

SCHOLARS ACADEMY

Tips for Success

Get information about what is going on at school.

- The most current source of information is the school website, <http://sa.tcitys.org/>, and the link to “Daily Announcements.” A hard-copy newsletter also goes home with students at midterm and with report cards.
- Volunteer to help with fund raisers, classroom activities, or social events.
- Watch for parent and student opportunities via notices sent home or on the school website.

Familiarize yourself with the handbooks of MPMS and THS.

- All rules in these handbooks apply to Scholars Academy students.
- The most misunderstood rule is that of dress code. Before purchasing school clothes, a student should consider not only how tight the clothing will be, but also how the clothes will wear when the student sits down. Any type of clothing or garment that is distracting, immodest, or interferes with learning will not be allowed. Dress code guidelines are subject to the interpretation of the administration and may be amended or modified to ensure safety and improve the atmosphere for learning. Please see detailed list from Open House information folders.

Be aware of our cell phone/personal electronics policies.

- Students and parents are encouraged to communicate with the school staff directly when a problem arises. Administrators are not given an opportunity to solve issues when students contact parents via cell phone.
- Cell phones and/or other electronic devices (I-pods, tablets, cameras, head phones, ear buds etc.) are required to be turned off and out of sight at all times during the school day, 8:00-3:00. High school students may utilize their devices during their lunch period in designated areas; however, if this privilege results in disciplinary issues due to inappropriate content being accessed or displayed on the device, then the device will be collected.
- Phones that are used (to include texting, calling, recording, etc.) during the day will be taken up and sent to the office for parents/guardians to retrieve at the end of the day.
- Violation of the cell phone/personal electronics policy will result in a student discipline referral.
- During standardized testing, phones **MUST** be taken up and in the teacher’s possession.
- Per individual teachers’ classroom procedures and in an effort to preserve instructional time, cell phones and other electronics may be collected at the beginning of class and returned to students upon dismissal. Teachers have the option to allow use of electronic devices in their classroom if it promotes the learning objectives; students are expected to abide by the Thomasville City Schools Internet User Agreement Policy whether they are using a school or personal device.
- Scholars Academy does not assume any responsibility for lost, stolen, or broken cell phones or other personal electronic devices/property.

Report to 1st period class on the student schedule on the first day of school.

- The 1st period teacher acts as the “homeroom” teacher for many administrative purposes.
- Class begins at 7:55 and dismissal is at 3:00. Bell Schedule is in the information packet.

Bring information sheets, locker money, and other forms back the FIRST week.

- Grade level sponsors, which are listed in your information packet, will assign and sell locks (\$5) to students.

Drop off and pick up at the designated locations. (See map in information packet.)

- Drop-off/pick-up along Washington Street should be complete before approaching the back circle entrance.
- The curb between the back circle and the Glenwood Drive intersection is a NO LOADING/UNLOADING ZONE.
- Rainy day traffic plan will resume use of the back circle. Allow time for traffic on rainy days.
- Severe weather dismissal will occur from the four classrooms on the bottom floor of Scholars Academy building.

Get acquainted with and organized for the block schedule.

- Scholars Academy operates on a modified A/B block schedule of three 105 minute blocks and one 50 minute block which meet Monday through Thursday.
- The 105 minute blocks meet on alternating days: **A days** are periods 1,3,5,7 and **B days** are periods 2,4,5,6.
- 50 minute courses meet daily.
- Periods 1-7 meet in 50 minute periods on Fridays which are designated as **C days**.

Check website to see how school holidays or exams may affect the schedule.

- When a school holiday falls on a Monday, the C day schedule replaces with the missed A day on that Friday.
- Exam weeks are often set up C,B,A,B,A to allow for review on Monday. See website calendar for updates.

Take advantage of block schedule; plan out study and homework time outside of class.

- Make every attempt to complete homework on the day that it is assigned.
- Waiting until the night before an assignment is due defeats one of the benefits of alternating class days and often snowballs into studying/homework in four or more classes.

Pay attention to where and when students are assigned to eat lunch.

- Students are assigned to the two lunch periods during the 5th period: 11:40-12:10 or 12:40-1:10.
- Lunches will be provided at no charge to middle or high school students from the MacIntyre Park Middle School cafeteria, or they may bring lunch from home.
- High school students may eat lunch in the “Bulldog Café.”
- High school students attending a 5th period elective at Thomasville High School may eat lunch on the THS campus.
- Middle school students eat lunch in the MPMS “Park Café.”
- Students eating lunch with their parents may eat lunch in any of the above locations or under “Under the Oak.”

Students must be organized in bringing lunches, musical instruments, and projects to school.

- Deliveries of forgotten items is strongly discouraged, as it greatly interrupts academic time as well as congests the front office where high priority business is taking place.

Make an effort to record a copy of your student’s schedule.

- Please make every effort to schedule routine appointments outside of school hours.
- Sign outs after 2:45 p.m. should be for emergencies only. School is not dismissed until 3:00, so a substantial amount of class time is left in the day.

Be aware of our check-out policy which provides a serious test-taking environment during standardized testing and nine weeks exams.

- A written note should be provided to the front office prior to the arranged check out time.
- No calls to classrooms will be delivered during exam periods.
- Check outs must be pre-arranged to occur between class periods.

Create a block email address list of your child’s teachers for ease of communication.

- Teachers check email before school and after school, and sometimes during lunch.
- Email directly for makeup assignments if student is absent more than one day.
- If the student is only out for one day, the student can get makeup work upon returning to school and still have a day to catch up with the block schedule.
- Students shall be permitted to make up work when absences are excused per BOE policy. However, unexcused absences will result in zeroes on assignments. Students must make up work within one week for excused absences. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain work from teachers whose classes have been missed.

Document community service hours as they are completed.

- Community Service completed during the summer months may be documented for the upcoming school year.
- Students should print a log from the school website and submit the required 20 hours to front office.

Sign up for access to Power School to view grades and attendance.

- Forms can be obtained in the front office or on the school system website.
- To protect students’ privacy, parents must submit the form in person and present identification.
- Username and password will be sent home with student once form is processed.

Help document the activities and achievements of our students by sharing photos.

- Send electronic photos to Mrs. Celaya or Mrs. Bennett.