

**Thurgood Marshall
Middle School**



Home of the Jaguars!

**Parent and Student Handbook
2025-2026**

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Thurgood Marshall Middle School (TMMS)! We hope your summer was relaxing and you are ready for a 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 ([RCSD Calendar 2025-26](#)), 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.

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!



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Dear Students and Families

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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 for deepening students' critical thinking and enabling them to take action. Our teachers set high expectations, use culturally engaging curriculum, and differentiate instruction to 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 of their learning, think critically, and communicate effectively. These skills will help our students continue to be 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, including Unified sports
- 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—Christopher Corey

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 the 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 with 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>
			
Grade Level: 7	Grade Level: 7	Grade Level: 8	Grade Level: 8
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 gaining 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 become 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

(585) 324-9273 ext 1024



WILLIAM HUCKS, 7TH & 8TH GRADE ADMIN

SUPREME AND JUSTICE HOUSES

WILLIAM.HUCKS@RCSDK12.ORG

(585) 663-7070 EXT 2320



CAREY BELAIR, 7TH & 8TH GRADE ADMIN

LEGACY & TRUTH HOUSES

CAREY.BELAIR@RCSDK12.ORG

(585) 663-7070 EXT 3211



CHRIS COREY, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

CHRISTOPHER.COREY@RCSDK12.ORG

(585) 738-7783 EXT 1039



MARISSA NICHOLSON, COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

MARISSA.NICHOLSON@RCSDK12.ORG

(585) 663-7070 EXT 1013



McTHOMAS SEWERA, 7TH & 8TH GRADE SCHOOL COUNSELOR
SUPREME & JUSTICE HOUSES

McTHOMAS.SEWERA@RCSDK12.ORG

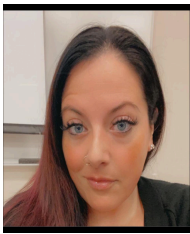
(585) 663-7070 EXT 2431



NANETTE DUKES, 7TH & 8TH GRADE SCHOOL COUNSELOR
TRUTH & LEGACY HOUSES

NANETTE.DUKES@RCSDK12.ORG

(585) 663-7070 EXT 3190



NICOLE REED, ELA COACH/INTERVENTION

NICOLE.REED@RCSDK12.ORG

(585) 663-7070 EXT 3011



TONETTE GRAHAM, MATH COACH/INTERVENTION

TONETTE.GRAHAM@RCSDK12.ORG

(585) 663-7070 EXT 2431



DALE SCHAMBACK, STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATOR

DALE.SCHAMBACK@RCSDK12.ORG

(585) 663-7070 EXT 1013



RACHEL HILDRETH, READING INTERVENTION

RACHEL.HILDRETH@RCSDK12.ORG

(585) 663-7070 EXT 4013

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
COREY, CHRISTOPHER
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

CARLETTA, JOSEPH (ART)
DASHER, SARAH (MUSIC)
PEDELT, MATTHEW (MUSIC)
GWENDOLYN ASHFORD (ART)

ATHLETICS

COREY, CHRISTOPHER

BUSINESS/TECH DEPARTMENT

BAIN, ROSALIND (TECH)
WILLIAMS, CORNICE (TECH)
DUVAL, KAYLA (BUSINESS)

CAFETERIA SERVICES

BOOKER, COURTNEY

CLERICAL SUPPORT

GARCIA-ADKINS, MAYRA
DOHENY, JUSTIN
TAYLOR, KATHY

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

DUKES, NANETTE
SEWERA, MStHOMAS

CUSTODIAL CARE

GATES, CHARLES AND TEAM

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

CARDILLI, BRIAN
EL-BEJJANI, COLLEEN
ELLSWORTH, JESSICA
GUNDA, MARIYA
HABES, JUAN
JOHNSON, MICHAEL
MILTSCH, TARA
MURPHY, CHRISTOPHER
RODRIGUEZ, YVONNE

ENRICHMENT/SUPPORT SERVICES

AGOSTO, DAVID
GONZALEZ, JOSEPH
HILDRETH, RACHEL
STEPHENS, CHYNA

FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE

CRONMILLER, DAWN
ROGERS, DEBRA

ESOL DEPARTMENT

BECK, KASEY
CAPUANO, ANDREW
REFICI, EMILY
ZINGARO, JENNIFER

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

CAMPS, ROBERTO
ESTRELLA, ROSA
HAGENAH, JOHN

HEALTH

CARTER, RICHARD
INGRASSIA, VICTOR

INSTRUCTIONAL TECH (IT)

PRIOR, REGINALD

LIBRARIAN

GARIGEN, LISA

MATH DEPARTMENT

DiNOTTIA, CHARLES
DUDLEY, AMY
LENGYEL, JASON
RIVAS, SABRINA
RODRIGUEZ, REYNEIR
THOMAS, TINA
VALACHOVIC, AARON
WALKER, ROSALIND

PARA PROFESSIONALS

BLAIR, DENESHA
WRIGHT, DAMEIN

PARENT CONNECTIONS

MOUZON, ALEXIS

PHYSICAL ED DEPARTMENT

HERRING, JAQUON
PRYCE, TANISHA
SPECHT, NICOLE

PSYCHOLOGIST

FAGEN, LENA

READING

HILDRETH, RACHEL

REGISTRAR

BAXTER, RACHEL

RELATED SERVICES

ASHFORD, KRISTIN (VISION SUPPORT)
FAMA, PATTY (PT)
HART, SARAH (ASD SPECIALIST)
RENNOLDSON, MOIRA (MOBILITY)
SCHAERTEL, ANDREA (MUSIC THERAPY)
WHITT, CHOTSANI (OT)

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

CLEMENTS, CHRISTINE
FAUGH, ELEANOR
LODICO, ALEXIS
PEREZ, JENNIFER
THORNTON, MARENDA
VERGARA, DERON

SCHOOL NURSE

HASTINGS, AMANDA

SECURITY

CRAWFORD, RONNIE (LEAD)
BLAIR, TERRANCE
HUNTLEY, TYTIANA
PETERSON, MICHAEL
TWILLIE, ALEXIS
VACANT-3

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

CAVAGNARO-CALCAGNO, CHRISTINA
FARLEY, BENJAMIN
KELLY, SEAN
MEYERS, SAMANTHA
ROSA, GILBERT
WALSH, KYLE
WEHRLIN, TENA
YAAGER, MEGHAN

SOCIAL WORK

GOODSON, SAMANTHA
MUNIZ, ANGEL

SPEECH

DiMARTINO-ODAI, MICHELLE
NANNA, BRIDGET

SUPPORT STAFF, OPERATIONS

HENDERSON, MICHAEL
MARSHALL, JAMAL

TEACHERS ON ASSIGNMENT

GRAHAM, TONETTE
REED, NICOLE
SCHAMBACK, DALE

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

ANDERSON, KAYSCIA
CAMERCHIOLI-WHALEY, DEBRA
FLAGLER, LAFONDA
LINDSEY, JAHEJIA
MCGILL, KASSADY
THACKER, ALEXIS

THERAPY DOGS

"CAPPY"
"GINO"
"VIOLET"


IN-HOUSE AGENCY

CONNECTIONS

CENTER FOR YOUTH (HELP ZONE)
HEALTH CENTER
HILLSIDE
IN CONTROL (SUPPORTS HEALTH CLASSES)



Thurgood Marshall Bell Schedule

<div> <div>JUSTICE. ACCESS. GROWTH.</div> <div>  </div> <div>JUSTICIA ACCESO. CRECIMIENTO.</div> </div>		
CLASS	TRUTH & LEGACY	SUPREME & JUSTICE
1ST	7:30 - 7:50	7:30 - 7:50
2ND	7:54 - 8:42	7:54 - 8:42
3RD	8:46 - 9:34	8:46 - 9:34
4TH	9:38 - 10:26	9:38 - 10:26
5TH	10:30 - 11:00	10:30 - 11:18
6TH	11:04 - 11:52	11:22 - 11:52
7TH	11:56 - 12:44	11:56 - 12:44
8TH	12:48 - 1:36	12:48 - 1:36
9TH	1:40 - 2:30	1:40 - 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 success 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.

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 our Help Zones, room 241 & 311. They help facilitate mediations to resolve disputes and specialize in crisis intervention.

Community Place of Greater Rochester (CPGR): strives to set a firm foundation with scholars for future success in college, work and life by age 21 through a host of youth services.

How to access this service: CPGR works closely with Mr. Carter in Health classes. They facilitate sessions on health, wellness & healthy relationships.

Hillside Work Scholarship Connection: is dedicated to reversing the trend of low high school graduation rates, and helping students realize their potential-in the classroom, in the community and in life.

How to access this service: Hillside is stationed at the Charlotte Campus in room 303. They provide academic support, tutoring, job readiness skills and youth development enrichment activities.

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 SPORT OFFERINGS

FALL 2025

- Modified Tackle Football - Boys
- Modified Soccer - Boys & Girls
- Modified Volleyball - Girls
- Unified Bowling

WINTER 2025

- Modified Basketball - Boys
- Modified Basketball - Girls
- Modified Swimming - CoEd
- Indoor Track - CoEd
- Unified Basketball

SPRING 2026

- Modified Baseball - Boys
- Modified Softball - Girls
- Modified Flag Football - Girls
- Modified Track - CoEd

"Here, We Roar Louder"



New clubs and extracurricular activities facilitated by staff will start for the 2025-26 school year based on student interests and commitment, starting in September!

JAGs ROAR! Positive Behavior Incentive System

Thurgood Marshall uses the Live School platform as our school-wide behavior management system. Our students earn “Jimmy Jag” Bucks to recognize their engagement in our R.O.A.R. character traits:




Students have options to use their Jimmy Jag Bucks immediately at our School Store or in our Student Lounge, or to save them for something they are looking forward to. They have opportunities to spend their earned savings on weekly items, as well as longer-term incentives like admission into a special monthly activity, special field trips, and more! The store will be open two days a week.

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.

Sample Live School check! Students earn “money” to spend in various ways

Jada Rosario Grade 8		Thursday, 5/1/25 - Sunday, 6/8/25	
THURGOOD MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL (NY) 4115 LAKE AVENUE ROCHESTER, NY 14612		Sunday, 6/8/25 DATE	
PAY TO THE ORDER OF <u>JADA ROSARIO</u>		311	
THREE HUNDRED ELEVEN AND 0/100		LIVESCHOOL POINTS	
MEMO <u>LIVESCHOOL POINTS</u>		<u>Nakia Burrows</u>	
		625 Points Balance as of 6/8/25	

Important Calendar Dates 2025-26

<p><u>Jaguar Monthly Themes</u></p> <p>September-Respect October-Initiative November-Ownership December-Responsibility January-Integrity February-Empathy/Compassion March-Perseverance April-Civic/Community Engagement May-Accountability June-Community</p> 	<p><u>Special Recognition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hispanic Heritage Month-Sept 15th-Oct 15th Spirit Week: Sept 22nd-Sept 26th Grade-Level Retreats: October, TBD Breast Cancer Awareness Walk-Oct 24th Student Government Elections-Nov 3rd Lifetouch Picture Day-November TBD Jingle Mingle Holiday Celebration-Dec 18th Thurgood Marshall Spirit Week: Jan 26th-30th Black History Month Celebration-Feb 27th Women's History Month Celebration-March Academic Banquet-May 29th Mental Health Awareness Month-May 2024 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony-June 20th Field Day/Carnival-June 25th 										
<p><u>PTO Parent Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open House/Conferences-October 16th Parent Teacher Conferences-October 16th, March 26th Holiday Celebration (Jingle Mingle)-December 18th Academic Banquet-May 29th 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony-June 20th PTO/Parent Voice Dates: Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18, Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 26, April 23, May 28 	<p><u>Half Days</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 31st February 13th <p>On Half Days, Thurgood Marshall students are dismissed at 11am</p>										
<p><u>School-based Planning Team Meetings</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>September 16</td><td>February 24</td></tr> <tr> <td>October 21</td><td>March 17</td></tr> <tr> <td>November 18</td><td>April 21</td></tr> <tr> <td>December 16</td><td>May 19</td></tr> <tr> <td>January 20</td><td>June 16</td></tr> </table>	September 16	February 24	October 21	March 17	November 18	April 21	December 16	May 19	January 20	June 16	<p><u>Student Voice & 8th Grade Class Trip</u></p> <p>Student Voice Kickoff Event-Oct 14th Student Voice Showcase-May 24th *Students meet weekly for planning & execution</p> <p>8th Grade Class trip to Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, DC: tentatively scheduled for March 31st to April 2nd, 2026</p>
September 16	February 24										
October 21	March 17										
November 18	April 21										
December 16	May 19										
January 20	June 16										
<p><u>Testing Dates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IReady testing: TBD ELA State Assessment Math State Assessment Science State Assessment June Regents Testing-Alg I (June 17th), Biology (June 18th), Spanish IP (TBD) NYSESLAT testing-TBD 	<p><u>Marking Period End Dates</u></p> <p>End of Quarter 1: November 7, 2025 End of Quarter 2: January 30, 2026 End of Quarter 3: April 17, 2026 End of Quarter 4: June 25, 2026</p>										

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 visitors' policy also encourages guardians to contact the main office in advance of arriving at 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

Staying on top of your student's grades/attendance is highly recommended. Please sign up for Parent Connect on the Rochester City School District's website: <https://www.rcsdk12.org/Page/54155>. On this page, you will find a video tutorial on how to sign up, and if you have additional 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.

Live School (PBIS)

Thurgood Marshall uses the Live School platform as our school-wide behavior management system. Be sure to get your access code & download the Live School app! It allows you to see your child's behavior progress in classes & see their running "cash" balance to purchase fun rewards!

Parent Voice

Thurgood Marshall Middle School is looking to establish a Parent Voice group (formerly known as PTO). The objective of Parent Voice is to 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.Mouzon@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"> • Student production, student engagement, group work, and independent work
Classwork	35%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Assessment	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests/quizzes, projects, cumulative demonstration of mastery
Homework	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework must be completed timely and accurately.

Guidance, Counseling & Specialized Services Offered

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

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 May 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 part of the application.



What Does It Take To Graduate?

Most middle school students do not take credit-bearing courses, but this year TMMS 8th graders can earn 1.5 credits via Spanish IP and Studio Art! Students enrolled in our accelerated program are on track to earn up to 2 additional high school credits, based on the courses they are enrolled in (Algebra I and Biology regents). For regents courses (Algebra and Biology) and Spanish IP, students must pass the course and corresponding exam. New York State graduation requirements are detailed below.

*please note these are high school graduation requirements but since we have students earning high school credits, it's important for our 8th grade families to see them in advance of 9th grade!

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
Credits and Regents	22 credits 5 exams	26+ credits 9 exams

Regents Exams: In addition to credits, students must pass 5 specific Regents exams in order to graduate.

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:

Purpose

At **Thurgood Marshall Middle School**, we are committed to creating a focused and inclusive learning environment that honors our core values of Justice, Access, and Growth (JAG). In alignment with the **New York State Education Law §2803**, **personal electronic devices such as cell phones, smartwatches, and other internet-enabled devices are not allowed for student use during the school day**. This policy supports our students in being present, respectful, and engaged learners who are ready to grow—the **Jaggy Way**.

NYS Education Law §2803

Effective **August 1, 2025**, NYS law mandates that all K–12 public schools implement policies that prohibit student use of non-school-issued internet-enabled devices during the instructional day (also known as "bell-to-bell"). **This includes passing periods, lunch, and recess while on school grounds.**

Exceptions are permitted for:

- Medically necessary devices (e.g., health monitoring)
- IEP or 504 Plan accommodations
- School-issued devices used for instruction

TMMS Policy Overview

Permitted:

- Carrying a phone to school (but must be turned off and secured in cell phone room during the scanning process)
- Using school-issued Chromebooks/devices for class
- Emergency use of device(s) with staff permission

Not Permitted:

- Using personal devices during the school day
- Recording, messaging, or social media usage on school grounds
- Smartwatch communication or gaming

Daily Procedures

1. **Upon Entry:** All students must turn off and secure their devices in the approved storage locations at scanning.
2. **End of Day:** Cell phones will be returned to students during their 9th period class.

Policy Enforcement

Our staff and students work as a community to ensure a focused and safe school culture. **Violations will be handled consistently, following this structure:**

Infraction	Consequence
1st Violation	Verbal warning
2nd Violation	Device confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Parent contact made.
3rd Violation	Student serves lunch detention.
4th Violation	Device confiscated and released to the student's guardian. Any infractions beyond this will result in 1-day in-school suspension. → 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).

Refusal to turn in a phone during scanning or when requested is considered insubordination and may result in additional disciplinary action per the RCSD Code of Conduct.

Support

- **Secure Storage:** Devices are only accessible to administrative personnel. Cell phones & other electronic devices are stored in padded envelopes to prevent damage and are locked and secured throughout the day.
- **Family Contact:** Families can reach students by calling the main office. Students may call home with staff permission.

Jaguar Commitment

By following this policy, we at TMMS

- Uphold **Justice** by creating equal classroom access for all students.
- Promote **Access** by ensuring all learners stay engaged and distraction-free.
- Encourage **Growth** by helping students build self-discipline and awareness
- **For questions about this policy, contact the TMMS Main Office or your grade-level administrator.** 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 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.

Supply List and Technology



General Middle School Supplies to get the year started

- Bookbag
- 6-8 folders (homework folder for each class)
- Loose leaf paper
- Pens & pencils
- 2-3 one subject Notebooks
- Pencil pouch
- Ruler
- Personal hand sanitizer

Optional but useful to have: index cards, glue sticks, post it notes, colored pencils, markers, highlighters, 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 during the summer, and supplies are provided to families at our Student Orientation 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 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 improve 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, a parent meeting, and/or further consequences.

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. TMMS also requires that guardians enter the building to sign students out to ensure that requests are being made by authorized personnel.

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 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 Arbiter Sports 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 & Orientation
- ❖ Breast Cancer Walk
- ❖ School Choice Week
- ❖ Honor Roll Celebration (3 times a year)
- ❖ Attendance Recognition (each month)
- ❖ Spirit Week (twice a year)
- ❖ Grade-level Retreats (off campus, 1 for each grade level)
- ❖ Black History Talent Showcase
- ❖ Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
- ❖ Women's History recognition
- ❖ Voice Jam (Student Voice presentation)
- ❖ Student Government Elections
- ❖ Mental Health Day
- ❖ Jingle Mingle Holiday Celebration
- ❖ Awards Banquet
- ❖ Field Day
- ❖ Annual Family Day (Darien Lake or similar)
- ❖ Pep Rally
- ❖ 8th Grade Capstone Project
- ❖ Community service learning/volunteering and fundraising
- ❖ Student of the Month
- ❖ 8th Grade Class trip to Baltimore/Washington, DC
- ❖ Casa Cup Winner (presented to the winning House of the year)



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:

ROAR 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 privilege, 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:

- Help Zone ("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, access to the RCSD's HUB services)
- 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 the 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 only by an administrator and can serve for a portion of the day or the full day's duration.
- Students are expected to have materials with them when they arrive at the ISS room at the beginning of the day, or they can be delivered by staff throughout the 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 on the same day.
- Students who are disruptive and/or uncooperative in ISS will be subject to additional disciplinary consequences, including additional ISS days (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 – "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 counselor, Help Zone or 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
- Want to sign up for **sports**-see the coach of the sport you are interested in, or see Mr. Corey 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, but they also stop in classrooms

- Need a **work permit**—applications are available in the main office or with your School Counselor

