



Dear TGA Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year at The GREAT Academy! I hope that you had an opportunity to relax, recharge, and enjoy the summer break. This is a great time to be a part of TGA. If you are new, welcome to our school, where every student can find the resources and supports they need. If you are returning, welcome back!

As Executive Director, there is no better feeling than the start of a new school year. We consider ourselves family and share in the excitement and anticipation that comes with the 'Back-to-School' season.

My top priority, as with every year, is to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. We want to ensure that we provide a rigorous and equitable educational experience to all students. We know that learning recovery will be a priority as we continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

My team and I look forward to the excitement of the new year, and I thank you for your continued support of our school.

I wish everyone a great first day (Monday, August 7, 2023) and a productive school year.

Sincerely,

Jasper Matthews
Executive Director

Meet the Team

Roles/Responsibilities/Delegation of Duties

<p>Jasper Matthews, Executive Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -State compliance reporting -Budget -Discipline -HR -Facilities -Special Education Coordination -Special Education Instruction/ Intervention -Service Learning Coordination 	<p>Keisha Matthews, Director of Academics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Test Coordination -Curriculum -PS SIS Coordination -STARS Coordination -CNM Coordination -Eng Learner Instruction/ Intervention 	<p>Dr. Vickie Bannerman, Chief Academic, and Compliance Officer/ Principal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Discipline -Teacher Support -Staff Evaluations -Next Step Plans -Professional Development and Training -ELA Intervention -Senior Seminar 	<p>Denise Garcia, Business Office Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Business Office -SPED Educational Assistant -Board of Directors Support
<p>Ron Shorter, Attendance Coord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lab Coverage Pds 1-4 -Attendance Coach -Safety Coord -IT Coord -HR Support 	<p>Rebeca Reyes, Registrar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Front Desk Support -Tours -PowerSchool -Registration/ Enrollment 	<p>Abby Armijo, Front Desk Receptionist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Attendance Calls -Admin Support -DocuSign -Lab Coverage -Substitute 	<p>Donna Gallegos, Social Worker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SW Support for SWD/Gen Ed -Attendance Support -SEL Coord
<p>Dr. Robert Sims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SPED Teacher -Director of Student Support Services 	<p>Lisa Orton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Math Teacher -Case Manager 	<p>Jeannine Kammann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ELA Teacher -Case Manager 	<p>Paula Lopez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lab Coverage -Case Manager -Educational Assistant



Registration

Please make time to come to campus to complete the registration process for your child. This is necessary for new and returning students. Failure to complete registration will delay your child's ability to start school on time.

Registration will be:

Wednesday, August 2nd – 4:00pm-6:30pm

Thursday, August 3rd – 4:00pm-6:30pm

Friday, August 4th – 9:00am-12:30pm

School Hours

As mentioned above, the first day of school is Monday, August 7th. Students can arrive on campus as early as 8:30am. School starts each day at 9am. Students are considered tardy at 9:15am. Monday through Thursday, school hours are 9am-4pm.

Fridays are hybrid learning days – students are required to do one of the following (depending on their schedules):

- Work on Edgenuity, with support from teachers who will be available virtually, from 9:00am until 1:00pm
- Participate in Service Learning activities
- Come in for live enrichment and/or remediation interventions

All students/families will be notified regarding Friday expectations in a timely fashion.

TGA Administration believes that teachers must have designated time within the school day for professional development, planning, reviewing students' data, lesson planning, and grading. Our goal is to recruit and retain the **BEST** teachers, and one of the greatest resources that we can give our incredible staff is the gift of time. We know that hybrid learning days are not always easy for parents, but we would like to gently remind our community that teaching is a much bigger job than simply standing in front of students in a classroom. The behind-the-scenes work is a massive part of the profession and giving our teachers this time allows them to achieve the level of excellence that we believe your child/ren deserve.



The GREAT Academy 2023-2024 CALENDAR

Prof. Dev. - July 31-Aug 4
 Registration -Aug 2-4
 First Day - Aug 7

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2024						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Winter Break - Jan 1-5
 MLK Day - Jan 15
 Report Cards - Jan 12
 Prof. Dev. - Jan 26

Labor Day - Sept 4
 Prof. Dev. - Sept 22

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
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FEBRUARY 2024						
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25	26	27	28	29		

President's Day - Feb 19

Indigenous People's Day - Oct 9
 Student Led Conferences
 End of Quarter 1 - Oct 13
 Report Cards - Oct 23
 Prof. Dev. - Oct 27

OCTOBER 2023						
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29	30	31				

MARCH 2024						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Vernal Holiday - March 29
 End of Quarter 3 - March 15
 Report Cards - March 22

Veteran's Day - Nov 10
 Thanksgiving Break - Nov 20-24

NOVEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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APRIL 2024						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Spring Break - April 1-5

Winter Break - Dec 22-29
 End of Semester 1 - Dec 21

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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31						

MAY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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Memorial Day - May 27
 Last Day - May 31
 Report Cards - June 7

Bell Schedule

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Lunch	5th	6th	Snack	7th
9:00-9:50 (50 min)	9:55-10:40 (45 min)	10:45-11:30 (45 min)	11:35-12:20 (45 min)	12:20-1:00	1:00-1:45 (45 min)	1:50-2:50 (60 min)	2:50-3:00	3:00-4:00 (60 min)

NOTE: Morning Memo will take place on Mondays between 1st and 2nd periods

Breakfast/Lunch

Free, healthy breakfast items are provided to students from 8:30a-8:55am.

Students must bring their own lunch daily. Students are expected to eat something for lunch each day. The human brain does not work at optimal levels when students are not eating regularly. In the event, your student forgets lunch, free, healthy lunch items are provided. Energy drinks and sodas are prohibited. Students sharing lunch with each other is prohibited. A snack is provided in the afternoon.

Supplies

Students are provided the following items:

- Chromebook/headphones (all students)
- Backpack (middle school only)

*Students can use their own personal headphones. Please be aware that TGA is not liable for personal headphones and other items that are brought to school and are lost/damaged.

Students will need to bring:

- Lunch Bag
- Thumb drive
- Notebooks/paper
- Folders
- Pens/pencils/highlighters



Cell Phones/Electronics

The use of MP3 players, iPods, cell phones, and other electronic devices is NOT permitted during class time. These devices are required to be turned off and left in backpacks during class. Appropriate use of personal devices is allowed during lunchtime and snack break. No taking or posting of pictures/videos of any kind, on any platform, is allowed without consent from ALL individuals pictured and/or recorded. Any violation of this privacy expectation may result in both school and legal penalties. Also no voice calls allowed. Students who are caught using devices during undesignated times will lose privilege to do so at any time during the school day.

Uniforms

7.1 Student Uniforms

Middle School

Students at TGA observe standards of dress that are appropriate for the best possible educational experience. Students and their parents/guardians may determine personal appearance and dress except where such dress or appearance presents a health or safety hazard, a violation of city or state law, or a disruption to the educational environment. TGA students' dress is expected to be neat, clean and appropriate, both at school and at school-related activities.

SHIRTS – The GREAT Academy standard issue shirt is the **red GREAT Academy Polo**, and it will be worn at all times unless using the t-shirt for specified activities. Shirts must be free of excessive wrinkling. Undergarments **should not** be visible through any shirt under any circumstances. No logos should be visible through the white dress shirt.

PANTS – Black dress slacks, khakis or jeans must be worn. **Dockers, chinos and Dickies are also acceptable.** Absolutely **NO** sweat suit pants, yoga pants, leggings or pajamas. **NO** shorts of any type.

SKIRTS – Skirts must be black and not of the high-waisted fashion. Asymmetrical hem lines are not allowed. Skirts must be no more than 3 inches above **knee level (finger- tip length is not acceptable)** or longer and must not be extremely tight. Skirt splits must not be more than 3 inches long. Absolutely **NO** mini-skirts.

OUTERWEAR – If conditions dictate, TGA sweaters and jackets are the only cold weather clothing allowed to be worn inside the building. **NO** pullovers, hoodies, sweatshirts of any kind will be worn. **NO** other outerwear is to be worn in the building. During inclement weather coats will be taken off after entering the building before leaving the front desk area.

SHOES – Shoes must be black, red or white (school colors), should be comfortable, have a rubber sole, clean, and in good repair. Shoes with slipper-like soles are prohibited. Any shoe that looks like a slipper or moccasin will not be allowed. If the shoe has laces, they must be black, red or white. Shoes must fit securely on the foot. Shoes with open toes or backless shoes (including flip flops, sandals, mules and slides) will not be allowed. Shoes may slip on or be laced. Black, red or white flats or loafers with no



heels are also allowed. In the event of medical necessity, an alternative shoe will need to be approved by the administration.

TGA Pathways (High School) Dress Code

Students at TGA observe standards of dress that are appropriate for the best possible educational experience. Students and their parents/guardians may determine personal appearance and dress except where such dress or appearance presents a health or safety hazard, a violation of city or state law, or a disruption to the educational environment. TGA students' dress is expected to be neat, clean and appropriate, both at school and at school-related activities.

For High School and Middle School

- No Flip Flops/Open back sandals, Slides, or Crocs - ***Students must wear shoes at all times.***
- No highly distracting or altered clothing, such as, but not limited to, torn or shredded jeans or shirts; tank tops must have at least a 1 1/2" strap; halter tops, tube tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut clothing; see-through clothing; tight or short shorts or skirts; biking shorts; bare midriffs; metal belt buckles with any initials; belts hanging longer than two inches from the fastener. *Pants:* cannot be sagging to the point that they allow undergarments to be visible to sight.
- No biking shorts, leggings, yoga tights, or spandex.
- No skin showing between the bottom of a shirt/blouse and the top of pants or skirts.
- All attire must be as long as an extended arm and fist when standing up straight.
- No clothing/jewelry/tattoos displaying gang, drug or alcohol-related wording, pictures or insignias, or profane, vulgar, sexually suggestive or abusive/violent or otherwise in appropriate language / symbols / graphics.
- No facial piercings allowed with the exception of small nose rings (studs and small hoops acceptable); small, un-spiked gauges allowed
- No clothing in "uniform colors" or with symbolism and/or insignias which suggest illicit behavior, gang affiliation, harassment or abuse.
- If the staff and administration feel that clothing identifying groups or gangs causes disruption at school, or causes personal danger to the wearer, that person or persons directly responsible will not be allowed to wear said clothing. Disrespect or bigotry toward any group is not acceptable.



- No headgear of any kind, e.g., hats, caps, bandanas, sweat bands, hair nets, do-rags, hair bags, etc., or sunglasses or hats in the building.
- No bright fuchsia or neon hair color will be allowed.
- No spiked jewelry, belts, dog collars, bands, or chains.
- No clothing bearing the names and/or insignias of gang-related teams or groups to be determined at the discretion of TGA leadership. No "In Memory of" shirts.
- Any clothing or accessory which is deemed inappropriate, distracting or impeding the educational process will result in a directive to immediately cover or remove clothing item or accessory.
- Anything gang related as per the student Behavior Handbook will not be tolerated.
- Consequences for violating the student dress standards are addressed in The GREAT Academy Code of Conduct.

As a rule of thumb, follow the rule of the 4 B's and a C: No bellies, no butts; no bra straps; no boxers; and no cleavage. If these are showing, you are out of dress code!

Water Bottles

Water stations are available to use for all TGA students. All students should bring their own water bottles from home. We highly encourage parents to invest in a water bottle sling for their child/ren so that they can easily carry their water bottles to and from each one of their classes during the school day (Amazon has a great selection at reasonable prices). Please do not forget to label your children's water bottles and slings!

Morning Drop Off

Your child's safety is one of our utmost concerns. Please drop your student off in the area indicated by the cones. No drop off is allowed in the crosswalk or along Osuna. Please be sure that your child is exiting the car on the school side and not on the parking lot side.

Afternoon Dismissal

Please pick your child up in the coned area near the school. If you don't want to wait in line, feel free to park in the parking lot and school staff will see to your child crossing the street safely to get to your vehicle. Do not stop to pick up your child in the crosswalk.



On-Site Medications

For all non-allergy or non-asthma-related medications, including cough drops and other such over-the-counter medications, parents must provide a completed **Physician Order and Medication Authorization Form** (available on the school website under the Student Portal Tab).

If your child must receive medication while at school, the school must have your child's current (non-expired) medication by **August 12th**. For returning families, please be prepared to bring new medication in case your child's on-site medicines expire.

Over the counter medicines must be in the original, sealed container when delivered to the school. Students are not allowed to carry/self-administer over the counter medicines, this includes cough drops/throat lozenges.

Diabetic/Allergy/Asthma Action Plans

The school will request the action plan from your child's physician in the event your child has diabetes, allergic reactions or asthma. If you have a recent/updated action plan, please feel free to provide a copy to the front desk.

Immunizations

All students must provide current, updated immunization records for enrollment. Students must be current on their immunizations to be permitted to attend school.

Family Information Night

Please join us for our first Family Information Night on August 31st at 6pm. We will continue holding Family Information Nights on Zoom in an effort to provide more parents with an opportunity to attend. There will be events for parents/families that will be held on campus this year. Stay tuned!