

Time to Soar

Basic Philosophy:

Time to Soar was created at Thoreau Middle School in 2004 to establish a consistent opportunity within the school day for students to access remediation and enrichment activities. Research has shown that the best way to reach students who are at risk or struggling with learning is during the school day. Many of those students that are in need of assistance are unable or unwilling to stay after school. In addition, teachers are exhausted after a long day of work and providing focus on those students who need it most requires teachers to be at their best. In response to the need for additional time to help students, the teachers at Thoreau Middle School developed a program called Time to Soar.

The basic tenants of our program are listed below:

Time to Soar is a twenty-five minute block of embedded remediation and enrichment time built into the school day where students may:

- Receive assistance from a teacher
- Work on homework
- Make up tests or quizzes
- Read

Students are assigned to Time to Soar classes according to their grade level and teachers as follows:

- Special education students are assigned to their case manager.
- A and B1 ESOL students are assigned to an ESOL teacher.
- Journalism students are assigned to the journalism teacher.
- Remaining students are distributed among core and elective teachers.

Assignment of Teachers

- All core team teachers are assigned a Time to Soar class.
- Elective teachers are assigned Time to Soar classes based on their grade level and planning period
- Health and PE teachers are not assigned Time to Soar classes. They provide supervision on days that students Soar.
- A resource teacher provides supervision in the computer lab during Time to Soar.

Attendance Procedures:

- Attendance is taken for Time to Soar every day just like every other class.
- Students are to report to their Time to Soar teacher by the time the bell rings at 10:24.
- After reporting to their Time to Soar location, students may move to another location with a pass from their Time to Soar teacher.

- On student-choice days, students must choose one activity and remain there for the rest of the period. They must be in the activity location by the time the bell rings.
- Administrators monitor halls during Time to Soar and check students in the hall for passes.
- Attendance issues will be discussed during team meetings and consequences imposed.
- On Soaring days, students permitted to Soar (see below) will use their Time to Soar Privilege Card to do so. Students still need to sign out of their scheduled TTS class before moving to their Soaring location.

Soaring Basics:

On Monday’s EVERYONE reads in all classes, and there is no student movement.

	1 ST QUARTER	2 ND QUARTER	3 RD QUARTER	4 TH QUARTER
7 TH GRADE	DO NOT SOAR	SOAR ON TUESDAYS	SOAR ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS	SOAR ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
8 TH GRADE	SOAR AFTER INTERIMS ON WEDNESDAYS	SOAR ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS	SOAR ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS	SOAR ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

Suggested Classroom Management Strategies in the TTS classroom:

Choose a strategy that matches your teaching style:

- Establish a structured environment at the onset.
- Establish expectations for attendance, passes, bathroom privileges, movement between classes and behavior in your class.
- Tie behaviors to the goal of student assistance.
- Assign seating by common academic need.
- Students should have a book to read if they don’t have alternative activities. (We can work with you to get extra reading materials into your classroom.)