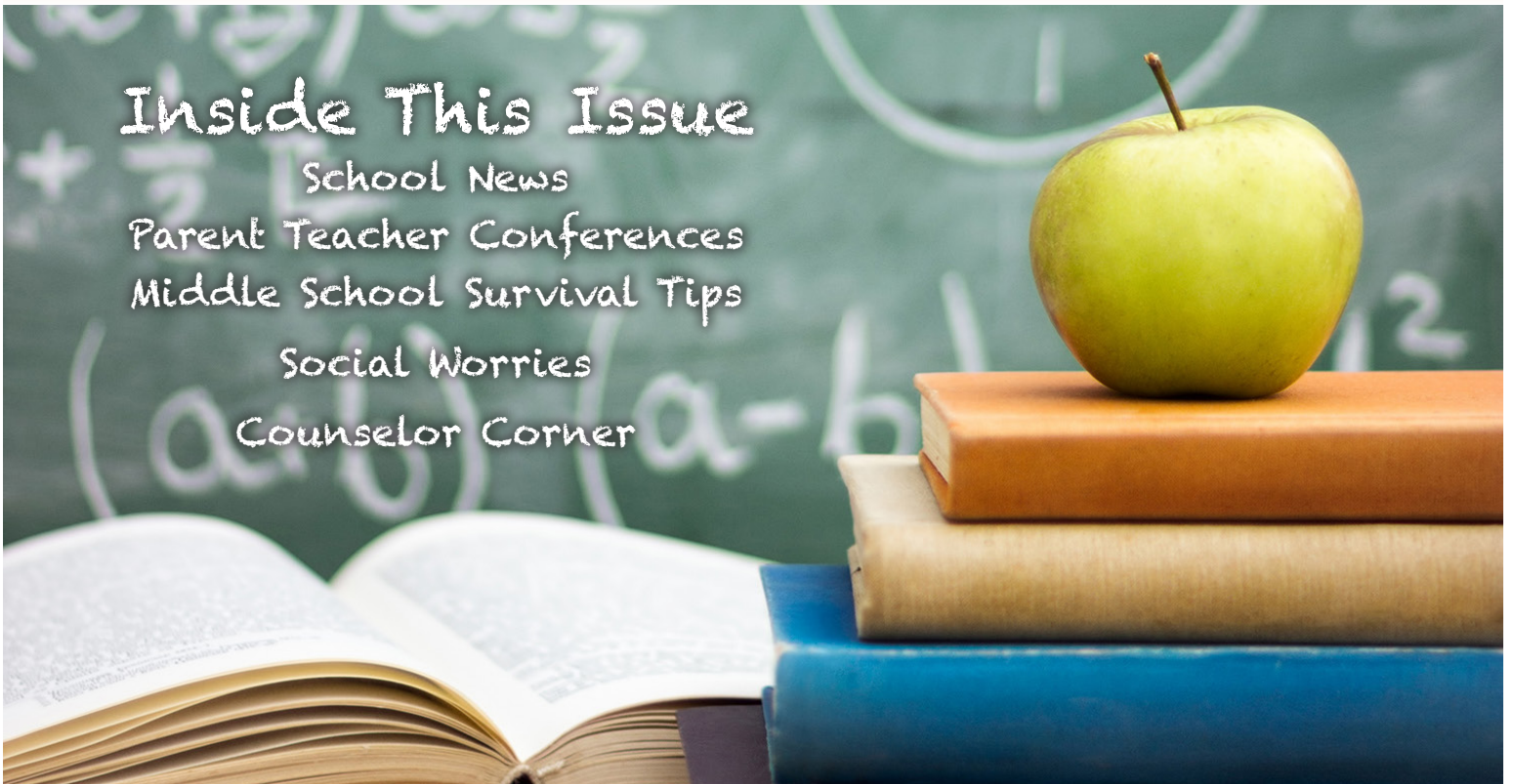
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