

TEQUESTA TRACE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Robert Rivera, Proud Principal
1800 Indian Trace, Weston
754-323-4400

MARCH 2026



Marching Forward: Literacy, Pride & a Strong Finish 🍀🇺🇸

As we head into March, we're excited to continue leading with literacy as we kick off our Book Fair. We encourage all of our families to support a love of reading at home and take advantage of this opportunity to put great books into the hands of our students.

We are also incredibly proud of our Girls Flag Football Team, who made it all the way to the semi-finals this season. While their run ended there, they represented our school with great effort, teamwork, and Cougar pride!

As we close out Quarter 3, students are participating in BSA testing to help us identify areas where we can provide targeted support before FAST testing begins. When we return from our well-deserved Spring Break (March 16-20), we will enter the homestretch of testing season with focus and determination.

We are also continuing to stand strong on our school rules and procedures. Students must be in full uniform daily, including their unaltered school ID. Each student receives five free replacement IDs, and the sixth and beyond will result in a \$5 charge. Please check your child's Focus account for any obligations. Thank you for your continued support as we finish the quarter strong. Wishing all of our students continued success! 🐾

Upcoming Events

- Spring Book Fair 3/2-3/6
- Civics BSA Testing 3/5
- SAC Meeting 3/5
- BSO Career Exploration 3/6
- Mu Alpha Theta Math Competition 3/7
- Celebrate the Arts- Jazz Band 3/8
- Algebra BSA Testing 3/10
- Geometry BSA Testing 3/11
- Quarter 3 Ends 3/12
- Early Release Day 3/12
- Teacher Planning Day 3/13
- Spring Break 3/16-3/20
- Quarter 4 Begins 3/23
- FAST Writing Test Dry-Run 3/26
- BEST Writing Test 3/31

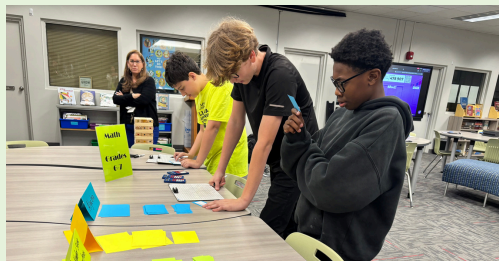
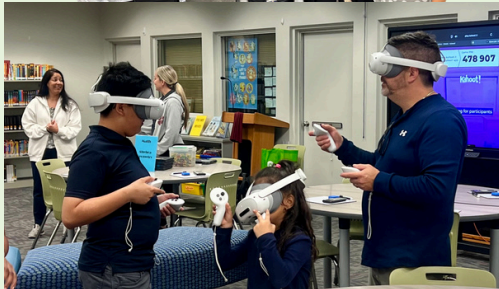


CURRICULUM UPDATES

MATH

Our recent Family Math Night was an exciting evening of hands-on learning and family engagement. Students and families enjoyed interactive stations including Jenga with a math twist, a Virtual Reality experience exploring integer operations, and a computer-based algebra competition.

The activities encouraged critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving while showcasing how math comes alive beyond the classroom. Thank you to all the families who joined us for this fun and successful night of learning!



LITERACY

This month, students will participate in a schoolwide poster competition focused on novels by Christina Diaz Gonzalez, an award-winning children's author. Sixth grade Novel Talk, seventh grade ELA, and eighth grade US History classes will each read different novels by Gonzalez, examine her background, and explore the inspirations behind her writing. Classes will prepare a poster summarizing their author study, including key information and visuals related to both the author and her books. The winning classes will be announced during the week of May 1st, with top-performing classes receiving a donut party.

Additionally, the Literacy Department would like to remind everyone about our current reading challenge. The Master of Minutes Reading Challenge ends on May 8th; please ensure your reading minutes are consistently logged on Beanstack.

Finally, as ELA FAST PM3 approaches, weekly practice is strongly recommended. Teachers are implementing targeted strategies to support all students in preparation for the final FAST Assessment on May 6th. For resources to assist your child with practice at home, visit <https://flfast.org/families.html>.

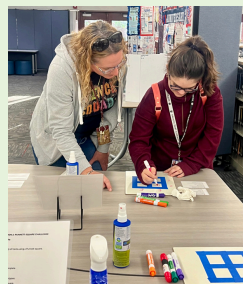
CURRICULUM UPDATES

SCIENCE

GEARS 2 and 8th grade physical science students are taking the Science MOY BSA starting the week of March 2nd. Biology students are also taking their MOY BSA starting this week. Data from these assessments will be used to drive instruction as we push towards the state science exams on May 7th. As a reminder, there are weekly morning review sessions for GEARS 2, 8th grade physical science and biology students. All students are strongly encouraged to attend these sessions.

On Thursday, February 26th we co-hosted our first family night. Families in attendance looked at patterns of inheritance of traits such as widow's peak, hitchhiker's thumb, and tongue rolling to name a few. We look forward to hosting such an event in the future. Thank you to the entire science department for your enthusiastic participation in this event. A special thank you to Ms. Silva for assisting with materials preparation.

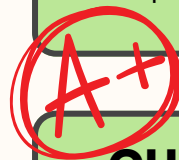
Sixth and seventh grade classes are using our newly acquired VR headsets to explore standards such as plate tectonics and heredity. Sixth grade students are also using Oreos to model the moon phases.



PEER COUNSELING

Our Peer Counselors are preparing for an exciting upcoming College Fair that will feature 80+ colleges and programs from across the country. As part of this project, students are learning about the college admissions process and researching scholarships and grants that help make college more affordable.

Soon, they will share their projects with the school, offering tips and strategies to help fellow students start preparing for their future now. The future is bright and it starts here! ✨



GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Happy Spring! As we approach the end of the third quarter on March 12, please ensure your child is on track for promotion by earning at least three points in each class. Course selection is also underway. 8th grade students should have already submitted their high school course cards and registration materials, while current 6th and 7th graders should have turned in elective course cards for next year. Students who still need to submit or make changes should see their grade-level counselor.

Spring testing information is now posted on the school website, and School Choice decisions will be released on March 2. Families selected for School Choice should be sure to complete the registration steps with their new school. Finally, we encourage students to help keep our campus positive by avoiding rumor spreading and supporting one another with kindness and respect. Wishing all of our families a safe, fun, and restful Spring Break! 🌞

CURRICULUM UPDATES

WOMENS HISTORY MONTH

Throughout the month, we are highlighting the contributions of women who shaped our nation and continue to inspire future generations.



250 YEARS OF FREEDOM!

Tequesta Trace is proud to begin celebrating the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the United States.

Mrs. Brown's Civics students created outstanding projects titled "What Freedom Means to Me", and their work is now being displayed throughout the school.

We are excited to see our campus come alive with history, creativity, and patriotism as we commemorate this important anniversary.

SOCIAL STUDIES

6th Grade – World History

Sixth grade students are exploring early civilizations and their lasting global impact.

Current Units of Study:

- Mesoamerican Civilizations: Olmec, Zapotec, and Chavín
- Dynastic China
- Major Chinese Contributions:
- The Great Wall, Silk Road trade routes, bronze casting, silk-making, movable type, gunpowder, papermaking, magnetic compass, horse collar, stirrup, civil service system, and The Analects
- Key Historical Figures:
- Shi Huangdi, Wu-ti, Empress Wu, and Cheng Ho
- The Silk Road & Maritime Trade Routes
- The Mongol Empire: Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan
- Chinese Isolation

Students are examining how geography, trade, innovation, and leadership shaped civilizations and continue to influence the modern world.

7th Grade – Civics

Seventh grade students will take their Civics BSA Exam on March 5, 2026. Students have completed all curriculum instruction for the year.

Once scores are released, teachers will analyze data to identify strengths and areas for growth. This targeted review will guide instruction throughout March and April in preparation for the Civics EOC on May 13. Parents: Please encourage your child to regularly review the Civics EOC materials available in their teacher's Canvas review module. Consistent review now will build confidence and ensure success in May.

8th Grade – U.S. History

Eighth grade students are studying the Era of Reform and examining how individuals and movements shaped American society.

Key Reformers:

Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, Horace Mann, Dorothea Dix, Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman

Major Topics:

- The Second Great Awakening (causes, course, and consequences)
- Abolition, women's rights, temperance, education reform, prison reform, and mental health reform
- Charles Finney and the Beecher family
- Women's Suffrage and the Seneca Falls Convention
- The Declaration of Sentiments
- Transcendentalism and reform literature
- The role of slavery in American society, including Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Underground Railroad

Students are analyzing how reform movements expanded democratic ideals and reshaped the nation.

CURRICULUM UPDATES



ART

The art classes have begun preparing for the 250th birthday of the United States by creating prototypes that highlight historic milestones, influential figures, inventions, and innovations. Although this project will continue throughout next school year, we are already seeing the creativity and craftsmanship that is beginning to take shape. Student prototype work will be showcased during the week of April 15th, offering a preview of what promises to be a meaningful and inspiring celebration of our nation's history.

MEDIA

Students have been participating in the Checkout Challenge - they get a rewards card and every time they check books out at the media center they get their reward card stamped. Once they get all the stamps, they bring their completed reward card to Ms. Silva for a prize! A great way to incentivize students to check books out, as 3rd quarter needs a little pick-me-up!

I ♥ BOOKS

BOOK Fair!
MARCH 2ND-6TH
GRAB SOME BOOKS TO READ OVER
SPRING BREAK!



FILM



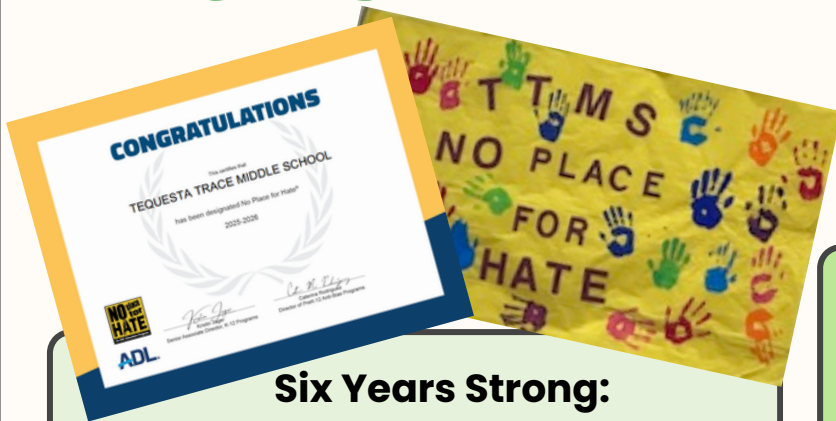
This past month in Film, students have been busy researching and learning about a variety of influential directors and actors. Through this project, students explored important background information, career highlights, major films, awards, and the unique styles that make each filmmaker or performer stand out.

Students organized their research into PowerPoint presentations, practicing digital literacy skills such as slide design, organizing information clearly, and citing sources. They also focused on writing informative content using complete sentences and clear explanations.

In addition to research and technology skills, students were given the opportunity to present their findings to the class. These presentations allowed them to build confidence in public speaking, practice eye contact and clear speech, and engage in thoughtful discussions about film and media careers.

It has been exciting to see students share about actors and directors they admire while developing research, presentation, and media literacy skills. We are proud of their hard work and creativity!

BUZZWORTHY NEWS



Six Years Strong: No Place for Hate®

It is with great pride that we share that TTMS has earned our No Place for Hate® designation for the sixth consecutive year for 2025–2026! This continued recognition reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and welcoming school culture for all.

Thank you to our dedicated teachers, staff, and students who make this possible each year. A special shout-out to Ms. Jasper and her talented Art students, as well as Ms. Love and her Peer Counselors, for their leadership and hard work in ensuring another successful year.

We are proud of this accomplishment and grateful to be part of a community that leads with respect and unity. 🍀



Cougar Creativity Goes Viral! 📱🌐

Congratulations to 7th grader **Vicente Silvero** for being named a finalist in the 2026 NFTE Southeast Social Media Challenge! He is one of just 12 finalists in the Southeast U.S. for a short video he created to promote his business idea, Tueco, a concept

focused on helping eliminate pollution. We are so proud of his creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit!



Congratulations to Our Chess Team! 🏆

Our students proudly represented our school at the District Chess Competition held at Olsen Middle School on Saturday, February 28, earning an impressive fifth-place overall finish. Throughout the competition, the team showcased strong chess skills, strategic thinking, and a deep understanding of the game.

A special congratulations goes to **Khloe Mo**, who earned a trophy after scoring 4 points. Over five challenging rounds, Khloe and her teammates demonstrated outstanding tenacity and resilience, never giving up and consistently supporting one another.

We are incredibly proud of our Chess Team's hard work, sportsmanship, and dedication. Well done!



BUZZWORTHY NEWS



7th Grade Field Trip Success!



Our 7th grade field trip to SeaWorld in February was a tremendous success! We are especially proud to share that our students were recognized by SeaWorld staff for being exceptionally well-behaved, respectful, and outstanding representatives of Tequesta Trace. Their conduct reflected Cougar Pride at its best! Thank you to our teachers, and families for helping make this experience possible.

Oreo Orbit: A Sweet Look at the Phases of the Moon 🌙🌟



Science students recently explored the phases of the moon through a fun and hands-on lab using Oreo cookies. By carefully shaping the cream filling, students modeled each phase of the lunar cycle, helping them better understand how the moon's appearance changes throughout the month. It was a creative and memorable way to bring space science to life!

Day of Service & Love: Helping Our Furry Friends 🐾

Our Civics classes had an incredible turnout supporting the Humane Society of Broward County for the Day of Service and Love. Students donated supplies and spent the day creating handmade cat toys, dog toys, and quilted blankets for the animals.

A special thank you to Lexi Himmel for her great cat toy ideas, Miss Magee's class for making dog toys, and Ms. Jasper and student Hania Husayni for creating a beautiful banner now displayed in the Humane Society's lobby. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this service project such a meaningful success. Congratulations to Carlos Haas, winner of the Amazon gift card! 🌟



Serving with Heart ❤️🍞

For the Day of Love and Service, our Cambridge Club and Peer Counseling students made an incredible 279 bologna and cheese sandwiches for The Caring Place in Miami, providing meals for individuals experiencing homelessness. We are so proud of their compassion and commitment to giving back to our community. The celebration continued with Cambridge Club's bracelet-making and game day, where students enjoyed creativity, connection, and friendly competition. Congratulations to Sebastian Wasilewski, who took home the win in the chess competition! 🏆

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.



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.

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



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