

Tequesta Trace Newsletter

May 2025
Final Newsletter
of the Year



Robert Rivera,
Principal

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Testing Dates
Competition Results
Summer Opportunities You Don't Want to Miss

School Counseling - Phillip Jones

Testing dates:

FAST PM3 ELA - Tuesday, May 6

FAST PM3 SCIENCE/BIOLOGY - Wednesday, May 7

BEST CIVICS - Wednesday, May 14

FAST/BEST MATH Thursday, May 15

Thank you for a great school year. To our 8th graders we wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors. To our 6th and 7th graders we hope you have a great, relaxing, safe Summer.

We look forward to seeing you back in school come August.

As we all know, mental health is 24/7/365. Please know the school board has resources for you and your family if you are in need. Resources can be found by going to Broward School's website under directory - special programs - mental health services or use this link. <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/52426>

Congratulations to Carol Nissen and Reggie Osorio as they both finish over 40 years of service in the education field. Prior to teaching Tequesta Trace students 8th grade science for the last 28 years, Mr. Osorio taught at McNicol Middle and Crystal Lake Middle Schools. Mr. O, as his students call him, has enjoyed the opportunity to reach those students who are "difficult" to reach. He recalls that every year in teaching is different. Not only is he an educator, but also a co-contributor in the creation of a National Geographic Atlas with 70 other science professionals. Reggie hopes to continue his expertise as a consultant with oil companies in South America using space technologies.

Mrs. Nissen began her teaching career in a small school in Gatlinburg, TN, before moving back to South Florida to teach at a small Catholic school in Fort Lauderdale. She began teaching in Broward County Schools in 1994 as a science teacher at Perry Middle School. She pursued her masters' degree and leadership certification to become a 1st year AP at the newly built Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr. Middle School in 2003. Three short years later, Mrs. Nissen was transferred to TTMS as an AP. Serving the Weston community for 19 years has been rewarding for Carol. She has loved seeing her students and families throughout the year excelling and growing. She will be moving to East Tennessee to be closer to family and then travel as she has always wanted.

Both Reggie and Carol wish everyone at TTMS a fond farewell and thanks for the wonderful memories as they finish the 2024-2025 school year.





Science Haikus!

Each year, our science department takes on literacy in the annual haiku writing challenge. We partner with Young American Poetry Digest, and our students write haikus about topics covered in their science classes. We submit the top haikus to the competition. Every year that we participate, TTMS is one of the TOP schools with some of the most chosen for publication in the NATION.

This year, we had 143 student haikus chosen for publication! WOW!

Students will be given permission forms for their parents to complete so their work can be published in this year's Poetry Book.

A big shout out to the science department for their annual participation, especially:

🐾 Ms. Swinerton

🐾 Ms. Shields

🐾 Ms. Magee

🐾 Ms. Himmel

🐾 Ms. McCarraher

🐾 Ms. Diez

🐾 Ms. Cooper

Yes, not just the science classes participated, we had marine science and forensics haikus, too!

Congratulations to L. Forsyth for winning first place in the City of Sunrise "Drop Savers" poster contest! Her poster secured the top spot in the middle school competition.



VICTORIA ALVAREZ was selected to exhibit her art work in NSU ART MUSEUM. TEEN EXHIBITION



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/>

Spanish Competition - Maria Ibarra

Results from the District Spanish Competition at the Sawgrass Springs Middle on Saturday, April 12, 2025, are in!

Tequesta Trace was very well represented. I heard several positive remarks about our students.

Congratulations to the students for their outstanding performances!

Spanish II 8th Grade

Declamation (Poetry)

- S. Flores First Place
- B. Comer Third Place
- T. Kremenik Third Place

Impromptu Speaking

- O. Gonzalez First Place
- A. Gonzalez First Place
- N. Trujillo First Place

Original Skit

- A. Devdas First Place
- D. Rajasekhar First Place
- D. Srinivasan First Place

Talent

- A. Lepervanche Second Place

Posters

- A. Kalia Second Place
- R. Downing Third Place

Project

- J. Cuevas Third Place

Spanish Speakers II - Dual Language

Declamation (Poetry) 8th Grade

- S. Comulada First Place
- S. Gonzalez Second Place
- S. Beveridge Third Place

Impromptu Speaking 8th Grade

- M. Cabreara First Place
- A. Rojas First Place
- S. Arraiz Second Place

Spanish Speakers I - Dual Language

Declamation (Poetry) 7th Grade

- I. Moncada First Place

Impromptu Speaking

- E. Rios First Place
- I. Alfaro Second Place

Entrepreneurship - Scot Piglia

7th grade student, N. Saneholtz, entered the NFTE Southeast Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, and was the only middle school student to advance in the competition in Broward County. She created a company that enables customers to skip the car rental lines and hassles!

Nina made it to the Wild Card Quarter Final Round after 2 competitive ZOOM calls. Her favorite part of her experience was, “The feedback I received from the judges.” How awesome is that?



Nina Saneholtz, Founder and CEO, Tequesta Trace Middle School,
Instagram: @mobile.rental.co, Tik Tok: @mobile.rental



Speech & Debate - Michel El Khouri

Our Speech & Debate students closed out the year with one final mic drop moment 🎤

At our last tournament of the season, our team finished strong, with students from all three grade levels: 6th, 7th, and 8th, delivering passionate, powerful speeches and debates. It's been incredible watching them grow in confidence and skill across this year.

They've worked hard, practiced often, and truly earned their medals.

This past week, we brought home **four 1st-place medals**, bringing our **total medal count for the year to over 40**, a huge testament to our students' dedication and progress this year.

Several students stood out with top finishes in their events:

🏆 A. Varner (Impromptu Speaking) earned 1st place for her sharp thinking and flawless delivery.

🏆 M. Guzman and I. Shetty (Public Forum Debate) secured 1st place with a strong showing throughout the tournament.

🏆 L. Faris (Lincoln-Douglas Debate) achieved 1st place and remains undefeated in consecutive tournaments.

💡 Honorable Mentions:

🌟 A. Mendes and H. Casey (Duo) gave their best performance yet with amazing chemistry and delivery.

🌟 M. He (Informative) placed 2nd overall and continues to impress with her poise and research.

🌟 A. Paul (Informative) delivered a confident and polished speech that earned her a strong finish 3rd place overall.

We are especially grateful to our faculty, teachers, and parents, who supported us with encouragement and plenty of food and snacks (we were never hungry), and especially to Mrs. Jasper, who took from her time to generously judged every single tournament this year.

Thanks for cheering our students on as they grew their voices this year. Your support made this journey possi-



7th grader Victoria Alvarez entered her artwork in the Broward County Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services Poster Contest for National School Breakfast Week 2025! The theme was to get inspired by a fruit and detectives. Victoria created “Detective Pear” using black ink and water-colors who is on a mission to solve the case of the missing breakfast! Victoria accepted her award along with her mom and art teacher, Lourdes Jasper. GREAT JOB!



Congratulations to Ana Hernandez

1st Place ESOL Art Competition



Donate!!

**PAWSOME shelter
supplies!**

There are many animals that could use our help. Many animals have been put in shelters due to harm and such. Take a minute and think, how can you help them out?

We will be collecting donations in room 811 (Mrs. Brown- Civics), April 23rd-May 2nd. All donations will be delivered to the Humane Society to help shelter animals who are waiting for their forever homes.

Here's a list of what you can donate!

- Dog treats
- Cat scratch pads
- Liquid dish/hand soap
- Purell wipes
- Paper towels
- Honey
- Croutons (plain)

Literacy - Kristy Rosario

Literacy Spotlight: Celebrating Reading, History, and Student Creativity!

Students in 6th Grade World History, 7th Grade ELA, and 8th Grade U.S. History recently took part in a poster contest designed to build background knowledge for the novels they are reading in class. A big congratulations to the classes of Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Rodriguez, and Mr. Divine whose creativity and hard work were recognized with a donut party in our outdoor classroom! Be sure to check out the collage of student posters below—our students did an incredible job!

Author Visit: Christina Diaz Gonzalez – May 22

We are thrilled to welcome Christina Diaz Gonzalez, author of *The Red Umbrella*, to our school on May 22. Permission slips were emailed to all parents and also distributed to students by their ELA teachers. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to connect with the author and gain deeper insight into her work.

Guest Speakers Enrich 7th Grade ELA Experience

To complement their reading of *The Red Umbrella*, 7th grade ELA students had the privilege of meeting Miguel Lasaga and Jackie Gonzalez. Mr. Lasaga shared his powerful story as a child during the Pedro Pan Operation, a historical mission that brought over 14,000 unaccompanied minors from Cuba to the United States.

Ms. Gonzalez spoke about her life growing up in Cuba after the Pedro Pan Operation and her journey to the U.S. as a young child. Both speakers offered meaningful, real-world perspectives that brought the novel to life and deepened students' understanding of the historical context.

Reading Challenges: Keep Up the Momentum!

The Master of Minutes Reading Challenge wraps up on May 9. Students should continue logging their minutes on Beanstack until the challenge ends. Also, keep an eye out for the flyer announcing Tequesta's Summer Reading Challenge—a fun way to stay engaged with reading over the summer!



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The ESE department is continuing to hold end of year meetings, as well as matriculation meetings for incoming and outgoing students. The SVE students have completed their one-on-one alternative testing with Ms. Curtis and all documentation has been submitted to the state. The SVE class is also working collaboratively with the Peer Counseling classes to completed student interviews for morning announcements as we culminate our Autism Awareness Month for April activities. It has been a busy and productive year in the ESE department, and we look forward to another successful year ahead as we wrap up our end-of-year activities. Have a great summer!

Latinos in Action - Valeska McDonald

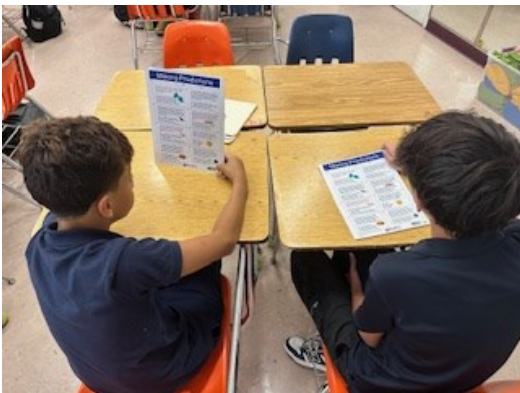
Out of 60 schools that submitted performances, Ms. McDonald's 8th period LIA class- large group dance and Ms. Rodriguez's 5th period class -small group dance were chosen to perform at the LIA Leadership Conference that was held March 7th at FAU in Boca Raton. The Large dance group was chosen as the opening number. During the conference, our LIA students attended courses and were outstanding representatives of TTMS. Tequesta Trace received the highest award of Gold for our commitment to our Master Mind meetings, our school, our community, and to our academic excellence; Gold - two years in a row!

Our LIA students who performed at the conference were also invited to dance for the PTA during their Luncheon. It was our way to show our appreciation for their unwavering support of the LIA program.

All LIA classes have been working on a Create Your Own Country Projects. This project aims to provide a fun and engaging way for students to learn about various aspects of geography, social studies, leadership, and creative expression, and encourages students to think critically about governance, culture, and history while designing their own unique nation. Students create their own country, name the country, and provide geographical, demographic information about their country, along with create their own flag and a map of where their country was located on Earth.

April 29th and 30th will be our last days of Tutoring at Gator Run. It has been a wonderful experience for our LIA students and for the students at Gator Run. We look forward to continuing our Literacy Partnership with Gator Run Elementary. Ms. McDonald's 8th period class continues to provide Literacy Centers that focus on reading comprehension, vocabulary development, math skills, and executive functioning skills.

From our Familia to yours, may the rest of the school year be positive and productive. Have a safe and wonderful summer!



Make us part of your Summer Plans!



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relearning last
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Social Worker's Corner - Marnie Chapman-Lang

Good Day, Tequesta Trace Middle School families, **May is Mental Health Awareness Month** and we want to shine a light on this very important topic. Just as we take care of our physical health, it is important to take great care of our mental health, so that it can be strong and healthy! BCPS has been very proactive to promote this message, encourage taking an active role with suggestions and tips, and provide information on resources.

We invite you to visit our school website and the "mental health corner" to view the monthly calendar and information provided there. This May, #dare2selfcare2025 and make mental health a top priority!

As your school social worker, I offer a variety of support services, including access to food, clothing, uniforms, household essentials, as well as mental health and medical resources. I'm here to help ensure you have what you need to thrive.

I can be reached by contacting me at 754-323-4452, by text- (954) 780-6410, or by email at marnie.chapman-lang@browardschools.com.

Social Studies - Natalie Rodriguez

It's been an amazing journey this year in Social Studies, and our students have truly risen to the challenge!

7th Grade:

Our Civics students are gearing up for their big moment — the **Civics End-of-Course (EOC) Exam on May 14!** We are so proud of the hard work and dedication they've shown. Students have access to a full **Civics Review Module** on Canvas and are encouraged to study a little bit each night leading up to the test.

Here are some quick **study tips** to help them succeed:

- ✓ Review one topic at a time — slow and steady wins the race!
- ✓ Create flashcards for important terms and court cases.
- ✓ Take short breaks to recharge — your brain needs it!
- ✓ Stay positive — confidence makes a big difference!
- ✓ Get a good night's sleep before the big day!

6th Grade:

Our 6th graders have just wrapped up their exciting unit on **Ancient Rome** and are diving into the fascinating world of **Mesoamerican civilizations** — the Maya, Aztec, and Inca! We'll finish the year strong with a fun **American Government unit** to give them a sneak peek into next year's Civics curriculum.

8th Grade:

Our 8th graders are exploring the **causes of the Civil War**, connecting the dots between key historical events that shaped the nation. It's been incredible to see their critical thinking and discussions come to life!

✧ As we wrap up this unforgettable year, we want to wish all of our students and families a **safe, happy, and adventurous summer!** Keep the spirit of Social Studies alive — visit museums, read about history, travel to new places, and most of all, stay curious. History isn't just about the past — it's about understanding the world around us today!

To our wonderful 8th graders — we are so proud of all you have accomplished, and we will truly miss this amazing class! Wishing you all the best as you begin your next exciting chapter!

Thank you for an incredible year. We can't wait to see what next year brings!

With gratitude,

6th Grade Social Studies Team:

Mr. Slamowitz, Mrs. Hernandez

7th Grade Social Studies Team:

Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Forman, Mrs. Rodriguez

8th Grade Social Studies Team:

Mrs. Kroll, Mr. Hankerson, Mr. Divine

Summer Civics Challenge Riddle:

I am not a person, yet I can speak,
Through laws and leaders, my voice you seek.
I can be amended, but only with care,
I balance power to keep things fair.
What am I?

ESOL - Judy Franco

Exciting news from our ESOL classes! On Saturday, April 26, 2025, a group of our outstanding ESOL students participated in The ESOL Academic Competition at Ft. Lauderdale High School. The students proudly brought home the top three prizes along with many other ribbons!

These talented students competed against a diverse and competitive field, demonstrating exceptional language skill, determination, and creativity.

Please join us in congratulating our champions:

- **1st Place:** Art- A. Hernandez
- **1st Place:** A2- overall L. Caraballo
- **1st Place:** B2- overall B. Pinheiro
- **1st Place:** Declamation- D. Yesieieva
- **1st Place:** Impromptu speaking- T. Benavides

Great job to:

W. Briceno Pacheco- red ribbon

N. Molina Junco- blue ribbon

T. Rojas Pulido- red ribbon

S. Abugattas- blue ribbon

V. Delicato- yellow ribbon

E. Meza Acosta- red ribbon

M. Erazo- blue ribbon

S. Molina Nunez- blue ribbon

I would also like to thank Ms. Torres for attending the field trip and Ms. Parra for all of her hard work practicing with the students.

Math - Karen Adams

Algebra & Science Summer Bridge Program

Students who are currently scheduled to enter Algebra 1 next school year were sent an email inviting them to the Algebra & Science Summer Bridge Program. It is designed to help students succeed in Algebra 1 and Science (Biology or Environmental Science) through hands-on, STEM-integrated learning experiences.

This dynamic 16-day program will run from June 23 to July 17, 2025, with face-to-face sessions at Miramar High School.

Students will explore exciting, interactive activities featuring Strawbees and micro-bits, making STEM learning fun and engaging!

Dates: June 23 – July 17, 2025

Duration: 16 days

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Miramar High School

- Who should attend?

- *Rising 8th Grade Students

- Current 7th grade students scheduled for Algebra 1 Honors and Biology Honors in 8th grade.

- *Rising 9th Grade Students

- Current 8th grade students scheduled for Algebra 1 and Environmental Science or Biology in 9th grade.

- Virtual Bridge Option Available

A Virtual Bridge option is also available for students unable to attend in person. Any student scheduled for Algebra 1 (or Honors)

for the 25/26 school year and cannot attend the program in person may have access to the self-paced online content. If you choose this option, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/AlgebraBridge2025> and complete the online request form.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Adams by May 1, 2025, at karen.adams@browardschools.com.

Registration is due May 2, 2025.





SUMMER CAMP ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN!



At the Y, we provide a quality camp experience to the families in our community. Your kids will have a safe place to be themselves as they grow and thrive while being guided through educational, fun and engaging activities.

Camp spaces are still available!
Please stop by one of our YMCAs,
or give us a call at 954-334-9622.

REGISTER TODAY!
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	WEEK 1 6/9 - 6/13	WEEK 2 6/16 - 6/20	WEEK 3 6/23 - 6/27	WEEK 4 6/30 - 7/4*	WEEK 5 7/7 - 7/11	WEEK 6 7/14 - 7/18	WEEK 7 7/21 - 7/25	WEEK 8 7/28 - 8/1	WEEK 9 8/4 - 8/8
THEMES	Aloha Summer	Under the Sea	Scientists	USA	World	Extravaganza	Color Fun	Talent	Highlights
COLORS	Orange	Green	Red	White	Yellow	Grey	Blue	Purple	Pink
CHARACTER WORD	Courage	Responsibility	Caring	Patriotism	Respect	Sportsmanship	Honesty	Leadership	Self-Esteem

CAMP PACKAGES

1 TRADITIONAL DAY CAMP

In-House Camp

Campers will have fun in the sun in our traditional YMCA Day Camp. Each week will feature an exciting camper-run project based on that week's theme. Daily components include arts & crafts, songs, games, YFIT, swimming (where applicable) and character values. Ages 5 - 12 years old.

Deposit - \$25 Per Week

5 Days - ALL 9

Full Day 7AM - 6PM	Half Day 7AM - 1PM
\$250/\$350	\$200/\$270

Gymnastics GREATER HOLLYWOOD YMCA ONLY

Full Day 7AM - 6PM
\$300/\$375

2 LEADERSHIP IN TRAINING CAMP

L.I.T. | In-House Camp

Teens will focus on developing leadership skills, teambuilding and community service projects along with participating in traditional Day Camp activities. Ages 12-15 years old.

Deposit - \$25 Per Week

5 Days - ALL 9 WEEKS

Full Day 7AM - 6PM
\$200/\$270

3 ADVENTURE TRIPPER CAMP*

Traditional Day Camp + Field Trips

Throughout the summer, Campers have fun and with unique opportunities through field trips and special activities including Tiger Tail, Rapids Water Park, Lion Country Safari, and more! Adventure Tripper Camp: Ages 8-12 years old

Deposit - \$50 Per Week

Field trips are subject to change/cancellation.

No refund or prorate as they are an added bonus.

1 Day - WEEKS 2,4,6,8

Full Day 7AM - 6PM
\$320/\$390

For more information:
k.johnson@ymcasouthflorida.org

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