



Walsh Middle School FAQ

What is the daily schedule at WMS?

The bell schedule can be found on our website and is also available in our front office. Students are allowed to enter the building through the side door at 7:45 AM. From 7:45 to 8:13, students may go to tutoring (with a teacher pass), attend Homework Haven, go to the Library, or sit in the commons area. The school day ends at 3:30, but oftentimes clubs will meet, students will stay for tutoring or sports teams will practice after school.

What is Advisory?

Advisory is a time for students to receive services from our counselors (guidance lessons, scheduling, career exploration, etc.). It is also a time for students to get caught up on school work and receive tutoring from their teachers.

What are lunches like?

Currently, there are 3 lunch periods: 6th graders eat first, 7th graders eat second, and 8th graders eat last. There are several teachers/staff members who monitor students during lunch. Based on good behavior, students are given the privilege of going outside after they finish their meals. There is a wide selection of nutritional meals available for students to purchase here on campus. Free lunches and a reduced price on lunch are also available to those who qualify. Students may set up an account and pay with either their ID or ID number. In addition, if your child is paying with a prepaid account, you may monitor what your child eats on <http://www.pamslunchroom.com>.

What are student ID badges and how does my child get one?

Student ID cards have a student's picture and a student ID barcode on them. Students must wear their ID badges at all times when they are on campus during school hours. ID badges are also used to check out items from the library or purchase lunches. Each student will receive his/her ID badge for free. However, a fee of \$5.00 is required to replace lost or damaged IDs.

Is PE required?

Yes. Currently, in the state of Texas, students are legally required to take 2 years of PE in middle school. However our legislature is currently in session to determine if this requirement will be changed to 3 years.

Which courses, other than PE, can fulfill the PE requirement?

We also offer Dance and Athletics for the 7th and 8th grade students.

When can a student be in Athletics and play on the Walsh sports teams?

Students may not sign up for Athletics when they are in the 6th grade. 7th and 8th grade students may participate in Athletics, but may only play sports if they are passing their classes per UIL rules.

Does a student have to be in Athletics in order to play on a Walsh sports team?

Yes. Every student must be in the Athletics class in order to try out for each sport that he/she wishes to play. Should a student not make the team, then that student will have to stay in Athletics and participate in offseason training.

What sports are offered at Walsh?

Football, Basketball, Volleyball and Track.

Does a student have to get a physical exam in order to participate in Athletics?

Yes. Students must get physical exams every year before participating in Athletics. It is the guardian's responsibility to make sure that the student has a physical exam by a doctor prior to the first day of each school year. If a student does not get a physical exam prior to the first day of school, then he/she will be removed from Athletics. There are several clinics that offer free physical exams, including RediClinics, located at several HEB stores in town.

How many electives can a student sign up for?

6th grade students may choose one elective, because they are required to sign up for PE. 7th and 8th grade students may choose up to three electives. However, we recommend that students take PE in the 7th grade. Students may also be required to take "Power" classes, which aim to provide students with additional academic support in various subject areas. Placement in these classes is based on TAKS scores and grades.

Can students receive high school credit for classes at Walsh?

Yes. Students are highly encouraged to take classes that will count as high school credits. Spanish and French, if taken and passed in both 7th and 8th grade, will count as one year of foreign language credit in high school. Business Computer Information Systems (BCIS), which meets the required technology application high school credit, is offered at Walsh. Gateway to Tech A (Pre-engineering) is offered in 7th grade, and Gateway to Tech B is offered in 8th grade. If both years are taken and passed, then a student will earn a Pre-engineering credit for high school.

Which math class should my student take at Walsh?

We encourage you to refer to the Math Flowchart, which is attached to each student's course selection sheet. This will give you an extensive overview of the math classes available to students in both middle school and high school. 6th grade students have the option of taking Regular 6th Math, Accel 6th Math or TAG 6th Math. Accel 6th Math is very fast-paced, as it covers all of the 6th grade curriculum and half of

the 7th grade curriculum. Accel 7th Math is similar, in that it covers half of the 7th grade curriculum and all the of the 8th grade curriculum. We recommend that students have both a teacher and parent recommendation to register for Accel Math. TAG 6th Math covers all of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade curriculum, with the intention of helping students become Algebra-ready. Students who successfully complete Algebra I in the 7th grade then go on to take a high school credit Geometry class in the 8th grade.

What is TAG?

Talented and Gifted services are available to students who qualify. Students wishing to participate in the TAG program must take the appropriate district-mandated tests. Their scores on these district tests, along with teacher and parent evaluations, are then taken into consideration when deciding about admittance to the program. However, TAG classes are available for students who do not qualify for TAG per very specific criteria set by Walsh MS.

How can students and parents stay informed about events at Walsh?

Our website, along with individual teacher websites, are routinely updated. We also invite students and parents to sign up for eNews on our website. This will provide parents/students with frequent email updates about Walsh. Students are also encouraged to watch the daily announcements, aired during 2nd period of each school day. These video announcements are placed on the main Walsh website, as well. Additionally, important information will be sent home with students on Thursdays when necessary. This includes everything from report cards to flyers.

How can I monitor my child's progress in school?

Interim progress reports are sent home with all students. In addition, Walsh teachers update their websites on a weekly basis to reflect the current homework/class work assignments due in their classes. The Home Access Center is also available to parents. You can sign up for HAC at your current RRISD campus or through Walsh. Detailed instructions for signing up are located on the WMS website. Please note that if you have already signed up, your password will remain the same throughout your child's time in all RRISD school. You must have an active email address on file with the school's registrar in order for HAC to work.

What constitutes an A, B, C, and F at Walsh?

A= 90-100

B= 80-89

C= 75-79

D= 70-74

Failing= Below 70

How long are the grading periods?

Marking periods are divided up by 6 weeks. However, all students will receive interim progress reports (IPR) at the 3-week midpoint of a 6 weeks period. We ask that report cards and progress reports be signed by each student's guardian and returned to the school.

What services are available to students who are struggling academically?

Before and after school tutoring is available for students. We also offer Homework Haven in the mornings; this is a quiet place for students to work before school. Power Math and Reading classes are provided for students who did not pass the Math TAKS or Reading TAKS test. Additionally, in extreme cases, we will pull students from their electives and place them in Homework Help Lab, in order to help them get caught up on missing work.

What extracurricular activities are available to students at Walsh?

There are a number of clubs that are open to all students. We offer Art Club, Book Club, Culinary Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, French Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Hip Hop Club, Junior Historians, Math Counts, Robotics Club, Running Club, Science Club, Skateboarding Club, Soccer Club, Spanish Club, Student Council, and Theatre Arts Leadership Club. We also offer Cheerleading and National Junior Honors Society for eligible 8th grade students. Student can also participate in UIL and our annual Walsh Spelling Bee.

Is my student safe at Walsh?

Yes. We go to great lengths to ensure the safety of our students at Walsh. There are cameras throughout the school, which are on at all times. In addition, faculty and staff are required to monitor the hallways before and after school and during passing periods. We are also well on our way to becoming a No Place for Hate campus, which means that our students have participated in a number of anti-bullying and anti-prejudice activities throughout the year. Several 8th grade students attended the Prejudice Awareness Summit at the beginning of the year, and they, along with our Leadership class, have helped to make events like Mix It Up Lunch and our anti-bullying campaign possible.