



Tempe Preparatory Academy & Tempe Preparatory Junior Academy

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Headmaster's Spring 2010 Report

We have completed three quarters and have one to go in this 2009-2010 school year. As we near the end of the school year, a few issues must be addressed to make the rest of the school year more pleasant and successful.

Parent Survey: Thank you to all the families that completed the TPA and TPJA community survey required by the State. We were delighted to report to the State that two respondents believe the education their students receive at TPA and TPJA is “good;” all the other respondents rated it as “excellent.” These results are unmatched on the State’s survey. The entire faculty and staff of TPA and TPJA are grateful for your confidence in our work.

Campus Hours: The Campus Hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. During this time, we have staff “on duty” who work to assure the safety of the students on campus. Before 7:30 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m., students must leave the campus unless they are involved in a school-sponsored or supported activity involving adult supervision, such a sport, music or speech and debate program. We all know life can be busy, and occasionally our schedules require some juggling. With that in mind, we have seen a large increase in the number of students arriving at the campus before it opens and leaving or being picked up quite late after campus closes. Tempe Prep is not in a position currently to provide after-school care and, when students aren’t provided guidance, they often get into mischief. For those families who may need assistance, we recommend you consider the “Kidzone” program offered by the City of Tempe, or consider making arrangements for your student to go to the Tempe Public Library, located at the southwest corner of Rural and Southern.

Drop Off & Pick Up Location: Although crowded during the morning and afternoon rushes, the TPA parking lot **is the only location** where students may be dropped off for, and picked up from, school. Tempe Prep is NOT to allow students to be picked up from or dropped on Dorsey Street east of the school grounds as a condition for our campus use. Please help us comply with the use conditions and do NOT use Dorsey Street for school-related activities.

The Rise of Tardies and Absences: Our attendance records show a significant increase in students coming late to school. Teachers need every moment of scheduled class time with our students. The proof of how jealous our teachers are of the time they have with our students is demonstrated by their unanimous vote to eliminate many of the half days that otherwise were sprinkled in the school calendar this year. Teachers gave up their time off so they would have more time to teach your students. So please, encourage your students to be respectful of their teachers’ efforts and help them get to school on time. The first bell rings at 8:20 a.m. and classes begin at 8:25 a.m. sharp. Entering a classroom after that time disrupts our teachers’ efforts to take roll and get their classes started.

Also, under State law, students must spend adequate time in class during the school year. A number of students have stacked up a significant number of absences. With limited exception, a student may be required to repeat a grade if the student misses too many days of class. Further, if a student is to be “excused” for being tardy or missing class, a parent must call the office on the morning of the tardy or absence to assure that the tardy or absence is recorded as “excused” with the State. Please call the attendance line at 480-839-3402, extension 100 on the morning of an absence or tardy.

PASS & EVAL Systems: Before Winter Break, we sent a letter that explains how you can access the Academies' secure website and get your child's grades, evaluations and other school-related information through the "PASS" and "EVAL" systems. The third quarter progress reports were posted several weeks ago, and grades will be posted by Friday, March 26th. You can "log on" to the PASS and EVAL systems using the TPA and TPJA website "home." The PASS and EVAL systems are accessed through the blue menu bar near the top of the web page. This information is available to you with the use of a student's unique identification number and unique password associated with it. If you no longer have your child's identification number and associated password, please contact our Registrar, Dannette Flores, at dflores@tempeprep.org or 480-839-3402, ext 101.

Spring Wardrobe and Uniforms: The "spring" uniform standards now apply. Parents should consult the [dress code](#) to avoid purchasing items that do not comply with the uniform standards. With the likely variety of weather conditions we'll experience for the next month or so, remember, on colder days, "outer wear" that does not fit the dress code such as jackets, coats, "hoodies" and other outer wear may be worn *only* to and from school and during the lunch break. Such items must be stored in students' lockers and are not allowed in classrooms. All clothing worn at school must be free of logos and advertisements. If you have any questions about whether an item meets the dress-code standards, or where to purchase them, contact Lisa Hicks in the office for help at 480-839-3402, ext 100.

Discipline and Detention Program: There remains some confusion among some parents and students regarding our discipline and detention program. We will continue our efforts to achieve students' voluntary compliance with Tempe Prep's behavior discipline code. Students who violate the Tempe Prep code of conduct or other rules we honor may be issued a Detention for more egregious violations (certain uniform infractions, disrupting class, and more serious matters), or a Warning for less severe infractions (untied shoe laces, for example). Regardless, any student who receives three Warnings within a thirty-day period will be issued a Detention by the Headmaster.

We recognize that we need parents' participation and support of our discipline program to make it effective. Accordingly, if a Detention is issued to a student, the issuing Staff Member must call and/or email the students' parents to inform them that a Detention has been issued and the basis for the Detention. Further, a student also must receive a written Detention Referral. Students must have the Detention Referral signed by a parent and returned the next school day. Detentions are to be served at the end of the school day on Tuesdays and Fridays (at 3:10 on a normal school day and at 12:35 on half days).

A student also may be asked to serve in the Saturday Detention Work Program if the student receives three Detentions in any 30-day period, or if a student's single infraction is sufficiently severe. **If a student is assigned a Saturday Detention, we require at least one parent of each student attend the Saturday Detention to help supervise the student in the work program for that day.** This is an essential part of the program. Two Faculty Members supervise each Saturday Detention work program; it seems only fair that parents understand that they should participate as well. Parents who must work or have other appropriate reasons for not attending with their student should request an exemption from the Headmaster. While we appreciate that parents' schedules often are quite full of important matters, we will work diligently with our parents to schedule Saturday Detentions for their students to accommodate difficult schedules. However, we ask that all parents take the Saturday Detention Work Program as a sincere effort to build in their students a desire to comply with Tempe Prep's behavior code and standards.

Thanks for reading,

Hugh Hallman
Headmaster