

Insider's Guide to Communication at Thacher

Thacher values clear and timely communication among all members of the school community. We hope this guide will inform you about the many ways in which we share information, and help you navigate the who, what, where, when, and how.

Where do I find information about the school?

- There are several publications about Thacher, including the view book and curriculum overview. You can ask for copies of these at the front desk.
- The Family Handbook includes general school policies and procedures. There is a link to it on the home page of the Thacher website.
- Visit the Thacher website for information about the school, our mission and core values, the Thacher Parent Council (IPC), as well as a calendar and staff information.
- Access the Thacher library catalogue on the school website.

“ I love hearing what the children are doing in the classroom [from the monthly missives] so we can support similar growth and skill development at home.” -CH Parent

Where do I find information about my child's daily life at school?

- Every lead guide sends monthly classroom communications with information about the class and Montessori philosophy.
- Lead guides also send periodic class updates via email.
- Parent-Child Mornings/Afternoons are scheduled once a year (in LE) and twice a year (TOD/CH) so that children can show their parents their daily activities at school.
- Follow and like us on social media channels for photos, videos, and event updates. (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.)
- Subscribe to the Thacher Google calendar electronically.



“ The combination of conferences and progress reports helps enormously in giving me insight on how my children are doing in their classrooms. As hard as it may be, closing the school for several days each year to enable quality one-on-one time with each lead guide is incredibly valuable!” - CH Parent

Where do I find information about my child's progress?

- Lead guides schedule parent conferences in October and March every year.
- Student Progress Reports are sent to parents at the end of January and in mid-June.
- Email or call your child's lead guide directly with a question or concern.

“ "My child's guide is always available to answer my questions - we don't have to wait for scheduled conferences or reports to get information." - CH Parent

Where do I find information about Montessori education?

- The school encourages parents to observe in a classroom, whether in their child’s class or at the next level.
- Morning coffees are regularly scheduled events that bring parents and Thacher staff together for discussions about Montessori.
- Parent Education Nights throughout the year offer hands-on experiences in the classrooms, including Next Level Night, when parents can explore the class level that follows their child’s current level.
- At the Journey, students and staff present lessons in particular subject areas to show the progression through each level.
- Monthly classroom communications include information about Montessori philosophy in action.

“ [During my observation] Every child in the classroom had a purpose and it was a wonderful experience watching their curious minds interact socially with each other while doing productive work.” - CH Parent

Where do I find information about the Thacher community?

- Family play dates for new families take place throughout the summer.
- The website displays the latest news and upcoming events.
- The school emails *Notes Home* every Friday.
- The Thacher Speaker Series brings leading experts to school to speak about timely topics.
- Class Parents will keep parents informed of volunteer opportunities in the classroom.
- The school posts a weekly calendar near the driveway at the front of the school.

“ I really enjoy the Notes Home format on Fridays as it creates a helpful, central location to find information on upcoming events, important school activities, and general school information.” -CH Parent

What is the Thacher Parent Council (TPC)?

- The TPC is a volunteer-run organization.
- Every parent/guardian with a student at Thacher is a member of the TPC.
- The TPC holds several events each year, including the annual benefit auction.
- Information on the TPC can be found on Thacher website.

Who is the contact person for....?

Technology has opened many new avenues, but sometimes a phone call is still the best path—and we’re never more than a phone call away (617-361-2522). In addition to lead guides and assistants, other staff are here to help:

<u>For questions on:</u>	<u>Contact:</u>
Annual fund, fundraising _____	Deba Palma x38
Before/after care requests _____	Front Desk x10
Childcare for events _____	Mary Saunders x10
Curriculum, classrooms _____	Michelle Seyller x33
Financial aid/re-enrollment: _____	Deba Palma x14
Schoolwide issues _____	Deba Palma x38; Michelle Seyller x33
Secondary school placement: _____	Adam Percy x
Thacher Parent Council _____	Michelle Seyller (liaison) x33
Thacher sports teams _____	Todd Sullivan 617-980-9148
Transcript requests for applications _____	x18
Tuition, billing _____	Vicky Varnum x13