

Tequesta Trace Middle School SAC School Newsletter



Robert Rivera, Principal

FEBRUARY 2024



Important Reminders

Students and parents, be sure to review Policy 5006—Suspensions and Expulsions which outlines consequences of inappropriate behavior. End-of-the-Year field trips are being planned for all grades. Any misbehavior will result in removal from the trip. Please review our discipline plan on our website and the Broward County Code of Conduct for expectations and consequences.

Students are required to wear their student IDs with their picture visible. A \$5.00 OBLIGATION is assessed when a student requires a new ID after the 5th replacement. Obligations can be seen on Virtual Counselor and paid for on the estore.

Scot Piglia - Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship has started competition season. By the end of March students have the opportunity to design their own business and compete against school across the country to see who designs the best business. Competitors submit a short video to judges that explains their business plan.

In Startup Tech, kids have learned how to create 9 different apps so far. They will be working on creating their own app during the 3rd quarter.

Discipline Update

Every minute of the school day is needed for success. When a student is disruptive, it not only takes that student away from being successful, it takes the opportunity away from others in the class.

If your child is disruptive in class, please expect consequences.

Has your child received more than 4 new ID badges? He or she now has an obligation—find it on Virtual Counselor and pay it on the estore on our website.

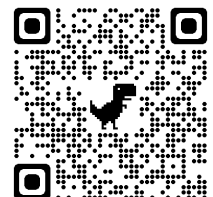
VIDEOING is against School Board Policy.

HALLWAYS are to be used for safe passage between classes—not a race course.

BATHROOMS are for using the appropriate facility—NOT PLAYING AROUND.

FOOD/DRINKS are not to be removed from the cafeteria! Students are creating messes for others to clean up.

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.
<https://getfortifyfl.com/>



School Counseling - Phil Jones

Happy scheduling and matriculation season. Below are some dates to keep track of. All information is available on the school website as well as counselor CANVAS page.

Current 6th and 7th graders received elective course selection cards on 2/5. The scheduling team will met with students through Social Studies classes on 2/15 and 2/16.

A course directory is available on the school website as well as counselor CANVAS pages.

Mathematics - Karen Adams

Our math teachers are continuing to focus on their current standards while reteaching standards that are not yet mastered.

In sixth-grade courses, students are learning how to use percentages to solve problems and use ratios and rates, including unit rates, to solve problems.

Students in 7th-grade courses, students are focusing on understanding probability and geometry. They will determine the likelihood of an event and calculate both theoretical and experimental probability. They will learn that as an experiment is repeated, its experimental probability approaches its theoretical probability. Students exploring geometry will begin with two-dimensional figures and move to three-dimensional figures. Students will study quadrilaterals and composite figures, circles, and scale drawings before exploring how cylinders and prisms are related.

Students in Prealgebra are learning about *functions*, which are mathematical relationships with exactly one output (result) for each input. Students in Algebra are focusing on polynomials. Students will identify the parts and factors of polynomials and understand how to factor trinomials using the greatest common factor, binomial factors, and special patterns. Students will also learn methods to add, subtract, and multiply polynomials.

Students in Geometry will focus on an examination of dilations and similarity transformations. These concepts will then be applied to triangles; students examine the criteria for proving two triangles similar and analyze similarity in right triangles, including applications of the geometric mean. Finally, students consider proportions in triangles.

ESE Department - Jessica Winter

The ESE department is busy with matriculation meetings and collaborating with the scheduling team for our incoming 6th graders. We have also been meeting with incoming parents and providing school tours as requested. The team is also collaborating on current 6th/7th ESE students for scheduling for the upcoming school year. In addition, representatives from the ESE department at Cypress Bay High School will be coming in March to conduct Meet/Greets with some of our matriculating 8th grade ESE students heading to Cypress Bay High School..

Ms. McDonald's Latinos in Action class is partnering with Ms. Curtis' SVE class to work on designing a logo for a T-shirt for Autism Awareness Month. More information on that will be forthcoming. Materials for the Florida Alternative Assessment will be delivered at the end of February for Ms. Curtis to begin one on one testing for students on alternative standards (Access Points Curriculum) in the SVE classroom.

Speech & Debate - Michel ElKhouri

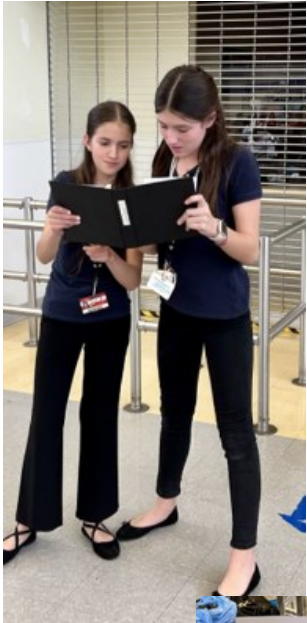
We are proud and excited with our students' performances at our second Speech & Debate tournament held at Cypress Bay High School on February 8, 2024.

Despite numerous logistical and practical difficulties at the venue (It was the 1st time they move the tournament to a different school), the effort and dedication these students have put in for this tournament has translated once again into the great results they have achieved.

We went with **43 students (The 2nd largest team at the event)** and won a total of **7 first place medals** in **4 different speech and debate categories**.

Below are just some of our amazing students who did such an outstanding job representing Tequesta:

- **S. Cedeno & T. Nortman:** Second time competing in a public forum debate; they won both their 1st and 2nd round with a 1st place medal.
- **V. Marquez and G. Daise:** Second time competing in a public forum debate; they won both their 1st and 2nd round with a 1st place medal.
- **D. Kota:** Participating for the 1st time in Lincoln-Douglas debate won both rounds earning her a medal.
- **J. Grom:** came in 1st place in both rounds with an overall ranking of 100 for both rounds in Impromptu earning him a medal.
- **S. Shailesh:** came in 1st place in both rounds trying out a Declamation speech for the 1st time with an overall score of 100 winning her a medal.



Almost all our students were 2 points or less from winning their medals and comparing their results from the last tournament, they all made amazing improvements in their performances, coming in 2nd and 3rd place in the categories they competed in!

It was a great experience once again and couldn't be prouder of this great performance prepared in such little time (due to some last-minute changes this tournament took place just two and half weeks ago from the last one!)

We hope to do our best at next month's tournament on **March 19, 2024!**



Social Worker's Corner

Marnie Chapman-Lang



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. To help your child thrive and be successful, be sure to have your children at school on time each day! Please don't forget to report your child's absences. You can report absences by calling the attendance line at: 754-323-4402, or by using the online format on our website: <https://www.browardschools.com/tequestatrace>. To view the full attendance policy visit, <https://www.browardschools.com/attendance>

As your school social worker, I am always here to help and offer resources that you may need for your children and your family. Please reach out anytime so I can support you! I can be reached by contacting me at 754-323-4400 or email me at marnie.chapman-lang@browardschools.com.

Film - Lauren Rosenkranz

January was a whirlwind of creativity as we delved into the world of stop-motion animation. Using everything from playdough heroes to Barbie villains, students crafted fantastic short films. But the fun didn't stop there! After editing their masterpieces, everyone became a film critic, offering positive feedback and celebrating each other's work.

Our field trip to Disney's Animal Kingdom was more than just seeing amazing animals. On the Immersive Storytelling tour, we went behind the scenes to learn the magic behind creating each land. Cast members shared their insights, and we even got a chance to design our own theme park elements! Talk about inspiration overload!

February brought on the music! We're currently rocking out in our musical unit, creating, and editing our very own music videos. Who knows, maybe you'll see some future superstars in the making!

We welcomed Mr. Cummings, the broadcasting teacher at Cypress Bay, who gave us a sneak peek into the amazing videos his students create for competitions. His visit sparked even more creative energy in our class, inspiring us to push the boundaries of storytelling through video.



Yearbook - Janet McDonald

GREAT JOB, Yearbook students! YOU have accomplished your second deadline and are on target to finish the 2024 book before Spring Break.

Art - Lourdes Jasper

CONGRATULATIONS! to 3 of our Art students who were selected to be showcased in the 2024-25 Superintendent Gallery Showcase on the 10th floor of the KC Wright School Board Building. The Art works will stay on display from April 2024 to April 2025.



D. Cabre
N. Matamales
V. Diaz



Our Day of Service February 14, 2024

The Peer Counselors had SOOO much fun making sandwiches for HOPE South Florida. We were able to make over 140 sandwiches! Special thanks to Jennifer Wilson, for sharing this amazing charitable opportunity for us to participate in.



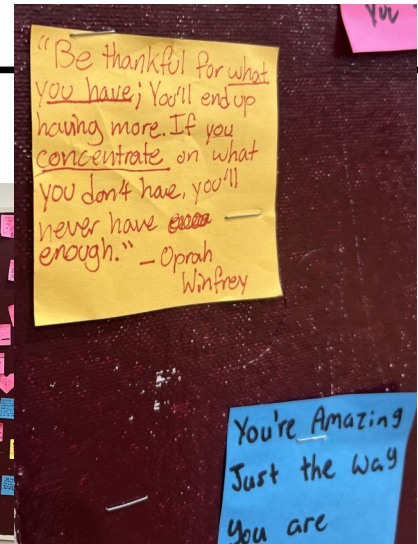
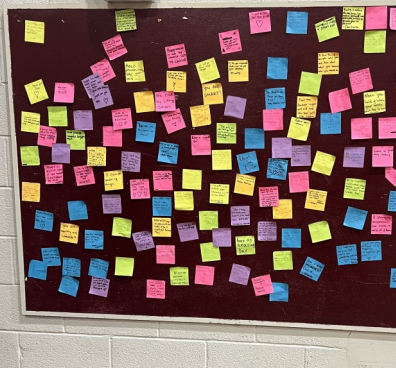
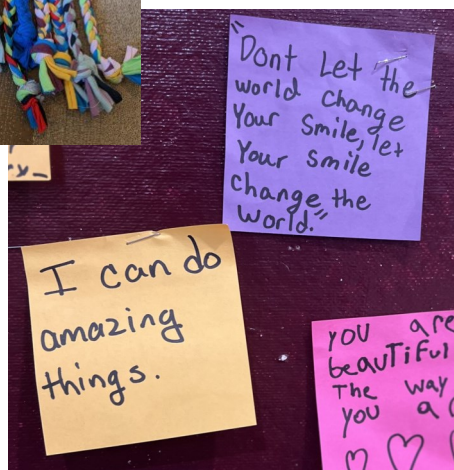
Cambridge students in 6th and 7th grade create care packages for people experiencing homelessness on the day of Service and Love.

The Latinos in Action (LIA) classes are collecting items for the Humane Society the entire month of February. The Service Project is called "For the Love of Animals". The students will be creating toys out of the donated material.

If you would like to donate old towels, sheets, or t-shirts, please contact
Ms. Valeska McDonald



PE students wrote uplifting messages and posted them in the gym.



Congratulations TTMS Troupe 88241

Mrs. Gonzalez really showed up in Orlando! Her 1st year leading our Junior Thespians at the State Festival was a glowing success! Our students won 5 EXCELLENT RATINGS, 5 SUPERIOR RATINGS, and 1 CRITICS' CHOICE which had the honor of performing at the Closing Ceremonies! WAY TO GO TEQUESTA—TROUPE 88241!!!

Social Studies - Natalie Rodriguez

Happy February to all from the Social Studies Department! We are excited to continue educating our students in "all things history."

6th grade World History is exploring MESOAMERICA in their classes, participating in group activities, and working on their literacy skills by using different online platforms.

7th grade Civics have begun their Voting, Elections, and Public Opinion unit. We encourage Civics students to review their Quizlet Vocabulary Canvas Modules at home. We are so proud of our Civics students for outperforming other schools in their District Quarterly Exams. Our E.O.C. is on MAY 15, and we want to ensure all students succeed. We want to thank our Civics parents who have opted to bring their children to Civics Camp on Friday mornings from 8:15-9:00 am. Civics camp students are receiving continuous exposure to Civics EOC Test Prep.

8th grade American History students are currently evaluating the Westward Expansion, the Second Great Awakening, Women's Suffrage, and Transcendentalism.

Latinos in Action - Valeska McDonald

Latinos in Action - This month all LIA classes have been working on celebrating and honoring Black History Month and learning about African American/Black leaders who made a difference in our world. We also collaborated with our Peer Counselors and made cards of appreciation for our current and past military service men and women during our Day of Service on February 14th. Our LIA service project for the month of February is called "For the Love of Animals". LIA students are collecting old towels, sheets and t-shirts and using them to create toys for the animals at the Humane Society. Bring in your donation to room 510; the more donations, the more toys we can make for the animals at Broward Humane Society. Our 8th grade LIA students continue to tutor the students at Country Isles Aftercare program. They are really enjoying being mentors and learning to be great role models.



Life Skills & Wellness - Belinda Daise

Life Skills and Wellness (LSW) fosters life skills that build confidence and support mental and emotional health, enabling students to overcome challenges and thrive as they prepare for the 21st-century workplace. As part of the District's School Improvement Plan (SIP), the LSW initiative promotes whole-child-centered support services, helping students succeed academically while building employability skills and resiliency.



Life Skills and Wellness



Free Parent Accounts



Rethink Ed

In Clever



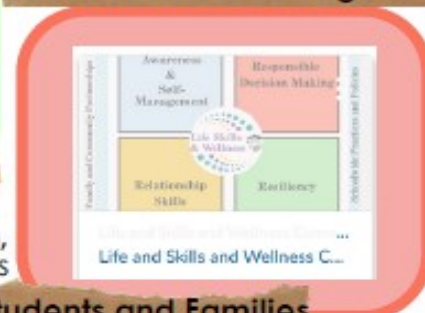
And on Smart Devices

Audio and visual daily, transition, and sound mindfulness practices

Staff



Canvas Resource Pages



Students and Families

Life Skills and Wellness plug and play comprehensive lessons

Marine Science - Debbie McCarraher



On February 7, 2024, forty-eight Marine Science students participated in the first Marine Science field trip of the year. We traveled up to Hobe Sound to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. While visiting the park, students compared a variety of ecosystems and examined the Xeric Scrub ecosystem, hiked on the nature trails, worked in their journals, and observed specific plant adaptations. The students then canoed on the scenic Loxahatchee River exploring the mangroves and discovering the many human impacts that have altered the fragile ecosystem. After lunch, the students departed the park for Jupiter Island. On this barrier island, we explored a coastal ecosystem and observed the geologic formation, Anastasia limestone, also known as blowing rocks. Lastly, we traveled to the Loggerhead Marine Life Center on Juno Beach where students had an opportunity to observe injured and sick sea turtles that are being nursed back to health in hopes of eventually being released back into their natural environment. Students (and chaperones) had a fantastic time, and we all learned a great deal. The trip was a huge success, and we are looking forward to the next field trip to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge on March 15,

