

February 2026

# TEQUESTA TRACE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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1800 Indian Trace, Weston  
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## Cougars Lead With Love

February is a month of reflection, love, and forward momentum at The Trace. On February 13th, we will honor Broward County Public Schools' Day of Love and Service, taking time to intentionally spread kindness, compassion, and unity across our campus. As we do so, we pause to remember the lives lost at MSD in 2018 and the profound impact that day had on our community. Our Cougars will always roar alongside the families of MSD—today and always.

We honor our counselors this month from February 2-6 for all their hard work and dedication to our students. Feel free to show them how much you care!

As we look ahead, spring testing is right around the corner. Please be on the lookout for an upcoming testing information letter from Mr. Rivera, which will include important dates and details to help students feel prepared and confident.

We are also proud to celebrate our Boys Volleyball Team, who captured the District Championship in January! Their hard work and dedication will be recognized by the City of Weston on February 17th at 6:45 PM, and we invite our Cougar family to join us at City Hall in celebrating this outstanding accomplishment.

In addition, Ms. Henry, Ms. Lopez, and Ms. Watson recently concluded their second round of schoolwide expectations meetings with each grade level. These sessions reinforced that Cougars ROCK, with reminders centered on safety, the importance of wearing ID badges, adhering to dress code expectations, and following school rules to ensure a positive learning environment for all.

Finally, as a data-driven school, we continue to closely monitor student performance following FAST PM2. Our instructional teams are reflecting on data, adjusting instructional practices, and implementing targeted supports to meet the needs of every learner. Currently, 270 students are receiving targeted support through the i-Ready program, while 450 students are receiving additional support through the IXL Math program. These intentional interventions ensure students receive the right support at the right time as we continue working toward academic growth and success for all.

Together, we climb higher, roar louder, and lead with heart.



## Upcoming Events

- Tornado Drill 2/5
- Quarter 3 Interims Issued 2/6
- Drama District Thespian Festival 2/5-2/6
- Cypress Bay visits Tequesta 2/10
- SeaWorld Field Trip 2/12
- Humane Society Collection Ends 2/13
- BCPS Day of Love & Service 2/13
- Math & Science Family Night 2/26
- NJHS Meeting 2/26

# CURRICULUM UPDATES

## Math

### 6th Grade Math Update

Our 6th graders are continuing their work with percents, beginning with a solid understanding of what percents represent and how they connect to fractions and decimals. They are also learning to represent percents greater than 100 or less than 1 and to estimate percents as they build confidence through a midpoint check-in. Students will then apply these skills to find the percent of a number and determine the whole when given a part and a percent, concluding with an assessment on this topic.

### Tip for Home

Encourage your child to explain their thinking out loud during simple real-life situations involving percents—such as discounts at a store or figuring out what fraction of a recipe has been used. This strengthens both comprehension and problem solving skills.

### 7th Grade Math Update

Our 7th graders are deepening their understanding of probability, beginning with describing likelihood and determining theoretical probability in various situations. They are also exploring experimental probability and comparing how experimental results differ from theoretical expectations. To support mastery, students are revisiting key probability ideas while engaging in targeted review and enrichment activities that strengthen their overall understanding.

Meanwhile, students in 7th grade advanced math are exploring triangle relationships by learning the Pythagorean Theorem, its converse, and how to apply it to real world and coordinate plane problems. They also work on drawing triangles with specific side lengths and solving problems involving angle relationships within triangles. Finally, students extend their learning by examining interior and exterior angles of triangles and identifying angle patterns within regular polygons.

### Tip for Home

Invite your child to discuss probability in everyday scenarios—such as predicting weather chances or outcomes in simple games—to help them connect classroom concepts to real-life reasoning.

If your child is in 7th grade advanced math, encourage your child to look for triangles in everyday places—floor tiles, bridges, ramps—and talk about how right triangles and angle relationships help explain their shapes and structure.

### Pre Algebra Math Update

Our Pre Algebra students are developing a strong understanding of triangle relationships, beginning with the Pythagorean Theorem, its converse, and how to apply these ideas to real world situations and distance problems on the coordinate plane. They will also learn to construct triangles with specific side lengths and solve problems involving key angle relationships. To deepen their geometric reasoning, students will examine interior and exterior angles of triangles and explore angle patterns in regular polygons.

### Tip for Home

Encourage your child to look for triangles in everyday places—floor tiles, bridges, ramps—and talk about how right triangles and angle relationships help explain their shapes and structure.

### Algebra Math Update

Our Algebra students are strengthening their understanding of polynomials by learning to add, subtract, and multiply them, including recognizing and using special product patterns. They are also developing key factoring skills as they factor polynomials of different forms, such as  $x^2+bx+c$  and  $ax^2+bx+c$ . To complete the unit, students explore factoring special cases and apply these strategies to deepen their overall algebraic understanding.

### Tip for Home

Encourage your child to check their factoring by multiplying the factors back out—this quick self check builds accuracy and confidence.

### Geometry Math Update

Our Geometry students are expanding their knowledge of right triangles and trigonometry, including applying the Pythagorean Theorem, using trigonometric ratios, and solving real world problems involving right triangles. Honors students extend this understanding by exploring the Law of Sines and the Law of Cosines for solving non right triangles. Students then transition into coordinate geometry.

## Literacy

A strong commitment to literacy continues at TTMS, with students accumulating an impressive total of 22,634 minutes in the Master of Minutes Reading Challenge. Book fair certificates have been presented to the current top three participants: Giada L., Napoleon M., and Roxana P. The challenge will conclude on May 8th; students are encouraged to continue reading.

Achievement is celebrated through dedication and effort. Recently, students participated in the BEST Mock Writing Test utilizing Writable, a digital platform for essay submissions. Each student was allotted 120 minutes to respond to a prompt by composing an essay based on multiple sources, which teachers will assess using the 12-point BEST Writing Rubric. Families are advised to encourage their children to review teacher feedback to make improvements prior to the official BEST Writing Assessment scheduled for March 31st.

Upcoming ELA units and skills include:

6th Grade – Unit 5: Surviving the Unthinkable. Focus: Literary Elements, Perspective and Point of View, Central Idea, Expository Writing.

7th Grade – Unit 2: Take Control. Focus: Literary Elements, Structure, Expository Writing, Conventions, Academic Vocabulary, Morphology, Research Skills.

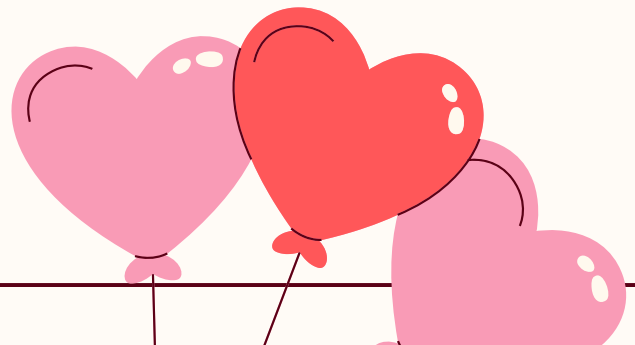
8th Grade – Unit 4: The Fight for Freedom. Focus: Structure, Poetry, Figurative Language, Vocabulary (Context & Connotation, Morphology), Conventions, Expository Writing.

## Collection for the Humane Society

The Civics classes will be collecting donations for the Humane Society for A Day of Service and Love. This will also help make connections to our Citizenship unit and giving back to the community for the common good.



**HUMANE  
SOCIETY**  
OF BROWARD COUNTY



# CURRICULUM UPDATES

## Film

This month in Film Class, students explored the exciting world of animation and stop-motion filmmaking. We learned how animators create the illusion of movement using frames, timing, and small changes between images. Students analyzed classic and modern animation shorts, discussed how animation has evolved over time, and discovered why patience and planning are key skills for animators. To apply their learning, students planned and created their own stop-motion animations—experimenting with storytelling, movement, and creativity while building problem-solving and collaboration skills. It's been a hands-on month full of imagination, critical thinking, and movie magic!

## School Counseling

In house scheduling for current 6th and 7th graders will take place the first week of February through Social Studies classes.

### 8th grade

January has been all about starting the "transition to high school" for the eighth-grade students. Students and Parents have received the dates and orientation sessions for Western and Cypress Bay High Schools, where the majority of our students will attend. Students have also completed the Xello lesson with the same name and have learned about the class offerings and programs that are available to them.

Students will receive course cards in the first week of February for the school they are zoned to attend. Please reach out to Mrs. Johnson with questions or to request a meeting to assist you with this process

*Celebrate Counselor's Week 2/2-2/6*



## Science



Students across all grade levels are learning to use VR technology to complete laboratory investigations that support mastery of curriculum-based standards such as plate tectonics, atoms, and forces and motion.

GEARS 2, 8th grade, and biology students will be taking the BSA just before spring break. This assessment will provide teachers and students with a road map for preparing for the SSA and Biology EOC in May.

The Science Department team looks forward to welcoming our parents and students at our Science Night Thursday, February 26th at 5:30 pm in the Media Center.

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# CURRICULUM UPDATES

## Entrepreneurship

We are in contest season for both Entrepreneurship and Startup Tech. All contests in class are optional, but encouraged. We have had dozens of winners in the past receiving recognition, experience as well as Amazon Gift Cards! Both classes are invited to participate in the Mott Million Dollar Challenge which will be submitted by February 27th. Entrepreneurship classes only can participate in the social media pitch contest due on 1/30. Both contests involve filming a sales pitch about a product or idea the students will pitch to the judges. It is very similar to the pitches in Shark Tank. Both contests allow group collaboration.



## Drama & Chorus



Our Drama and Chorus classes have been very active this month. In Drama, students have worked with over 40 vocabulary terms throughout January. These words connect both to English and theatre, and we've discussed how many of these terms naturally appear in our everyday language—often without us realizing it.

All classes have also been busy presenting short plays filled with creativity, energy, and plenty of dramatic fun. Our Advanced Drama students will be heading to Nationals during the second week of February, and we are confident they will make TTMS incredibly proud.

In Chorus, students have been practicing several songs with the goal of performing at the end of the school year.

# explore



## Social Studies

**6th grade World History:** Students are wrapping up their unit on Ancient Greece, where they have explored democracy, daily life, culture, and major achievements. In February, they will begin their study of Ancient Rome, focusing on how Roman government, law, and engineering shaped later civilizations and continue to influence the modern world.

**7th grade Civics:** Students are entering an important phase of the curriculum. During February, they will study: The impact of individuals, interest groups, and the media on government and public opinion, public policy, including how citizens and government agencies work together to solve problems, different forms of government and economic systems, such as democracy, monarchy, and capitalism. These lessons help students understand how citizens influence the government and how political and economic systems operate around the world.

**8th grade U.S. History:** Students will be studying Westward Expansion. Topics include: The Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark expedition, Manifest Destiny and the movement of settlers west, Conflicts with Native American tribes, including the Trail of Tears, the expansion of slavery and its role in sectional conflict, Key events such as the Mexican-American War and the California Gold Rush.

These units focus on how territorial growth shaped the nation politically, economically, and socially.

February is also Black History Month, and Social Studies classes will highlight the contributions, struggles, and achievements of African Americans throughout U.S. history as they connect to current units of study.

Civics students and families are reminded that the 3rd quarter (BSA) will take place on March 5. By that date, students will have completed the full Civics curriculum and will begin focused review for the End-of-Course (EOC) exam after Spring Break. Families are encouraged to check teachers' Canvas courses regularly for review study guides and interactive practice games to help students prepare for the March BSA.

**Reminder: CIVICS End of Course Exam will take place May 13, 2026**

*History is written not only in moments of tragedy, but in how communities rise together in love.*



## Marine Science

On January 9th, forty-four students attended the Wetland Wonders field trip to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in the Everglades. Students were able to experience canoeing in the wetlands, slogging in the cypress slough, dip netting, and performing water tests. This gave them a better understanding of the hydrology of the Everglades and the importance of this wetland ecosystem in supplying freshwater to communities of South Florida.

# BUZZWORTHY NEWS

## Meet Victoria



## District Champs!

Our Boys Volleyball Team brought home the District Championship, and the celebration continues! The City of Weston will honor our champions on February 17th at 6:45 PM. Cougar families are invited to join us in recognizing this incredible achievement.



Our amazing 8th grader Victoria Alvarez has done it again! She won the district Reflections competition in not just one, but two categories — Art and Photography! 📷🖼️ Victoria will proudly represent our school at the state competition, and we couldn't be more proud of her incredible talent and hard work. Way to shine, Victoria!

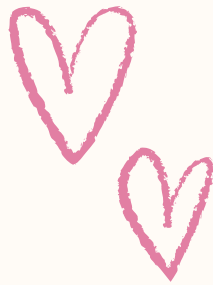
## Packed House

We were thrilled to welcome incoming 6th grade families to our Cougar Craze Parent Informational Night in January! Families joined us from both our feeder elementary schools and non-feeder schools, bringing great energy and thoughtful questions as they began their middle school journey. Parents were eager to learn more about what to expect in middle school and received important information regarding scheduling, campus safety, uniform expectations, and key dates for the upcoming school year. We are excited to partner with our newest Cougar families and look forward to an amazing year ahead at the Trace!



*Excellence is not a skill.  
It is an attitude.*

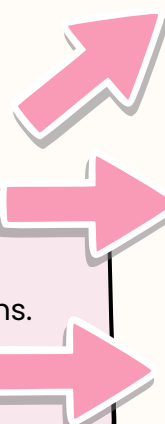
# Parent corner



**Safety is everyone's responsibility!**

To report information:

1. Download any of the apps from any app store to your phone. Use them to send any safety concerns.
2. Call our school at 754-323-4400.
3. Email anyone on our staff with information.



## Friendly Reminders

ID badges are required daily. Badges should be on & visible all day, every day.

Dress code matters every day. Please follow BCPS guidelines for dress code.



## SCHOOLWIDE EXPECTATIONS

# COUGARS ROCK

Be respectful  
 Be organized  
 Be cooperative  
 Be kind



ALL WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES SHALL BE TURNED OFF OR PLACED ON AIRPLANE MODE FROM THE FIRST BELL OF THE DAY UNTIL THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY, INCLUDING PASSING PERIODS AND LUNCHTIME. IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH THAT THIS IS NOT A BAN ON CELL PHONES OR OTHER TECHNOLOGY; IT IS MEANT TO ELEVATE STUDENT LEARNING AND ALLOW STUDENTS TO DISCONNECT TO RECONNECT IN A DISTRACTION-FREE ENVIRONMENT.



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