

**Thurgood Marshall  
Middle School**



*Home of the Jaguars!*

**Parent and Student Handbook  
2024-2025**

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Thurgood Marshall Middle School (TMMS)! We hope your summer was relaxing and you are ready for a challenging and productive school year. TMMS is a school that prides itself on advocating for our students, and giving our scholars the tools they need to advocate for themselves.

Our school is named after the legendary Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, who we model our sense of commitment, activism, and service. Our mascot is the Jaguar, which symbolizes confidence, courage and strength. My goal as principal is to create a school environment where all students thrive like our namesake and are confident and courageous like our mascot.

This handbook is designed to give you essential information to keep you informed of schedules and events. Please take some time to review it and become familiar with Policies, Procedures, and the Student Code of Conduct here at Thurgood Marshall. It will answer many of your questions regarding school-wide expectations for success, student opportunities, and provide a calendar with key dates throughout the year. It also provides information regarding administration and staff contact information, bell schedule, community partners, and many other areas that will help you navigate through the many opportunities available at our school.

Many types of communication between the school, families and the community are being used to help keep everyone informed of the many functions and activities at Thurgood Marshall. Please visit our [website](#) for important announcements, athletic request forms and sports schedules, press releases, and more. You can access the district calendar at [RCSD 24-25 Calendar](#), and also find Thurgood Marshall on Instagram and Facebook (links below). In addition, we encourage you to sign up for the PowerSchool Portal (<https://www.rcsdk12.org/Page/54155>) to review your child's academic progress and attendance on a regular basis. You can follow the tutorial on this page to sign up, and if you need assistance with getting connected, please contact our Home/School Assistant, Alexis Mouzon at ext 1190 or [AlexisMouzon@rcsdk12.org](mailto:AlexisMouzon@rcsdk12.org).

It is truly a pleasure to have you as part of our community, and we look forward to our continued partnership. We are eager to begin the school year and have you as part of our Jaguar family!

Sincerely,



Nakia Burrows

Principal, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

Please follow us on Social Media - click the links below and start FOLLOWING us!



# Table of Contents

If you are viewing this handbook digitally, click on the section below to link directly to the page, or activate the outline in the upper left corner to easily navigate through the handbook.

## Dear Students and Families

### Table of Contents

<b>Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>About Us</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Administrator, Counseling Directory, &amp; Full Staff Directory</b>	<b>3-5</b>
<b>Thurgood Marshall's Bell Schedule</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Thurgood Marshall's Community School Resources</b>	<b>7-10</b>
<b>Clubs, Activities, &amp; Athletics</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Student PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports)</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Important Calendar Dates 2023-24</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Parent Involvement and Communications</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Homework and Grading</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Summer School</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Work Permits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Guidance, Counseling &amp; Specialized Services Offered</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>What Does It Take To Graduate?</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Important Policies</b>	<b>18</b>
Thurgood Marshall's DRESS CODE:	18
CELL PHONE POLICY:	18
<b>Supply List and Technology</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<b>21-22</b>
<b>School Spirit</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Student Conduct</b>	<b>24-25</b>
<b>School Bus Behavioral Policy</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>In School Suspension</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Academic Integrity</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>What to Do and Where to Go If You:</b>	<b>28</b>

# Mission, Vision, and Values

## Our Mission

Promoting academic scholarship and critical consciousness to empower scholars to create a world that helps them achieve success; creating a school community that develops leaders committed to creating a more equitable & inclusive society.

## Our Vision

Justice, Access, & Growth for every student. Every day!

**School Colors:** Green, gold, black

**Green**=hope

**Gold**=success

**Black**=power

## Our Mascot: Jaguar

Jaguars play an important role in maintaining the structure and function of the ecosystems they inhabit. As top predators; they're confident and balanced. And they roar!



## Our Core Values: “JAG”

In order to achieve our mission, we have three core values to help define our “JAG.”

- **J**ustice: We believe in creating a world that is fair and just. We hold ourselves accountable for promoting fairness and identifying injustice where it occurs. It is our core belief that all students can achieve and are expected to at high levels. Rigorous literacy (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) is paramount to deepen students' critical thinking in order to begin to take action. Our teachers set high expectations, use culturally engaging curriculum and differentiate instruction and support all learners.
- **A**ccess & Advocacy: We each have equitable access to opportunities regardless of human ability and experience. By intentionally providing access to all opportunities for our middle school students, True Justice will be able to harness the incredible talents of our school community. This is accomplished through collaboration, accountability, and advocacy. Our students are required to transform their communities through service learning projects and community service. Under our model of collaboration, joint responsibility is key to student success.

- **Growth:** We have growth mindsets. We believe that we can improve and work every day to learn something new. Under this philosophy, we embrace character development, focused on teaching our students to be compassionate, courageous, confident and balanced (like the Jaguar!).

## Expeditionary Learning at TMMS

EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning) is expanding the definition of student achievement in diverse communities across the country. EL creates great public schools where they are needed most, inspiring teachers and students to achieve more than they thought possible. Through multi-year partnerships, EL Education provides schools and districts implementing specific parts or its full model across all [Core Practices](#) with a coordinated set of resources and support to ensure sustained implementation and results.

This year at TMMS, staff members and students will focus on CREW (community building & character education) and implementing the EL curriculum in ELA classes. This curriculum will empower our students to show mastery application of their learning, think critically, and communicate effectively. These skills will help our students continue being lifelong learners and be productive members of society.

**EL Education Frameworks: Core Practices, Three Dimensions of Student Achievement (3DSA), Continuous Improvement for Equity (CI4E)**



Educators implement EL Education Core Practices with the support of coaching, professional learning, progress monitoring tools, and educator resources.



Students across identity groups succeed in three dimensions, demonstrating mastery of knowledge & skills, character & high quality work.

# About Us

Thurgood Marshall Middle School (TMMS) is a new middle school in Rochester, New York that prides itself on advocating for our students, and giving our scholars the tools they need to advocate for themselves. Our school is named after the legendary Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, who we model our sense of commitment, activism, and service. Our goal is to create a school environment where all students will thrive like our namesake & build confidence & courage like our mascot, the Jaguar!

**School Motto:** *It's All Good at Thurgood!*      **School Mascot:** Jaguar      **School Colors:** Green, Black, Gold

## School Demographics

- **Student to teacher ratio:** 1:24
- **Grade Levels:** 7 & 8
- **Start/End Time:** 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- **Transportation:** Yellow Bus

## Fun Facts

- Our school is named after Thurgood Marshall, the legendary Supreme Court Justice who outlawed segregation in schools. His legacy is paramount in the pursuit of racial justice.
- TMMS is an Expeditionary Learning school, with a strong emphasis on Rochester's rich history as the foundation of curriculum & instruction. TMMS maintains a social justice focus to enhance this philosophy.

## School Contact Information

Thurgood Marshall Middle School  
4115 Lake Ave, Rochester, NY 14612  
Main: 585.663.7070, Fax: 585.935.7438

## Programs and Services

- English Language Learners: Yes
- Honors/Enrichment Classes: Yes
- Early Literacy Program: Yes
- Chorus & Band: Yes
- On-Site Health Center: Yes
- Sports: Yes
- Clubs & After School Activities: Yes
- **Special Courses/Programs:** Student Voice Program & Curriculum, Crew & Expeditionary Learning, Lexia Reading Inventory, 8th grade capstone project & annual Washington trip to visit historic attractions, including the Thurgood Marshall memorial and Howard University (where Marshall studied law)



## People to Know

**Principal**—Nakia Burrows

**Assistant Principals**—Carey Belair (Truth/Legacy Houses), Willam Hucks (Supreme/Justice Houses)

**Athletic Director**—Ashley Pierce

**Parent Connections**—Alexis Mouzon

**Lead School Security Officer (SSO)**—Ronnie Crawford

**School Nurse**—Amanda Hastings

**Associate Director of Special Education**—Marissa Nicholson

**Board Liaison & School Chief**—Commissioner Isaiah Santiago & Chief Donna Lucy-Lender





# Our House System

At Thurgood Marshall Middle School, each student and staff member proudly belongs to one of our four Houses: Justice, Truth, Supreme or Legacy. Students are placed in Houses according to their grade-level and students from all Houses work together during the school year, building upon traits of each House.

House activities and assemblies (town halls) are spirited and filled with fun competition. Students earn points for participating in House events and also for modeling our school values. House events include contests and challenges, themed field trips, competitions, and games.

House names are aligned with our namesake, Thurgood Marshall, and all align to traits that he modeled and stood for. Houses are also affiliated with a color that is representative of the values that will be highlighted in House activities and expectations. Those colors are **green** (hope & rebirth), **gold** (sophistication & success), **purple** (royalty & creativity) and **blue** (peace & inspiration). At the school's 1st townhall of the year, TMMS hosts a "reveal party," in which each student receives a House t-shirt, representative of the House they have been inducted into. Students are expected to wear their House t-shirt on school spirit days and when our students are in the community on field trips or completing service learning activities.

Each year, one House is awarded the Casa Cup!

<i>Justice House</i>	<i>Truth House</i>	<i>Legacy House</i>	<i>Supreme House</i>
			
<b>Grade Level: 7</b>	<b>Grade Level: 7</b>	<b>Grade Level: 8</b>	<b>Grade Level: 8</b>
Motto: "Justice for All"	Motto: "Speak Your Truth"	Motto: "Live, Love, Legacy"	Motto: "Success, Nothing Less"
House Color: Green	House Color: Blue	House Color: Purple	House Color: Gold
Value: Action	Value: Student Voice	Value: Advocacy	Value: Growth

## Why Houses Are Important

By creating smaller, more connected communities within the broader school community, students have a built-in place where they belong. Working together as a team and to gain points means that students must recognize and encourage each member's talents and abilities. Once a student is placed (or sorted) into a House, he/she becomes a part of a little family that will become his/her support network to reach specific goals. This can be extremely positive for new students or those struggling to fit in—because a sense of belonging can have a tremendous impact on a child's happiness, identity, and even academic engagement.



# Leadership and Counseling Directory

We are eager to serve you and your child! Your satisfaction is our school's highest priority, so we hope you will contact us with any questions or concerns. You can find our administrator and counselor info here, and our full staff directory on our school's website.



**NAKIA BURROWS, PRINCIPAL**

[NAKIA.BURROWS@RCSDK12.ORG](mailto:NAKIA.BURROWS@RCSDK12.ORG)

(585) 324-9273 ext 1024



**WILLIAM HUCKS, 7TH & 8TH GRADE ADMIN**

**SUPREME AND JUSTICE HOUSES**

[WILLIAM.HUCKS@RCSDK12.ORG](mailto:WILLIAM.HUCKS@RCSDK12.ORG)

(585) 663-7070 EXT 2320



**CAREY BELAIR, 7TH & 8TH GRADE ADMIN**

**LEGACY & TRUTH HOUSES**

[CAREY.BELAIR@RCSDK12.ORG](mailto:CAREY.BELAIR@RCSDK12.ORG)

(585) 663-7070 EXT 3211



**ASHLEY PIERCE, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

[ASHLEY.PIERCE@RCSDK12.ORG](mailto:ASHLEY.PIERCE@RCSDK12.ORG)

(585) 738-7783



**MARISSA NICHOLSON, COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

[MARISSA.NICHOLSON@RCSDK12.ORG](mailto:MARISSA.NICHOLSON@RCSDK12.ORG)

(585) 663-7070 EXT 1013



**TBD, 7TH & 8TH GRADE SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

**SUPREME & JUSTICE HOUSES**

**(585) 663-7070 EXT 2431**

**ADELEINA RUFA, 7TH & 8TH GRADE SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

**TRUTH & LEGACY HOUSES**

**[ADELEINA.RUFA@RCSDK12.ORG](mailto:ADELEINA.RUFA@RCSDK12.ORG)**

**(585) 663-7070 EXT 3011**

**NICOLE REED, ELA COACH/INTERVENTION**

**[NICOLE.REED@RCSDK12.ORG](mailto:NICOLE.REED@RCSDK12.ORG)**

**(585) 663-7070 EXT 1080**

**JENNIFER FLANAGAN, MATH COACH/INTERVENTION**

**[JENNIFER.FLANAGAN@RCSDK12.ORG](mailto:JENNIFER.FLANAGAN@RCSDK12.ORG)**

**(585) 663-7070 EXT 1080**

**DALE SCHAMBACK, STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATOR**

**[DALE.SCHAMBACK@RCSDK12.ORG](mailto:DALE.SCHAMBACK@RCSDK12.ORG)**

**(585) 663-7070 EXT 1013**

**RACHEL HILDRETH, READING INTERVENTION**

**[RACHEL.HILDRETH@RCSDK12.ORG](mailto:RACHEL.HILDRETH@RCSDK12.ORG)**

**(585) 663-7070 EXT 2080**

# Full Staff Directory

(To E-mail Faculty: First Name.Last Name@RCSDK12.org)

## ADMINISTRATION

**BURROWS, NAKIA**

*PRINCIPAL*

**BELAIR, CAREY**

*7TH/8TH GRADE (LEGACY/TRUTH)*

**HUCKS, WILLIAM**

*7TH/8TH GRADE (SUPREME/JUSTICE)*

**NICHOLSON, MARISSA**

*SPECIAL ED DIRECTOR*

**PIERCE, ASHLEY**

*ATHLETIC DIRECTOR*

## FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

**CARLETTA, JOSEPH (ART)**

**DASHER, SARAH (MUSIC)**

**ROWLINSON, JOSHUA (MUSIC)**

**PEDELTY, MATTHEW (MUSIC)**

## ATHLETICS

**PIERCE, ASHLEY**

## BUSINESS/TECH DEPARTMENT

**BAIN, ROSALIND**

**WILLIAMS, CORNICE**

## CAFETERIA SERVICES

**BOOKER, COURTNEY**

## CLERICAL SUPPORT

**DOHENY, JUSTIN**

**MUNOZ, NILDA**

**TAYLOR, KATHY**

## COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

**SEWERA, MsTHOMAS**

## CUSTODIAL CARE

**GATES, CHARLES AND TEAM**

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

**CARDILLI, BRIAN**

**EL-BEJJANI, COLLEEN**

**ELLIOTT, KRISTINE**

**ELLSWORTH, JESSICA**

**HABES, JUAN**

**MILTSCH, TARA**

**MURPHY, CHRISTOPHER**

**RODRIGUEZ, YVONNE**

## FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE

**VACANT POSITION**

## ESOL DEPARTMENT

**BECK, KASEY**

**CAPUANO, ANDREW**

**NOWAK, NICOLE**

**REFICI, EMILY**

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

**CAMPS, ROBERTO**

**ESTRELLA, ROSA**

**HAGENAH, JOHN**

## HEALTH

**CARTER, RICHARD**

## INSTRUCTIONAL TECH (IT)

**PRIOR, REGINALD**

## LIBRARIAN

**GARIGEN, LISA**

## MATH DEPARTMENT

**DiNOTTIA, CHARLES**

**GRAHAM, TONETTE**

**O'CONNOR, NICOLE**

**RIVAS, SABRINA**

**RODRIGUEZ, REYNEIR**

**STORRIN, KRISTINA**

**THOMAS, TINA**

## PARENT CONNECTIONS

**MOUZON, ALEXIS**

## PHYSICAL ED DEPARTMENT

**HERRING, JAQUON**

**PRYCE, TANISHA**

## PSYCHOLOGIST

**FAGEN, LENA**

## READING

**HILDRETH, RACHEL**

## REGISTRAR

**BAXTER, RACHEL**

## RELATED SERVICES

**ASHFORD, KRISTIN (VISION SUPPORT)**

**ESCOS, ANDREA (PT)**

**HART, SARAH (ASD SPECIALIST)**

**RENNOLDSON, MOIRA**

**(MOBILITY)**

**SCHAEDEL, ANDREA (MUSIC THERAPY)**

**WEISS, LORIE(OT)**

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

**FAUGH, ELENOR**

**LODICO, ALEXIS**

**PEREZ, JENNIFER**

**THORNTON, MARENDA**

## SCHOOL NURSE

**HASTINGS, AMANDA**

## SECURITY

**CRAWFORD, RONNIE (LEAD)**

**BLAIR, TERRANCE**

**FELDER, JOHN**

**HUNTLEY, TYTIANA**

**LARKIN, MYKAEL**

**PETERSON, MICHAEL**

**TWILLIE, ALEXIS**

## SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

**BASS, DOUGLAS**

**CAVAGNARO-CALCAGNO, CHRISTINA**

**FARLEY, BENJAMIN**

**KELLY, SEAN**

**MEYERS, SAMANTHA**

**ROSA, GILBERT**

**YAEGER, MEGHAN**

## SOCIAL WORK

**GOODSON, SAMANTHA**

## SPEECH

**DiMARTINO-ODAI, MICHELLE NANNA, BRIDGET**

## SUPPORT STAFF, OPERATIONS

**HENDERSON, MICHAEL**

**MARSHALL, JAMAL**

## TEACHERS ON ASSIGNMENT

**FLANAGAN, JENNIFER**

**REED, NICOLE**

**SCHAMBACK, DALE**

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS

**ANDERSON, KAYSCIA**

**BOGMIS, LAURIE**

**CAMERCHIOLI-WHALEY, DEBRA**

**FLAGLER, LaFONDA**

**LINDSEY, JAHEJIA**

**MCGILL, KASSADY**

**THACKER, ALEXIS**

## THERAPY DOGS

**"GINO"**

**"VIOLET"**

## IN-HOUSE AGENCY

### CONNECTIONS

**CENTER FOR YOUTH (HELP ZONE)**

**HEALTH CENTER**

**HILLSIDE**

**IN CONTROL (IN HEALTH CLASSES)**



## Thurgood Marshall Bell Schedule

### Thurgood Marshall Bell Schedule

Supreme & Justice		Truth & Legacy	
1	7:30-8:30	1	7:30-8:30
2	8:02 - 8:49	2	8:02 - 8:49
3	8:53 - 9:40	3	8:53 - 9:40
4	9:44 -10:31	4	9:44 -10:31
5L	10:35 -11:05	5	10:35 - 11:22
6	11:09 -11:56	6L	11:26 - 11:56
7	12:00 -12:47	7	12:00 -12:47
8	12:51 - 1:38	8	12:51 - 1:38
9	1:42 - 2:30	9	1:42 - 2:30

# Thurgood Marshall Community Resources

**Thurgood Marshall Middle School is not a community school, but we follow the community school model.** Our school and community partnerships/resources are strategically organized to interrupt failure and increase academic successes for students.

Core instructional practices, expanded learning time, comprehensive health services with collaboration from parents, students, school personnel and the community are essential components of our model.

## **Pathways to Peace**

***Pathways to Peace** makes a comprehensive effort to safeguard the lives of youth, decrease potentially violent situations, and help them get on a track to a better life.*

*How to access this service: Pathways is stationed at the Charlotte Campus in room 311. They help facilitate mediations to resolve disputes and are on call daily to mediate community conflicts.*

## **The Center For Youth**

***The Center for Youth** provides a full range services to families and youth including crisis intervention, mentoring and conflict resolution. The Center for Youth provides social-emotional and behavioral support for all grade-levels and is instrumental in restorative practice delivery.*

*How to access this service: CFY is stationed at the Charlotte Campus in rooms 241 and 311. They help facilitate mediations to resolve disputes and support TMMS' help zones.*

## **Rochester General Health Center**

***Rochester General Health Center** provides a full functioning doctor's office. Students are able to receive physical and mental health support.*

*How to access this service: The Health Center is located in room 25.*

## Clubs, Activities, & Athletics

### THURGOOD MARSHALL SPORTS OFFERINGS



#### FALL

MODIFIED FOOTBALL	BOYS
MODIFIED SOCCER	BOYS, GIRLS
MODIFIED VOLLEYBALL	BOYS, GIRLS
MODIFIED CROSS COUNTRY	BOYS, GIRLS

#### WINTER

MODIFIED BASKETBALL- WINTER 1	BOYS (2 TEAMS)
MODIFIED BASKETBALL- WINTER 2	GIRLS (2 TEAMS)
MODIFIED SWIMMING	COED

#### SPRING

MODIFIED BASEBALL	BOYS
MODIFIED SOFTBALL	GIRLS
MODIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL	GIRLS
MODIFIED TRACK	BOYS, GIRLS

New clubs and extracurricular activities will start for the 2024-25 school year based on student interest and commitment starting in September!

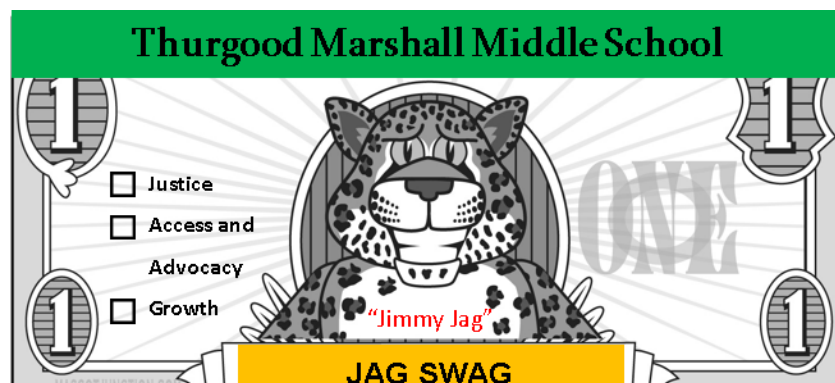
## “JAG SWAG”: Positive Behavior Incentive System

JAG SWAG (“Jimmy Jag” Bucks) are used to recognize students right away who demonstrate our school values of Justice, Access & Advocacy & Growth:

- ★ Challenging themselves & striving for excellence (Justice)
- ★ Embracing new things; welcoming & affirming other cultures (Justice)
- ★ Advocating & using their voice for improvement and change (Access/Advocacy)
- ★ Random or extraordinary acts of kindness (Access/Advocacy)
- ★ Prioritizing learning; participating, attending school regularly (Access/Advocacy)
- ★ Consistent effort over time to follow the Code of Conduct (Growth)
- ★ Significant self- improvements (Growth)
- ★ Meeting stated goals/expectations(Growth)


Students have options to use their JAG SWAG immediately or to save them for something they are looking forward to (thus also helping them learn important life skills). They have opportunities to spend their JAG SWAG on weekly items, as well as longer term goals like admission into a special monthly activity or to purchase items at the School Store.

Students are encouraged throughout their school day to demonstrate the behaviors that are expected within the Code of Conduct. More often, students are praised and verbally recognized and appreciated for their actions rather than given a tangible reward. This promotes students to become motivated more by the internal feeling of doing the right thing (and the positive attention they will receive) than the external feeling of "getting something out of it." Students know that they may be rewarded for certain actions, but not always. Further, they are constantly being taught that they should do the right thing, not because of the possibility of a reward, but because of the sense of pride they will feel at knowing they did a good deed (and the good feeling it gives to those who receive the goodness of those deeds.)



Our mascot, “Jimmy Jag” will make frequent appearances to celebrate student success and progress!

# Important Calendar Dates 2024-25

<p><b><u>Jaguar Monthly Themes</u></b></p> <p><b>September</b>—Community  <b>October</b>—Perseverance  <b>November</b>—Advocacy  <b>December</b>—Caring  <b>January</b>—Responsibility  <b>February</b>—Access &amp; Opportunity  <b>March</b>—Growth  <b>April</b>—Integrity  <b>May</b>—Respect  <b>June</b>—Social Justice</p> <p><b><u>Student Voice</u></b></p> <p><b>Kickoff Event</b>—October 17th  <b>Student Voice Showcase</b>—May (TBD)</p> <p>*Students meet monthly for planning &amp; execution.</p>	<p><b><u>Special Recognition</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Back to School Bash!</b>—August 30th</li> <li>• <b>Hispanic Heritage Month</b>—Sept 15th-Oct 15th</li> <li>• <b>Breast Cancer Month Kickoff</b>—October 4th</li> <li>• <b>Grade-Level Retreats</b>—October (TBD)</li> <li>• <b>Lifetouch Picture Day</b>—October 23rd</li> <li>• <b>Diabetes Awareness Month</b>—November</li> <li>• <b>Black History Month Celebration</b>—February 28th</li> <li>• <b>Voice Jam/Talent Showcase</b>—February 28th</li> <li>• <b>Social Justice Spirit Week</b>—starts February 10th</li> <li>• <b>Women's History Month</b>—March</li> <li>• <b>Academic Banquet</b>—May (TBD)</li> <li>• <b>Mental Health Awareness Month</b>—May</li> <li>• <b>Middle School Ball</b>—TBD</li> <li>• <b>Sports Banquet</b>—TBD</li> <li>• <b>Moving Up Ceremony</b>—June 20th</li> <li>• <b>Field Day</b>—June 25th</li> </ul>																				
<p><b><u>PTO Parent Events</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open House</b>—Sept 18th</li> <li>• <b>Parent Teacher Conferences</b>—Oct 17th</li> <li>• <b>Holiday Bingo Night</b>—Nov 21st</li> <li>• <b>Holiday Bash</b>—Dec 19th</li> <li>• <b>Athletic Banquet</b>—TBD</li> <li>• <b>Student Voice Showcase</b>—May 23rd</li> <li>• <b>Sports Banquet</b>—TBD</li> <li>• <b>PTO/Parent Voice Dates:</b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Half Days</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 25th</b></li> <li>• <b>December 6th</b></li> <li>• <b>March 14th</b></li> <li>• <b>May 22nd</b></li> </ul>																				
<p><b><u>School-based Planning Team Meetings</u></b></p> <table> <tr> <td>September 17</td><td>February 25</td></tr> <tr> <td>October 15</td><td>March 18</td></tr> <tr> <td>November 19</td><td>April 22</td></tr> <tr> <td>December 17</td><td>May 20</td></tr> <tr> <td>January 21</td><td></td></tr> </table>	September 17	February 25	October 15	March 18	November 19	April 22	December 17	May 20	January 21		<p><b><u>Building Committee Meetings</u></b></p> <table> <tr> <td>September 13</td><td>February 14</td></tr> <tr> <td>October 11</td><td>March 6</td></tr> <tr> <td>November 8</td><td>April 10</td></tr> <tr> <td>December 6</td><td>May 8</td></tr> <tr> <td>January 10</td><td>June 12</td></tr> </table>	September 13	February 14	October 11	March 6	November 8	April 10	December 6	May 8	January 10	June 12
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December 6	May 8																				
January 10	June 12																				
<p><b><u>Testing Dates</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 7th-11th: 8th Grade Science</li> <li>• April 29th-May 1st: 7th &amp; 8th grade ELA</li> <li>• May 7th-9th: 7th &amp; 8th Grade Math</li> <li>• June TBD: Alg, Living Env &amp; Span exams</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Marking Period End Dates &amp; Progress Reporting</u></b></p> <p>October 7 —5 week progress report mailed to home address  November 8—Marking Period 1 Ends  December 23—5 week progress report mailed to home address  January 31—Marking Period 2 Ends  March 10—5 week progress report mailed to home address  April 18—Marking Period 3 Ends  May 19—5 week progress report mailed to home address  June 25—Marking Period 4 Ends</p> 																				

You can also access the Rochester City School District's calendar here: [2024-25 RCSD Calendar](#)



# Parent Involvement and Communications

## Parent Conferences

Formal school-wide parent/teacher conferences are scheduled two times per school year to facilitate open communication between parents and teachers regarding students' progress. Refer to the school calendar for specific dates. Upon request, individual conferences can be scheduled with school personnel.

## School Visitation and Meetings

Guardians wanting to visit classrooms are encouraged to follow our visitor protocol, which requires guardians to notify classroom teachers in advance of visitation (at least 24 hours notice). Our visitor's policy also encourages guardians to contact the main office upon arriving to the school for a conference or meeting with staff so as to keep disruptions to a minimum and to respect pre-arranged meetings, duties and obligations that school staff may have assigned. Visits and meetings with staff are restricted to guardians or authorized representatives only.

## Parent Connect

Keeping on top of your student's grades/attendance is highly recommended. Please sign up for Parent Connect on the Rochester City School's website:

<https://www.rcsdk12.org/Page/54155>

On this page you will find a video tutorial of how to sign up, and if you have any questions, please feel free to call (585) 663-7070 and ask for Alexis Mouzon at ext 1190.

## Progress Reports & Report Cards

Progress reports will be mailed to parents every 5 weeks to provide specific information about student progress in each subject. At the end of each semester, parents will receive report cards with cumulative data on their children's performance and progress. Report cards are mailed home every 10 weeks.

## Parent Voice

Thurgood Marshall Middle School is looking to establish a Parent Voice group (formerly known as PTO). The objective of Parent Voice is build capacity amongst our parents and guardians, providing them with necessary resources and training, to act as partners as we collectively develop student leaders to transform their communities. Parent Voice is a collaborative partnership between parents, teachers, administrators, other school faculty members, students and community partners. Through events, activities, seminars and other meaningful experiences, our Parent Voice program will be able to provide a number of opportunities for TMMS students and families.

## Get Involved!

To become involved in Parent Voice, speak with Alexis Mouzon, Home School Assistant. She is located in our Parent Center (119) and can also be reached at

[Alexis.Young@rcsdk12.org](mailto:Alexis.Young@rcsdk12.org) or (585) 663-7070 ext 1190.

# Homework

Homework provides excellent opportunities for developing good study habits and encouraging self-initiative on the part of the student. Parents and the school share the responsibility for student learning. Parents can assist their children with homework by:

- Providing a study area free of distractions and with good lighting
- Asking questions about the content of student homework
- Allowing the student do his or her own work
- Creating a “homework habit” at the same time each night

TMMS believes that parental involvement in students’ homework is essential to making homework an integral part of the educational program. Parents should encourage and monitor homework assignments. When a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to make up missed assignments.

Student achievement shall be based on the degree of mastery of the instructional objectives determined in the curriculum guides for each course. The following grading system will be in place. Grades are determined by measures of performance in four areas with the following weights:.

Grading Criteria	Weight (%)	Requirements
Participation	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student production, student engagement, group work, independent work</li> </ul>
Classwork	35%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classwork and full participation are required in ALL classes. Examples of classwork include but are not limited to: Do nows/exit tickets, journal entries, classroom activities, etc.</li> </ul>
Assessment	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tests/quizzes, projects, cumulative demonstration of mastery</li> </ul>
Homework	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework must be completed timely and accurately.</li> </ul>

## Summer School Enrichment

Summer school is a voluntary opportunity for middle school students. Summer school is not guaranteed for all students and is often times based on attendance and behavior throughout the year. School counselors are instrumental in the summer school enrichment registration process. Registration often takes place in April for July and August programming.

## Work Permits

Application forms for work permits may be obtained from the main office or school counseling office. Work permits will be issued only after applications are complete. Students must attach an updated physical and birth certificate as a part of the application.



## **Guidance, Counseling & Specialized Services Offered**

<p><b>Academic Advisement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7th-8th grade Parent Night</li> <li>• Cohort tracking, 7th-8th grade</li> <li>• New students/transition support</li> <li>• Course selection and programming</li> <li>• Schedule changes for conflicts and errors</li> <li>• Academic Advisement</li> <li>• Academic status check</li> <li>• Honor Roll Recognition</li> <li>• Attendance support</li> </ul>	<p><b>Personal Counseling &amp; Enrichment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual &amp; group counseling</li> <li>• Crisis Intervention counseling</li> <li>• Referrals to agency partners and other services</li> <li>• Conflict resolution and violence prevention</li> <li>• Academic progress reports</li> <li>• Agency Referrals (MTSS process)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Post Secondary Counseling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College exposure activities</li> <li>• Monthly college/career presentations</li> <li>• Classroom presentations</li> <li>• Field trips and college visitations</li> <li>• SchoolLinks</li> <li>• Work Permits</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specialized TMMS Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CREW/Advisory</li> <li>• 2nd floor and 3rd floor restorative centers (help zones)</li> <li>• 8th grade capstone project</li> <li>• Student Voice</li> </ul>

## What Does It Take To Graduate?

Most middle school students do not take credit-bearing courses. However, students enrolled in honors 8th grade courses are on track to earn 1, 2 or 3 high school credits, based on the courses they are enrolled in. At TMMS, 8th grade students have the opportunity to take Algebra I, Living Environment or Spanish IC, all accelerated courses worth 1 credit each if students pass the course and corresponding exam. New York State graduation requirements are detailed below.

Subject Area	Regents Diploma	Advanced Regents
English	4 credits	4 credits
Soc Studies	4 credits	4 credits
Math	3 credits	3+ credits
Science	3 credits	3+ credits
Foreign Language	1 credit	3 credits
Physical Education	2 credits	2 credits
Health	.5 credits	.5 credits
Fine Arts	1 credit	1 credit
Electives	3.5 credits	3.5 credits
<b>Credits and Regents</b>	<b>22 credits</b> <b>5 exams</b>	<b>26+ credits</b> <b>9 exams</b>

A total of 22 credits is required for each Diploma in the areas referenced above. The Advanced Diploma encourages additional years of math, science and electives, and requires additional years of Foreign Language.

**Regents Exams:** In addition to credits, students must pass 5 specific regents exams in order to graduate. The traditional pathway includes the passing of the English exam, US History Exam, Global II exam, one regents science exam, and one regents math exam. Other pathways include using an additional math or science exam to substitute for one social studies exam, or pursuing the CTE or CDOS pathway to substitute for a social studies exam. Students with special needs may have other options with regard to regents testing. Regents testing administrations take place in January, June and August. There are no makeup testing for regents exams. Students missing a scheduled exam will need to sit for the test during the next testing administration.

**The Advanced Diploma** also requires a passing score in the Geometry and Algebra II exams, an additional science regents exam, and the Checkpoint B exam.

# Important Policies

## Thurgood Marshall's DRESS CODE:

DRESS CODE Standards (from RCSD's Code of Conduct): All persons are expected to give proper attention to personal hygiene and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. When on school property or at a school function, a person's dress, grooming and appearance, including jewelry, make-up and nails, must:

- Cover buttocks, stomach/midriff and chest.
- Not include clothing, headgear or jewelry that is associated with or identifiable as a symbol of gang membership.
- Be void of abusive, suggestive or profane language; symbols of illegal substances; or any other words, symbols or slogans that disrupt the learning environment or deny dignity or respect to others.
- Include shoes, which are to be worn at all times for health and safety reasons.

## CELL PHONE POLICY:

Cell phones are valuable and important communicative devices in today's world. However, use of cell phones during the instructional day seriously impedes and distracts students from the learning process. Cell phone usage has contributed greatly to major disturbances, acts of violence and bullying, as well as victimization that have jeopardized safety and security for students, staff and families. In addition, we have found that cell phone usage impacts the learning that is critical for our students to be college and career ready. As a true collaborative learning community, safety and security is our number one priority, both inside and outside of school. In order to preserve a high quality teaching and learning environment, Thurgood Marshall maintains a cell phone policy that requires students to turn in their cell phones as a part of the scanning process. Students are to turn off cell phones completely (not on vibrate) upon entry into the building and then surrender their cell phones to the appropriate collection bin at scanning. Cell phone bin collection is organized by the student's last period class. Cell phones are placed in the student's individualized padded envelope, which has a picture of the student, full name and grade level, and cell phone bins are locked and secured throughout the day. Consequences for violating the cell phone policy are below:

- **1st violation: Verbal warning.** Students are provided with reminders of the policy to turn in cell phones each day upon entry into the building. Turning in cell phones is also a part of the scanning process. There will be an ample amount of time to turn over cell phones before walking through the metal detector. If a student is caught with a cell phone, after reminders are given upon entry into the building, this violation will escalate to Violation 2.
- **2nd violation – Parent/Guardian Collection**
- **3rd violation – Parent/Guardian Collection and Lunch Detention.** Refusal to serve lunch detention will automatically lead to 4th Violation (Suspension).
- **4th violation – Suspension.** If a student's violation escalates to this level, that means that:
  - ◆ The student has been made aware of the cell phone policy.
  - ◆ The student has been reminded upon entry to surrender their cell phone
  - ◆ The student refused the reminder to surrender their phone into the appropriate collection bin
  - ◆ The student's phone was confiscated for violating the policy
  - ◆ The student again violated the policy by having the phone confiscated for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time
  - ◆ The student refused lunch detention
- **Violation 4 results in suspension for 1 day.** It is the expectation that the student will adhere to school rules and return after suspension prepared to turn in their cell phone with no infractions. This is in adherence to the code of conduct (insubordination, misbehavior in non-instructional areas, inciting or participating in a disturbance).

# Supply List and Technology



## 2024-25 General Supply List

- Bookbag
- 6-8 folders (one for every class to be used as a HW/ take home folder)
- Loose leaf paper
- 2-3 one subject Notebooks
- Pens and Pencils
- Pencil pouch
- Ruler
- Personal hand sanitizer
- *Optional but useful to have*- index cards, scissors, glue stick, post-its, colored pencils, markers, highlighter, locker organizer & accessories

### Textbooks, Supplies, and Laptops

Thurgood Marshall Middle School furnishes textbooks and instructional materials that remain school property. Students will be assigned textbooks as needed in classes. All of our classrooms are equipped with a classroom set of chromebook carts, so students will have access to internet technology throughout the day in each classroom. In addition to chromebooks, students should come to school prepared each day with supplies identified for each class (ie: pens, pencils, highlighters, folders, etc.). A supply list is communicated to families each year at the end of summer, and supplies are provided to families at our Welcome to School Bash in August.

### Lockers

Lockers are assigned to each student for the purpose of storing books, materials, coats etc. Lockers remain the exclusive property of the school and students should have no expectation of privacy with respect to lockers. Students assume full responsibility for the contents of their lockers. To reduce lost and stolen items, students should not share lockers with others.



# Attendance

## Tardiness

Instruction at TMMS begins **promptly at 7:30 a.m.**, and it is critical that all students be prepared to begin instruction on time. Students may enter the building beginning at 7:00 a.m. A student who is late misses valuable instructional time.

## Hall Sweeps

At Thurgood Marshall Middle School, as in the employment world, we expect our students to be on time to school and to class. Late arrivals disrupt the learning atmosphere for all students in the classroom. Students have 4 minutes to transition between classes, which is more than enough time to get to class on time. TMMS conducts hall sweeps to help maximize each student's instructional learning time as well as improving the overall school climate and safety. During the hall sweep, all students in the hall after the bell rings will be escorted to the hall sweep location, where they will be signed in and asked to wait for an escort to class. Hall sweeps will take place daily to keep halls clear and safe, and to ensure that all students are in class and accounted for. With everyone's cooperation, the Hall Sweep Program will reduce absenteeism, misbehavior in common areas, and free up teachers' time to concentrate on instruction with minimal distractions. Repeat instances of tardiness will result in lunch detention, loss of privilege, parent meeting and/or suspension.

## Leaving School Early

If, for any reason, it is necessary for a student to leave the building during the regular school day, he/she must bring a written excuse from his/her parent/guardian to the main office before leaving the building. The note should specify the student's name, date, time, reason for leaving and whether or not the student will be returning to school.

# Health and Safety

Students' health and safety is the school's foremost concern. The following information describes the precautions taken to protect the well-being of all students. If your child has any specific health, safety, or security needs, please inform the school so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

The Health Center coordinates the delivery of health services to students. The school nurse administers first aid for accidents and emergencies occurring at school, assesses each student who comes into the office with an illness, dispenses medications and performs all screenings listed below. A student who feels ill during the school day should report to the Health Center with a signed pass from their teacher. Between periods, students should check in with the upcoming teacher and bring a pass. After an assessment is made, the student will either return to class, be allowed to lie down as required or the parent or guardian will be contacted. If the student needs to be dismissed from school, the nurse must speak with the parent or guardian to confirm plans for dismissal and to convey any pertinent medical information. Students may be picked up by a parent, a parent designee or be given permission to leave the campus.

## Medication

The Health Center must be informed of any **prescription medication** that a student is required to take at school. To dispense prescription medication to students, the school must receive a written order from the student's doctor and a consent form completed by the guardian. All medication must be brought to the office in its original prescription container, labeled with the student's name, the name of the medication, the date of expiration, and the proper dosage.

**Non-prescription medications:** If, during the course of the school day, it is necessary for a student to receive common, non-prescription medication (e.g., Tylenol), the parent/guardian must have consent on file with the Health Center. Parents/guardians must inform the school of any allergies to or restrictions on non-prescription medication that their children might have. Parents/guardians are required to notify us in writing if their child has a chronic illness that may affect his or her performance at school.

**Sports Certification Requirements:** Students who wish to participate in sports must have an updated physical exam, good for 12 months, on file in the Health Center. The parent and student must also register for Athletics using Family ID for each sport season in which he/she participates.

## Accidents

The Health Center will administer initial treatments of minor injuries. The student's emergency contact will be notified immediately by phone whenever medical treatment is administered to a student, and an Incident Report will be kept in the student's permanent file. In such cases, it is especially crucial that the school has working phone numbers for students' parents and for alternate contacts in the event that a parent is unavailable. Please be vigilant in keeping the school's records for your child up-to-date.

## **Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)**

The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) provides all public school students with an environment free from discrimination and harassment and fosters civility in public schools. The Dignity Act states that no student shall be subjected to harassment, discrimination, bullying or cyberbullying by employees or students based on their actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender/gender identity on school property, at a school function or off school property. Students are encouraged to report any violation of the aforementioned instances to school administration. The TMMS DASA Coordinator is Dale Schamback, located in room 101.

## **Fire Drills/Evacuations**

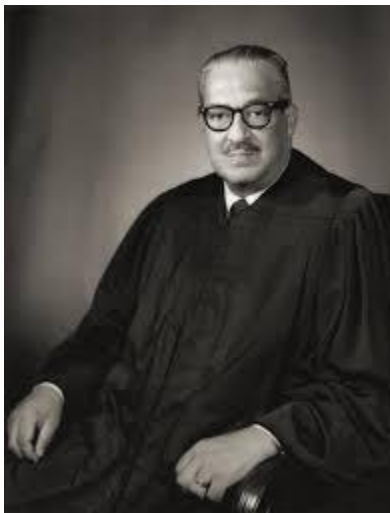
RCSD schools are required to have a total of 12 fire drills during the year. Specific signals and procedures have been established for all types of disaster drills, and safety areas have been designated. Staff members are equipped with instructions, and all drills will be practiced with students throughout the year.



## School Spirit

TMMS takes pride in celebrating “Jag Swag” and recognizing improvement amongst our scholars. We also make it a priority at TMMS to host at least one major incentive activity or spirit event each month. See page 12, our School Calendar, for major planned events. Our traditional events include:

- ❖ Back to School Bash
- ❖ Breast Cancer Walk
- ❖ Honor Roll Celebration (3 times a year)
- ❖ Attendance Recognition (each month)
- ❖ Red Nose Day (campaign to end childhood poverty)
- ❖ Spirit Days (twice a year)
- ❖ Grade-level Retreats (off campus, 1 for each grade level)
- ❖ Black History Talent Showcase
- ❖ Voice Jam (Student Voice presentation)
- ❖ Mental Health Day
- ❖ Awards Banquet
- ❖ Field Day
- ❖ Annual Family Day (Darien Lake or similar)
- ❖ Sports/Athletic Banquet
- ❖ Pep Rally
- ❖ 8th Grade Capstone Project
- ❖ Community service learning/volunteering and fundraising
- ❖ Student of the Month
- ❖ Jag Swagger of the Year (staff and student)



# Student Conduct

In addition to the expectations described in the *RCSD's Code of Conduct*, the following rules apply in every classroom and throughout the school with the following theme:

## **JAG Expectations:**



Helping your child meet these expectations will facilitate the creation of a safe and orderly learning environment. In addition, TMMS classrooms follow the 4C's as a progressive discipline measure.

1. **Conversation** with the student.
  - a. This dialogue may lead to further discussion, action or referral for services/support (ie: counselor, social worker, MTSS referral, etc.)
2. **Contact** with the guardian. Be sure to document contact and resolution in attend actions
3. **Classroom consequence** (writing assignment, loss of pass/privileges, detention, etc.)
4. **Consult** with administration. A discipline referral should be submitted only after contact is made with the family and classroom interventions have been attempted.

TMMS is grounded in Restorative Practices, which means that we are responsive and empowering-focused on fostering a sense of community within classrooms to prevent conflict and encourage students to accept responsibility and rebuild relationships. To support this, TMMS has:

- 2 Help Zones ("The Den"), staffed with trained professionals in conflict resolution and crisis intervention
- 2 social workers, 2 school counselors, 1 full time psychologist
- Agency partners equipped to mediate and respond to conflict and crises (Center for Youth, Pathways to Peace) and provide mentoring and social emotional supports

- A newly constructed meditation space (built by students!)
- Several therapy dogs with an animal-themed calming space (room 223)
- A fully operating Health Center that provides wrap around services, medication and counseling



# **School Bus Behavior Policy**

## **Safe Bus Riding**

Students at TMMS are expected to conduct themselves according to the *Code of Conduct* to practice such virtues as being respectful, responsible, and safe, in all school settings—including on the bus. Following school rules on the bus is essential not only for developing good character, but for ensuring students' safety. *TMMS students ride the yellow bus to and from school.*

Appropriate behavior among students while being transported on the bus is fundamental to safety. Disruptive behavior on the bus has an effect on every student's safety. The most dangerous aspect of unruly behavior is the distraction it causes to the bus driver, whose main focus is concentrating on traffic and traffic conditions, not on discipline. Any behavior that causes the driver to shift their attention from traffic to discipline will not be tolerated. Safe student transportation for all students is our goal. Please note that students presenting behavioral misconduct on the bus will be subject to disciplinary action, which may result in termination of bus transport to and from school. RTS reserves the right to issue consequences according to their procedural safeguards. When the forfeiture of bus transportation privileges has occurred, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to transport the student to and from school.

## **Specific Rules for Students while on the School Bus:**

1. When boarding a bus, students should go directly to their seats and be seated.
2. All students must conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times.
3. Students are not to move around while the bus is in motion.
4. Students should not extend any part of their body out of the bus window at any time.
5. Loud talking, throwing of objects, or any other act to distract the attention of the driver will not be allowed.
6. Drugs are prohibited on the bus.
7. Writing, cutting, scratching, or defacing the interior or exterior of the bus is prohibited.
8. Students are to keep the bus clean. Paper or trash should not be left on the floor. The bus driver is responsible for cleanliness and ventilation of the bus.
9. Students cannot bring anything on the bus that would keep another student from having a place to sit or that would block the aisle or door of the bus.
10. Drivers are interested in student welfare, comfort and safety.



## In School Suspension (ISS)

- Students are assigned to ISS by an administrator and can serve for a portion of the day or for the full day's duration.
- Students are expected to have materials with them when they arrive to the ISS room at the beginning of the day.
- Cell phones need to be turned in to the ISS Supervisor at the beginning of the day.
- Any student who refuses to turn in their cell phone, will move to OSS for the remainder of that day and the following day.
- No food or drink is permitted in ISS except during the designated lunchtime. Students who do not bring lunch with them will be escorted to the cafeteria to obtain lunch.
- Students are to remain quiet and in their assigned seats. They are to communicate with the ISS supervisor only.
- Students are expected to engage in academic activities only. Students are not allowed to put their heads down or to sleep.
- Students who are assigned to ISS for the school day are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities the same day.
- Students who are disruptive and/or uncooperative in ISS will be subject to additional disciplinary consequences including additional ISS day(s) and/or Out-of-School Suspension.

## Academic Integrity

Part of our school's job is to encourage students to demonstrate honesty in their dealings with others. Honesty helps create dignity and pride and is valued by our society. Violations of academic honesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Giving or copying exam questions or answers, homework, seminar assignments, lab reports, etc.
- Changing data on labs
- Plagiarism – According to Black's Law Dictionary, "Plagiarism is the act of appropriating (taking) the literary composition of another, or parts of passages of his/her writings or the idea or language of the same and passing them off as the product of one's own mind". In other words, do not copy any word or idea, in part or whole, from anyone.
- A pattern of absences on days when tests, deadlines or classroom auditions are scheduled.

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is a serious offense. If a student is unclear about the proper method of documenting sources, he/she/they is urged to seek the help of a faculty member to ensure proper procedures. Violation on Regents exams is subject to State Education Law.

- First Offense - Receive a zero for the assignment and parent notified.
- Additional Offenses - Receive a zero for the assignment and parent meeting with Administration

## What to Do and Where to Go If You:

- Have been **absent**- take your note from parent/guardian to the main office with a pass!
- Interested in **alternative programs** (Saturday School, Recess Bootcamps)-see your School Counselor
- Want to report an infraction, such as **bullying**-see your administrator
- Have an issue with your **class schedule**-see your School Counselor
- Want information on **clubs**-find out who the club advisor is and see him/her directly
- Need to update your family's **contact information**-proof of address must be provided to the main office
- **Feeling down** and need to speak to someone-visit the Help Zone (241 or 311), see your School Counselor, or see your Social Worker
- **Feeling sick**-visit the Health Center
- Have questions or concerns about your **grade(s)**-speak with your teacher of record for that respective class, but for more general conversation about all of your grades, see your School Counselor
- Are **homeless** and need resources and support-visit the Parent Center, room 119
- Lost **your ID** or need to pick up an ID-go to the Jaguar Business Center (room 101)
- Want to purchase **Jaguar gear**-go to the Parent Center, room 119
- Interested in getting a **job/employment**-see your School Counselor
- **Lost or found** something-go to Jaguar Business Center (101)
- Have a question related to your **medication**-visit the Health Center
- Lost your **school I.D.**-go to the main office to sign up for a replacement
- Want to sign up for **sports**-see the coach of the sport you are interested in, or see Ms. Pierce in room 139.
- Need to have a **restorative conversation** with someone-visit the Help Zone (241 or 311) to schedule a mediation
- Need a bookback, hygiene items or other **supplies**-visit the Parent Center, room 119
- Having issues with **transportation**-go to the Jaguar Business Center (room 101)
- Want to see one of our **therapy dogs**-they often stop in room 223, the Safari Calming Room
- Need a **work permit**-applications are available in the main office or with your School Counselor

