



Thomas Street Elementary School 2026-2027

**Christy Carroll, Principal
520 South Thomas Street
Tupelo, MS 38801
662.841.8960**

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Tupelo Public School District serves the community by engaging each student in an excellent education that develops skills and citizenship needed for success in a global society.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Thomas Street Elementary School, home of the Thomas Street Tigers! I am truly excited about the 2026–2027 school year and the many opportunities it will bring for our students and families.

Thomas Street Elementary is proud to be a model school for arts integration, made possible through grants from the Mississippi Arts Commission. We believe that creativity, innovation, and meaningful learning are essential and arts integration is a powerful way to bring these elements to life in our classrooms each day.

Our staff and I hold high expectations for ourselves and for our students. We are committed to working diligently to provide high-quality educational experiences that meet each child's individual needs. Through encouragement and support, we strive to ensure every student reaches their full potential—academically, physically, socially, and emotionally—so they are well prepared for the future.

Families are valued partners in this work. Strong connections between home and school are key to student success. I encourage you to take time to read this handbook and discuss it with your child. I hope it serves as a helpful resource as you become an active and engaged member of our school community. Education is truly a shared responsibility, and together we can accomplish great things for our students.

You are warmly invited to visit Thomas Street Elementary—attend programs, join us for field trips and special events, become involved in our active and supportive PTO and connect with your child's teachers. Your ideas, involvement and partnership are deeply appreciated as we work together to serve all children.

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your child's principal. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns throughout the year. I am here to support you.

Phone: (662) 841-8960 Email: chcarroll@tupeloschools.com

I look forward to a wonderful year working together!

Sincerely,

Christy Carroll
Principal
Thomas Street Elementary

Welcome to Thomas Street Elementary School!

Administrative Staff

Christy Carroll, Principal
chcarroll@tupeloschools.com

Tritina Siddell, Instructional Coach
tlsiddell@tupeloschools.com

Kristin Vuncannon, Counselor
klvuncannon@tupeloschools.com

Debbie Dilworth, Office Manager
ddilworth@tupeloschools.com

Ashley Walker-Brown, Data Entry
adwalkerbrown@tupeloschools.com

Depra Loving, Family &
Community Engagement Specialist
ddloving@tupeloschools.com

TPSD Administration

Dr. Rob Picou
Superintendent

Dr. Brock English
Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Art Dobbs
Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Melissa Thomas
Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Corlis Curry
Federal Programs Director



THOMAS STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Thomas Street Elementary School is to provide a safe and positive learning environment for all students. We will pursue academic excellence in preparation for college and career while nurturing imagination and creativity through the arts to inspire lifelong learners who will make a positive difference in the community and world.

Phone Numbers

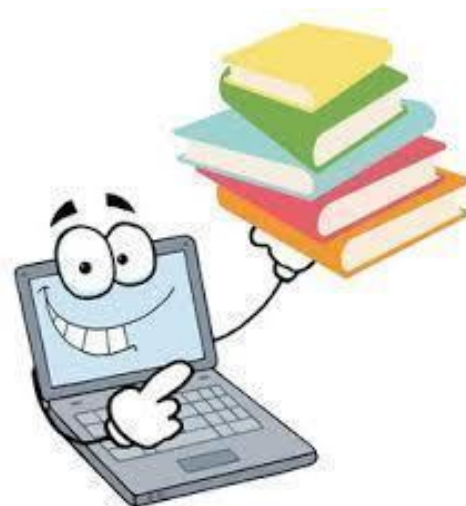
Main Office, Principal, Conferences.....	662-841-8960
Counselor.....	662-841-8864
Life Core Support Therapist.....	662-841-8963
Cafeteria.....	662-840-1844
School Fax Number.....	662-841-8965
TPSD District Office.....	662-841-8850

Thomas Street Elementary Essential Information

Thomas Street Elementary Handbook is provided as a reference and information guide for the parents and students. While it contains policies current at the time of printing, we are constantly updating and reviewing policies. Therefore, the handbook may not always reflect the most current policies or information. All policies and procedures in our handbook are subject to unilateral change at the sole option and discretion of the Tupelo School District.

Visit www.tupeloschools.com and look on our webpage for the information listed below and more.

- About Our School
- TSE Annual Report Card
- Wellness Policy
- TSE Fast Facts
- Discipline Policy & Ladder
- JDDA Suspension
- JCCA Due Process
- TPSD Calendar
- Staff Directory
- K – 12 Modified Ten-Point Grading Scale
- Active Parent
- Accelerated Reader
- Child Nutrition and School Lunch Menus
- Enrollment (Active Parent)
- Head Lice Policy
- Bus Routes and Conduct
- Sexual Harassment Policy
- Resources: Student/Parent Online Tools
- Documents and Forms
- Teaching & Learning



Attendance, Drop-Off and Pick-Up

ATTENDANCE

To be considered as having attended school for a full day, a student must be present for 63% of his/her instructional day as fixed by the Board for each individual school. For purposes of reporting absenteeism, a student who has an absence that is more than 37% of the student's instructional day shall be considered absent the entire school day.

1. Excused Absences shall include:

a. Parental Excused Absences

Students are allowed to have a maximum of three (3) excused parental absences per semester. Parental absences must be substantiated in writing within 2 school days of the absence. A parent/guardian can substantiate the absence by sending a signed note, emailing (adwalkerbrown@tupeloschools.com) or faxing (662-841-8965) to the school attendance office. The note must have the child's name and date of absence(s). A parent signed checkout will also substantiate a parental excused absence. A parental excused absence may be for one class, any 30-minute period within a class or an entire day.

b. Medical Excused Absences

Students are allowed excused medical absences when the absences result from illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school; a medical or dental appointment; isolation ordered by the county health officer, and State Board of Health or appropriate school official. Excuses from the doctor or dentist must be substantiated in writing within 2 school days of the absence.

Unexcused Absences- Any absence, tardy or dismissal, which does not meet the criteria of an excused absence, shall be considered unexcused. No absence will be considered excused when it is due to suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action.

Please note state law requires that students are present for 63% of the instructional day - this excludes recess, lunch and breaks. So that your student is considered "present" for the day, please check in your child no later than 9:45 a.m. and check them out no earlier than 2:00 p.m.

ARRIVAL

The safety of our students is our top priority. Adult supervision begins each morning at 7:15 a.m. Please do not drop off your child before this time and only release students when a staff member is present in the carpool area.

Carpool students should be dropped off in the designated carpool lane on Bryan Street or in front of the school on Thomas Street. Please note that Bryan Street is a one-way street during

morning and afternoon carpool times. For the safety of all students, do not enter the staff parking lot for drop-off or pick-up, and never attempt to drop off or pick up your child from the street, as this creates a serious safety hazard.

Bus riders and daycare riders will load and unload through the drive-through located at the front of the building on Thomas Street.

Breakfast service begins at 7:15 a.m. and ends at 7:45 a.m. Students arriving after 7:45 a.m. who would like breakfast will be provided with a “grab-and-go” option.

Students may enter their classrooms beginning at 7:30 a.m., and instructional time begins promptly at 7:50 a.m.

TARDY

A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives at school after 7:50 a.m. If a student is tardy, the parent/guardian is required to walk his/her child into the school and sign him/her in. Please do not drop off your child in front of the building after 7:50 a.m. There will not be a staff member present to ensure the student’s safety. Unexcused tardies are calculated each nine weeks, and parent letters/conferences will begin at 5 tardies. The attendance officer is notified at 5 unexcused tardies also.

EARLY DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL (CHECKOUT PROCEDURES)

Parents are strongly encouraged to schedule their child’s doctor, dental, and other appointments after school hours. If this is not possible, send a note to the teacher on the day of the appointment. Upon arrival, go to the office to sign out your child. Only persons listed on the student emergency card will be allowed to check out the student. While you are signing the checkout sheet, the office staff will page your child to come to the office. The school office is extremely busy from 1:00 p.m. through dismissal. Checkout for students after 2:15 p.m. will not be permitted unless an emergency arises. More than five checkouts without a doctor's excuses will be reported to the attendance officer. If there is a medical reason, please submit a medical excuse.

DISMISSAL

All students are dismissed at 2:40 p.m. Students will be dismissed as noted by the parent or guardian. Always notify your child’s teacher, in writing, of any change in procedures or change in person(s) picking him/her up. Students will be dismissed in the same way every day unless written notice is received informing us of the change. It is urgent that parents pick up students promptly after the 2:40 p.m. afternoon dismissal. For the safety and protection of the children, all students who have not been picked up by 3:25 p.m. will report to the office. Any student picked up after 3:25 p.m. must be signed out by an authorized adult.

Thomas Street Elementary Curriculum, Specials & More

CURRICULUM

With a published curriculum from TPSD Curriculum Department for grades K-6 that focuses on reading and mathematics, students receive a solid foundation in the basic skills through a variety of instructional techniques based on MS College and Career State Standards. A licensed teacher staffs each regular classroom. A media specialist, guidance counselor, principal, and support staff support teachers with the needs of all children. All schools also offer physical education, music, and art.

- Students receive daily reading instruction using Wonders. Students rotate through hands-on learning centers, technology programs, and teacher small group instruction during the ELA block.
- Students receive daily math instruction using Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Math program along with HMH Ed learning platform. Students rotate through math centers and teacher small group instruction.
- To measure academic growth and monitor student progress, diagnostic assessments are administered throughout the school year. Kindergarten students take the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment at the beginning and end of the year, and i-Ready Math is administered throughout the year. First and second grade students participate in STAR and i-Ready assessments three times per year.
- Students receive science instruction using Studies Weekly. Students learn through hands-on experiments.
- Students receive social studies instruction using Studies Weekly. Students learn about past events and what is happening in our world today.

LITERACY STATEMENT

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a student scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion.

CHALLENGE

The Challenge Program is provided for intellectually gifted children in grades two through eight in the Tupelo Public School District. Students are screened in first grade through teacher observations, group intelligence tests, and achievement tests. In some circumstances, students are screened in higher grades. Students who are referred for testing take an individual intelligence test. Regulations from the Mississippi Department of Education require that all children score at or above the 90th percentile to be eligible for the Challenge Program. Students who are in the program meet for five hours each week with the Challenge teacher.

SPECIAL CLASSES

➤ *Art*

Our students participate in art class every rotation. In this class students gain a better understanding of principals of visual art including color, design and art history. In art, the children learn a variety of techniques such as: water coloring, shading, dimensions, and others. The artwork of our students can be found at the Tupelo High School Performing Arts Center, our school building and in the spring, at the Gum Tree Museum of Art.

➤ *Music*

In music class, students explore a variety of styles and genres through singing, listening, playing instruments, and movement. Musical skills are developed using the Orff approach as well as traditional instructional methods. Students perform in grade-level programs, and choir students participate in the Annual District Christmas Choir. Participation in these performances provides valuable opportunities for students to develop their vocal and movement skills while building confidence on stage.

➤ *Physical Education*

Physical education classes provide students with opportunities to exercise and participate in both cooperative and competitive games. Students learn the importance of good sportsmanship, teamwork, and maintaining an active, healthy lifestyle. Our program includes cognitive content and engaging learning experiences across a variety of activity areas, including basic movement skills, physical fitness, rhythms and dance, and games. Through carefully planned physical activities, each student is encouraged to reach optimal physical, mental, emotional, and social development.

Students are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes on P.E. days; dresses are not recommended. Please inform the school if your child has any special needs, such as injuries or illness, that may limit participation.

Each spring, elementary schools participate in the annual Ripple Run, promoting fitness and school spirit.

➤ *Media Center*

Every child has a scheduled time to visit the media center; however, all children have access to the media center every day. During media class, the children learn how to utilize the media center more efficiently and check out books. Books may be checked out anytime during the school day. All books are due in one week but may be returned early or renewed if extra time is needed.

We encourage all students to participate in the Accelerated Reader program and to work toward meeting their individual reading goals. Student achievement is recognized and rewarded at the end of each nine-week grading period.

Computer

Students are provided weekly instruction in computer science. This instruction takes place in our computer lab as part of their specials rotation.

Other special activities are offered such as Character Education and Science Lab.

ARTS INTEGRATION

Thomas Street has been a model school for arts integration for over 20 years. We will continue these efforts with the use of arts integration to teach regular curriculum. This is made possible through grants with the MS Arts Commission and partnerships with Tupelo Public School District.

GRADE LEVEL PERFORMANCES

Every student in each grade participates in a performance each year. This builds self-confidence in our students and teaches students not only to perform, but proper audience etiquette as well.

UPDATED KINDERGARTEN PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

The early childhood years are a critical time in the development for every child. The learning that takes place during the first eight years of life serves as the foundation for all later academic, social, emotional, physical and motor development. All children are capable of learning and meeting developmental milestones. Therefore, the Kindergarten Guidelines are proposed to assist all early childhood educators in their efforts to provide a high-quality evidence-based program serving kindergarten children to support school readiness.

School Readiness Definition

“Responsibility for school readiness lies not with children, but with the adults who care for them and the systems that support them,” (National Governors Association, 2005., p. 29)

School readiness is a multidimensional construct that goes beyond the skills, knowledge, and disposition of children as they enter kindergarten. Children are eligible for school when they have reached the chronological age established by the state, as described on page 11; however, school readiness is achieved through a combination of efforts involving children, families, schools, communities, and the state.

READY CHILDREN show an eagerness to explore, discover, engage, and learn. They demonstrate interest and abilities in all dimensions of early learning



and development: social and emotional development; language development; cognition and general knowledge; physical well-being and motor development; and approaches toward learning. Children are unique individuals, who do not develop at the same time or in the same way. Therefore, school readiness should be viewed as a continuum of behaviors rather than an inflexible or narrow set of proficiency skills. Any age-eligible child who is eager to attend kindergarten should be deemed “ready.”

READY FAMILIES recognize their role as their child’s first and most stable teacher and advocate while understanding their child’s current level of development. Families ensure a safe and consistent environment, promote good health, provide steady and supportive relationships, and understand their relationship with the school system to ensure a smooth transition.

READY SCHOOLS provide a welcoming and accepting environment for all and have professional educators who consistently advance growth and achievement for students with diverse backgrounds, experiences and abilities while working in partnership with families and communities.

READY COMMUNITIES include businesses, faith-based organizations, early childhood service providers, community groups, and local governments collaborating to support schools and children’s long-term success by providing families access to information, affordable services, and high-quality early learning opportunities.

READY STATES play a crucial part in supporting communities, schools, and families through developing appropriate policies; providing adequate funds; ensuring access to high-quality early development and learning opportunities; preparing and retaining a world-class early childhood workforce; ensuring an infrastructure to coordinate services, including data systems for accountability and demonstrating political leadership to make school readiness a state priority.

Adapted from National Governors Association. 2005. Building the foundation for bright futures: Final report of the NGA Task Force on School Readiness. Washington, DC: Author

All children attending a high-quality kindergarten program will:

1. improve their self-concept;
2. increase their intellectual growth;
3. enlarge their understanding of the world, people, experiences, ideas;
4. increase competencies and skills in oral language, literacy, writing, listening, and thinking;
5. increase their competencies and skills in mathematical reasoning and scientific exploration;
6. increase their skills involved in physical coordination and gross and fine motor skills;

7. increase their competence in dealing with emotions, feelings, and social situations;
8. increase their self-direction and independence;
9. develop cooperative, trusting relationships;
10. develop their natural curiosity and creative potential; and
11. develop a love of learning

Pre-K Goals

Pre-Kindergarten Philosophy and Goals for Three- and Four-Year-Old Children

The early childhood years are a critical time in the development for every child. The learning that takes place during the first eight years of life serves as the foundation for all later academic, social, emotional, physical and motor development. All children are capable of learning and meeting developmental milestones. Therefore, the Early Learning Guidelines are proposed to assist all early childhood educators in their efforts to provide a high-quality research- based program serving pre-kindergarten children at three and four years of age to support school readiness. Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year-Old Children.

Partners in Education

ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONIST

Interventions are provided for students who are experiencing difficulty in academics or with behavior. Also, the interventionists provide support for classroom teachers to prevent disruption of instruction. Interventionists provide interventions for students on Tier II and Tier III.

MTSS TEAM

A group of educators who meet to determine interventions for students who are experiencing difficulty in the classroom. Interventions are developed to assist the student in becoming successful. Parents will always be notified of the RTI (Response to Intervention) process. Parents are encouraged to attend these meetings.

GUIDANCE SERVICES

Thomas Street School has a certified guidance counselor. Each child at Thomas Street School has access to our school counselor. Parents who wish to arrange a conference with the counselor are asked to call the school office at 662-841-8960. Additional student services are provided by a Life Core Support Therapist.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

In the Tupelo Public School District, teachers must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree, and many have advanced degrees such as a masters, specialist or doctorate degree. Teachers with three years of experience may complete the National Board certification process. District teachers spend a great amount of time in professional development every school year through Professional Learning Communities or through other organized professional development sessions.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

The PTO is an organization of parents, family members and teachers who work together to improve and enhance the school environment. Everyone is invited to join the PTO and share in the partnership of support. Through general meetings, emails, phone calls and newsletters, parents are kept up-to-date on plans and progress of our school and school activities.

The PTO sponsors various projects during the school year such as:

- Fall Festival
- Fundraisers
- Valentine Hearts
- Arts Festival
- Book Fairs
- Teacher Appreciation Events
- School Yearbook
- PBS Incentives

Thomas Street Elementary Procedures, Policies & Important Information

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

All students will be given an application for free and reduced lunches. Please fill out the form at the beginning of the school year. The Thomas Street Cafeteria serves two meals each day. Breakfast is served from 7:15 a.m. until 7:50 a.m. Lunch is served between 10:40 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. The menu is published weekly on the district's website www.tupeloschools.com. Meals may be purchased on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Students who choose to bring their lunches are encouraged to pack a healthy, nutritious meal. **Please send only nut-free snacks and lunch items.** Many students have food allergies. They may purchase milk from the cafeteria. It is possible to pay with cash, check or online on the myschoolbucks.com website. There is a fee to pay online.

Parents and other visitors who wish to eat lunch in the cafeteria should notify the office by 8:30 a.m. on the day of the visit with a note or a phone call. The cafeteria must have a lunch count each morning and will need this information.

Each day, students will have a working snack time in class. Students should bring a healthy, nut-free snack to school.

Current meal prices:

Student Breakfast: paid \$2.00 or reduced \$.30. Adult breakfast - \$3.00

Student Lunch: paid \$3.00 or reduced \$.40 Adult lunch - \$5.00

DELIVERIES

In the interest of safety and avoiding interruptions during instructional time, deliveries of balloons, flowers, gifts, etc. will not be accepted at school. Please have deliveries made to your child's home. Cupcakes, cookies, cakes, etc. must be store bought for the entire homeroom class. These items will be distributed during snack time only to avoid interruptions during instructional time and lunch. Invitations to birthday celebrations cannot be handed out at school.

DRILLS

Thomas Street Elementary School will conduct monthly safety drills according to state regulations. We will have fire drills, tornado drills, lockdown drills, and earthquake drills. These drills are in place to help students and staff know what to do in these situations. We encourage students to stay calm and follow procedures. If you are in the building during one of these drills, you will be expected to participate also.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Volunteer participation is encouraged by parents, guardians and community members. Along with your child's teacher, our Family and Community Engagement Specialist, Mrs. Depra Loving, can assist in coordinating participation. Mrs. Loving's phone number is (662) 841-8960, and her email address is ddloving@tupeloschools.com.

EVACUATION SITE

In case of an evacuation of the building due to a fire or other threatening situations, we will walk to the walking track by the Thomas Street Post Office. Buses will transport students and staff to the West Main Church of Christ. If the entire area is unsafe, the whole school will be bussed to Orchard Church on Thomas Street. Students should be picked up at one of these locations according to school procedure. Our main goal is to keep our children safe. Please help us accomplish this with your cooperation.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles found in and around the school should be turned into the office.

PARENTS AND OTHER VISITORS

All visitors must use the front entrance and report to the office. A visitor's badge must be worn so that staff and students will know that the visitor has been cleared through the office. This procedure is imperative in our efforts to keep unauthorized visitors out of the building.

PARENT – TEACHER CONFERENCES

Communication between the school and home is an essential part of the educational process. Schools rely on conferences to supplement report cards or portfolios and other written forms of communication between parents and teachers. Parents or teachers may request conferences. Parents wishing to arrange conferences should contact the school secretary during the school day or email your child's teacher. Please allow 24 hours for the teacher to respond. If you feel you need to meet more often, please contact the teacher.

PARENT/VISITOR PARKING

Please do not park in front of the school during drop off and pick up times. This will block the traffic flow and can become a safety hazard.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Children should bring to school only the materials/supplies that are necessary and requested. Items that are distracting to others and disruptive to the learning process are considered nuisance items and should not be brought to school. No weapons or look alike weapons are allowed on school property. Toy guns, toy knives, whistles, chewing gum, and fad toy items are examples of distracting materials. Bringing some of these items will result in severe disciplinary actions. Due to the possibility of loss or damage, cell phones, iPads, large amounts of money and other items of significant value should not be brought to school. *The Tupelo Public School District cannot be held responsible for the loss of such items.*

PLACEMENT POLICY

Children are randomly placed in classrooms with consideration of confidential information from parents and teachers. Requests for specific teachers are not accepted.

PROMOTING AND REINFORCING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR & GOOD CITIZENSHIP

In the Tupelo Public School District, students are expected to exhibit responsible behavior and to maintain positive attitudes that will contribute to their own well-being and the well-being of others. One goal is to promote an atmosphere within the schools conducive to learning, and another goal is to help children become responsible for good personal conduct at school. Schools work to improve school climate through use of **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**. Thomas Street is a PBIS Model School.

STUDENT APPEARANCE

It should be a matter of personal pride for a student of the TPSD to maintain high standards of neatness and appropriateness of dress and appearance. Parents will be called to bring a

change of clothing to the school if a student is not dressed appropriately. The full student dress code policy (JCDB) can be found on the TPSD website.

STUDENT HEALTH /SCHOOL NURSE PROGRAM

The health of your child is important to all of us. Children who have definite signs of colds or other illnesses should not be sent to school. If a child becomes ill or is injured at school, he or she will be cared for temporarily. Parents will be notified and expected to pick up the child. **It is crucial that emergency telephone numbers are kept current.**

The health of your child is important to all of us. Children who have a persistent cough and/or runny nose should not be sent to school. If a child wakes during the night with vomiting/diarrhea, please keep the child home. Children with a fever of 100 or greater, should not be sent to school until he or she no longer has a fever AND does not have to take Tylenol, Ibuprofen, or Motrin to keep the fever down. If your child has to take fever-reducing medication, please keep the child home. If a child becomes ill or is injured at school, he or she will be cared for temporarily. Parents will be notified and expected to pick up the child. It is crucial that you have someone available to pick up the child if you are not available to do so. Please contact the office to update emergency contact information and phone numbers.

STUDENT WITHDRAWALS

If you need to withdraw your child from school, come by the office to inform us of the date your child will be withdrawing and the new school the student will be attending. The counselor will complete a withdrawal form for the student to take to his new school. Student records are sent to the new school upon request. Remember to bring all textbooks and library books to school.

TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOLS' INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

It will be our practice to always put the safety of our students and staff first in dismissing school for reasons caused by inclement weather. We carefully check the conditions for transportation and make the decision to dismiss school after we have considered all of the information available. If inclement weather should occur during the day and it becomes necessary to close school early, an announcement will be made by the Central Office. All local news media will be notified by his office, and radio and television stations will announce the decision for early dismissal. Parents will be notified with a phone call or text so please keep phone numbers current. School closings or early dismissals will also be announced on the TPSD website. Every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of all students.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

The principal is responsible for all persons in the building and on the campus and will schedule through his/her designee visits from parents, community members, and other educational professionals.

The following policy applies to all visitors entering a school other than for attendance at a scheduled activity open to the general public. In order to assure that no unauthorized persons enter the school with wrongful intent, all visitors will report to the school office when entering to receive authorization and identification passes to visit elsewhere in the building.



THOMAS STREET TIGERS

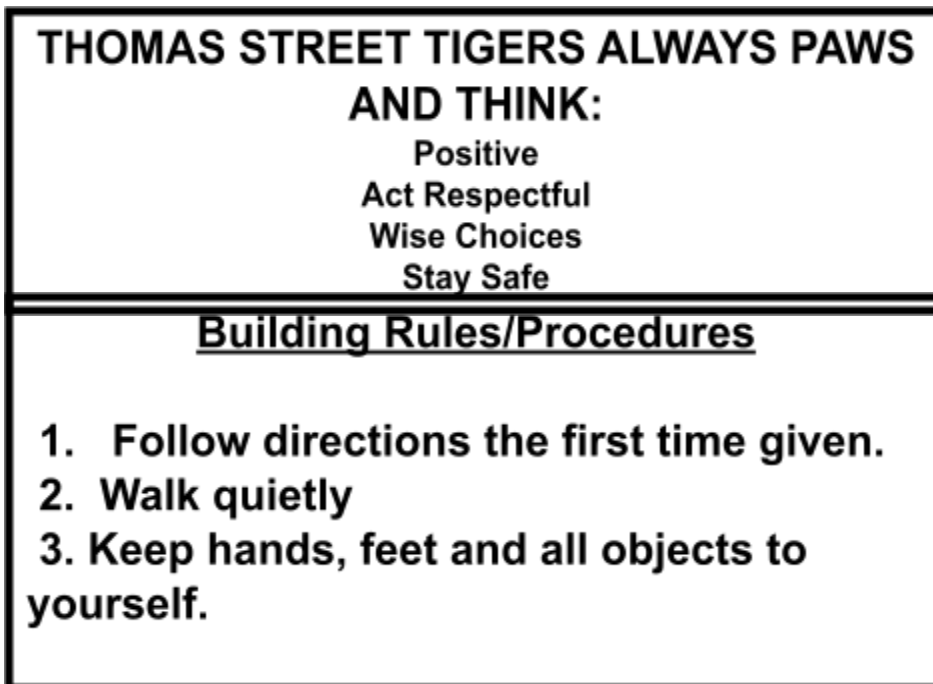
At Thomas Street, students are expected to exhibit responsible behavior and to maintain positive attitudes that will contribute to their own well-being, as well as the well-being of others.

Rules and procedures are developed to help students learn self-discipline and to help them know the forms of conduct that are expected. In order for all to benefit, enjoy and learn in a safe environment, discipline and rules must be maintained. The primary responsibility for appropriate conduct rests with the student. Parents should discuss with their children the importance and need for good behavior and positive attitudes while in school.

TPSD Discipline Supervisors

Grades K-5: Mr. Art Dobbs

Secondary: Dr. Brock English and Dr. Melissa Thomas



COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Communication is essential to a successful school year. Effective communication means knowing how and to whom to direct a suggestion, an inquiry or a problem. The guidelines furnished below are designed to assist you in communicating effectively with the personnel at our school.

HOW SHOULD AN INQUIRY OR PROBLEM BE DIRECTED?

Questions, suggestions, or problems should be presented in a positive way with the assurance that school personnel want to do a good job. Through the counselor's office, you should schedule a mutually convenient time to meet with your child's teacher. Gather and clarify information that applies to your concerns and work cooperatively towards a satisfactory conclusion.

WHO SHOULD AN INQUIRY OR PROBLEM BE DIRECTED?

- Please direct communication to the person closest in position to the situation.
- Contact the teacher in a specific situation involving an individual or classroom.
- Contact the principal in general situations involving more than an individual or classroom or if satisfaction is not gained after talking with the teacher.

FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Tupelo Public School District routinely makes public certain directory information regarding students. This directory information includes the student name, address, telephone number, picture, height and weight of athletes, extracurricular activities, awards, honor rolls, electronic listings, Internet web pages, and other information which is typically found in

school yearbooks, programs, bulletins and student newspapers. In addition, the District discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon request. Parents and eligible students shall have from **July 15 until September 1** to review this notice and request in writing that all or any part of the directory information not be disclosed without prior written consent.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Tupelo Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, creed, marital status, veteran status, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Director of Human Resources
TPSD Administrative Office
Post Office Box 557
Tupelo, Mississippi 38802
662-841-8850

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulations established by the EPA, all school districts are required to provide an annual notification to all parents, teachers, and employees regarding our asbestos management program. This annual notification informs all persons of their option to review the Asbestos Management Plan for our school district.

To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an accredited asbestos inspector. Any changes to these materials are recorded in a surveillance report as part of the management plan.

Additionally, an accredited Asbestos Management Planner conducts a comprehensive inspection of all ACM's every 3 years. This 3-year re-inspection has been performed as required and a copy has been filed with the Mississippi Department of Education.

A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is located in the principal's office at each school. In addition, copies of all Asbestos Management Plans for the district are maintained in the Superintendent's office located at 72 South Green Street. If you are interested in reviewing this information, please contact the Central Office at 662-841-8853 to schedule an appointment.

TITLE I: PARENT RIGHT TO KNOW

The qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals employed in schools funded by Title I will be provided upon parent request. Title I School Wide Programs are available at the Early Childhood Education Center and the eight K-5 elementary schools. For further information, please contact the principal of the school where your child attends or the Director of Federal Programs. In addition, a parent may request information on the level of achievement of the parent's child on each state academic assessment, and/or a timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

This Student Handbook is provided as a convenience to the students of Tupelo Public School District. While it contains policies current at the time of printing, we are constantly reviewing and updating policies. Therefore, the Handbook may not always reflect the most current policy. All policies and procedures summarized in this Student Handbook are subject to unilateral change at the sole option and discretion of the Tupelo Public School District. A copy of the current policies of the Tupelo Public School District is available at www.tupeloschools.com as well as in the District Office.

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ACT

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Act is defined as a student who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. For more information, contact Jeni Chandler at jdchandler@tupeloschools.com or Dr. Corlis Curry at ccurry@tupeloschools.com.

A copy of Thomas Street's Parental Involvement Policy is located in the main office.

A copy of Thomas Street's Student Handbook and TPSD Guidebook is located in the main office and on our website at www.tupeloschools.com

You are ensured access to this electronic version of the handbook when you complete and sign Active Parent at registration for your child.

STUDENT AND PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

This Student Handbook is provided as a convenience to the students of Tupelo Public School District (TPSD). While it contains some information current at the time of printing, TPSD is constantly reviewing and updating policies, so the Handbook may not always reflect the most current policy. All policies and procedures summarized in this Handbook are subject to unilateral change at the sole option and discretion of the TPSD.

Our signatures verify that we have been ensured access to an electronic version of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook, and understand that the handbook is a work in progress document and that changes may be made throughout the school year in response to unanticipated events.

A copy of the current policies of the Tupelo Public School District is available at www.tupeloschools.com as well as in the District Office.

We certify that at the start of the 2026-2027 school year, we were ensured access to an electronic version of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook and that a hard copy is also available in our main office.

Student (please print) _____

Signature _____

Parent or Guardian (please print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

After reviewing this publication, please sign and return this document to your child's school.

Tupelo Public School District School Listings

Carver Elementary

April West-McIntosh, Ph.D., Principal
910 North Green Street
662-841-8870/662-841-8877 (fax)

Early Childhood Education Center

Katie Coon, Principal
1402 North Green Street
662-840-5237/662-842-2609 (fax)

Joyner Elementary

Kimberly Foster, Principal
1201 Joyner Avenue
662-841-8900/662-841-8903 (fax)

Lawhon Elementary

Wesley McCullough,
Principal
140 Lake Street
662-841-8910/662-840-1856 (fax)

Lawndale Elementary

Talina Knight, Principal
1563 Mitchell Road
662-841-8890/662-840-1837 (fax)

Milam Elementary

Terry Harbin, Ph.D., Principal
720 West Jefferson Street
662-841-8920/662-841-8929 (fax)

Parkway Elementary

Carmen Gary, Principal
628 Rutherford Drive
662-844-6303/662-841-2957 (fax)

Pierce Street Elementary

Anthony Golding, Ph.D., Principal
1008 Pierce Street
662-841-8940/662-841-8959 (fax)

Rankin Elementary

TBA, Principal 1908 Forrest Street
662-841-8950/662-840-1826 (fax)

Thomas Street Elementary

Christy Carroll, Principal
520 South Thomas Street
662-841-8960/662-841-8965 (fax)

Tupelo High School

Mark Enis, Principal
4125 Golden Wave Dr.
662-841-8970/662-841-8987 (fax)

Tupelo Middle School

Heather Cartwright,
Ph.D., Principal
1009 Varsity Drive
662-840-8780/662-840-1831 (fax)

Tupelo Structured Day Program

Tanisha Smith,
Ph.D., Director 903
Fillmore Drive
662-690-5004/662-840-1836 (fax)

Administrative Office

Rob Picou, Ph.D. Superintendent
72 South Green Street – Post
Office Box 557
662-841-8850/662-841-8887
(fax)

Hancock Leadership Center

1920 Briar
Ridge Road,
662-840-18
47/662-840
-1581 (fax)

SRO E-mail address

thscrime@tupeloschools.com

TPSD Hotline

662-841-7771

T.I.P.S. Line

662-841-7772

TPSD BOARD POLICIES

Note: To access TPSD Board Policies listed below, use the following steps:

Go to: <http://www.tupeloschools.com> Click About Our District , Click Board of Trustees , Click Board Policies. To view policy, type Policy Code next to the Descriptor.

Elementary Student Guidebook Topical Reference to Board Policies

A. Student Services and Programs

Topics	Reference; TPSD Policy Code
Parental Involvement Policies under Title I	<u>LAA Title I Parental Involvement</u>
Prohibition against sexual harassment or discrimination	<u>JB Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment – Title IX</u>
Birth certificate requirements for enrollment	<u>JBC School Admission</u>
Free and reduced meal program	<u>EEA Free/Reduced Lunch</u>
Any changes in the eligibility criteria for free and reduced lunch	<u>EEA Free/Reduced Lunch</u>
School wellness policy (Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010)	<u>JG School Wellness Policy</u>
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	<u>JQN Education for Homeless Children and Youth</u>
Abstinence education	<u>ICG Sex-Related Education</u>
Instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse	<u>ICG Sex-Related Education</u>
Provision of free appropriate public education to students with disabilities	<u>IDDF Special Education Programs</u>
Enrollment Requirements	<u>JBC School Admission</u>
Proof of Residency for enrollment	<u>JBC School Admission</u>
District ownership of student lockers; right to search	<u>JCDA School Searches</u>
Administration of medications to students	<u>JGCDC Administering Medications to Students JGCDA Asthma Medications</u>
Dismissal procedures	<u>JGFC Dismissals</u>
Responsible and acceptable use of TPSD computers and network and Internet safety program	<u>IFBGA Internet and Email Safety and Acceptable Use Computer Policy</u>
Transportation policies	<u>EDA Student Transportation</u>

Student residency and tuition	<u>JBCC Student Tuition for Out-of-District Students</u>
Communicable and infectious disease and management of students with the disease	<u>JGCC Communicable Diseases</u>
Challenge Program	<u>IDE Gifted Education Program</u>
Early Literacy Program	<u>ICHI Literacy Based Promotion</u>
Weighted grades	<u>IHA Grading System</u>
Parental objections to sex education, family life instruction and sexually transmitted diseases	<u>ICG Sex-Related Education</u>
English as a Second Language education availability	<u>IK Limited English Proficiency Instruction</u>
Eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities	<u>IDFA Intramural / Interscholastic Athletics</u>
Parental right to review instructional materials	<u>IJJ Instructional Resources</u>
High school graduation requirements (high school only)	<u>IHF Graduation Requirements</u>
Right of students with IEP to participate in graduation ceremony (high school only)	<u>IHF Graduation Requirements</u>
Physical education requirement, including waiver of required classes	<u>IHF Graduation Requirements</u>
Dual Enrollment	<u>IDAG Dual Enrollment</u>

B. Student Rights and Responsibilities

Topics	Reference; TPSD Policy Code
Bullying	<u>JDDA Bullying</u>
Controlled substances	<u>JCDAC Drugs and Alcohol</u> (Possession or Reasonable Suspicion)
Firearms and other weapons	<u>JCDAE Possession of Weapons on School Property</u>
Gangs and gang-related activity	<u>JCBB Gang Activity</u>
Sexting and other prohibited uses of technology	<u>IJB CIPA Policy – Acceptable Use</u> <u>IFBGA Internet and Email Safety and Acceptable Use</u> <u>Computer Policy</u> <u>JB Student Complaints of Sexual Discrimination /</u> <u>Harassment – Title IX</u>
Prohibition against sexual harassment or discrimination	<u>JB Students Complaints of</u> <u>Sexual Discrimination / Harassment – Title IX</u>
Family Education Rights and Privacy Act	<u>JRAB Compliance with FERPA</u>
Directory information disclosure	<u>JRAB Compliance with FERPA</u>

FERPA right to review education records	<u>JR Student Records</u>
Title I: Parent Right to Know	<u>LAA Title I Parental Involvement</u>
Non-discrimination – Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA	<u>BAAB Non-Discrimination / Equal Opportunity Policy</u>
Notice of non-discrimination coordinator(s) and procedures for making a complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment	<u>BAAB Non-Discrimination / Equal Opportunity Policy</u>
Sex equity policy and grievance procedures	<u>JB Students Complaints of</u> <u>Sexual Discrimination / Harassment – Title IX</u>
School bus safety procedures	<u>JCDAD Bus Conduct</u>
Dress code	<u>JCDB Dress Code for Students</u>
Outstanding fees and fines	<u>JS Fee Policy</u>
School discipline code	<u>JCB Code of Conduct</u> <u>JD Student Discipline Code</u>
Parking	<u>JGFF Automobile Use</u>
Drug testing	<u>JCDAB Student Drug Testing Program</u>
Suspension and expulsion procedures, with due process requirements	<u>JDD Suspension</u> <u>JDE Expulsion</u> <u>JCAA Due Process</u>
Notice of disability accommodation	<u>IDDH Section 504 – Americans with Disabilities Act -</u> <u>Nondiscrimination</u>

C. General Information

Topics	Reference; TPSD Policy Code
Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act Notification	<u>EM Hazardous Materials</u>
Attendance, absenteeism, truancy	<u>JBD Attendance, Tardiness and Excuses</u> <u>JBAC Truancy</u>
Parent Council	<u>LEB Relations with Parent Organizations</u>
TPSD Goals	<u>BA Board Operations Goals and Objectives</u> <u>Mission Statement</u>
TPSD Mission	<u>BA Board Operations Goals and Objectives</u> <u>Mission Statement</u>
School visitation procedures	<u>KM Visitors to the Schools</u>
Waiver of school fees	<u>JS Fee Policy</u>
Abstinence education	<u>ICG Sex-Related Education</u>
Field trips	<u>IFCB Field Trips and Excursions</u>
Parking decals	<u>JGFF Automobile Use</u>
Recognition for Accomplishments	<u>AGA Recognition for Accomplishments</u>
Emergency School Closing Procedures	<u>EBBD Emergency Closings</u>

D. Special Circumstances Notifications

Topics	Reference; TPSD Policy Code
IDEA procedural safeguards	<u>IDDF Special Education Programs</u>
IDEA request for evaluation	<u>IDDF Special Education Programs</u>
IDEA request for due process	<u>IDDF Special Education Programs</u>
IDEA change of placement	<u>IDDF Special Education Programs</u>
Notification of eligibility for supplemental education services	<u>IDDF Special Education Programs</u> <u>IDDH Section 504 – Americans with Disabilities Act – Nondiscrimination (and Exhibit)</u>