Upper School FAQs 2020-2021

When does the school day begin and end?

Each school day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Students should arrive at school no earlier than 7:45 a.m. and should leave campus by 3:30 p.m. unless they have an official after-school commitment. Students learning remotely from home may be required to Zoom into a class at 8 a.m.; if that is the case, they, too, should report on time. In order to stagger student arrivals and prevent overcrowded parking lots and drop-off areas, students who have free periods during the first period of the day should report to school at 9 a.m. to be able to get to their second-period class that begins at 9:15 a.m. Similarly, if students have a free period during the last period of the day, they should leave at 2 p.m. unless they have after-school commitments. Students may not leave school and return during a free period in the middle of the school day.

What's the absence/tardiness/dismissal policy?

Parents of students who will be absent, tardy, or dismissed early must call the office at **781.843.3580**. Students arriving late or leaving early must present a note of explanation, signed by a parent or guardian, to Mr. Murphy in the Student Commons as soon as they get to school. In emergency situations, parents may call the office and provide a note the next day. Thayer Academy has two registered nurses on staff, and students should consult them if feeling ill. Parents or guardians will be called if a nurse determines the student should go home. Students should not contact parents or guardians directly to request dismissal from school.

What should students wear?

Thayer Academy updated its dress code last year. As always, the purpose of the dress code is to reflect respect for the discipline and seriousness of academic pursuits. Students are expected to be neat, clean, and dressed appropriately for an academic environment. Students who Zoom into class or community-building activities from off campus should be dressed appropriately for the occasion. Students should be presentable and not wear hats.

Please note that modifications may be made to the dress code for students who are taking physical education classes, since students do not currently have access to locker rooms. The same may be true if after-school fitness or athletic team practices or games begin. For complete details, please visit THAYER.ORG/DRESSCODE.

Will Upper School students be able to use their lockers?

Unfortunately, students do not have dedicated locker space this year due to safety concerns. Students should carry their laptops and class resources in their backpacks each day. Fortunately, since students are taking half of their major course load at one time, students will not be carrying nearly as many books/supplies as they would have in past years.

Which students can get parking permits?

Parking permits are distributed at the beginning of the school year to student drivers in the junior and senior classes only. Students who drive to school must complete a Parking Permit Application to be signed by the student and a parent or guardian. Cars that do not display a current Thayer parking permit or that are parked in violation of the rules are subject to towing and/or loss of parking privileges.

How do I know if school is cancelled?

Thayer uses an automated service to contact families in case of a school-wide emergency or closing due to weather. Phone calls, text messages, and emails are sent out, and information is posted on the website as well as provided to local TV and radio stations. Please notify Registrar Selene Eymer P '14 at seymer@thayer.org of any changes in contact information.

Where can I find transportation info?

The most up-to-date information regarding transportation options can be found at THAYER.ORG/PARENTS/TRANSPORTATION.

Can students use their phones?

Phones should be silenced or powered off and stowed in backpacks from the start of the day until school's end.

Where's the dining hall?

For Upper School students, lunch is provided daily in Cahall Building on Main Campus and in the dining room at the St. Francis of Assisi facility. Students whose third-period class meets at St. Francis will eat at that facility. Lunch is included in tuition, so there is no need for students to have money on hand.

Where can I find the most up-to-date information?

Thayer's website is the primary resource for students and families. Please take some time to browse **THAYER.ORG**, especially the Back to School 2020 site at **THAYER.ORG/BACKTOSCHOOL2020** and the Parents section at **THAYER.ORG/PARENTS**. This is where you will find the Student Handbook, athletic schedules, links to homework assignments, weekly and monthly activities happening at Thayer, ways to get involved, and more. You will be able to subscribe to the school calendar and various alerts. For assistance logging in to the secure Parent Portal, contact Rose Pfeffer at rpfeffer@thayer.org.

What is the TNN?

The Tiger News Network (TNN) is a weekly newsletter for Thayer families. Emailed Fridays throughout the school year, the TNN provides up-to-date, need-to-know information with helpful links. It is a must-read for parents who want to stay current with campus events.

What is the Safe Homes program?

To help Thayer parents deal with the issues of underage drinking and drug use, the Thayer Academy Parent Association (TAPA) sponsors the Safe Homes program. All Safe Homes families are asked to sign an agreement stating no alcohol or drugs will be used during an event at their home. Please complete the online form at THAYER.ORG/PARENTS/PORTAL/FORMS. An electronic directory will be produced and shared with the parent community listing the participating families