

FALLING INTO OCTOBER AT THE TRACE

Climb Higher, Roar Louder

○ 754-323-4400

○ 1800 INDIAN TRACE, WESTON

○ @TTMSPRINCIPAL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/2 NO SCHOOL
- 10/7 SPEECH & DEBATE TOURNAMENT & SCIENCE MORNING REVIEW
- 10/8 CROSS COUNTRY MEET
- 10/10 EARLY RELEASE DAY
- 10/13 NO SCHOOL
- 10/14 2ND QUARTER BEGINS & SCIENCE MORNING REVIEW
- 10/20 TEACHER PLANNING DAY
- 10/20-10/21 JA FIELD TRIP
- 10/21 SCIENCE MORNING REVIEW
- 10/22 GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
- 10/24 COUGAR FUN FIELD DAY
- 10/30 BEGINNING BAND SHOWCASE & SPOOKTACULAR CONCERT



Quarter 2 Begins

Fall is here, and with it comes an important milestone—the end of Quarter 1 on October 10th. This is the perfect time to reflect on your progress, celebrate your successes, and set goals as we begin Quarter 2 on October 14th. We are proud of the way our Cougars continue to climb higher by working hard in their classes, wearing ID badges daily, and staying in dress code.

Students and parents, remember the importance of identifying your one trusted adult on campus. Having that person to turn to makes all the difference. Safety also remains a top priority—if you see something, say something.

Our school counselors are ready to support you both academically and personally. Visit their Canvas pages to connect: Ms. Yao (6th grade), Mr. Jones (7th grade), and Ms. Johnson (8th grade).

Let's build on the momentum from Quarter 1 and make this new quarter even stronger. Together, we'll continue to Climb Higher and Roar Louder!

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			6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4	5	6	7	8			8	9	10	11	12			13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11	12	13	14	15			15	16	17	18	19			20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	19	20	21	22			22	23	24	25	26			27	28	29	30	31		
25	26	27	28	29			29	30												

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
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

- Employee Planning (no school for students)
- Schools and Administrative Offices Closed
- Schools Closed
- Report Cards Issued
- Interim Reports Issued
- Early Release Day
- First and Last Day of School

Message from the Principal

We've had an excellent kick-off to the school year! Our students are settling into routines, rising to the challenge of their classes, and showing what it means to truly Climb Higher and Roar Louder. It has been especially exciting to see our 6th graders transition so smoothly from elementary school into middle school life. Their energy, school spirit, and eagerness to get involved has been inspiring.

A highlight of the first quarter was the 6th Grade Dance—the students showed up in full Cougar pride, had a blast with friends, and made memories that set the tone for a positive year ahead. Thank you for your continued support in making Tequesta a place where students thrive both inside and outside the classroom. Together, we are creating an incredible foundation for success this year.



Your Proud Principal,
Robert Rivera

"Success is where preparation and opportunity meet." - Bobby Unser

Curriculum Corner

Literacy

TeenTober is Here!

October is TeenTober, a special month dedicated to celebrating literacy and encouraging teens to be lifelong readers and library users. Visit our school's website to see all of the events we have planned.

FAST Results Are In!

We are proud to announce that 61% of our students scored a Level 3 or higher on FAST PMI!

- ELA and Reading teachers are using Cougar Tracks (data chats) to help students reflect on their performance, set goals, and track progress.
- ELA Students use Cougar Tracks to monitor FAST and BEST Writing.
- Reading Students use Cougar Tracks to track their growth in HMH Read 180 and NWEA.

ELA Updates

- 6th Grade – Unit 4: Through an Animal's Eyes – Focus on rhetoric and argumentative writing while analyzing texts.
- 7th Grade – Unit 3: The Terror and Wonder of Space – Focus on argumentative text structure and rhetorical devices.
- 8th Grade – Unit 1: Gadgets and Glitches – Focus on structure, argument, rhetoric, and argumentative writing.

Summer Reading Celebration & Fall Challenge

Students who participated in the TTMS 2025 Summer Reading Challenge enjoyed a donut celebration and signed up for the new Fall Cougar Reading Challenge, which started on September 8th. Congratulations to our Top 10 Readers: Giada L., Niha R., Catherine H., Christina H., Sebastian R., Chelsi C., Sofia M., Janaki B., Harmony M., and Mariana C. Visit our school's website for details on reading challenges and upcoming activities.

Cougars who read, lead! 🐾



Mathematics

FAST PMI Results Are In!

We've completed our first round of the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) in Math.

- 46% of students are currently proficient.

This is just the beginning, and we're using this data to adjust instruction and provide targeted support. With your partnership at home, we can continue building both proficiency and confidence in math!

Support Your Child at Home

Parents can view FAST scores and access helpful resources through the Directions for Accessing Scores & Resources (Math) site. This includes:

- How to view your child's scores
- What the scores mean
- Practice tools and activities to strengthen skills

What Are Students Learning in Math This Month?

Here's a look at what each grade level is working on—and ideas for how families can support learning at home:

- Grade 6: Adding, subtracting, and multiplying integers. Practice with real-life examples like tracking temperatures or bank balances.
- Grade 6 Accelerated: Multiplying/dividing integers and rational numbers. Encourage your child to explain their steps out loud.
- GEM 6 Math: Simplifying and evaluating algebraic expressions. Apply concepts to discounts while shopping or adjusting recipes.
- Grade 7: Ratios and proportional relationships. Compare prices or recipes to explore equivalent ratios together.
- Grade 7 Accelerated: Scientific notation and exponents. Use real-world examples like space distances or population data.
- Pre-Algebra: Powers of 10 and scientific notation. Discuss how scientists use these tools to simplify big numbers.
- Algebra: Linear equations (slope-intercept, point-slope, standard form) and parallel/perpendicular lines. Ask your child to show you how to graph a line and explain slope in real-life terms.
- Geometry: Parallel lines, triangle angle sums, and slopes of lines. Use picture frames or floor tiles to spot angles and parallel lines at home.

Together, we can help our Cougars grow stronger in math each day! 🐾🌟

Electives

The Fall Book Fair is coming October 6–10! Students will have the chance to explore and purchase a wide selection of books to inspire their love of reading. In addition, our 6th grade Novel Talk classes visited the media center to learn all about Sora, our digital library system, where they discovered how to check out both eBooks and audiobooks.

Broadcasting

Starting October 6th, Roar with the Cougars—our morning announcements show—will officially begin airing on TV for students and staff to enjoy. Broadcasting students have been working hard all quarter to learn the ins and outs of the equipment, collaborate as a crew, and prepare to deliver the news Cougar-style!

Newspaper

Our Newspaper students are hard at work finalizing their Quarter 1 articles. From planning and interviewing to writing, revising, and formatting, they've been practicing the full journalistic process. The first quarter digital newspaper will be released for viewing in mid-October.

Drama

Our Drama students have been hard at work exploring the stage through a series of small plays. They began with monologues, moved into duets, and are now collaborating in groups of three to four. The enthusiasm and energy they bring to each performance has been inspiring to see! Students are also studying biographies of important theatre moguls, adding depth to their understanding of the art.

Advanced Drama

We're excited to announce that our Advanced Drama students will be participating in Districts on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at Summerset Academy. This will be a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase their talent and represent Tequesta with Cougar pride!

Chorus

Our Chorus students are busy preparing for Family Night on October 9 here at Tequesta, and they are also looking ahead with excitement to hopefully join the Band for a special Christmas 2025 concert. Their voices and hard work are sure to make these performances memorable.

Student Spotlight: Ms. Hazel Lynn Casey

We are proud to recognize Hazel Lynn Casey for her exceptional leadership in Chorus. She took the initiative to conduct vocal tests for both new and returning students, organized and located music materials, and even helped divide the class by vocal talent. Hazel has been a tremendous support to her classmates and to the program, demonstrating maturity, responsibility, and dedication during a challenging time. We are so grateful for her contributions!

**BE PREPARED, NOT BECAUSE YOU
FEAR WHAT'S AHEAD, BUT
BECAUSE YOU'RE READY TO
EMBRACE IT.**



Curriculum Corner Science

Science morning reviews are happening every Tuesday in October. It's a great chance for students to sharpen skills, review key concepts, and ask questions before the school day begins. For details (time, location, and topics), please reach out to Ms. Swinerton.

TTMS FUN FACT

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

Yearbook

Don't miss out on capturing this year's memories! Yearbooks are now available for purchase at www.yearbookforever.com. Parents can also purchase special 8th grade dedication ads to celebrate their students. Secure yours today!

Social Studies

6th Grade World History

This month, students are exploring the earliest civilizations. After studying Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt, classes are moving into units on Judaism/Israelites and India, examining how geography, religion, and culture shaped early societies.

7th Grade Civics

Civics students have just wrapped up their study of the U.S. Constitution (Preamble, separation of powers, checks and balances, and the Federalist vs. Anti-Federalist debates). In October, they will transition into the Legislative and Executive Branches, learning how laws are made and how the President carries out their duties.

➔ **Important:** The Quarter 1 Civics Exam will take place the week of October 6 as a progress monitoring checkpoint. Teachers will review data and adjust instruction to ensure students are on track for success on the Civics End-of-Course (EOC) exam later this year.

8th Grade U.S. History

Students are currently diving into the Causes of the American Revolution—analyzing British policies, colonial protests, and the growing movement toward independence. By mid-October, they will move into the American Revolution itself, covering key figures, battles, and the Declaration of Independence.

➔ 8th Grade Junior Achievement Field Trip

October 21 – Mr. Divine's classes

October 22 – Mr. Hankerson & Mrs. Kroll's 4th Period

October 23 – Mrs. Kroll's 1st, 3rd, and 8th Periods

If you are interested in volunteering on one of the Junior Achievement Field Trip dates, there is still time to sign up. Please reach out to Mrs. Rodriguez at Natalie.M.Rodriguez@browardschools.com.

💡 A Note to Parents

We sincerely thank you for your involvement in your child's academic journey. Your encouragement and support at home make all the difference. We could not do this important work without you!

School Counseling

Our school counselors will be visiting classrooms this quarter to guide students through important Middle School Survival lessons.

Topics include:

- Study Skills
- Middle School Promotion Policy
- Help is Here / Who's Your One?
- Think Before You Post
- Navigating Social & Emotional Challenges
- Habits of a Successful Student

In addition, **School Counselor Canvas pages** are now available for students to enroll in. These pages are a great way to stay connected with grade-level activities, find helpful resources, and have direct contact with your counselor throughout the school year.

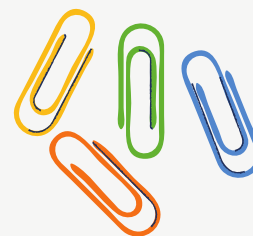
Counselor Assignments

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

Chess Club

Our first Chess Club meeting was a great success! Students from sixth, seventh, and eighth grade came together for exciting matches, strategy-sharing, and plenty of friendly competition. The room buzzed with enthusiasm as students not only sharpened their chess skills but also built new friendships across grade levels.

It was the perfect start to what promises to be a year full of growth, teamwork, and memorable moments. We can't wait to see our Cougars continue to think critically, play strategically, and enjoy the game throughout the year!



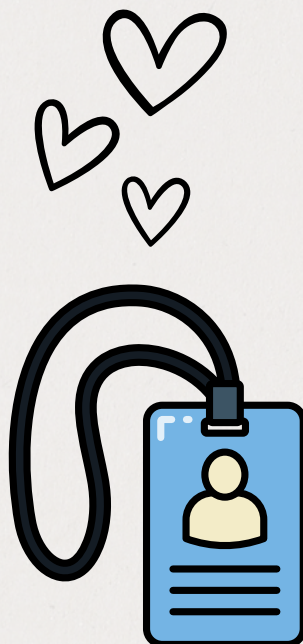
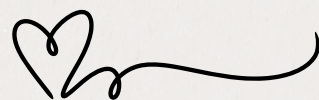
PARENT CORNER

Safety

Safety is EVERYONE'S responsibility! This includes students, staff, parents, and our community so we encourage you to SAY SOMETHING IF YOU SEE SOMETHING! In an emergency, always dial 911. For non-emergency safety or security concerns, please report them through our tip tools; FortifyFL, SaferWatch, email or by contacting our District Security Operations Center at 754-321-0911.



every student must wear a school issued ID Badge daily



The more parents are involved in their children's learning, the more successful their children become.

- U.S. Department of Education



@TTMSPrincipal
@TTMS_APHenry



tequestatracemiddle



Tequesta TRACE Middle School



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

- Pull all the way forward in the parent car loop.
- Bike & scooter riders must wear helmets.

CAMPUS BUZZ

6th Grade Glow Party

The 6th Grade Glow Party was a huge success! Students had a blast dancing, laughing, and making memories with friends. The energy was high, the smiles were bright, and it was the perfect way to celebrate our newest Cougars settling into middle school life. What a fun night! Huge thanks to our PTA for a beautiful evening!



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.



What Middle Schoolers Need

💬 Social & Emotional Growth

- Trusted adults & role models
- Guidance with friendships & peer pressure
- Safe ways to express themselves
- Praise for effort, not just results

Parent Tip: Ask open-ended questions like "What was the best part of your day?"

🏫 School Connections

- Sense of belonging through clubs, sports, & activities
- Leadership opportunities & responsibility
- Clear rules with consistent boundaries

Parent Tip: Encourage your child to join at least one activity beyond the classroom.

Cougars, Quarter 1 is behind us, and Quarter 2 is full of fresh opportunities! 🍁 Keep pushing forward each day with your ID badges, your best effort, and your Cougar pride. Stay tuned to the website and marquee for important updates, and let's make this quarter a season of growth, teamwork, and even louder ROARS! 🐾

CAMPUS BUZZ

Art from the Heart

Tequesta Trace Alumni Raise Thousands for Huntington's Disease Charity

This past month, the national nonprofit Help4HD, an organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by Huntington's Disease, held its annual National Convention at the Bahia Mar Resort on Ft. Lauderdale Beach. A highlight of the evening came from former students of Ms. Jasper's art class at Tequesta Trace Middle School, who once again proved that their creativity extends well beyond the classroom. Alumni Brielle Spease, Mackenzie Fogelman, Valeria Diaz, Sophya Titova, and Diana Cabre contributed 10 original, beautifully framed pieces of artwork that were featured during the Saturday evening program.

The students' art pieces were met with tremendous enthusiasm from attendees, ultimately helping to raise thousands of dollars in support of Help4HD's mission to educate, advocate, and provide resources for those living with Huntington's Disease.

Organizers applauded the generosity of the young artists, emphasizing how much their contributions meant to families affected by the disease. "The students' work was stunning, and the impact it made was extraordinary," said one event representative.

What makes this achievement especially meaningful is that it reflects a lasting tradition at Tequesta Trace Middle School, where students continue to give back to their community long after they graduate. Their participation at the Help4HD convention is just one more example of the school's enduring spirit of service, creativity, and compassion.

The success of the auction was a reminder that even small acts—like sharing a work of art—can create ripples of hope and change for families facing great challenges.



Creativity takes courage.

– Henri Matisse

Test Taking Strategies

Read carefully – Know what each question is asking.

Pace yourself – Don't rush; manage your time.

Eliminate wrong answers – Narrow your choices.

Show your work – Especially for math problems.

Check your answers – Review before submitting.

Stay calm & confident – Take deep breaths and do your best.

