TSMS TERMS TO KNOW

As you prepare to be a well-informed middle school parent, please take a moment to familiarize yourself with some of the commonly used terms at TSMS.

EXPRESS	**EXPRESS–** Express is a class designed to empower students to take ownership of their learning. Teachers review weekly student-performance data to design "Open" and "Closed" sessions of instruction to support and enrich student learning. Students select their Express schedule each Monday and are encouraged to choose Express sessions that will have the greatest impact on
FAC	**FAC–** FAC stands for the TSMS Fine Arts Club. The purpose of FAC is to support fundraising for the fine arts programs at TSMS. FAC promotes student participation, fine arts appreciation, and commitment to Thompson's Station Middle School fine arts courses and programs.
OER	**OER (Open Educational Resources)-** OER stands for Open Educational Resources and is a dynamic digital library of educational texts, media, virtual labs, interactive activities, and other digital materials. OER materials provide up-to-date, virtual resources to support teaching and learning in today's progressive environment such as interactive formative assessments with immediate feedback, simulations, and science and engineering investigation suggestions. These materials provide students the opportunity to learn in a flexible environment by exploring texts, organizing information, and collaborating with peers while they create projects and products to showcase their learning. Currently WCS uses these teacher resources to support our new TN science and social studies and World Language standards in place of a student textbook.
PLC	**PLC–** PLC refers to a professional learning community. A PLC is a team of educators who share ideas and data to enhance teaching practice and create a learning environment where all students can reach their fullest potential. TSMS was named a *PLC Model School* in 2024.
PBIS	**PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)-** PBIS is a school-wide model for common expectations of our STEAM Values: Service, Teamwork, Excellence, Accountability, and Mindset. Teachers will reinforce these expectations when students demonstrate these expectations by giving students Thunder Tickets." This school-wide behavioral intervention model provides support for students who may be struggling behaviorally academically.
	**Related Arts-** Related Arts classes are enrichment classes that are o□ered to all grade levels at TSMS. Students typically rotate through classes on a nine-week, semester, or yearly basis. Courses include, but are not limited to: Drama, Physical Education, Spanish, Media, Art, Chorus, Music, Computer Science, and Robotics.
SKYWARD	**Skyward-** Skyward is a student, parent, and teacher database used throughout the entire District. It contains things such as grades, records, attendance, test scores, health history, etc. Parents, students, and teachers use Skyward often and each have their own login and access.
SCHOOLOGY	**Schoology-** Schoology is a learning management system (or LMS) which helps transform the traditional classroom to a twenty-first century learning experience. It allows teachers and students to share digital information, personalize learning for each student, and provide feedback for each lesson or activity. Many other technological tools are integrated within Schoology to make it a collaborative virtual classroom for teachers and students.
SRO	**SRO-** The School Resource Officer at Thompson's Station Middle provides a comforting level of security throughout the TSMS campus.
STARS	**STARS-** STARS is the acronym for Students Taking a Right Stand. This school-based assistance program helps schools tackle tough issues that threaten the emotional, psychological, and academic well-being of each student. Through assemblies, classroom presentations and group/ individual counseling sessions, STARS assists schools in preventing and confronting these very difficult challenges.
TAC	**TAC-** TAC stands for Thunder Athletic Club. The purpose of TAC is to support fundraising for all sports. TAC promotes student participation, school spirit and commitment to Thompson's Station Middle School athletics.