

# Volunteer Handbook

## 2021-2022



**Our Mission:** Teaching students to gain the skills, knowledge, and positive values that ensure success as productive citizens in an ever-changing world.

## Thomas County Schools

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Thomasville, Georgia 31792  
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Fax (229) 225-5012

# Thomas County Schools 2021-2022 Calendar

Event	Day(s) of the Week	Date
Independence Day Holiday	Monday	July 5, 2021
Preplanning	Monday-Friday	July 26-August 6, 2021
First Day for Students	Monday	August 9, 2021
Labor Day Holiday	Monday	September 6, 2021
Teacher Workday/Student Holiday	Friday	October 8, 2021
Fall Break	Monday-Friday	October 11-15, 2021
<b>43 days in first nine weeks</b>		
First Day Second Nine Weeks	Monday	October 18, 2021
Thanksgiving Holidays	Monday-Friday	November 22-26, 2021
Winter Holidays	Monday-Friday	December 20-31, 2021
Teacher Workday/Student Holiday	Monday	January 3, 2022
<b>40 days in second nine weeks</b>		
First Day, Third Nine Weeks	Tuesday	January 4, 2022
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	Monday	January 17, 2022
Teacher Workday/Student Holiday	Friday	March 11, 2022
<b>47 days in third nine weeks</b>		
First Day, Fourth Nine Weeks	Monday	March 14, 2022
Spring Break	Monday-Friday	April 4-8, 2022
Last Day for Students	Friday	May 20, 2022
<b>45 days in fourth nine weeks</b>		
Post-planning	Monday-Tuesday	May 23-24, 2022
Memorial Day Holiday	Monday	May 30, 2022

Veterans Day will be observed as part of a planned activity at each school.



# FOR PARENTS

## What is a Parent Leader?

A parent leader is defined as one who is able to provide support to parents, students, teachers and constituents in their community with the objective of obtaining positive outcomes for everyone. They also encourage other parents to take on leadership roles in education. This individual passionately represents the needs and perspectives of all parents, improves the direction of their families, and acquires the knowledge and skills needed to have a meaningful voice without being in a staff role at the school. Parent leaders become role models for parent engagement, advocating not only on behalf of their own children, but for other families as well.

## How Can I Become a Parent Leader?

- 1 Provide support and leadership through active engagement in your child's education.
- 2 Work collaboratively with your school's principal, teachers, and parent liaison to learn about all aspects of the school's structure and share this information with other parents.
- 3 Remember T.E.A.M. — Together Everyone Achieves More. Continue to support your child's learning at home by working with their teacher to help them develop good homework and study habits.
- 4 Ask questions and "speak out" to have a powerful voice in the decision-making that directly impacts every component of your child's education.
- 5 Help create opportunities for community members and stakeholders to support school efforts through meaningful collaboration related to curriculum and school improvement.
- 6 Talk with your child's teacher and school principal to learn about opportunities to get involved in your school's advisory councils as a method to make your talents, skills, and availability to assist known.
- 7 Work with other parents at your school to develop a plan of action for engaging all parents with the goal of helping your school's administrator improve learning for all children.





## **Qualifications for Volunteers**

- Have a love for children.
- Have the desire to see children succeed.
- Be sensitive to children's needs regardless of their abilities.
- Respect cultural, social, and educational differences.
- Have patience and a sense of humor.
- Be dependable and reliable.
- Be flexible and willing to adapt to daily changes and emergencies.

## **Things Volunteers Should Avoid**

- Divulging personal information about a student (confidentiality).
- Giving medications to students.
- Promoting personal or religious doctrines or beliefs.
- Handling serious discipline problems.
- Lending money to students.
- Assuming total instructional responsibility for students.
- Using personal electronic devices while in a school.
- Taking pictures of students unless instructed to do so.
- Unannounced/unplanned visits.

# Responsibilities of Volunteers

- Complete a volunteer form each year.
- Sign in each time you volunteer.
- Wear the volunteer badge at all times.
- Always check with the school prior to your visit to learn if the school is allowing visitors and any regulations about COVID-19 safety.
- Park in the appropriate place.
- Notify the school when unable to fulfill volunteer commitments.
- Abide by system and school policies and regulations.
- Be supportive and maintain open communication with the teachers and staff members in the school.
- Respect and follow all school rules.
- Discuss any concerns that may arise with the teacher or Parent Involvement Coordinator.
- Contact the principal if necessary.
- What to do if you suspect abuse?
  1. Write down student's name.
  2. Get the student's teacher's name.
  3. Privately discuss with an administrator, e.g., the principal, assistant principal, or guidance counselor.
  4. Don't leave the school before you tell someone.
  5. Volunteers are required to report abuse. See mandates on page 6.



# Thomas County Schools

## Mandated Reporter Information and Resources

Child abuse occurs when a child under the age of 18 is subjected to any of the following:

- Sexual exploitation or molestation including incest, exhibitionism, fondling, child prostitution, or pornography;
- Non-accidental serious physical injury including excessive corporal punishment;
- Neglect including failure to provide such basic needs for the child such as food, clothing, cleanliness, shelter, medical care, or supervision;
- Emotional or psychological abuse including excessive criticism and ridiculing and withholding of love and affection.

Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. §19-7-5) requires all **school system employees** and **school volunteers** who have “reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused” to report suspected child abuse to the appropriate authority according to the local child abuse reporting protocol. Within the school setting, the designated person to receive reports of suspected abuse is the school counselor or school administrator. Any mandated reporter who makes a report to the designated person in the local reporting protocol “shall be deemed to have fully complied” with the law.

If abuse is detected or disclosed by a child, it **must** be reported as soon as possible – and no later than 24 hours. Any reporter who makes a report in “good faith” is “immune from any civil or criminal liability.” However, any mandated reporter who “knowingly and willfully fails to do so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.”

### **Reporting Information**

If a student discloses that he or she has been abused, do not try to investigate or “get all the details.” Often the first thing a student tells you is the most important. Write down the actual words used by the student, if possible. The first statement made spontaneously has forensic significance to the investigators and the exact words can be important. Above all, minimize the number of questions, if any, you ask the child and avoid the use of leading questions (questions that suggest an answer).

Immediately report any suspected or disclosed abuse to the school counselor or school administrator. However, if a child discloses to you during an off-campus school event or trip, immediately notify the lead school staff member. Do not delay in making this report. Be prepared to share exactly what you saw and heard. Once you have made the report to the designated school personnel, you have fulfilled your responsibility as a mandated reporter. It is the responsibility of the designated school personnel to forward the report to investigators.

### **Resources**

Additional resources can be found at the following link: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/Safe-and-Drug-Free-Schools.aspx>

On this page you will find links to a Child Abuse Prevention presentation and a ten-page Child Abuse Prevention document. You are encouraged to take the time to review these additional resources to gain a more comprehensive understanding of your role as a mandated reporter of suspected child abuse.

### **Contacts**

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the school counselor or school administrator at the appropriate school listed below or you may contact Chris Huckans, Direct of Student Services, at 225-4380 or 225-6868.

Hand-in-Hand Primary	225-3908
Garrison-Pilcher Elementary	225-4387
Cross Creek Elementary	225-3900
Thomas County Middle School	225-4394
Thomas County Central High School	225-5050
Bishop Hall Charter School	227-1397
Pathways Educational Program	225-3910
Renaissance Center	227-3222

**Policy**  
**Child Abuse or Neglect**

**Descriptor Code: JGI**

All employees of the Board of Education, as well as persons who attend to a child pursuant to their duties as a volunteer for the school system, who have reason or cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred shall notify the principal or the school system’s designee, who shall report such abuse immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred, in accordance with Georgia law and the protocol for handling child abuse cases for Thomas County, Georgia.

Under no circumstances shall the principal or designee to whom a report of child abuse has been made exercise any control, restraint, modification or make other change to the information provided by a mandated reporter, although the reporter may be consulted prior to the making of a report and may provide any additional, relevant and necessary information when making the report.

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Thomas County Schools

Date Adopted: 6/12/2001  
Last Revised: 8/11/2015

<b>State Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>
O.C.G.A. 15-11-0002	<u>Definitions-juvenile code</u>
O.C.G.A 15-11-0134	<u>Required findings;</u> <u>justifying removal from the</u> <u>home</u>
O.C.G.A. 16-06-0005.1	<u>Sexual assault by persons</u> <u>with supervisory or</u> <u>disciplinary authority</u>
O.C.G.A. 16-06-0009	<u>Prostitution</u>
O.C.G.A. 19-07-0005	<u>Reporting child abuse</u>
O.C.G.A. 19-15-0002	<u>Child Abuse Protocol</u>
O.C.G.A. 20-02-1184	<u>Mandatory reporting of</u> <u>students committing</u> <u>certain prohibited acts</u>
O.C.G.A. 49-05-0041	<u>Persons and agencies</u> <u>permitted access to</u> <u>records</u>
Rule 160-4-8-.04	<u>Child Abuse and Neglect</u> <u>Reporting</u>

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

A volunteer is a person who donates his/her services and time to assist a teacher or other school personnel in school-related tasks. The volunteer should enjoy working with children and should possess qualities of enthusiasm, integrity, initiative, and industry. The volunteer should have a strong commitment to public education and should strive to strengthen school-community relations through positive participation.

To clarify roles and responsibilities, the following guidelines have been developed for Thomas County Volunteers in Public Schools:

1. **Confidentiality** – Because of legal and other considerations regarding confidentiality, permanent records, psychologicals, reading and mathematics profiles, and other such records should be available only to appropriate school or system wide personnel.
2. **Reliability** – When a volunteer agrees to serve in a school, it is very important that he/she be on time in reporting for assigned duties. If a schedule needs to be changed, the volunteer should contact the principal or teacher as soon as possible.
3. **Dress** – Dress should be appropriate for the situation in which the volunteer will be working.
4. **Relationship with Children** – It is important to understand and accept students in terms of their own backgrounds, values, manners, vocabulary, and aspirations. Students should be dealt with in such a way as to avoid embarrassment whenever possible. (Sometimes a student's desire and need for recognition, attention, success, and love can be very persistent and demanding.) Volunteers should attempt to find good qualities in all children and not have children feel that volunteers have "favorites."
5. **Discipline** – All discipline problems should be referred to the teacher for appropriate action. Sometimes, the mere presence of an adult prevents much misbehavior; however, if a volunteer is confronted with obvious misconduct, he/she should ask the student or students to correct their conduct. The actual disciplining of students should be referred to the teacher. Under no circumstances should a child be touched in anger.
6. **Teacher Conferences** – While working at school, a volunteer may be in contact with his/her child's teacher; however, conferences concerning the volunteer's child should be scheduled according to regular school procedures.
7. **Ethics** – Volunteers should abide by the rules and policies of the school and school system and work cooperatively with the staff. If there are concerns about the school, staff, or regulations, the volunteer should share these concerns with the appropriate school personnel.
8. **Relationship with Staff** – It is desirable for the volunteer to establish and maintain a good working relationship with school staff members. The principal or designee will be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the volunteer program and should be contacted in any situations where problems or conflicts might arise.

9. **Contact information** – The Volunteer should inform the school about any changes of address or telephone number.
10. **Responsibility for Children** – The legal responsibility for students during the school day rests with school personnel.
11. **Assignment of Volunteers** – Volunteers serving a school on a regular basis will be assigned duties or responsibilities by the principal or designee. Any concerns regarding the various assigned duties should be discussed with the appropriate school personnel.

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Thomas County Schools

**Date Issued: 6/12/2001**  
**Last Revised: 5/15/2013**

## MENTOR GUIDELINES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

**CONGRATULATIONS!** As a mentor, you are now about to begin one of life's most rewarding and fulfilling experiences. Your commitment indicates that you believe in young people. You recognize the magnitude of the responsibility that you accepted in choosing to work with youth and agree to interact appropriately with your mentee according to the highest ethical standards at all times.

Be yourself! Please read the following guidelines carefully.

### Your Role as a Mentor:

- At the initial stages of the match, your mentee may appear to be hesitant, unresponsive, and unappreciative of the mentor relationship. This guarded attitude is simply a manifestation of his/her insecurity about the relationship. The mentee's attitude will gradually take a positive turn as he/she realizes your sincerity about being a friend. ***Be patient!*** Don't try to speed up the process by going out of your way to accommodate your mentee, such as seeing your mentee more than the prescribed one hour per week.
- Remember that the mentor–mentee relationship has an initial phase. During this phase the mentee is more interested in getting to know how “real” you are and how much he/she can trust you.
- Don't try to be teacher, parent, disciplinarian, therapist, Santa Claus or babysitter. Experience demonstrates it is counterproductive to assume roles other than a dependable, consistent friend. Present information carefully without distortion and give all points of view a fair hearing. Listen carefully and offer possible solutions without passing judgment. Don't criticize or preach. Think of ways to problem solve together rather than lecturing or telling the mentee what to do. Never “**should of**” your mentee.
- Respect the uniqueness and honor the integrity of your mentee and influence him/her through constructive feedback. The mentor empowers the mentee to make right decisions without actually deciding for the mentee. Identify the mentee's interests and take them seriously. Be alert for opportunities and teaching moments. Explore positive and negative consequences.
- Set realistic expectations and goals for your mentee and make achievement for them fun. Remember there is a big difference between ***encouraging*** and ***demanding***. Encourage your mentee to complete his/her secondary education and pursue higher learning or vocational goals; provide access to varying points of view. Assist in making the connection between his/her actions of today and the dreams and goals of tomorrow. Don't get discouraged if the mentee isn't turning his/her life around or making great improvements. Mentors have a great deal of impact; it's not always immediately evident. Look for signs such as increased school attendance, improved grades, showing up for meetings and expressing appreciation.
- As a friend you can share and advise, but know your limitations. Problems that your mentee may share with you regarding substance abuse, molestation and physical abuse are best handled by professionals. If you have any concerns, ***contact the mentor coordinator immediately.***

- Be supportive of the parent, even when you may disagree. Don't take sides or make judgments concerning any family conflict or situation. Leave the parenting to the parent.

### **Discipline:**

There may be instances when your mentee's behavior is unacceptable. Again, remember the school officials are responsible for the child's discipline while here at school.

- Never physically discipline.
- Never use abusive language.
- Don't use ultimatums.
- Most children will listen and respond to reason. Explain to your mentee why you find his/her behavior unacceptable.
- Don't give your mentee the silent treatment to solve the problem. Discuss your concerns.
- On very rare occasions, your child may need to be taken back to class because of unacceptable behavior. Before taking this action, tell him/her what you are doing and why you made the decision. Taking your mentee back to class because of his/her behavior doesn't mean the match (relationship) has ended. Before you leave make sure the child understands he/she will see you again and that you are not using his/her behavior as a pretext to abandon the relationship.

### **Health and Safety:**

- Do not use alcohol, tobacco or drugs when with your mentee.
- Do not have firearms or weapons present while with your mentee.
- Do not leave your mentee alone or with strangers.
- Do not take your mentee alone to any unsupervised area while on the school campus (e.g., your car, or classroom where you are not visible by school staff).
- If you have become aware that your mentee's safety or the safety of another is in jeopardy through disclosure (e.g., child abuse, sexual abuse), report your concerns to the mentor coordinator or teacher immediately. Let your mentee know that you are required to do so. This requirement should always be discussed at the beginning of the relationship to inform the mentee of your obligation to report safety concerns.
- Always check with the school prior to your visit to learn if the school is allowing visitors and any regulations about COVID-19 safety.

### **Program Rules:**

- No overnight stays.

- Discussions between you and your mentee are considered confidential. Be careful about sensitive personal issues. The mentee’s personal or family life may be difficult to discuss, particularly early in the relationship. Your mentee may be ashamed of poor school performance, family culture and religion, financial problems and so on. It is important not to measure the success of the relationship by the extent of the mentee’s disclosure.
- If you have a concern you feel is beyond your ability to handle, call the mentor coordinator even if it seems trivial. There is no reason to feel helpless or hopeless.



**Your Measure of Success:**

- Your success is measured by many milestones.

Your mentee may realize for the first time that he/she . . .	Good indications:
✓ has potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ setting goals</li> <li>✓ developing new skills</li> <li>✓ aware of time management</li> </ul>
✓ is confident and self-assured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ increased cooperation with parents, teachers and peers</li> <li>✓ behavioral changes</li> </ul>
✓ values education and the learning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ increase in school attendance</li> <li>✓ improved grades</li> <li>✓ respect for teachers</li> </ul>
✓ is a capable young person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ a willingness to help others</li> <li>✓ ability to see the future</li> <li>✓ ability to plan for college</li> </ul>

- Your mentee will reward you through notes or simply conversation. He/she may tell you how “great” you are, how you might have helped him/her with a specific problem and so much more. It may be big or small. Whatever the compliment, know that what you are doing has had a significant impact on the future of this child.
- You will work with your mentee to establish mutual respect, friendship, motivation and measurable goals. Please don’t hesitate to ask questions if you find any part of the guidelines unclear or confusing. The mentor coordinator is available to assist you in any way possible.
- Your commitment and dedication to your mentee may be the most profound opportunity that you experience. The quality of the relationship you build directly influences the life and future of the child. Please exert every effort to maintain professional standards, improve your mentor skills, and exercise good judgment when engaged in any activity involving your mentee.
- Mentoring is not a panacea for all the problems/decisions facing your mentee and his/her family. The essence of mentoring is the sustained human relationship: a one-on-one relationship that shows a child that he/she is valued as a person and is important to society.

# You Are A:

*POSITIVE ROLE MODEL*

*FRIEND*

*COACH*

*ADVISOR*

*SELF-ESTEEM BUILDER*

*CAREER COUNSELOR*

*ADVOCATE*

*We are ready to have a great year!*



*Opportunities to Be Involved*

The Thomas County Schools believe that parents are a vital resource in the education of our children. As such, parents should be given numerous opportunities to be involved in their child's education both at home and at the school. Some of these opportunities include:

- Making school a priority in the home.
- Making school attendance a priority.
- Reading to your child.
- Discussing school with your child on a daily basis.
- Monitoring your child's progress by communicating with your child's teacher.
- Participating in school-sponsored meetings and workshops.
- Visiting the school's parent resource room and checking out materials to use at home with your child.
- Assisting teachers with organizational tasks.
- Joining the school's parent-teacher organization.
- Chaperoning field trips.
- Helping the faculty and students with special projects for the classroom and/or the school which may include tutoring students, improving the school grounds, and assisting with special days and activities.

Some of the many special days and activities at the school include:

- Family Reading Nights
- Special Parent Meals
- Healthy Habits
- Family Fitness
- Math/Science Nights
- Earth Day
- Volunteer Appreciation
- Grandparent Days
- Designated School Nights at local restaurants
- Back to School Parent Orientation
- Various Workshops
- Santa's Secret Store
- Art Nights
- Field Day
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Can Food Drives
- Attendance Appreciation Days

Refer to calendars and newsletters for specific activities and dates. *The BUZZ*, the system's bi-monthly newsletter and calendar, can be found at [www.thomas.k12.ga.us](http://www.thomas.k12.ga.us).

# Play a role in your child's success in school.



Get the facts...get connected...GET INVOLVED!

Schools understand that parents are busy people, but there are many different ways you can get involved in your child's education. No matter how little or how much time you have, there are many ways you can positively impact your child's education at school and at home. Remember, when parents get involved and stay involved, all students achieve at higher levels.

- 1. Volunteer at school** - Schools often send home lists of various ways that parents can volunteer. If they don't, let your child's teachers, principal, or counselors know your special skills and ask what you can do to help.
- 2. Show your child that you care** - Have a conversation with your child about school and homework regularly. Ask specific questions that inform you about your child's day. Know what classes your child is taking, who your child's friends are, and other essential information.
- 3. Keep in touch with the school** - Get to know your child's teachers, principal, counselors and school's parent involvement coordinator. Make it a point to stay in contact with them throughout the school year.
- 4. Express high educational expectations** - Encourage your child to take challenging courses and monitor your child's academic performance (homework, grades, and test scores) throughout the year. Emphasize effort and achievement.
- 5. Attend school meetings, functions, and events** - Make time to attend parent-teacher conferences, parent fairs, curriculum nights, award ceremonies and other school events. Your attendance and support matters to your child.
- 6. Seek out information** - Request a meeting with your child's teacher regarding any aspect of your child's education. If you have other questions, ask the school by calling or sending a note so they can link you with the appropriate person that can respond to your needs.
- 7. Be an active part of decision making committees** - Participate in parent or school leadership organizations. Ask your school about the Parent Teacher Association or Parent Teacher Organization, school council, parent advisory committee or other parent organizations and then join one.
- 8. Make school important** - Talk positively about school with your child. Send your child prepared for school each day with pens, pencils, notebooks, and homework completed. Make school a priority by ensuring they are at school every day and arrive on time.
- 9. Be seen at school** - Arrange a visit to your child's classroom, have lunch with your child at school, or visit the Parent Center. Your presence matters and shows the school that you are invested in your child's education.
- 10. Be informed and responsive** - Ask, collect, read, and respond, if needed, to all information (school policies, field trip information, student handbook, etc.) that is sent from your child's school or teacher. If you need to receive information in a language other than English, call or visit the school.
- 11. Visit your school's website** - Access all kinds of information, including homework assignments, class schedules, lesson plans, test dates, and grades on your child's school website. If you don't know your school's website, ask your child's teacher or the school.
- 12. Participate in workshops that are offered** - Look for great opportunities to meet other parents at school through workshops that cover topics such as child development, school standards, and other shared parent concerns. If workshops are not offered regularly, help plan one or suggest ideas to your school counselors or parent involvement coordinator.
- 13. Provide a rich learning environment at home** - Make time for meaningful dinner conversations, trips, games, reading time, family sports, and daily routines. Activities like these will contribute to your child's academic achievement at school.
- 14. Drop in on after school or extracurricular activities** - Pick your child up from after-school activities or stop by a few minutes early to watch your child in action, if you are unavailable during the school day. It is also important to know your child's after school teacher, instructor, or coach.
- 15. Invite the community to partner with the school** - Encourage local businesses, churches, clubs, or civic organizations that you are involved with to volunteer or financially support the school. Have community partners provide schools and families with information about services and resources they provide that support student learning such as mentoring, tutoring, and service learning activities.

# Parent and Family Involvement and Student Success

- When parents are involved, students achieve more, regardless of socio-economic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parents' education level.
- The more extensive the parent involvement, the higher the student achievement.
- When parents are involved in their students' education, those students have higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and more consistent homework habits.
- When parents are involved, students exhibit more positive attitudes and behavior.
- Students whose parents are involved in their lives have higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education.
- Different types of parent/family involvement produce different gains. To have long-lasting gains for students, parent involvement activities must be well planned, inclusive, and comprehensive.
- In programs that are designed to involve parents in full partnerships, student achievement for disadvantaged children not only improves, it can reach levels that are standard for middle-class children. In addition, the children who are farthest behind make the greatest gains.





## Suggestions for Reading Aloud to Children

Reading aloud to children is important because it helps them acquire knowledge and skills they will need to be successful in later life situations. It is the single most important activity for building knowledge. Reading aloud will also help children acquire the knowledge they will need to be successful readers. Some of the things young children can learn may seem basic, but are so important:

- Knowledge of printed letters and words
- Relationship between sound and print (phonemic awareness skills)
- The meanings of words
- General information about the world they live in
- Awareness of the variety of books, print, and writing styles
- Pleasure
- Reading for a purpose
- Connection of spoken language to written language

Suggestions for reading aloud to young children:

- Be enthusiastic: Be excited and enthusiastic and your emotions will transfer!
- Make reading books enjoyable
- Change your voice and facial expressions
- Make sure children are comfortable
- Read aloud to children frequently (3-4 times daily)
- Establish regular reading times
- Help children notice new information
- Point out pictures as they relate to the story
- Explain words they may not know to help increase vocabulary
- Ask children questions before and after reading
- Ask children questions as you read and have them make predictions
- Encourage children to talk about the book
- Read many kinds of books
- Choose books to help you teach
- Reread favorite books
- Engage children as often as possible
- Read in small groups, large groups and individually
- Show the children the cover of the book and the title, author's name, illustrator, etc.
- Take advantage of "teachable" moments

## Thomas County System Testing Calendar 2021-2022

SCHOOL(s)	DATE(s)	TEST
TCCHS, RC, & BH	July 12-15	Milestones EOC retest
Hand in Hand	August 16-Sept 10	GKIDS Readiness check
TCCHS, RC, & BH	August 16-20	EOC Midmonth
Hand in Hand	July 29	GKIDS Pre-Admin Training
TCCHS, RC, & BH	September 13-17	EOC Midmonth
TCCHS, RC, & BH	October 18-22	EOC Midmonth
CC, TCMS, TCCHS	October 21	GAA Pre-Admin Training
TCCHS	October 23	ACT (college entrance exam)
TCCHS, RC, & BH	October 26	PSAT/NMSQT
TCMS (8 <sup>th</sup> )	October 28	PSAT 8/9
TCCHS	November 6	SAT (college entrance exam)
CC (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), TCM (6 <sup>th</sup> )	November 8-19	ITBS, CogAT
TCCHS, RC, & BH	November 15-19	EOC Midmonth
TCCHS	December 4	SAT (college entrance exam)
TCCHS, RC, & BH	December 13-17	Georgia Milestones EOC: ELA, Math, Science, SS

## 2022

SCHOOL(s)	DATE(s)	TEST
TCCHS, RC, & BH	January 24-28	EOC Midmonth
HH (K), GP (1 <sup>st</sup> )	January 24-28	ITBS grade 1, CoGat K&1
HH, GP, CC, TCMS, TCCHS, BH	January 17-March 2	ACCESS for ELLs
TCCHS	February 12	ACT (college entrance exam)
TCCHS, RC, & BH	February 14-18	EOC Midmonth
TCCHS, RC, & BH	March 14-18	EOC Midmonth
TCCHS	March 18-April 1	End of Pathway Assessments
TCCHS	April 2	ACT (college entrance exam)
BH	April 12-13	End of Pathway Assessment
CC, TCMS, RC, BH	April 25-29	Grades 3-8 Georgia Milestones EOG
CC, TCMS, TCCHS	April 25-29	GAA submitted to Questar
TCCHS	April 25-April 29	End of Pathway Assessments Retest
TCCHS	May 2	AP US Gov't & Politics, AP Chemistry
TCCHS, RC, BH, & TCMS	May 2	GA Milestones EOC American Literature Day 1
TCCHS, RC, BH, & TCMS	May 3	GA Milestones EOC American Literature Day 2

	<b>Thomas County System Testing Calendar Page 2</b>	
TCCHS	May 3	AP Environmental Science, AP Psychology
BH	May 4	End of Pathway Assessments Retest
TCCHS	May 4	AP Literature & Comp, AP Computer Science A
TCCHS	May 5	AP Human Geography, AP Statistics, Seminar
TCCHS, RC, BH, & TCMS	May 5	GA Milestones EOC Algebra 1
TCCHS	May 6	AP US History, AP Art History, AP Studio Art
TCCHS	May 7	SAT (college entrance exam)
TCCHS, RC, BH, & TCMS	May 9	GA Milestones EOC Biology
TCCHS	May 9	AP Calculus
TCCHS	May 10	AP Language & Comp
TCCHS	May 11	AP Biology
TCCHS, RC, and BH	May 11	GA Milestones EOC US History
TCCHS	May 12	AP World History & AP Physics 1
TCCHS	May 13	AP Music Theory
HH	May 16	GKIDS (last day to submit data)
All Schools	May 20	Last day of school
CC	May 25-27	GA Milestones EOG retest grades 3
TCMS, RC, BH	May 24-25	GA Milestones EOG retest grades 5,8
TCCHS, RC & BH	June 20-24	GA Milestones EOC Summer School

Revised B. Dechman 6/9/21





## School Contacts

### **Hand-In-Hand Primary School**

(229) 225-3908

**Principal, Dee Gaines**

[dgaines@tcjackets.net](mailto:dgaines@tcjackets.net)

Family Engagement Coordinator

Mary Dennis

[mdennis@tcjackets.net](mailto:mdennis@tcjackets.net)

### **Garrison-Pilcher Elementary School**

(229) 225-4387

**Principal, Amy Tyson**

[atyson@tcjackets.net](mailto:atyson@tcjackets.net)

Family Engagement Coordinator

Misty Taylor

[mitaylor@tcjackets.net](mailto:mitaylor@tcjackets.net)

### **Cross Creek Elementary School**

(229) 225-3900

**Principal, Jamie Thompson**

[jthompson@tcjackets.net](mailto:jthompson@tcjackets.net)

Family Engagement Coordinator

Carmen Devane

[cdevane@tcjackets.net](mailto:cdevane@tcjackets.net)

### **Thomas County Middle School**

(229) 225-4394

**Principal, Clay Stanaland**

[cstanaland@tcjackets.net](mailto:cstanaland@tcjackets.net)

Family Engagement Coordinator

LaToya Williams

[latwilliams@tcjackets.net](mailto:latwilliams@tcjackets.net)

### **Thomas County Central High School**

(229) 225-5050

**Principal, Trista Jones**

[tjones@tcjackets.net](mailto:tjones@tcjackets.net)

Family/Student Engagement Coordinator

Allison Nesmith

[anesmith@tcjackets.net](mailto:anesmith@tcjackets.net)

### **Bishop Hall Charter School**

(229) 227-1397

**Principal, Dr. Verna Wiggins**

[vwiggins@bhknights.net](mailto:vwiggins@bhknights.net)

Family Engagement Coordinator

Gwen Mitchell

[gmitchell@bhknights.net](mailto:gmitchell@bhknights.net)

### **Renaissance Center**

(229) 225-3900

**Principal, Richard Potter**

[rpotter@tcjackets.net](mailto:rpotter@tcjackets.net)

Family Engagement Coordinator

Melissa Flowers

[mflowers@tcjackets.net](mailto:mflowers@tcjackets.net)

### **Assistant Superintendent of Federal Programs and Accountability**

**Bob Dechman**

(229) 225-4380

[bdechman@tcjackets.net](mailto:bdechman@tcjackets.net)

### **Federal Programs Secretary**

Sheila Whitley

(229) 225-4380

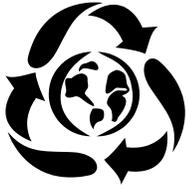
[swhitley@tcjackets.net](mailto:swhitley@tcjackets.net)

# **PARENT INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOPS 2021-2022**

No workshops are scheduled at this time.  
Any future parent events or workshops will be announced from the school by the principal.

Bus Safety and Discipline videos are available for parents from the Thomas County System's Transportation Department. (229-227-3187)





# Trash to Treasure 2021-2022



## Box Tops for Education

**\*Hand-In-Hand \* Garrison-Pilcher \* Cross Creek \* Thomas County Middle**

- Clip box tops from hundreds of your favorite General Mills products.
- Encourage your friends to send box tops to school.
- Our schools earn cash twice a year. Each box top redeemed is worth 10 cents. Our schools can earn up to \$20,000 from box tops each year.

## Soda Can Pop Tops

**\*Garrison-Pilcher \*Cross Creek \*Thomas County Middle**

- Save the pop tops from your soda cans.
- The pop tops are donated to the Ronald McDonald House.



## Ink Cartridges/Cell phones

**\*Hand-In-Hand \* Garrison-Pilcher \* Cross Creek \* Thomas County Middle \* Thomas County Central**

- Donate used ink cartridges and old cell phones.
- Our schools receive cash for each one recycled.



# Office Depot

- Hand-In-Hand** – 5% School ID # 70026845
- Garrison-Pilcher** – 5% School ID # 70026840
- Cross Creek** – 5% School ID # 70026841
- Thomas County Middle** – 5% School ID # 70026843
- Thomas County Central** – 5% School ID # 70026848



Your chosen school will receive  
**5% back**  
in credits for FREE supplies  
when you make a qualifying purchase  
at Office Depot® or OfficeMax®

[Learn More](#)

Each time teachers, staff members, students, families, and school supporters give the school’s “5% Back to Schools Program ID number” when purchasing school supplies at Office Depot, that school can receive credits equal to 5% of qualifying purchases to use for FREE SUPPLIES. No matter how you shop, your purchases count! Purchases can be made by:

1. Going in to any Office Depot store location
2. Calling 1-800-GO-DEPOT
3. Going online at [www.officedepot.com](http://www.officedepot.com)



## Community Coffee Cash for Schools

**\*Garrison-Pilcher \* Thomas County Middle**

- 1) **Save** — Clip out the UPCs/Proof of Purchase Seals from Community® products from participating restaurants, hotels, churches, offices, and other businesses.
- 2) **Submit** — Just turn in your Community UPCs (ranging from 10 — 15 cents in value) to Garrison-Pilcher, Cross Creek or Thomas County Middle

To learn more, visit [www.communitycoffee.com](http://www.communitycoffee.com), and click on Cash for Schools.



## Publix Partners Program

**\*Hand-In-Hand \*Garrison-Pilcher\*Cross Creek \* Thomas County Middle School**

Use your complimentary Publix Partners Card when you checkout, and Publix will donate cash to our schools.

To obtain your complimentary card, contact your child’s school.



# Parents, Students, & Teachers Involved!



## Volunteer Application



(Circle school of preference)

Hand-in-Hand \* Garrison-Pilcher \* Cross Creek \* Thomas County Upper Elementary  
Thomas County Middle \* Thomas County Central High \* Bishop Hall \* Renaissance Center

Studies show that parental involvement in a child's education is one of the most important factors in raising student self-esteem and academic achievement. Most experts agree that parental involvement should go beyond attendance at teacher conferences and open house. Because we realize that each of our families is unique, with its own priorities, needs, talents, and time constraints, we try to provide as many different kinds of opportunities for parental involvement as possible. Please review the volunteer opportunities suggested below and check any in which you are interested. If you are not interested in assisting in any of the listed areas, please tell us what you would like to do.

Volunteer's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The best days for me to volunteer:  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday

The best times for me to volunteer:  Between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m.  Between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

### I WOULD LOVE TO ASSIST IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make phone calls to other parents   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Day  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Fair   | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaperone a field trip  | <input type="checkbox"/> Super Dads Day   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Join a school committee   | <input type="checkbox"/> Give Thanks for Mom Day  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organize or participate in a special event  | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparents Day   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donate snacks/refreshments for events   | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Appreciation Week  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picture Day   | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Day  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offer to donate items (i.e. books, art materials, games.... the list is endless)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Jack O'Lantern Jog (One Saturday in October)                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trash-to-Treasure (help package Box Tops, soda can pop tops, Community Coffee labels, other education labels) | <input type="checkbox"/> Help organize parent workshops   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Room Parent (assist teacher, as needed)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutor individuals or small groups of students                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Watch D.O.G. Program   | <input type="checkbox"/> Donate certificates or medals for special programs                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work in Santa Shop  | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide another parent with transportation to a conference or school event |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Jump Rope for Heart  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____   |

Have you had a previous background check?  Yes  No

Thomas County Schools may require you to have a background check, at your expense, if needed.

I have read and understood the parent handbook and volunteer procedures and commit to adhere to them and to the confidentiality of school, staff, and student information. I agree to meet time and duty commitments or provide adequate notice so alternative arrangements can be made.

Volunteer's Signature

Date

**Please return completed application to your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator.**



# A los Padres, Estudiantes, y Profesores Implicados!



## Solicitud de Voluntario

(Círculo de la escuela de su preferencia)



Hand-in-Hand \* Garrison-Pilcher \* Cross Creek \* Thomas County Upper Elementary  
Thomas County Middle \* Thomas County Central High \* Bishop Hall \* Renaissance Center

Los estudios demuestran que la participación de los padres en la educación de un niño es uno de los factores más importantes en la crianza de los estudiantes la autoestima y el rendimiento académico. La mayoría de los expertos coinciden en que la participación de los padres debe ir más allá de la asistencia a las conferencias con los maestros y de puertas abiertas. Porque nos damos cuenta de que cada una de nuestras familias es único, con sus propias prioridades, necesidades, talentos y limitaciones de tiempo, tratamos de ofrecer la mayor cantidad de tipos diferentes de oportunidades de participación de los padres como sea posible. Por favor revise las oportunidades voluntarias sugeridas a continuación y comprobar cualquier en el que usted está interesado. Si usted no está interesado en asistir en cualquiera de las áreas mencionadas, por favor díganos lo que te gustaría hacer.

Nombre del de Voluntarios: \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección: \_\_\_\_\_

Número de Teléfono de Casa: \_\_\_\_\_ Número Celular: \_\_\_\_\_

Correo electrónico: \_\_\_\_\_

El nombre del estudiante: \_\_\_\_\_ Grado: \_\_\_\_\_ Nombre del profesor: \_\_\_\_\_

El nombre del estudiante: \_\_\_\_\_ Grado: \_\_\_\_\_ Nombre del profesor: \_\_\_\_\_

Los mejor días para mí para ser voluntario:  Lunes  Martes  Miércoles  Jueves  Viernes  Sábado

Los mejores tiempos para mí para ser voluntario:  Entre 7:30 y 11:30 a.m.  Entre 11:30 a.m. y 2:30 p.m.

### ME ENCANTARÍA VOLVER A AYUDAR EN LAS SIGUIENTES ÁREAS:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hacer Las llamadas a otros padres   | <input type="checkbox"/> Día de los Pioneros  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feria de libros   | <input type="checkbox"/> Día de Campo   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaperone un viaje de campo   | <input type="checkbox"/> Super Papás Día  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Únase a un comité de la escuela   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dale Gracias para haber Mamá Día   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizar o participar en un evento especial  | <input type="checkbox"/> Día de los Abuelos   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donar aperitivos / refrescos para eventos   | <input type="checkbox"/> del aprecio del profesor Semana  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Día de la Foto  | <input type="checkbox"/> Día de los Veteranos   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oferta de para donar objetos (libros, materiales artísticos, juegos .... la lista es interminable)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Jack O'Lantern Jog (Un Sábado por en Octubre)                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trash-a-Tesoro (ayuda paquete tapas de la caja, lata de refresco pop tapas, Comunidad Café etiquetas, otro educativo etiquetas) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ayudar a organizar talleres de padres                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> de Habitaciones de Padres (ayudar profesor, según sea necesario)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutor individuos o pequeños grupos de estudiantes                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participar en la Guardia D.O.G. Programa  | <input type="checkbox"/> Donar certificados o medallas para los programas especiales                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obra en Santa Tienda  | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide another parent with transportation to a conference or school event |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Saltar a la cuerda para Heart  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Otro: _____  |

¿Ha tenido una previa verificación de antecedentes?  Sí  No

Thomas Escuelas del Condado puede requerir que usted tenga una verificación de antecedentes, a su cargo, si es necesario. He leído y entendido el manual para padres y voluntarios procedimientos y comprometerse a adherirse a ellos y la confidencialidad de las la escuela, personal, y la información del estudiante. Estoy de acuerdo en satisfacer tiempo y deber os compromisos o proporcionar adecuado Aviso tan alternativa arreglos puede ser hecho.

Voluntarios Firma

Fecha

**Por favor devuelva la solicitud completa a de su escuela e Participación de Padres Coordinador.**