



## General Information New Family FAQ

### **What is the School's Academic Calendar?**

- The school year runs from September to June. See the online calendar for details. [tcslj.org/events](https://tcslj.org/events)

### **What are some ways I can meet families in my child's grade before school starts?**

- Attend a social: Join us for our New Family Welcome party to meet your mentor family, other new families, current families and the faculty and staff. Additionally, current TCS families often arrange grade level/division summer gatherings and play dates.
- Meet with your Mentor Family: All new families, preschool through 8th grade, are paired with a Mentor Family who is a great source of information, and can answer any questions about TCS and the upcoming year.
- Join us for Sneak-a-Peek: Held the Friday before school starts, **from 10-11:00 a.m.**, all TCS parents and children are invited to come see their classroom and meet the teachers and other students before school begins.

### **What can a family expect in the first six weeks of school?**

- During the first six weeks of school, teachers will emphasize community building within the classroom.
- Back-to-School Nights are held during the second week of school, depending on student grade, and provide an opportunity for parents to meet your children's teachers and to hear an overview of the classroom curriculum. Attendance by all parents is highly encouraged. Kids' Club extended care is available by reservation for preschool - 8th grade students; email [activities@tcslj.org](mailto:activities@tcslj.org) to reserve your child's spot.
- There are several opportunities for parents and families to build community during the first 6 weeks of school, as well as throughout the school year, including:
  - Coffee & Tea Under the Tree on the First Days of School for parents
  - Pizza Social
  - Cocktails & Conversation Parent Social
  - Fall Festival

- TCS Walkabout Open House
- PreK - 8th Grade Winter Sing
- Great Artist Grand Finale
- Fun Night: Annual Fundraising Event held in May
- Toddler & Preschool Spring Sing

### **What are the drop off/pick up procedures at TCS?**

- Every division (grade level) has a specific drop off time and procedure.
  - Preschool: Parent walks child into school to drop off between 8:30-9:00 a.m. at the Preschool playground. Half-day pick up is from 12:00-12:15 p.m. and full-day pick up is from 3:00-3:15 p.m. in the classroom.
  - Prekindergarten: Parent walks child into school for drop off between 8:15-8:30 a.m. Pick-up is between 2:45-3:15 p.m.
  - Kindergarten: Parent walks child into school for drop off between 8:15-8:30 a.m. Pick-up is between 3:00-3:15 p.m. in the classroom.
  - First through Fifth Grade: Parents can either walk students into the classroom between 8:15-8:30 a.m. or drop them off curbside at the front gate between 8:00-8:30 with a TCS Administrator present. Students will be supervised on the Earthtop between 8:00-8:15 a.m. At 8:15 a.m., children will be dismissed to their classrooms. Pick up is between 3:00-3:15 p.m. in the classroom.
  - Sixth through Eighth Grade: Children are dropped off curbside at the middle school gate between 7:45-8:00 a.m. with a TCS Administrator present. Pick up is between 3:00-3:15 p.m. in the NMY Courtyard.

### **What is parking like at pick up and drop off?**

- TCS has parking in designated spots in the parking lot, as well as curbside on Torrey Pines Lane. Parking in the middle of the cul-de-sac is prohibited by law due to congestion and pedestrian safety.
- Most grades have staggered drop off times, which helps alleviate congestion. The 3:00 p.m. pick-up time can be quite busy, so we encourage parents to plan accordingly and please be patient.

### **Is there before-school and after-school care?**

- Kids' Club (KC) is our extended care program for students in Preschool - Eighth grade, and opens at 7:00 a.m. The Kids' Club staff will walk children to class at the appropriate start time. After school, KC is available from 3:15-6:00 p.m. Parents can utilize Kids' Club on an unlimited basis for an annual fee or on a drop-in basis as needed. For those families who only need to use Kids' Club services occasionally, parents will be billed on an ongoing basis at \$10 per hour and billed in 15 minute increments. [tcslj.org/kidsclub](https://tcslj.org/kidsclub)
- Third through Eighth grade students in Kids' Club from 3:15-4:15 p.m. will be

encouraged to work on their homework; children are assisted with homework by Kids' Club staff.

### **What extracurricular activities are available? Is there a cost?**

The following afterschool programs are available at TCS for a fee:

- Afterschool enrichment classes. These begin at 3:15 p.m. There are three sessions offered during the fall, winter, and spring for all grade levels. Enrichment offerings vary depending on interests and availability. For the most current offerings, please see the TCS website: [tcslj.org/enrichment](https://tcslj.org/enrichment).
- Intramural Athletics: Open to Fifth through Eighth grade students from 3:15-4:30 p.m. a few days a week depending on season and sport offered. [tcslj.org/athletics](https://tcslj.org/athletics)
- Dance Classes: TCS partners with The Dance Academy, which offers after school dance classes on campus. [tcslj.org/dance](https://tcslj.org/dance)

### **What is the lunch program at TCS?**

- Students may bring their own snacks and lunches to school. An optional hot lunch program is available to Preschool through Eighth grade students through an outside vendor.

### **How can I get information regarding food choices for snack, lunches, birthday and classroom celebrations?**

- TCS encourages healthy food choices for students in the classroom. Suggestions for community snacks and treats as well as the School's nutritional policy can be found on our website under [Parent Resources](#). Please note that Toddler through Kindergarten classrooms are nut-free.
- You may also check with your classroom teacher regarding preferred birthday celebrations and snack choices, which will likely be discussed at Back-to-School Night.

### **Is the Family Handbook on the website?**

- Yes, the handbook is available on the TCS website at [tcslj.org/parents](https://tcslj.org/parents).

### **How do I get my school gate code at the beginning of the year?**

- At the beginning of the year, each new family must sign for their gate code information. The code remains the same until your child graduates.
- Gate codes will be available during Sneak-a-Peek or from the main office once school starts.

### **If my child is going to be absent or needs to leave early, whom do I notify?**

- Please notify administration in the TCS office at 858-454-0184 or [info@tcslj.org](mailto:info@tcslj.org).
- Emailing your child's teacher with the type of illness, if applicable, is also appreciated.

### **What is the cell phone policy for students?**

- Students are asked to keep cell phones and other communications devices at home or in their backpack during school hours. If a child needs to contact his or her parent, he/she is advised to do so by using the phone in the Main Office. For more about TCS's cell phone policy, please refer to the Family Handbook. [tcslj.org/parents](https://tcslj.org/parents)

### **What is the homework policy at TCS?**

- TCS believes that homework should be relevant and meaningful. Homework begins in Third grade, and the amount of homework assigned depends upon the grade level. Homework for your child will be described more fully at Back-to-School Night. For more about TCS's homework policy, please refer to the Family Handbook. [tcslj.org/parents](https://tcslj.org/parents)

### **What are the volunteer opportunities for parents at TCS?**

There are many ways to get involved at TCS depending on one's availability and interest.

- Get involved with the Parent Association (PA): Every parent is automatically a member of the PA, which helps to plan school events and functions such as Fall Festival, Parent's On the Playground, Book Fair, Read Across America Day and more. Parents can get involved in many ways from planning, leading, hosting and organizing events.
- Volunteer in your child's classroom: Classroom teachers will share opportunities for volunteering in the classroom at Back-to-School Night.
- Volunteer as a chaperone on class field trips. Note: all parent chaperones and drivers need to be Live Scanned (background checked) at least two weeks prior to field trip. More information on this will be provided during Back-to-School Night.
- Celebrate our community's diversity: Share your family's traditions, heritage, or talents in your child's classroom.
  - Get involved in the planning of Fun Night. Each year, a group of TCS parents help plan this annual spring fundraising event. Help with the party planning, decor, sponsorships or donor solicitation. All are welcome to join the Fun Night Committee.

### **How do I pay my child's tuition?**

- TCS has partnered with FACTS Management Company to manage our tuition and incidental billing payment programs. FACTS provides an online platform for you to see your balance due, pay amounts owed and see your payment history. FACTS is used by many schools locally and thousands of schools nationally.
- Please enroll and set up your payment plan as soon as possible at <https://online.factsmgmt.com/signin/48CLT>.

## **Supporting TCS**

The Children's School is a non-profit organization whose ongoing health and sustainability depends on the voluntary financial support of its entire community. When we give to TCS, we are demonstrating our commitment to the school's intellectually rigorous programs,

integrated social curriculum, and to our outstanding faculty and staff. There are two major opportunities for giving TCS:

- **Annual Fund: October - November**

Like most independent schools, TCS intentionally sets tuition below the full cost of an education to make the school accessible to as many students as possible. Annual Fund gifts help to close the gap between tuition income and the actual cost of a TCS education, approximately \$2,400 per student. The Annual Fund supports the school's operational needs for the current school year and also supports the faculty, staff, and programs that make TCS a school unlike any other. We strive for 100% family participation and invite each family to make a gift that is meaningful to them.

- **Fun Night: May**

Fun Night, an annual parent fundraising event, raises operational funds for the school and also contains a specific "Fund-a-Need" component to raise money for a project that is a current priority. The highlight of the event, the live auction, includes the high-spirited sale of children's original art from our Great Artists Finale, along with other big ticket items. We encourage all parents to attend! Parents can also participate by volunteering to help with event preparations, advertising in the program book or sponsoring the event.

## Questions

We are looking forward to the new school year. Members of the TCS administrative team are on campus all summer. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you have. You can contact us at 858.454.0184 or [info@tcslj.org](mailto:info@tcslj.org).