

August 3, 2022

Dear Talent Middle School Families,

We are so excited to welcome your student to Talent Middle School for the 2022-23 school year! As the new incoming administrative team we are so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the TMS community!

We look forward to partnering with you and working everyday to make Talent Middle School:

- A respectful campus community where people treat each other with kindness and care
- A safe learning environment that is calm, predictable, comfortable, and effective
- A middle school experience that prepares your student to be successful in academics, social interactions, and the choices they make

School Registration in PowerSchool

If you have not yet registered your student for the upcoming school year, please visit [PowerSchool](#) to complete that process as soon as possible. If you need any support with registration you can call TMS at 541-535-1552 or come to TMS **in-person Registration**

Days:

- Tuesday, August 23 @ 7 am-noon and 1-3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 24 @ 7 am-noon, 1-3:30 p.m., and 4:30-7 p.m.
- Thursday, August 25 @ 7 am-noon and 1-3:30 p.m.

School Supplies

[Click here](#) to view a list of school supplies and three options of how you can support your student with these materials. Please select the option that is best for your family and bring these supplies to school on the first day of school.

First Day of School

The first day of school for 6th grade students: **Tuesday, September 6, 8:40-12:05**

The first day of school for New-to-TMS 7th & 8th grade students: **Tuesday, September 6, 8:40-12:05** The first day of school for returning 7th and 8th grade students: **Wednesday, September 7, 9:40-3:10**

Lockers

TMS students will use a locker to store their belongings this year. Students are expected to keep their backpacks and personal items in their locker during the school day.

Cell Phones

Please review the enclosed TMS Cell Phone and Personal Device Expectations with your student before the start of the school year. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

Band

Enclosed you will find a student information form that will help us place your student in Band. We want to get this information from you by August 17 to finalize your student's schedule.

We hope you and your family are enjoying your summer break and we look forward to working with you and your student to make this a great school year!

Katherine Holden, Principal
Allison Hass, Assistant Principal
Erika Ochoa, Assistant Principal

Sign up for TMS Band!

Everyone is born with musical ability. It can either be nurtured or squandered!

- Researchers in child development have identified music as one of the seven intelligences, just as important as linguistics and logical-mathematical intelligences.
- Music provides an avenue for creativity and self-expression.
- Participating in music adds richness to the quality of life.
- Students who learn to play an instrument learn discipline and how to cooperate with others as part of a larger organization.
- Students participating in music tend to earn higher grades in all subjects, and score higher on SAT/ACT tests than if they were not involved in music.

Learn more about the exciting opportunity!

[Click here](#) to check out our interest site

If your student would like to take Band this year, please fill out the following form and return it to Talent Middle School as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday, August 17.

If you are not able to return this form and would like to send an email instead, please send the following information to the TMS office manager at Monique.Strain@phoenix.k12.or.us

Student First Name _____

Student Last Name _____

Student Grade in 2022-23 _____

My student has no experience playing music; they will be new to band!

My student has some experience playing music.

Instrument _____

TMS Cell Phone and Personal Device Expectations

Research is very clear. Smart phones at the middle school level do not benefit our students' academic or social well-being. In fact, there is a large body of evidence that makes clear that adolescents are suffering stunted brain development and losing the ability to exercise

pro-social skills with others as a result of inappropriate cell phone use, exposure, and overuse. And, when at school, cell phones distract our students from being able to learn. For these reasons, Talent Middle School is a limited cell phone and personal device (smart watches, tablets, personal computers, headphones etc.) use zone. Limited access to devices helps students stay focused on their learning and helps teachers know how best to support their students. Students are welcome to use their cell phones and personal devices before entering the building prior to 8:30 a.m. and after exiting the school building at 3:10 p.m., however, during the school day students' cell phones and personal devices need to be off and out of sight.

Here at TMS, we consider passing periods and the lunch period, in addition to the academic class periods, to be learning times. These unscheduled portions of the day are opportunities for students to work on organization and time-management skills, check-in with teachers about assignments, and practice positive, in-person social interactions with their peers and adults.

Though we have set thoughtful boundaries around cell phone and personal device usage, students continue to have access to a landline in every classroom and will be able to contact their parents if necessary. If you need to speak with your child during the school day, please call the office, and we will make sure you are able to communicate any important information with them.

And, remember, phones are expensive! Many smartphones cost \$700-\$1,000! Please consider whether you want to risk that much money. This is a typical middle school, and sometimes items are lost, stolen, or broken. Seriously consider whether or not you want your child bringing a phone to school.

If a student violates the school cell phone and personal device policy, they may be assigned consequences that would limit their ability to have their cell phone on campus.