

Torah Day School of Dallas
K-8 Parent/Student Handbook
2026-2027

Information in this handbook supersedes any previous Torah Day School of Dallas handbooks.

TDSD Mission Statement

Torah Day School of Dallas instills in children a lifelong passion for learning, in a warm and nurturing community, steeped in Jewish traditions and Torah values.

School Cancellation or Delayed Start

In the case of emergency or weather-related closings or late starts, parents will receive a text message and email alert from TDSD to the contact information provided upon admission. Many things are taken into consideration when discussing an early dismissal or a no-school day, as we weigh the importance of learning but also the primary importance of not endangering students or staff. We will share information as soon as we have it, and when possible, the evening before the day concerned. Decisions that can only be made overnight will be communicated by 6:30 am. If no message is sent directly from Torah Day School, parents may assume that school is scheduled as usual.

Picking up a Child during the School Day

We recognize the occasional need to schedule an appointment during school time. We ask that you notify the front desk by phone (972-964-0090) at least 1 hour prior to picking up your child. Our receptionist will direct you as to what procedure you should follow upon pickup and drop off, should your child be returning to class after their appointment.

Attendance Requirements

The state of Texas requires students to be in attendance a minimum of 90% of school days in order to receive credit for the school year. Anyone who misses 5 or more days per quarter is in danger of not meeting this minimum. Administrators and teachers may require a parent meeting if this happens in order to assist students in being prepared to advance to the next grade.

Academic Requirements and Grade Placement

Report cards are issued at the end of each trimester. They will be sent home via our Student Information System, Renweb.

In grades K-3, parent conferences will be held if there is a question about retention. In grades 4-8, a student who fails to pass a course should not be assumed to pass to the next grade; a parent conference will be held about what will happen.

A student must be 5 on or before September 1 to enter Kindergarten, even if he or she has completed a Pre-K program at TDSD or elsewhere.

A student who has missed school for an approved absence (illness or a pre-approved family event) will have two days per day of absence to make up the work. After that time, the teacher may require the student to make up the work during recess or lunch.

BEHAVIOR REQUIREMENTS

Torah Day School of Dallas students are expected to be courteous, responsible, and respectful to teachers and other students, and to show care of their own property, school property, and the property of others. Many types of prohibited behavior are obvious and/or illegal in any school environment and need not be detailed here. Physically aggressive behavior or verbal or written comments or pictures that distress, threaten, annoy, bully, or intimidate another person are not allowed, whether or not the targeted person complains. Offensive speech (profanity, slurs, coarse slang words, and loud and disrespectful comments) is also not allowed. Please remember the following specific rules of safety and decorum:

Safety and supervision:

- Students must always be with their class, and may not remain in a classroom or on the playground after the class has left.
- Students may never enter another class that is in session.
- Students are not permitted in areas of the building not authorized for them.
- Students in grades 4-8 may have no contact (including notes) with students of the opposite gender during the school day.
- Students may not leave class without permission or "skip" class for any reason.

Food at School:

- Students may not chew gum in school.
- Students may not eat in the classroom unless invited to do so by the teacher.
- The playground is a "food free" zone.
- Students may not bring food to share or sell.

Birthday Parties:

- Birthday treats may be served at lunch only. These need to store-bought, in the original sealed packaging with kosher certification, and must be single-serve (e.g. cupcakes). **All treats must be parve.**
    - Please speak to your child's teacher about allergens in the classroom if you are unsure about the status.
    - We encourage parents to purchase treats without dyes, artificial flavors, or preservatives.
- Students and/or parents may not make class parties to surprise a teacher.

- We strongly urge parents to make birthday parties inclusive of everyone in the child's class. At a minimum, students may not hand out party or event invitations at school, and parents may not take a small group of students out for a party during school time. More optimally, we hope that parents will consider the goodwill that comes from simple events–at a park or backyard–that include everyone.
- **Students in K-8 may not attend a birthday party, play, event, etc. of a younger sibling at school.** Please understand that this is very disruptive to learning given the large number of siblings in our school.

Personal property:

- Students should not carry large amounts of cash or store money at school.
- Students may not bring an electronic device (anything with an "on" and "off" button) except a calculator when permitted for math class.
- Students may not bring written material (books, magazines, etc.) to school that have pictures or content that are not aligned with TDSD values in the judgment of an administrator.
- Students may not bring anything that a teacher can reasonably construe to be a weapon.
- Forbidden objects will be confiscated and released only to a parent.

School property:

- Students are responsible for maintaining textbooks in the condition they were received. Families will be charged for lost or damaged books.
- All supplies provided to students should reasonably last for the year; lost, wasted, or damaged items must be replaced by the family.
- Students should respect school property. If intentionally damaged, families will be charged for repair.
- For legal reasons, no area of the school, including lockers and desks, should be considered a private space. Administrators have the right to reasonable search and review of any space in the building at any time.

Technology use:

- Students may not use the Internet in school without direct supervision by their own teacher who oversees them going to a specific school-approved website.
- Students may not use school computers to access e-mail.
- Students may not change screen savers, download or install programs, etc.
- Of course, computer misuse not allowed in any institution is also forbidden here (any type of damage to software or hardware, malicious use, etc.)
- Students may not bring any devices to school (including watches) that allow you to email/text, search the internet, or play games.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

All health-related inquiries should be directed to our school nurse, Nurse Rosey, at ryachnes@tdsd.org or 972-964-0090 ex. 110.

Illnesses that Exclude Children from School:

FEVER* A temperature of 100° or higher	**PERSISTENT COUGHING*** Or other problems with breathing/ productive cough (yellow/green mucus)	**DIARRHEA OR VOMITING*** Within the past 24 hours	**RASH** Itchy body rash an/or fever	**HEAD LICE** Itchy head, active lice	**EYE INFECTION** Eye is red and oozing a yellow or green discharge
					
WHEN CAN YOUR CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL:					
Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen	Cough is mild and infrequent. If having problems breathing or productive cough cleared by a doctor's note	Free from diarrhea and/or vomiting for at least 24 hours and evaluated by a doctor if needed	Free from rash, itching, or fever and cleared by a doctor (Follow fever protocol.	Cleared by the school nurse	Cleared by a doctor's note.

Medication:

All medication, either prescription or over-the-counter, must be administered to students by the nurse. **No student of any age should be sent to school with medication on their person. No student may keep any type of medicine in his or her locker, backpack, cubby, or any other personal place.**

- One-time or daily medications: Parents must sign an authorization and include times for TDSD employees to administer each medication according to label directions. Medication must be in the original container labeled with the child's full name and the date brought to school
- Recurring medical problems: If a child has a periodic and recurring medical problem, such as headaches, asthma attacks, or allergic reactions, the parent and healthcare professional must sign a

medication authorization allowing the school to administer as needed. Any necessary medical devices such as an inhaler must be provided by the parent and labeled with the child's name.

Critical Illness or Injury:

In the event of an emergency, Emergency Medical Services will be contacted or the child will be taken to the nearest emergency room. If time allows, in the judgment of TDSD personnel handling the situation, parents will be contacted before this decision is made; if not, they will be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity.

Efficient parent communication depends upon the parent providing an up to date phone number on the enrollment forms that must are updated each year.

Head Lice

Students are checked periodically for head lice. Parents will be notified if lice or nits are found, and students will be sent home. Before returning to school, a student must have approval from Nurse Rosey. Students must be rechecked two days after re-entry; it is the parent's responsibility to take the student to a school-authorized checker. Rechecks will continue as long as the checker feels is necessary.

Immunizations

TDSD requires all students to be up to date with state-required vaccinations. TDSD does not allow exemptions for reasons of conscience or any non-medical exemptions. Medical exemptions must be submitted to Nurse Rosey on this form and are subject to approval from the administration. Failure to comply with immunization requirements could result in removal of a child from school until the situation is rectified.

Vision and Hearing Screenings

The school follows state requirements for screenings and provides the following screenings:

Hearing and vision	New students, Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th
AN (Acanthosis nigricans)	New students, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th
Scoliosis	5th girls, 7th girls, 8th boys

A referral to the doctor will be sent home with those students who fail the screening.

Uniform Requirements

Please see the uniform policy.