

THE ROAR REPORT: SEPTEMBER EDITION

Climbing Higher & Roaring Louder

754-323-4400



1800 INDIAN TRACE, WESTON



@TTMSPRINCIPAL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/4 SAC Meeting | 8:20AM
- 9/4 PTA Volunteer Breakfast
- 9/9 Q1 Interims Issued
- 9/9 FAST PM 1 – ELA
- 9/10 FAST PM 1 – Math
- 9/10 Soccer (TTMS v. Glades MS)
- 9/11 Heroes' Day
- 9/11 ESOL & ESE Family Night 5:30PM
- 9/12 Picture Day
- 9/15 Soccer (TTMS v. Silver Trail MS)
- 9/16 – 9/18 Basketball Try-Outs
- 9/17 Soccer (TTMS v. Falcon Cove)
- 9/17 – 9/23 Constitution Week
- 9/18 Soccer (TTMS v. Indian Ridge)
- 9/22 – 9/26 Freedom Week
- 9/22 Soccer (TTMS v. Sunrise MS)
- 9/24 Soccer (TTMS v. Walter C. Young MS)
- 9/26 Sixth Grade Dance 6PM
- 9/26 Soccer (TTMS v. Academic Village)
- 9/29 Soccer (TTMS v. New Renaissance)
- 9/30 Soccer (TTMS v. Pioneer)



Strong Start

August was a month full of energy and connection as we kicked off the school year with two successful Open House events on August 21 and 28. Families came out in full force to meet teachers, tour classrooms, and show their support for their students' academic journey. Athletics are already underway, with cross country and soccer tryouts taking place, and volleyball tryouts just around the corner. We are excited to see our student-athletes rise to the challenge, represent Tequesta with pride, and model what it means to Climb Higher and Roar Louder!

As we move into September, our grade-level expectation assemblies have reminded all Cougars of the importance of being Respectful, Organized, Cooperative, and Kind (R.O.C.K.) in everything they do. Students are also reminded daily of the importance of following the school dress code and wearing their ID badges visibly at all times for safety and accountability. Attendance matters, and being present each day is key to academic success. Statewide assessments are quickly approaching, with FAST PM 1 scheduled for September 9 and 10—let's be ready to give it our all! As the fall season begins, we encourage everyone to stay informed by checking our school website and marquee for upcoming announcements and events.

Message from the Principal

Cougars, what an exciting start to the new school year! It has been such a joy to see our halls filled with energy, laughter, and learning as I've had the chance to meet so many of you and welcome you back. Each new year brings new opportunities, and I'm truly looking forward to seeing all that our students will accomplish as we continue to climb higher and roar louder together.

One of the most important things I want every Cougar to remember is to "find your one" here on campus—a trusted adult you can go to when you need support, encouragement, or just someone to listen. At Tequesta, you are never alone, and we're here to help you succeed in every way possible. Let's make this a year full of growth, teamwork, and Cougar pride. I'm excited for the journey ahead and honored to take it with all of you.

— Mr. Rivera



Español | Keyáil Aiyisén | Portuguese

BROWARD
County Public Schools

2025/26 SCHOOL CALENDAR

For an ADA accessible version of this calendar, visit <http://browardschools.com/accessiblecalendar>

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1		1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8			8	9	10	11	12			6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15			15	16	17	18	19			13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22			22	23	24	25	26			20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29			29	30						27	28	29	30	31		
NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							JANUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5				1	2				
10	11	12	13	14			8	9	10	11	12			5	6	7	8	9		
17	18	19	20	21			15	16	17	18	19			12	13	14	15	16		
24	25	26	27	28			22	23	24	25	26			19	20	21	22	23		
							29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6			2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3			
9	10	11	12	13			9	10	11	12	13			6	7	8	9	10		
16	17	18	19	20			16	17	18	19	20			13	14	15	16	17		
23	24	25	26	27			23	24	25	26	27			20	21	22	23	24		
							30	31						27	28	29	30			
MAY							JUNE													
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S							
					1		1	2	3	4	5									
4	5	6	7	8			8	9	10	11	12									
11	12	13	14	15			15	16	17	18	19									
18	19	20	21	22			22	23	24	25	26									
25	26	27	28	29			29	30												

Severe Weather (make-up Days): 10/10/25, 12/19/25, 3/12/26, 5/22/26 & 6/3/26

Cougar Curriculum Corner

Literacy

6th Grade

Our 6th graders are diving into Pax by Sara Pennypacker, a heartfelt story that explores empathy and the unique bond between humans and animals. Students are analyzing the fox's point of view while looking closely at how word choices shape mood and emotion.

7th Grade

In 7th grade, students are reading Ray Bradbury's Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed. This science fiction classic challenges readers to think deeply about change and identity. Through vocabulary study, mood analysis, and group discussions, students are building both comprehension and critical thinking skills.

8th Grade

Our 8th graders are tackling Unit 1: Gadgets and Glitches, where they're exploring the essential question: Does technology improve or control our lives? Through reading, discussion, and hands-on projects, students are examining the role technology plays in shaping the world around them.

Keep the Conversation Going!

Talking about these texts at home helps deepen understanding and makes learning more meaningful.

Upcoming Testing

Students will take the ELA FAST PMI (Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking) on September 9, 2025. Scores will be available in Focus via the Clever Launchpad. Teachers will hold data chats throughout the year to help students understand their progress and set goals. Please discuss the following strategies with your child.

FAST Reading Strategies & Tips
*Go to ffast.org for a practice test and more resources.

Before Reading	During Reading	After Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn the title into a question. Preview pictures, captions, and subtitles. Make a prediction. Do NOT look at the questions BEFORE reading the passage—answers are not directly stated in the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use <u>selective</u> highlighting. (Use the title question as a guide on what to highlight). Take notes (scratch paper or digitally) Visualize and ask questions in your mind. Make more predictions based on clues from the text (Draw conclusions). Monitor your reading (Reread what you don't understand) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use selective highlighting within the questions Use the key words from the question to help locate text evidence Use process of elimination (Strikethrough) Find evidence within the text to support your answer choice. Answer all questions in the passage before moving on to the next passage. An adaptive test uses your answers from the first passage to determine the next level of passage and questions you will receive. Skipped questions count as incorrect answers.

TAKE EACH PROGRESS MONITOR (PM) TEST OF FAST SERIOUSLY

Your PM 1 score determines your starting point for PM 2 and your PM 2 score determines your starting point for PM 3. **This means your score on PM 1 can impact your final score on PM 3!**

Mathematics

We're excited to begin another year of mathematical learning and growth! Our math team is dedicated to helping students build strong problem-solving skills and confidence in their math abilities.

Stay Connected

To support your student's success:

- Check Canvas daily for assignments, class updates, and resources.
- Monitor grades in Focus to stay informed about academic progress.
- Use Savvas resources provided by your child's teacher to reinforce learning at home.
- Reach out to your child's math teacher** with any questions—we're here to help!

Calculator Guidelines

Students are allowed to use calculators in class and while completing homework:

- 6th Grade – Four-function calculator
- 7th & 8th Grade – Scientific calculator

Save the Date: FAST PM 1

Students in grades 6–8 math courses will take the **FAST Progress Monitoring 1 assessment on September 10**. Please ensure your child is present and prepared.

Thank you for partnering with us to make this a successful year in math!



Electives

🔍 Forensics

Students are diving into the History of Forensics and will soon take on their first big project! Working in teams, they'll use deductive reasoning to analyze multiple case files and solve a mystery—like real investigators in action.

💡 Entrepreneurship

Our young entrepreneurs are off to a strong start! They're developing creative business ideas and learning design skills with Adobe Express by making logos and posters. Looking ahead, they'll have chances to enter two competitions in the spring semester.

🎭 Drama / Chorus

In Drama, students are working on a short play and practicing monologues to build their public speaking confidence. Chorus students are busy selecting and evaluating songs for the semester. Advanced Drama is preparing for District competition on November 1st and State competition in Orlando, February 5–7—lots of exciting performances ahead!

🇪🇸 Spanish

¡Qué emoción! The Spanish Club kicks off Thursday, August 28th. Students will boost their vocabulary, reading, and writing skills while enjoying fun activities that celebrate language and culture.

📺 Broadcasting

Our broadcasting students have officially joined their crews and selected their roles! Behind-the-scenes positions include teleprompter, camera, sound, director, and controls, while our outgoing anchors are preparing to shine on screen. Right now, the focus is on teamwork practice, with the goal of a grand debut on our school's morning show, Roar with the Cougars!

📰 Newspaper

In Newspaper, students are exploring the Anatomy of a Newspaper —learning how all the sections fit together. They've also studied news determinants to understand what makes a story truly newsworthy. Up next: selecting article topics for the first edition of our quarterly digital paper, The Paw Print!

🌟 **“THE BEAUTIFUL THING ABOUT LEARNING IS THAT NO ONE CAN TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU.” – B.B. KING**

Cougar Curriculum Corner

Science

Science Morning Review Sessions is open to all 8th Grade Physical Science students, GEARS 2 students, and Biology students and will begin Tuesday, September 16th. Students will receive their permission forms the week of September 2nd from their science teachers. Signed permission forms must be received no later than Monday, September 8th. Sessions will run every Tuesday morning from 8:30 am until 9:00 am. Physical Science students will meet with Ms. Diez and Ms. Magee in R.713, GEARS 2 students will meet with Ms. Cooper in R.712, and Biology students will meet with Mrs. Swinerton in R.714. These sessions are designed to help students review for upcoming assessments and the state end of year tests in science. All students are strongly encouraged to attend.

Science Competition Club

- Hosted by Ms. Diez.
- Informational meeting Monday, September 22nd in R.713 at 8:30 am.
- The club will meet every two weeks in Ms. Diez's room on Mondays at 8:30 am.
- Permission forms will be passed out at that time. Space is limited to the first 30 students who return the completed form.

TTMS FUN FACT

TEQUESTA HAS BEEN AN A RATED SCHOOL FOR 26 CONSECUTIVE YEARS!

Yearbook

Our yearbook class is in full swing building this year's yearbook! Parents can purchase yearbooks and recognition ads for their students on yearbookforever.com. Yearbook ad sales will end the first Week of December, so be sure to purchase one for your 8th grader as soon as possible. We also regularly sell out of yearbooks, so please make sure you buy yours early!

Social Studies

6th Grade World History

Our 6th graders started the year by learning about early human societies and the Agricultural Revolution. This month, they'll begin studying ancient civilizations, starting with Mesopotamia and its many achievements like cuneiform writing and Hammurabi's Code.

7th Grade Civics

In Civics, students are exploring the foundations of our government. They've studied the influences of Greece and Rome and are now diving into important documents like the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights. By mid-September, they'll learn about the Declaration of Independence and how the Constitution was created.

8th Grade U.S. History

Our 8th graders began the year with European exploration and are now focusing on life in the 13 Colonies. They'll be looking at the geography, economy, and culture of each region, while also learning about important colonial leaders and the impact settlement had on Native Americans.

Special Events This Month

Junior Achievement Field Trip (8th Grade) – Students will attend on either October 21, 22, or 23. Permission forms will be coming home soon! Leading up to the trip, 8th graders will participate in career and financial literacy lessons.

Heroes Day – September 11 – Classes will honor and reflect on the service of first responders and heroes.

Constitution Day – September 17 – Students will take part in activities celebrating the importance of the U.S. Constitution.

School Counseling

We trust everyone is settling smoothly into the new school year! Our school counselors have been busy addressing schedule concerns and visiting classrooms to ensure students are in the right courses. Moving forward, any additional schedule changes will be handled through parent-teacher conferences and with administrative approval.

Coming soon, students will be able to sign up for their School Counseling CANVAS page using links posted in the global announcements. This new resource will give students direct access to updates, reminders, and support tools. As always, our doors, phones, emails, and (soon) CANVAS pages are open to both parents and students—we are here to help!

Tips for Success:

- Be on time 🕒
- Be present 🙋
- Do all work 📝
- Ask questions ?

Counselor Assignments

- Ms. Yao – 6th Grade
- Mr. Jones – 7th Grade
- 8th Grade: Mr. Jones (A-L) & Ms. Yao (M-Z)

Chess Club

Chess Club Meeting

- When: Thursday, September 25
- Where: Room 717
- Time: 8:30 AM (Meet at the Cougar Den)

Greetings, Cougars! I'm Ms. Dattoli, and I'm excited to serve as the Chess Advisor for the 2025-26 school year! Our first meeting will be a fun meet-and-greet where we'll also dive into strategies and tips to sharpen your game.

👉 Important Reminder: All students must turn in a signed permission form, and parents will need a pink car pass to enter campus. Don't miss out—we're ready to make this a year full of great moves, smart strategies, and Cougar spirit!

Student Council

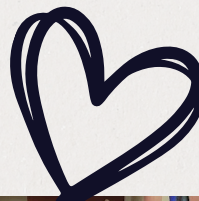
Our Cougar Leaders have been busy making an impact! Members recently attended a leadership training and dinner at West Broward High School, gaining new skills and building connections with fellow student leaders across the district.

To prepare for the Middle School Leadership Workshop at Millennium Collegiate Academy later this month, our club hosted a snack sale to raise funds for the trip—thank you to everyone who supported! In addition, we're raising awareness about recycling and the importance of keeping our campus clean. Partnering with the Art Club, we'll be transforming everyday trash into creative works of art to show how small changes can make a big difference.

CAMPUS BUZZ

Open House Recap

Our Open House nights on August 21 (6th grade) and August 28 (7th & 8th grade) were a huge success! Families filled the halls to meet teachers, explore classrooms, and learn about the exciting year ahead. Thank you to all who joined us in showing Cougar pride and supporting our students' journey to Climb Higher and Roar Louder!



Tips for a Successful Middle School Year

- Be on Time 🕒 – Arriving to class prepared shows responsibility and sets a positive tone for the day.
- Stay Organized 📁 – Use your planner, folders, or digital tools to keep track of homework, tests, and projects.
- Ask for Help 🙋 – Don't be afraid to ask questions or seek support from teachers, counselors, or your "one" on campus.
- Get Involved 🎮🏆 – Join a club, try out for a team, or attend school events to make new friends and build confidence.
- Respect Others 🤝 – Follow our R.O.C.K. expectations: Be Respectful, Organized, Cooperative, and Kind.
- Do Your Work 📝 – Stay on top of assignments and give your best effort every day.
- Take Care of Yourself 💧 – Eat well, get plenty of sleep, and find positive ways to manage stress.
- Be Present Every Day 📖 – Attendance matters! Being in school daily is the first step to success.

Attendance Matters



Regular attendance is a key factor in a child's academic success. Regular attendance is when a student attends more than 95% of the academic school year; this may include up to 8 absences in a 180-day school year.



Cougars, we're off to an amazing start, and the best is yet to come! 🐾 Keep showing up every day with your ID badges, your best effort, and your Cougar pride. Don't forget to check the website and marquee for updates, and let's make this fall a season full of learning, teamwork, and big ROARS! 🐾