TCCHS BELL SCHEDULE 2026-2027

	A LUNCH	B LUNCH	C LUNCH
First Bell	7:45	7:45	7:45
1st Period	8:00 - 8:50	8:00 - 8:50	8:00 - 8:50
2nd Period	8:55 - 9:45	8:55 - 9:45	8:55 - 9:45
3rd Period	9:50 - 10:40	9:50 - 10:40	9:50 - 10:40
4th Period	10:45 - 11:35	10:45 - 11:35	10:45 - 11:35
5th Period	Lunch 11:35 - 12:05	11:40 - 12:10	11:40 - 12:30
	12:10 - 1:00	Lunch 12:10 - 12:40	News 4 You 12:30 - 12:45
	News 4 You 1:00 - 1:15	12:45 - 1:05	Lunch 12:45 - 1:15
		News 4 You 1:05 - 1:15	
6th Period	1:20 - 2:10	1:20 - 2:10	1:20 - 2:10
7th Period	2:15 - 3:05	2:15 - 3:05	2:15 - 3:05

TCCHS TAA SCHEDULE 2026-2027

	A LUNCH	B LUNCH	C LUNCH
First Bell	7:45	7:45	7:45
1st Period	8:00 - 8:45	8:00 - 8:45	8:00 - 8:45
2nd Period	8:50 - 9:35	8:50 - 9:35	8:50 - 9:35
3rd Period	9:40 - 10:25	9:40 - 10:25	9:40 - 10:25
TAA	10:25 – 10:55	10:25 – 10:55	10:25 – 10:55
4th Period	11:00 - 11:45	11:00 - 11:45	11:00 – 11:45
5th Period	Lunch 11:45 - 12:15	11:50 - 12:20	11:50 - 12:45
	12:20 – 1:15	Lunch 12:20 - 12:50	News 4 You 12:45 - 12:55
	News 4 You 1:15 - 1:25	12:55 - 1:15	Lunch 12:55 - 1:25
		News 4 You 1:15 - 1:25	
6th Period	1:30 - 2:15	1:30 - 2:15	1:30 - 2:15
7th Period	2:20 - 3:05	2:20 - 3:05	2:20 - 3:05

Parent-Student Handbook

2026-2027

Thomas County Central High School

Mission Statement:

"Thomas County Central High School is committed to all students graduating as productive citizens in a global society."

Dr. Lisa Williams, Superintendent
Thomas County Schools
200 North Pinetree Blvd.
Thomasville, Georgia 31792
Phone: 229-225-4380
Fax: 229-225-5012

Mr. Jamie Thompson, Principal
Thomas County Central High School
4686 US Highway 84 Bypass
Frank "Poppa D" Delaney, Jr. Parkway
Thomasville, Georgia 31792
Phone: 229-225-5050
Fax: 229-227-2422

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Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students:

As the world around us changes, our commitment to the students of Thomas County Central High School remains constant. We demonstrate that commitment daily in an environment where students have the right to learn and to achieve their full potential. Our mission is to see every student graduate with the knowledge and confidence to pursue their personal goals and to become productive members of our global community.

This handbook is designed to ensure consistency of expectations and procedures for our school and to serve as a resource for you and your student. We firmly believe that a strong home and school partnership will help our children succeed throughout their high school career. We are grateful for your support and trust with our most valuable resource - our children.

We look forward to a wonderful year!
GO JACKETS!

Mission Statement

Teaching children and ensuring success by:

- promoting academic excellence in a safe and supportive learning environment
- understanding the individual emotional, intellectual, physical, and social needs of all children
- demonstrating a unified commitment to preparing students with skills and strategies needed to
- successfully adapt in a diverse and ever-changing society
- remaining sensitive to cultural differences
- providing state-of-the-art facilities
- utilizing research-based instruction
- meeting the professional needs of all staff members

Thomas County Central High School is committed to all students graduating as productive citizens in a global society.

- **We believe** every student has the right to learn and should be encouraged to work to his or her full potential.
- **We believe** students should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning styles.
- **We believe** our school should enable students to become confident, self-directed, life-long learners and contributing members of society.
- **We believe** our school should be a safe, orderly and stimulating environment that encourages learning and academic excellence.

Parents' Right to Know

Teacher & Paraprofessional Qualifications

In accordance with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, the Thomas County School District will provide, upon request, certain information on the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and paraprofessionals (ESSA Section 1112(e)(1)(A)). Parents may request the following information:

1. Whether the student's teacher—
    - has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
    - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and,
    - is teaching in the field or discipline of the certification of the teacher.
2. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you desire information concerning the qualifications of your child's teacher(s), please contact the principal at your child's school.

Non-Professionally Qualified Teachers

Each Thomas County School will provide to student's parent or guardian a timely notice that his or her student has been assigned or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who has NOT met subject or grade level requirements for professional qualifications (ESSA Section 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii).

Student Achievement

Each Thomas County School will provide to parents information on their child's level of achievement on each of the state academic assessments (ESSA Section 1111(2)(B)(x)).

Parent Resources Title I

The following schools are classified as Title I Schools: Hand-in-Hand Primary, Garrison-Pilcher Elementary, Cross Creek Elementary, Thomas County Middle, The Renaissance Center, and Thomas County Academy. Each of these Title I schools qualify based on the number of students meeting federal poverty guidelines. Title I schools are required to use research-based teaching strategies and programs to improve student achievement. Staff must be professionally qualified and must be involved in on-going staff development. School staff studies data gathered from student assessments, parent surveys, and staff surveys to guide the school's Improvement Plan. Title I Family Engagement Plans are distributed electronically to every parent at the beginning of the school year. The plan will also be attached to the school's web page. A parent advisory panel meets twice a year to discuss school accomplishments and areas for improvement. Each Title I school has a parent resource room that houses information pertaining to child health, discipline, development, and other topics relevant to the ages of the students at that school. Additionally, a variety of parent books are available for check-out in the media center. If you need information that we do not have, please ask the media specialist. In most situations, we are able to secure resources for you to check-out. Copies of our Title I Plans are available for parent review in the school office or online via school websites. Please contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you need assistance.

Parent Volunteering

Parent participation is encouraged at each of our schools (ESSA Section 1116(d)(2)(C)). We encourage parents to participate in their student's school life. An orientation for volunteers is held in the fall of each school year. If you are interested in volunteering in your child's school, please contact the Parent Involvement Coordinator at that school. He or she will be more than happy to schedule times that are convenient for you that will not disrupt class schedules.

Parent and Family Engagement

Each Title I school will have an annual parent workshop to build parent capacity to support their children. Topics may include academic support, homework help, obtaining school information, behavior management, digital citizenship, standardized test data, or college and career planning. We welcome your input for planning and evaluation of these events. We will survey participants at the conclusion of each workshop to evaluate workshop quality, obtain feedback and gather suggestions.

Comments and Concerns

Thomas County Schools has a complaint procedure that is described in detail on our system website www.tcjackets.net. To access this description, hover over the "Departments" icon, and select the "Federal Programs" link. The complaint procedure is also outlined in our Parent/Student/Teacher Handbooks. In the event that you have a complaint, we wish you to contact the school your child attends and seek assistance from the teacher or administration as an initial point of contact. If you are unable to resolve your concern, you are invited to contact the Superintendent at the Thomas County School Board of Education. If you are still unsatisfied, you may contact the Georgia Department of Education via: http://programcomplaint.doe.k12.ga.us/everestwebportal/webform.asp.

Title I School and District Contact Information

Hand In Hand Primary
Principal, Dee Gaines
(229) 225-3908

Garrison Pilcher Elementary
Principal, Robin Webb
(229) 225-4387

Cross Creek Elementary
Principal, Ashley Lane
(229) 225-3900

Thomas County Middle School
Principal, Deann Garcia
(229) 225-4394

Title I Non-Traditional Schools Contact Information

Thomas County Academy
Director, Dr. Jim Rehberg
(229) 225-3197

The Renaissance Center
Director, Dr. Jim Rehberg
Dean of Students, Todd Creech
(229) 227-3222

Questions:
For additional information, you may contact Dr. Bob Dechman, Assistant Superintendent for Federal Programs, by calling (229) 225-4380, or via email at bdechman@tcjackets.net.

THOMAS COUNTY SCHOOLS TRAINING AND MONITORING PROCEDURES AND ASSESSMENTS

All faculty members involved with the administration or supervision of testing participate in training sessions to orient them to their duties and responsibilities concerning testing. The system test coordinator provides orientation and training to each school test coordinator in August. Following this training, each school test coordinator conducts the initial training session for the school faculty. Test examiners and test proctors receive copies of their roles which delineate the "must do" activities and "must not do" activities. Signed copies of this information are collected and sent in after school officials train all staff.

The System test coordinator provides a detailed orientation and training session prior to each standardized test administration. School test coordinators are prompted to review state training webinar sessions as appropriate. Sign in sheets and agendas serve as documentation of system training sessions for each testing program. Sessions specify district requirements for security and timelines for return of materials.

School test coordinators are responsible for conducting training sessions with their staff members prior to the administration of any standardized test. Content of this training will specify state regulations for test administration as well as school procedures and daily schedules for the duration of the testing window. School test coordinators will document staff participation in school-based training sessions prior to the test administration period. School test coordinators stay in contact with the system test coordinator on an as needed basis throughout the test administration period. School test coordinators are responsible for reporting irregularities promptly.

The system test coordinator will make periodic site visits to observe testing conditions, routines and processes. The system test coordinator will report any observations to the principal and or the superintendent in order to ensure corrective actions are implemented.

THOMAS COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD POLICIES

Fraud and Ethics Policy

To ensure the reporting of suspicion of fraudulent activity, the Thomas County School Superintendent and Board of Education ensure employees, clients and providers confidential channels to report suspicious activities.

Fraud: A false representation of a matter of fact, whether by words or by conduct, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed, that is used for the purpose of misappropriating property and/or monetary funds from federal grants or other sources.

The Thomas County School District thoroughly and expeditiously investigates any reported cases of suspected fraud to determine if disciplinary, financial recovery and/or criminal action should be taken.

All reports of suspected fraud must be handled under strict confidentiality. Only those directly involved in the investigation should be given information. Informants may remain anonymous but should be encouraged to cooperate with the investigators and should provide as much detail and evidence of the alleged fraudulent act as possible.

Procedures and Responsibilities:

1. Anyone suspecting fraud concerning federal or other programs should report their concerns to the superintendent at 229-225-4380. In the event the allegation of fraud involves the superintendent, an employee may report his or her suspicions directly to the chairman of the Thomas County Board of Education. Contact information for the Thomas County Board Chairman may be found on the school system's website.
2. Any employee of the Thomas County Board of Education (temporary staff, full-time staff and/or contractors) who receives a report of suspected fraudulent activity must report this information within the next business day to the superintendent or chairman of the Thomas County Board of Education at 229-225-4380. Employees have the responsibility to report suspected fraud. All reports can be made in confidence.
3. The Thomas County School District shall conduct investigations of employees, providers, contractors, or vendors as necessary.
4. If necessary, employees will be contacted for additional information.
5. Periodic communication through meetings should emphasize the responsibilities and channels to report suspected fraud.

Homeless Students Policy

To the extent practical and as required by federal law through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the Thomas County School System will work with homeless students and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Special attention will be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless students not currently attending school. Homeless students will be provided district services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and comparable pre-school programs, Title I, similar state programs, special education, programs for students with limited English proficiency, vocational and technical education programs, gifted and talented programs, and school nutrition programs.

Homeless students are defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children who experience one or more of the following characteristics:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship;
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of adequate accommodations;
3. Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Abandoned in hospitals;
5. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations, or similar settings;
7. Migratory children living in conditions described in the previous examples;
8. Unaccompanied youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Homeless children and unaccompanied youth will be identified through three main sources:

1. School personnel will be trained to inquire about homelessness upon enrollment and withdrawal of students. School personnel will notify the homeless liaison of any students determined to be homeless.
2. School staff will be trained on the identification of children in class who may be experiencing homelessness and appropriate procedures to follow.
3. Partnerships will be created between community agencies and the school system to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness. Outreach material will be provided to partner agencies by the homeless liaison to provide public notice of the rights of homeless students.

Each homeless student has the right to remain at his or her school of origin, to the extent feasible, or to attend school in the attendance area in which he or she is currently residing. Students identified as homeless have the right to immediate enrollment in school.

Homeless students are also entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled. If the parent/guardian requests transportation, the school shall notify the district liaison.

If a dispute arises over any issue related to the rights of any homeless student, then the student shall be immediately enrolled and provided all services until the dispute is resolved in accordance with federal law. The school must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its decision and inform him/her of his/her right to appeal with the district homeless liaison. The liaison shall ensure enrollment and appropriate services until the dispute is resolved. All records of disputes shall be kept. The state level appeals process will also be provided following the district level appeal.

Homeless students shall be provided comparable services to other students including the following: transportation, Title I, education services where they meet eligibility criteria, vocational and technical education program, gifted and talented program, and school nutrition. Upon being identified as homeless, students automatically qualify for free school meals. Title I services should also be made available to all homeless students regardless of the school of enrollment's Title I status.

The district's liaison for homeless students and their families shall coordinate with local social service agencies that provide services to homeless children and youth and their families; other school districts on issues of transportation and records transfers; and state and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies. The district's liaison will also review and seek revisions to district policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students.

For any concerns regarding the rights of homeless students, please contact the Thomas County School District's Homeless Liaison at 229-225-4380.

Notification of Provisions of Georgia's "Compulsory Student Attendance Law"
(O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1)

Georgia law requires children between the ages of 6 and 16 to be enrolled in and attend school. However, if a child is under 6 and has attended more than 20 days in a public school, he/she is subject to the compulsory attendance law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-1501).

A student is considered truant if he/she misses more than five unexcused absences during the school year. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1, a parent/guardian shall be held responsible for the child's failure to report to school. Potential consequences for parents and/or students include: a referral to the District Attorney's office, misdemeanor charges with a fine of not less than $25.00 and not greater than $100.00 for each offense, imprisonment for up to 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction may be imposed. Each day's unexcused absence from school, after the initial five unexcused days, shall constitute a separate offense.

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES POLICY

Definitions:
Truant: Any child subject to compulsory attendance who during the school calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences. Note: School days missed as a result of an out of school suspension shall not count as unexcused days for the purpose of determining student truancy.
Student Attendance Protocol: Procedures to be used in identifying, reporting, investigating and prosecuting cases of alleged violations of O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1, relating to mandatory school attendance and appropriately addressing the issue with parents and guardians. The protocol shall also include recommendations for policies relating to tardiness.
Student Attendance Committee: A committee established by the chief judge of the superior court of each county for the purpose of ensuring compulsory school attendance, to reduce the number of unexcused absences from school, and to increase the percentage of students present to take tests which are required to be administered under the laws of this state.

Excused Absences: Students may be temporarily excused from school:

1. Who are personally ill and attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others.
2. When in their immediate family there is a serious illness or death, which would reasonably necessitate absence from school.
3. On special and recognized religious holidays observed by their faith.
4. When mandated by order of governmental agencies (pre-induction physical examination for services in armed forces or court order).
5. A student may be excused from school when prevented from such attendance due to conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to their health or safety.

When a child is absent from school, the parent will furnish the school a written excuse within three school days of the absence. The school will require students to present appropriate medical documentation for absences due to illness upon return to school for the purpose of validating that the absence is an excused absence after accepting a parent excuse six times per school year. Students in military families whose parents are currently serving or previously served on active duty in the U. S. armed forces or in the Reserves or National Guard on extended active duty may be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five days per school year, not to exceed two school years, for the day or days missed from school to attend military affairs sponsored events, provided the student provides documentation prior to absence.

With proper verification, a student may be eligible for hospital/homebound instruction as outlined in State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-31.

Students who miss an excessive amount of class time (as defined by school rules) may be required to participate in make-up activities as described by the individual schools or may be prohibited from attending special school functions including dances, assemblies, field trips and athletic competitions. The principals shall work with the superintendent to develop rules for implementing this policy.

Unexcused Absences: The Thomas County School System will notify the parent, guardian or other person who has control or charge of the student when such student has five unexcused absences. The notice shall outline the penalty and consequences of such absences and that each subsequent absence shall constitute a separate offense. After two reasonable attempts to notify the parent, guardian or other person who has charge of the student, the school system shall send written notice via first class mail.

The Thomas County School System will provide to the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of each student enrolled in public school a written summary of possible consequences and penalties for failing to comply with compulsory attendance. By September 1 of each school year or within 30 school days of a student's enrollment in the school system, the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of such student shall sign a statement indicating receipt of such written statement of possible consequences and penalties. In addition, students age ten or older by September 1 shall sign a statement indicating receipt of written statement of possible consequences for non-compliance to the local policy.

Excessive Absences: The following provisions apply to consecutive and non-consecutive absences during one academic year.

After Three Unexcused Absences: The attendance clerk or the principal's designee will contact the parent/guardian by telephone, letter, email, parental conference, or any other means of communication deemed necessary. All contacts made will be documented.

After Five Unexcused Absences: The attendance clerk or principal's designee will notify the parent/guardian by mail, **and** by any other means of communication deemed necessary. The mailed letter and/or contact will serve as the required notification that outlines the penalty and consequences of the student's unexcused absences and that each subsequent absence shall constitute a separate offence. All contacts made will be documented.

After Seven Unexcused Absences: The counselor/parent coordinator will meet or make contact with the parent/guardian and the student. The parent/guardian and student will be informed of the consequences of excessive unexcused absences. Strategies will be discussed to help improve the student's attendance. An attendance plan and contract will be signed and implemented. The counselor/parent coordinator will continue to monitor the student's attendance. The parent/guardian and student will be contacted for non-compliance with the plan and contract. All contacts made will be documented.

After Ten Unexcused Absences: A mandatory attendance meeting will be scheduled between the parent/guardian, the student, and the grade level assistant principal. A plan that contains specific strategies to help improve the student's attendance will be created and signed. The parent and the student will also be reminded of the consequences for continued unexcused absences. The student's attendance will continue to be monitored. The parent/guardian and student will be contacted for non-compliance with the plan and contract. All contacts made will be documented.

After Thirteen Unexcused Absences: The parent/guardian and/or student may be referred to the Thomas County School System's Truant Officer if the student continues to accrue unexcused absences.

After the student has been referred to the Truant Officer, the school will continue to monitor the student's attendance and continue to use school-based interventions to help prevent continued unexcused absences. The school will also continue to inform the parent/guardian, the student, and the Associate Superintendent of Student Services of any continued unexcused absences by any means of communication deemed necessary. All contacts will be documented.

Based upon the determination of the Truant Officer, the parent/guardian and/or student may be referred to the Community Based Risk Reduction Team (CBRRT).

COMMUNITY BASED RISK REDUCTION TEAM

The Thomas County Board of Education has adopted the Community Based Risk Reduction Team (CBRRT) as a sub-committee of the Thomas County Schools/Thomasville City Schools Student Attendance Protocol Committee. The CBRRT was created in an effort to help improve school attendance and to provide early community intervention for students who are at risk of becoming delinquent, unruly, or deprived. The CBRRT includes representatives from the following community agencies: the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Family and Children Services, GA Pines Mental Health, the Vashti Center, the Thomas County Sheriff's Department, the Thomasville Police Department, the Thomas County School System, and the Thomasville City School System.

Upon encountering chronic absences and/or tardies, along with other matters which may constitute educational deprivation, the Thomas County School System's designee may refer a student to the CBRRT. The team of school and community agency representatives will hold a scheduled mandatory meeting for the parent/legal guardian to attend. The student is also mandated to attend the CBRRT meeting if he/she is in grades 4th-12th. The meeting will be held in the Thomas County Judicial Center located at 325 N. Madison St. in Thomasville, GA, and the parent/legal guardian will receive prior notification of the meeting's scheduled date and time.

The CBRRT will prepare a multi-agency intervention plan with the parent and student that will address factors which may be negatively impacting the student's education. If the parent and/or student fail(s) to attend the mandatory CBRRT meeting, or if the parent and/or student continue(s) to be non-compliant, then the CBRRT may recommend that the District Attorney's Office proceed with an educational deprivation petition in the Thomas County Juvenile Court or criminal prosecution in the Thomas County State Court for the parent/legal guardian and/or prosecution in the Thomas County Juvenile Court or any other court having jurisdiction for the student.

WITHDRAWALS

The Thomas County School Board authorizes the schools to withdraw a student who:

1. has missed more than 10 consecutive days of unexcused absences; and
2. is not subject to compulsory school attendance; and
3. is not receiving instructional services from the local school system through homebound instruction or instructional services required by the federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and/or
4. is subject to compulsory attendance if the local superintendent or designee has determined the student is no longer a resident of the local school system or is enrolled in a private school or home study program.

Students shall be withdrawn retroactive to the first day of the consecutive absences.

SECTION 504 PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

Thomas County Schools notifies parents and students that Section 504 student rights and procedural safeguards are included in their entirety in our student handbooks and on our website. Parents and students are entitled to Section 504 student rights and procedural safeguards on request.

1. **Overview:** Any student, parent, or guardian may request an impartial hearing due to the school system's actions or inactions regarding a child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement under Section 504. Requests for an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system's Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant's failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system's obligation to provide an impartial hearing if the grievant orally requests an impartial hearing through the school system's Section 504 Coordinator. The school system's Section 504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing.
2. **Hearing Request:** The Request for the Hearing must include the following:
    a. Student name
    b. Address of student
    c. School student is attending

d. Reason for request of the hearing
e. Decision objecting to
f. Remedy suggested
g. Name and contact information of person requesting a hearing

Within 10 business days from receiving the Request for Hearing, the 504 Coordinator will acknowledge the Request for Hearing in writing and schedule a time and place for a hearing. If the written Request from the parent, guardian, or student is incomplete, the 504 Coordinator will tell the grievant what specific information is needed to complete the request. All timelines and processes will stop until the Request for Hearing contains all the above noted information.

3. **Mediation:** The school system may offer mediation to resolve the issues. Mediation is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. If mediation is terminated without an agreement, procedures for conducting an impartial hearing will be followed without an additional Request for Hearing.
4. **Hearing Procedures:**
   a. The 504 Coordinator will obtain an impartial review official and hearing within 45 calendar daysunless a continuance is granted by the impartial review official.
   b. A continuance request in writing to all parties may be granted by the hearing officer with goodcause.
   c. The grievant will have an opportunity to examine the child's educational records prior to the hearing.
   d. The grievant may be represented by legal counsel at his/her own expense. The grievant mayparticipate, speak, examine witnesses, and present information at the hearing. If representedby legal counsel at the hearing, the grievant or legal counsel must notify the 504 Coordinatorin writing at least 10 calendar days before the hearing. Failure to do so will constitute good cause for continuance of the hearing.
   e. The burden of proof will be on the grievant. When warranted by circumstances or law, the impartial hearing officer may require the school or 504 Coordinator to defend its position/decision regarding the claims (i.e. A school or 504 Coordinator shall place a disabledstudent in the regular educational environment operated by the system unless it is demonstrated by the school or 504 Coordinator that the education of the person in the regularenvironment with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. 34 C.F.R.§104.34). One or more representatives of the school system, who may be an attorney, will attend the hearing to present the evidence and witnesses, respondto the grievant testimony and answer questions posed by the review official.
   f. The impartial review official shall not have the power to subpoena witnesses, and the strict rules of evidence shall not apply to hearings. The impartial review official shall have the authority to issue pre-hearing instructions, which may include requiring the parties to exchange documents and names of witnesses to be present.
   g. The impartial review official shall determine the weight to be given any evidence.
   h. The hearing shall be closed to the public.
   i. The issues of the hearing will be limited to those raised in the written or oral request for the hearing.
   j. Witnesses will be questioned directly by the party who calls them. Cross-examination of witnesses will be allowed. The impartial review official, at his or her discretion, may allow further examination of witnesses or ask questions of the witnesses.
   k. Testimony shall be recorded by court reporting or audio recording at the expense of the system. All documentation related to the hearing shall be retained by the system.
   l. Unless otherwise required by law, the impartial review official shall uphold the action of the school system unless the grievant can prove that a preponderance of the evidence supportshis or her claim.
   m. Failure of the grievant to appear at a scheduled hearing unless prior notification of absencewas provided and approved by the impartial review official or just cause is shown shall constitute a waiver of the right to a personal appearance before the impartial review official.
5. **Decision:** The impartial review official shall issue a written determination within 20 calendar days of the date the hearing concluded. The determination of the impartial review official shall not include any monetary damages or the award of any attorney's fees.

6. **Review:** If not satisfied with the decision of the impartial review official, any party may pursue any right of review, appeal, cause of action or claim available to him or her under the law or existing state or federal rules or regulations.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS UNDER SECTION 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of Section 504 is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students.

For more information regarding Section 504, or if you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact your system's Section 504 Coordinator at the following address: Beth Weiss, School Psychologist, at 229-225-4387, or bweiss@tcjackets.net.

The implementing regulations for Section 504 as set out in 34 CFR Part 104 provide parents and/or students with the following rights:

1. Your child has the right to free educational services except for those fees that are imposed on non-disabled students or their parents.
2. Your child has the right to an appropriate education designed to meet his or her individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students.
3. Insurers and similar third parties who provide services not operated by or provided by the recipient are not relieved from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a disabled student.
4. Your child has a right to participate in an educational setting (academic and nonacademic) with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate to his or her needs.
5. Your child has a right to facilities, services, and activities that are comparable to those provided for non-disabled students.
6. Your child has a right to an evaluation prior to a Section 504 determination of eligibility.
7. You have the right to not consent to the school system's request to evaluate your child.
8. You have the right to ensure that evaluation procedures, which may include testing, conform to the requirements of 34 CFR 104.35.
9. You have the right to ensure that the school system will consider information from a variety of sources as appropriate, which may include aptitude and achievement tests, grades, teacher recommendations and observations, physical conditions, social or cultural background, medical records, and parental recommendations.
10. You have the right to ensure that placement decisions are made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, the placement options, and the legal requirements for least restrictive environment and comparable facilities.
11. If your child is eligible under Section 504, your child has a right to periodic reevaluations, including prior to any subsequent significant change of placement.
12. You have the right to notice prior to any actions by the school system regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child.
13. You have the right to examine your child's educational records.
14. You have the right to an impartial hearing with respect to the school system's actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, with opportunity for parental participation in the hearing and representation by an attorney.
15. You have the right to receive a copy of this notice and a copy of the school system's impartial hearing procedure upon request.
16. If you disagree with the decision of the impartial hearing officer (school board members and other district employees are not considered impartial hearing officers), you have a right to a review of that decision according to the school system's impartial hearing procedure.
17. You have the right to, at any time, file a complaint with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

HOSPITAL HOMEBOUND

Georgia State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.31 Hospital/Homebound (HHB) Services

Hospital/Homebound (HHB) services are designed to provide continuity of educational services between the classroom and home or hospital for students in Georgia public schools whose medical needs, either physical or psychiatric, do not allow them to attend school for a limited period of time. HHB instruction may be used to supplement the classroom program for students with health impairments whose conditions may interfere with regular school attendance (e.g., students receiving dialysis or radiation/chemotherapy or students with other serious health conditions). Students must be enrolled in a public school in Georgia in order to receive HHB services.

HHB services are not intended to supplant regular school services and are by design temporary. The student must anticipate being absent from school for a minimum of ten consecutive or intermittent school days due to a medical or psychiatric condition. The student's inability to attend school for medical or psychiatric reasons must be certified by the licensed physician or licensed psychiatrist who is currently treating the student for the diagnosis presented.

For HHB forms or questions contact your school counselor or Mr. Clay Stanaland, Director of Student Services, at 229-225-4380 or cstanaland@tcjackets.net.

MEDICATION POLICY

All medications other than the exceptions listed in this policy, whether prescription or over-the-counter, may be administered only in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the principal of each school.

All medications must be taken by the student, parent or guardian to the school office immediately upon arrival at school and must be in original pharmaceutical containers, clearly labeled as to the name of the student, the name of the medication, the appropriate dosage, and the times for dosage. Any student possessing prescription or over-the-counter medication not in accordance with these guidelines will be considered in violation of the School District's drug policy and shall be subject to the discipline set forth in the student code of conduct and/or the student/parent handbook.

A student for whom the school has on file supporting medical documentation may carry at all times with parental/guardian permission inhalers for asthma, auto-injectable epinephrine for allergic reactions, ready-to-use glucagon and all necessary supplies and equipment to perform monitoring and treatment functions authorized by the student's diabetes medical management plan or mediation and supplies authorized by the student's seizure action plan. Students authorized to self-administer such medications shall be instructed not to permit any other student to handle, possess, or otherwise attempt to use his/her medication and shall be informed that violations of such instructions will be dealt with in accordance with the student codeof conduct. In order for the student to carry and self-administer such medications, or in order for the school to store and administer the medication for students who are unable to self-administer because of age or any otherreason, parents must provide a written statement from a licensed physician confirming that the student is ableto self-administer the medication, if applicable, and written permission from the parent for the nurse or designated employee to consult with the doctor regarding any questions that may arise concerning the medication. Such permission shall release the school district and its employees and agents from civil liability for administering such medication to students, or if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administration of such medication. The terms of this paragraph may be met through a student's diabetes medical management plan or seizure action plan developed and implemented pursuant to state law.

Parents are encouraged to provide to the schools duplicate medication and supplies in the event a student is unable to self-administer or fails to bring the medication or equipment to school.

Parents of students who are being treated for epilepsy or a seizure disorder may provide the school with a seizure action plan. If you would like more information regarding how to develop a seizure action plan for your student, please contact the school nurse.

Nurses or other school employees are authorized to administer auto-injectable epinephrine, if available, to a student who is having an actual or perceived anaphylactic adverse (allergic) reaction, regardless of whether the

student has a prescription for epinephrine. Such persons also are authorized to administer levalbuterol sulfate, if available, to a student in perceived respiratory distress, regardless of whether the student has a prescription for levalbuterol sulfate. Any school employee who in good faith administers or chooses not to administer such medication to a student in such circumstances shall be immune from civil liability.

To prevent the spread of head lice, the Thomas County School System will follow the Head Lice Regulation stating that when a student is found with head lice, the student will be sent home with a letter containing recommendations for treatment. If the student has siblings in the school system, the siblings will also be examined. The school nurse/designee will examine every student readmitted to school. If the student is free of lice, the student will be given a written clearance to return to class. The school nurse/designee will re-examinethe student within 7-10 days or as often as deemed necessary by the nurse. After a student is absent more than two days, the principal or his/her designee should notify the family and urge them to get the student treatedand back in school. Students found with head lice will not be allowed to ride the bus or participate in school activities until cleared by the nurse.

CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

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 any 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.

BULLYING

The Board of Education believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited. Such prohibition shall be included in the Student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system.

Bullying is defined as an act that is:

1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
    a. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
    b. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
    c. Is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
    d. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear ofharm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. Electronic communication includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in wholeor in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.

Acts of bullying shall be punished by a range of consequences through the progressive discipline process, as stated in the Code of Conduct. However, upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school.

Upon a finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an act of bullying or is a victim of bullying, the administrator or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the student by telephone call or through written notice, which may be done electronically.

Students and parents will be notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by posting information at each school and by including such information in the student/parent handbooks.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Thomas County Central High School, with certain exceptions, obtain a parent/guardian's written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's education records. However, the school may disclose appropriately designated "directory Information" at the discretion of the school unless the principal or designee has been notified in writing by August 31 of each school year by the parent/guardian or eligible student that some or all of this information shall not be designated as directory information. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the school to include this type of information from the student's education records in certain school publications. Directory information includes student name, address, email, year of birth, enrollment, dates of attendance, grade level, degrees and awards received, date of graduation, photograph, name of secondary school most recently attended, scholarship eligibility, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and height and weight of members of interscholastic athletic teams.

MILITARY RECRUITER AND INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION REQUEST FOR STUDENT INFORMATION

Section 8025 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that school systems provide, upon a request made by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education, access to the name, address, and telephone listing of each secondary school student. A parent of a secondary school student, or a student who has reached the age of 18, may submit a written request to the school that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released to a military recruiter or an institution of higher education without prior written consent of the parent.

WATER SAFETY/SWIMMING LESSONS

The American Academy of Pediatrics cautions that drowning is one of the top causes of injury and death in children each year in the United States. Parents can help prevent these tragedies by enrolling children in water safety courses and swimming lessons. In our community, the Everett-Milton and Butler-Mason YMCA locations offer swim lessons with year-round and seasonal options. Private, semi-private, and group lessons are available. Please contact the YMCA (229-226-3446) for more information.

This information is provided in accordance with H.B. 402, also known as the Edna Mae McGovern Act.

THE THOMAS COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Thomas County Special Education department offers services for children who have been identified as having a disability. A child with a disability is a child evaluated and determined to be eligible for special education services for intellectual disabilities, a hearing impairment including deafness, a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment including blindness, emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, a specific learning disability, or deaf/blindness.

Special education is specially designed instruction provided at no cost to parents that meets the unique needs of each student that is identified with a disability. Special education includes instruction in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals, institutions and other settings, physical education, travel training, and vocational education.

Related services are services such as transportation and developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a child with a disability to fully benefit from special education. Decisions regarding eligibility, least restrictive environment, and services are made by a committee of individuals that work directly with the child and the child's parents or guardian. Parents can contact the Thomas County Special Education Department by calling 229-225-4380.

SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT POLICY

As part of the emergency procedures in place in our schools, any student who poses an imminent risk of injury to him/herself or others may be physically restrained by school staff in accordance with Thomas County Board of Education policies. Law enforcement may be contacted in a restraint situation. Significant violations of the law including assaults on students and staff will be reported to law enforcement. Within a reasonable time, not to exceed one school day, parents or guardians will be informed in writing when any of these actions occur.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

It shall be the policy of the Thomas County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, creed or disability in educational programs and activities, in employment or recruitment for employment, admission to facilities, or in any related policies, practices or benefits.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Title II of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984); or handicap (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Employees, students, and the general public are hereby notified that the Thomas County School District does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment policies. Dr. Bob Dechman, Assistant Superintendent for Federal Programs and Accountability for Thomas County Schools, is responsible for coordinating the district's effort to implement this nondiscriminatory policy. Inquiries concerning the application of Title II, Title VI, or Section 504 to the policies and practices of the district may be addressed to: Dr. Bob Dechman, Thomas County Schools, 200 North Pinetree, Thomasville, Georgia 31792; 229-225-4380, or bdechman@tcjackets.net. Inquiries concerning Title IX (discrimination based on sex) can be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Mr. Clay Stanaland, 200 N. Pinetree Blvd, Thomasville, GA; 229-225-4380, or cstanaland@tcjackets.net.

POLICIES

Every student has the right to an education, and our policies are enforced to protect this right. School regulations are developed keeping in mind the requirements set by Georgia State law, the Georgia State School Board, and the Thomas County Board of Education. In areas where these organizations do not give specific direction, regulations are developed by the administration and faculty. Student and parentcommittees may be used in an advisory capacity. All policies and regulations are subject to review and helpus work well together by treating fellow students and teachers with courtesy and respect. We request yourcooperation in abiding by these policies.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The ultimate responsibility for a student's behavior rests with the student and his/her parents. Students are to respect constituted authority, which includes obedience to school rules, regulations, and procedures. The school anticipates that parents will be cooperative in dealing with any behavioral problems which may

arise and expects that this cooperation will be made apparent to the child.

One of the most significant objectives of discipline must be to develop within the individual student the desire to exercise his/her rights judicially. To realize this objective, the school reserves the right to hold parental conferences, guidance conferences, or conferences with the court and the right to request schedule changes or psychological examinations and/or treatment.

Georgia law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-766) provides that school administrators who identify a student as a chronic disciplinary problem may require the parent to attend a conference to participate in the development of a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan. Parents who do not attend such conferences may be referred to the courts where they may be fined up to $500. The need for parental conference is indicated whenever a student is suspended at home or when a teacher or administrator informs the parent that a conference is needed.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The school has an approved emergency management plan on file in the principal's office. This plan has provisions for tornadoes, fire, and terroristic situations.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School councils were established by the General Assembly of Georgia to improve communications and participation of parents and the community in the management and operation of local schools. The purpose of the school council is to bring communities and schools closer together in a spirit of cooperation to solve difficult education problems, improve academic achievement, provide support for teachers and administrators, and bring parents into the school-based decision-making process. The management and control of public schools continues to be the responsibility of the local board of education with the principal being the designated school leader.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Each school day students shall be afforded the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States, as required by Georgia law. Students participating in the pledge will be expected to stand, face the flag, and recite the pledge. Students not participating in the pledge may (1) stand and refrain from reciting the pledge or (2) remain seated.

"In each public classroom, the teacher in charge shall, at the opening of school upon every school day, conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for no more than 60 seconds with participation of all pupils assembled. The moment of quiet reflection authorized by this law is not intended to be and shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise, but shall be considered as an opportunity for a moment of reflection on the anticipated activities of the day."

AHERA NOTICE

A written Asbestos Management Plan is available that documents inspection and surveillance activities, known and presumed asbestos containing materials in the building, records of asbestos-related building material disturbances and response activities, and post-response documentation. The Asbestos Management Plan is located in the main school office and at the Thomas County Board of Education and is available for review by parents, legal guardians, teachers, and other school personnel, representatives of EPA, representatives of the State, and the public. For more information, please contact the Thomas County Schools Facilities and Maintenance Department at 229-584-9130.

School Personnel

Thomas County Board of Education 229-225-4380
Ms.Joy West, District 1
Mr. Mitchell Herring, District 2
Mr. Ken Harper, District 3
Mr. Chris Hayes, District 4
Mr. Dan Stewart, District 5, Vice Chair
Ms. Leah Smith, District 6, Chair
Mr. Ed Hopper, District 7

Superintendent of Thomas County Schools 229-225-4380
Dr. Lisa Williams

Thomas County Central High School 229-225-5050
Administration
Mr. Jamie Thompson – Principal
Mr. Frank Delaney – Dean of Students (A Hall)
Dr. Beth Adams – Assistant Principal/CTAE Director (Lee Bailey PREP Academy)
Dr. Karen Jones – Assistant Principal (E Hall)
Mr. Roger Ketchum – Assistant Principal (Center Office)
Dr. Erin Rehberg – Assistant Principal (A Hall)
Mr. Gary Smith – Assistant Principal (Center Office)
Mr. Levi Williams – Assistant Principal (B Hall)

Media Specialist
Ms. Anne-Marie Holland

Technology Specialist
Mr. Noah Brooks

Digital Learning Specialist
Mr. Justin Quigg

MERIT Coordinator
Dr. Farran Burnette

School Nurse
Ms. Ashley Sowell (E Hall)

Principal's Secretary
Ms. Myeshia Choice (Front Office)

Student Information Systems
Ms. Amy McCorkle (E Hall)

School Counselors
Ms. Tammy Shealey, 12th
Ms. Kristen Benfield, 11th
Ms. Emily Register,10th
Ms. Ashley Bulloch, 9th

Department Chairpersons
Ms. Leigh Carroll – Special Education
Mr. Michael Clapper – CTAE
Ms. Cassandra Davis – English
Ms. Michele McCorkle – Science
Ms. Amber Niswonger – Mathematics
Mr. Anthony Paulino – Foreign Language
Ms. Maria Pittman -- Fine Arts
Ms. Amy Ponder – Social Studies
Mr. Matt Tanner – Physical Education

Athletic Director
Dr. Philip Duplantis (Multipurpose Bldg)

Athletic Coordinator for Female Sports
Ms. Allison NeSmith (Gymnasium)

Athletics Assistant
Ms. Lorie Lawing (Multipurpose Bldg)

Clerical Staff
Ms. T-Kay Brue (Front Office)
Ms. Julie Eddings (Center Office)
Ms. Jennifer Rhodes (Front Office)
Ms. Alisha Wiggins (Guidance Office)

Financial Office
Mr. Bobby Case, Bookkeeper (Multipurpose Bldg)
Ms. Jackie Dixon, Bookkeeper (Main Bldg)

Late Arrivals/Tardies: Students who arrive on campus after 8:10 a.m. must sign in at the Welcome Center (if driver) or front office (if dropped off). Tardies are excused for the same reasons that absences are excused. Parking privileges may be revoked for excessive tardies to school; see parking applications for details.

When a student is tardy to class, the teacher can assign teacher detention. When a student accumulates **3 tardies in a semester**, the teacher will make parent contact. When a student accumulates **5 tardies in a semester**, the teacher will submit a discipline referral, and the student will serve administrative detention. Teachers will continue to refer students who show a pattern of tardiness with each additional tardy after 5. Each additional referral will result in ISS placement. The tardy policy will also apply to unexcused absences for first period. Additional interventions will be put in place when a student is excessively tardy or absent to first period, including a referral for insubordination. Additional details about discipline related to tardies can be found on page 55. **Over 10 minutes tardy to class without a signed pass from a teacher or administrator is considered skipping. Missing 25 minutes or more of a class is considered an absence.**

Early Dismissals: Students who need to leave school before regular dismissal must bring a signed note from their parent/guardian stating the time of and reason for the early dismissal. Included in this note must be the telephone number where the parent can be reached during the morning. This note should be brought to the front office prior to first period. Parents can also email tcchsattendance@tcjackets.net for permission for early dismissal. A student who returns to school the same day after an early dismissal should check in at the Welcome Center (if driver) or front office (if dropped off) before returning to class. Parents should refrain from signing students out after 2:30 p.m. due to end of the day traffic.

Please Note**:** If a student is present in school for any part of a day and a long-term assignment is due in any class that day, the assignment must be given to the teacher in person before the student checks out.

Students who sign out under false pretenses will be disciplined for student incivility.

Early Release: All students who are approved to be released early should have identification to verify early dismissal. Students must leave campus when scheduled.

Lunch Sign Outs: Absences due to students signing out to eat lunch off campus will be unexcused. Students will not be allowed to make up missed work.

A student who signs out to eat lunch off campus more than once per year shall have his/her parking privileges revoked. Signing out for lunch will be considered a violation of the compulsory attendance law and may subject the student to disciplinary consequences for truancy.

Students in military families whose parents are currently serving or previously served on active duty in the U. S. armed forces or in the Reserves or National Guard on extended active duty may be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five days per school year, not to exceed two school years, for the day or days missed from school to attend military affairs sponsored events, provided the student provides documentation prior to absence.

EMERGENCY CARDS

All students are asked to have parents/guardians fill out and sign an emergency card, which will be kept on file in the clinic. Names of relatives or neighbors who have permission to check the student out in an emergency should be listed on the cards as well as names of doctors, etc. All students must have a card on file. As soon as information changes, students should notify the front office. The emergency card will be used only in the case of a valid emergency. It will not be used on a regular basis when parents cannot be reached.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM AND REMIND CODES

All students are encouraged to join the Google Classroom for their graduating class. Students and parents are encouraged to join the Remind group for their graduating class. Important information is shared on both of these platforms.

Graduation Year	Google Classroom Code (Log in to Google Classroom and click the plus sign to join a new class)	Parent Square Join Code
2027 (Seniors)	s3ezapn	https://www.parentsquare.com/groups/join/2027tcchs
2028 (Juniors)	x702fwb	https://www.parentsquare.com/groups/join/2028tcchs
2029 (Sophomores)	7jijrin	https://www.parentsquare.com/groups/join/2029tcchs
2030 (Freshmen)	q2vtrmlw	https://www.parentsquare.com/groups/join/2030tcchs

NO SENIOR SKIP DAY

There is no Senior Skip Day. Sometimes students tell parents this in order to miss school. All such absences are unexcused.

VISITING COLLEGES

Students may use two school days per year to visit out of town college campuses. Appropriate forms may be picked up in the guidance office and must be completed prior to the visit.

Course Requirements for Promotion

To:
10th Grade: Literature/Composition, Math, Science, Social Studies, 1 other course in 9th grade
11th Grade: Literature/Composition, Math, Science, Social Studies, 2 other courses in 10th grade
12th Grade: Literature/Composition, Math, Science, Social Studies, 2 other courses in 11th grade

Graduation Requirements
See your grade-level counselor for specific course titles and requirements:

English: 4 units
Mathematics: 4 units
Science: 4 units
Social Studies: 3 units
Physical Education: 1 unit (Health/Personal Fitness)
Pathway Courses: 3 units (Adv. Academic and/or CTAE and/or Fine Arts and/or Foreign Language)
Additional Electives: 4 units
Total Units Minimum: 23

The Georgia Milestone End of Course Test (EOC) will contribute 20% to the course grade (for those core courses in which a Milestone EOC is mandated).

SKIPPING A GRADE

Some students who earn several high school credits in middle school may be able to complete all graduation requirements in three years of high school. A grade advancement form, to be completed by both the student and a parent/guardian, must be on file in the guidance office in order to qualify. Students who wish to “skip” a grade in this manner and graduate after only three years of high school must indicate

their intent to do so no later than September of their second year in high school in order to be eligible for full high school graduation honors; students who skip a year of high school must have “junior” and “senior” status their last two years of high school in order to be eligible for top graduation honors, e.g. to be eligible to earn valedictorian or salutatorian status.Students who decide to skip a grade and declare their intent to do so after September of their second yearin high school may graduate when all graduation requirements have been met and may earn honor graduate status, but they will not be eligible for the top honors if they have not been classified as a “junior”and “senior” during their last two years of high school.

2026-2027 Test Dates

September 12	Weekend SAT
September 19	Weekend ACT
October 6	School Day SAT
October 20	PSAT
October 27	School Day ACT
November 7	Weekend SAT
December 5	Weekend SAT
February 23	School Day ACT
March 2	School Day SAT
March 17 - March 31	CTAE End of Pathway Assessments
April 10	Weekend ACT
May 1	Weekend SAT
May 3-14	AP Testing
May 10	GA Milestones EOC Algebra I
May 11-12	GA Milestones EOC Literature II
May 18	GA Milestones Biology
May 19	GA Milestones US History

Test Registration Information

TCCHS High School Code: 112 973

TCCHS Test Center Code for ACT: 200110

TCCHS Test Center Code for SAT: 11-669

Online registration for ACT: www.actstudent.org

Online registration for SAT: www.collegeboard.org

Registration for School Day SAT and ACT: http://bit.ly/44v0plo

Academic Information

GRADES

Report Cards: Report cards will be sent home with students at the end of each nine-week period during the week following the end of the grading period. Final report cards will be available to students approximately six (6) days after the end of the school year. Report cards may be held for students who owe debts to the school or cafeteria. Parents who do not receive report cards on the dates printed on the school calendar should call their child's guidance counselor. The grading scale is as follows: A = 90 – 100, B = 80 – 89, C = 70 – 79, below 70 is failing.

Transfer/Home School Credit: Students transferring into public school from home school programs must take an exam for each course in which academic credit is sought.

CREDIT REPAIR AND RECOVERY

To be eligible for credit repair during the school year, a student has failed a course for a nine-week grading period with an average between 60 and 69. The student must complete assigned work, within a specific timeframe, to earn a passing grade of 70 for that nine-week grading period.

To be eligible for credit repair during summer school, a student has failed a course for the year with an average between 60 and 69. The student must complete assigned work, within the summer school session, to earn a passing grade of 70 for the year.

To be eligible for credit recovery during the summer, a student has failed a course, and the failing grade is recorded on the student's transcript. The failing grade is not replaced by the grade earned in the credit recovery program. Credit recovery programs are offered through Georgia Virtual Credit Recovery. Credit recovery for Milestone EOC classes does require students to take the Milestone EOC test at the completion of the course.

HONOR GRADUATES

Honor graduates will be students who have achieved an overall Numeric Grade Average (NGA) of 93 or higher at the end of the 1st semester of their senior year. Grades earned during the second semester of the senior year will not be counted in determining honor graduate status. Transfer grades must have been earned at regionally accredited institutions. The cumulative average will not be rounded to help a student become an honor graduate. (Example: a student who has a cumulative NGA of 92.5 will not be considered an honor graduate.) The announcement of these students will be made during the final grading period of the year. Any student suspended for an offense resulting in a tribunal hearing or alternative school placement is automatically ineligible for honor graduate status. Students must take a minimum of one HOPE rigor course.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian will be the student who has attended Thomas County Central High School for at least his/her last two years of high school and has the highest numerical average during the time enrolled at TCCHS as well as the highest average of high school courses (including high school courses taken in middle school). All grades must have been earned from a regionally accredited school. The same criteria apply for the selection of the salutatorian. The salutatorian is the student who is ranked second in the class. Post-secondary, Honors and Advanced Placement classes will be weighted. The valedictorian and salutatorian will be determined at the end of the first semester of the senior year.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

In the fall, those juniors and seniors who have at least a 90 cumulative numeric grade average and a clear disciplinary record will be given a National Honor Society (NHS) application to fill out and return by an announced deadline. Applications turned in late may be rejected by the faculty council. The application must include proper signatures to document school and community activities. The faculty council will consider each complete application and select NHS members. Students must take a minimum of one HOPE rigor course.

Only those students who maintain an active membership will be given gold tassels to wear at graduation.

STAR STUDENT

The system STAR student is the senior who ranks among the top ten percent of the senior class during his/her senior year and who has the highest score on the SAT. To be eligible for STAR student status, a student must remain in school his/her senior year. This is a requirement of PAGE, the sponsoring agency. Students' scores may be submitted from any one administration of the SAT taken prior to and including the November test date of the senior year. Scores earned after November of the senior year will not be considered for the STAR program.

ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

Annual recognition programs are held during the spring to recognize students in all curriculum areas. Both scholarship and meritorious awards are given to express the school's pride in student accomplishments and to encourage them to remain committed to excellence.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Thomas County Central High School continues to find ways to recognize students for academic excellence and for extraordinary efforts made in the field of education. There are several programs throughout the year that will give students an opportunity to receive recognition.

- All "A" Luncheon: Students are given the opportunity to enjoy an off-campus lunch during the school day for achieving an all "A" nine weeks report card.
- Governor's Honors Program (GHP): The Governor's Honors Program is a summer enrichment program for rising juniors and seniors. Faculty nominate talented students for consideration in academic, fine arts, and vocational areas. Counselors and/or the MERIT Director invite nominated students to apply for GHP and proceed through a selection process.
- Georgia Scholar: Through the Georgia Scholar Program, the Georgia Department of Education identifies and honors high school seniors who have achieved excellence in school and community life. School staff will notify students who qualify for Georgia Scholar status in the spring of their senior year. These students will work with school staff to complete the Georgia Scholar application.
- UGA Certificate of MERIT: The Georgia Certificate of Merit program recognizes the top 10% of students within the junior class. These students will be recognized at the underclassman appreciation day.
- Highest academic average: Students who earn the highest average in each course will be recognized at the underclassman appreciation day and senior honors day each spring.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Numerous scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors. In the early fall, scholarships and financial aid information concerning criteria and procedures for applying will be given to graduating seniors by the guidance office. It is extremely important that seniors stay in close contact with their counselor concerning post-secondary plans. Students who have received scholarships are to report this information to their counselor.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

To qualify for a National Merit Scholarship, students must take the PSAT during their junior year.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Students should refer to programs of study for information on courses recommended and required by colleges and universities in Georgia. Parents and students are encouraged to use the following website for information on colleges, careers, scholarships and financial aid: www.gafutures.org.

In the spring of their junior year and the fall of their senior year, students should take the SAT and/or ACT. These standardized tests are crucial for college admissions, so early preparation is essential. Students should begin by researching the entrance exam and achievement test requirements for the colleges they are interested in, as each

college may have different criteria. They can sign up for the SAT and ACT online, with tests available on scheduled school days and select Saturdays. The testing calendar on page 21 of this handbook provides specific dates when the SAT and ACT will be offered at TCCHS. For those needing financial assistance, fee waivers are available in the guidance office.

College applications are also accessible online. Students should research and note the application deadlines for each college of interest. The guidance office will send transcripts to colleges upon request, so students should ensure they ask for them well in advance of application deadlines. Staying organized and planning ahead is crucial, and the guidance office is available to help with any questions.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid may be available for some students planning to attend college. This aid may come in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, or work-study programs. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid

(FAFSA) will be available in January online or in the Guidance Office. This application should be completed for the HOPE Scholarship and other federal financial aid such as the Pell Grant. Other information can be obtained by contacting the Federal Aid Officer at the college of your choice.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP AND ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIP

For updated information visit: gafutures.org

Georgia's HOPE Scholarship and Zell Miller Scholarship are available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. The scholarship provides money to assist students with a portion of the tuition cost at a HOPE Scholarship or Zell Miller Scholarship eligible college or university.

Georgia's HOPE Scholarship and Zell Miller Scholarship programs have program eligibility requirements, academic requirements, and a length of eligibility. By visiting gafutures.org, you can see the most up-to-date information about the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship.

At the time of publication of this Parent-Student Handbook, in order to earn the HOPE Scholarship, students were required to have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA) in their cumulative grades for math, English, science, social studies, and foreign language. In order to earn the Zell Miller Scholarship, students were required to have a minimum 3.7 grade point average (GPA) in their cumulative grades for math, English, science social studies, and foreign language as well as an SAT score of at least 1200 or an ACT score of at least 26 in a single sitting. GPAs for Hope and Zell Miller are based on the GPA available in the student's Georgia Futures Account.

In order to earn the HOPE Scholarship or Zell Miller Scholarship, students must earn 4 full credits from the academic rigor course categories prior to graduating high school. High school credit courses taken in middle school do not count toward HOPE and Zell Miller eligibility. At TCCHS, these courses include:

English:	AP Literature, AP Language
Math:	Algebra II, Statistical Reasoning, AP Statistics, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB/BC ,College Readiness Math
CTAE:	AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles
Science:	Chemistry (Regular or Honors), AP Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics, AP Biology, Forensics, AP Environmental Science
Social Studies:	AP Psychology, AP World History, AP US History, AP Government/Politics, AP Human Geography, AP Microeconomics, AP Macroeconomics, AP European History, AP Art History
Foreign Language:	French II, III, IV; Spanish II, III, IV, V; Latin II, II, IV; Greek II, III, IV; Spanish for Native Speakers II, AP Spanish Language and Culture, AP Latin
Other:	AP Seminar, AP Research, AP Art and Design Courses, AP Music Theory
Dual Enrollment:	Academic courses taken through the Dual Enrollment program at an eligible institution.

Details and information about earning and maintaining the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship can be found at gafutures.org.

HOPE GRANT AND ZELL MILLER GRANT

Georgia's HOPE Grant (a separate program from the HOPE Scholarship) is available to Georgia residents who are working towards a certificate or diploma (continuing education programs are not eligible) at an eligible college or university in Georgia.

Georgia's Zell Miller Grant is available to Georgia residents who are working towards a certificate or diploma at a Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) or University System of Georgia (USG) institution.

Details and information about earning and maintaining the HOPE or Zell Miller Grant can be found at gafutures.org.

WORK-BASED LEARNING (WBL)

Career Related Education is structured age appropriate experiences that prepare students to be college and career ready. The range of CRE experiences begin with Career Awareness and Exploration in middle school and culminate with work-based learning during the 11th and 12th grade. Work-based learning provides students the opportunity to receive credit while working in an environment related to their career pathway.

There are several opportunities for students to participate in work-based learning. These opportunities include employability skill development, Internship, Youth Apprenticeship, and Clinical Experiences. They may be paid or unpaid.

The Youth Apprenticeship program integrates work-based and school-based learning during high school and during college or technical school training. Students declare a career area and find employment in that career area. They must have previously earned credit in a career course directly related to the job placement. Students must agree to attend a postsecondary school or college in the declared career area and work while obtaining the postsecondary credential.

Students in the WBL program must be on track for graduation, maintain good attendance, and not have major behavior infractions at school. Additionally, students must attend a meeting once per nine weeks as scheduled by the WBL coordinator. Students cannot attend work as part of the WBL program on days they do not attend school. Students may not change jobs in the middle of the semester without previous authorization from the WBL coordinator.

COURSE OF STUDY

Students will receive recommendations for courses of study from their guidance counselor. However, the student is responsible for taking the courses which will qualify him/her for graduation and entry into particular colleges or other post high school institutions.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Schedule Changes: Schedule changes will be made for the following reasons:

- Student does not have proper prerequisites.
- Senior must have another course to graduate.
- A computer or clerical error was made.
- Student has already received credit for the course.
- The state criteria for class size must be met.

Any exceptions must be approved by the grade level counselor and administrator. **All student/parent initiated schedule change requests must be completed by the second week of school.**

BENCHMARK EXAMS AND EXAM EXEMPTIONS

Benchmark exams are held at the end of each grading period, as noted on the school calendar. Students should avoid scheduling appointments or trips that would cause late arrivals, early checkouts, or absences on exam days. Make-up exams will only be given with permission from the principal. If absent and principal

approval is obtained, students must make up exams on the teacher workday following the end of the nine weeks or upon returning to school.

Exemption Requirements
To encourage academic achievement and attendance, TCCHS offers a benchmark exemption program. This applies to benchmarks at the end of the second nine weeks (end of first semester) and the fourth nine weeks (end of second semester). Students may exempt final exams if they:

- Have an 80 or higher average in the class, **and**
- Have no more than 6 absences (excused or unexcused) and no OSS assigned for the semester. **Note:** School activity absences do not count against exemptions.

Milestone EOC Courses
Students in Milestone EOC courses are required to take the state assessment as required by Georgia Department of Education guidelines.

Exam Day Procedures
Students may miss classes for which they have exempted exams **with parental permission**. If a student must take some exams but is exempt from others, they may leave campus during exempted periods following normal sign out procedures. Those unable to leave campus must report to class. Being in unauthorized areas (gym, halls, parking lot, etc.) will result in ISS and loss of exemption privileges for the year.

Students who have questions about exam exemptions should see a teacher or administrator.
It is the responsibility of every student to be present for nine-week final benchmark exams at the time they are scheduled. Make-up exams will be given only with permission from the principal. A student will have a period of no more than five school days from the last day of the semester in which to make up any missed assignments.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Thomas County Central students have the opportunity to engage in AP classes in all academic areas. Highly selective colleges and universities (like The University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Duke, Emory, and Ivy League Universities) expect students to make the most of their academic opportunities. Students who plan to apply for admission to a highly selective college or university should plan to take several AP classes during high school. Highly selective universities generally prefer AP classes to dual enrollment classes since College Board AP classes are based on an approved curriculum and culminate in a national standardized exam. The MERIT Program Director and high school counselor will advise students in selecting AP courses that are right for the individual student.

AP courses offer a challenging curriculum that assists in developing the student's analytical thinking, reading, writing, and problem solving skills necessary to excel in college. Students who enroll in one of these courses may take the Advanced Placement exam at the end of the year. Although the score achieved on this exam does not affect the student's grade in the course, it can determine college credit awarded. Students passing an AP Course with a 70 or higher will receive a 10 point boost to the final grade for the AP courses that is posted on the student's high school transcript for class rank and honors status in that course. The high school will provide weighted and/or unweighted transcripts as requested by the colleges or universities to which the student applies. HOPE will give students passing an AP course a .5 quality point boost (on the traditional 4 point scale: A=4, B=3, C=2, etc.) to the un-weighted grade in that course. The cost of AP exams is shared by students and the school district:

- Students will register for AP exams online through their College Board account.
- Students will pay $20 fee to the school for the tests they register for.
- The school district will pay the balance ($79 per exam) for each student in each AP class in which the student has no more than 5 absences by the date of the AP exam anda first semester unweighted average of 85 or higher.
- The school district will pay one-half the balance ($39.50 per exam) for each student in each AP class in which either of the following conditions are met, with the studentpaying the balance:
    - student has no more than 5 absences by the date of the AP exam and a first semester unweighted average of 80-84.

  - student has no more than 10 absences by the date of the AP exam and a first semester unweighted average of 85 or higher.
- Students who have more than 10 absences **or** an unweighted average below 80 for the first semester will pay the full cost of the exam.
- Students who register for the exam and then decide not to take it will pay the $40 cancellation fee charged by the College Board.
- Students who do not register for the test in October and who later decide to take the test will pay the $40 late registration fee charged by the College Board.
- Students who register for a "late" exam to make-up for a missed exam will pay the $40 fee if it is charged by the College Board.

In addition to receiving a ten-point boost for class rank and honors purposes as explained in the paragraph above, the school district will equalize the bonus points earned by students taking AP courses with extra points earned by students in Dual Enrollment courses. The Thomas County School System offers two avenues for high school students to earn post-secondary credit: Dual Enrollment and the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Program. Students enrolled in dual enrollment academic courses which are a semester in length earn 10 bonus points on their grade for each dual enrollment academic course taken. Most College Board AP classes are year-long classes. Students who complete an AP class earn 10 bonus points on their yearly course grade. Students who take dual enrollment courses have the opportunity to take two dual enrollment courses during the same amount of time required to complete one AP course. If AP courses were not equitably weighted, students who take two dual enrollment academic courses during the same amount of time required for one AP course would gain an advantage on their weighted GPA for class rank purposes as compared to a student taking a potentially more rigorous AP course. In order to avoid placing students who take AP courses at a disadvantage for class ranking purposes as compared to students taking dual enrollment academic courses, grades earned in AP courses (including the 10 bonus points granted in AP courses) shall be counted twice in calculating the weighted GPA for class rank and honors purposes in order to make the relative weight of one AP course equal to that of two dual enrollment courses. (See Thomas County Board of Education Policies and Regulations: JBC(4)-R(2)).

The AP Coordinator, Erin White, will share more specific information regarding AP exams during the first semester.

*The school district aggressively seeks funding from all available sources to assist students in paying for Advanced Placement exams including income-based fee reductions and state funding (when available) for STEM-related AP exams. Any funds received by the district for AP exams will be applied to the cost of those exams. Any available funding will be applied first to the amount beyond the $20 registration fee.

**The principal may waive the attendance requirement on a case-by-case basis in the event of a serious illness or other extenuating circumstances. The decision of the principal is final.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

The Dual Enrollment program provides opportunities for eligible students in grades 10-12 to enroll in postsecondary institutions and take college courses to earn both high school and college credit.

Dual Enrollment Facts:

- The dual enrollment program provides assistance for postsecondary tuition, mandatory fees, and books.
- A student must be approved, by the participating high school or home study program at which he or she is enrolled, to participate in dual enrollment.
- Prior to participating in Dual Enrollment, as part of the application process, the student and student's parent/guardian must complete the Student Participation Agreement (SPA).
- A student must have completed the admission process and been accepted and approved by the participating postsecondary institution.
- Eligible students may participate at multiple postsecondary institutions during the fall, spring, and summer terms.
- College courses must be selected from the approved Dual Enrollment Course Directory.
- The dual enrollment program will pay a maximum of 15 semester hours or 12 quarter hours

per student and per postsecondary institution.
- In some cases, students may be charged or be expected to purchase course-related fees, supplies, or equipment.
- The Dual Enrollment Funding Cap is 30 semester or 45 quarter hours.
- The Funding Cap is a hard cap based on hours paid by the Dual Enrollment funding program for terms of enrollment (as invoiced by the postsecondary institutions).
- All academic Dual Enrollment courses, including English, math, science, social studies and foreign language will receive 10 bonus points added to the final numerical grade. Transcript final grades may not exceed 110.
- Dual enrollment letter grades are converted as follows: A = 95, B = 85, C = 75; D = 65.
- If the final course average is higher than the numerical score listed above, you are responsible for contacting your instructor and requesting that your official numerical grade be submitted to TCCHS.

All college applications, necessary testing, and the GAFutures Dual Enrollment application must be completed prior to meeting with Tammy Shealey, school counselor. Meeting deadlines are November 13, 2026 for spring 2027 courses and March 26, 2026 for summer and fall 2027 courses. This information can be found on the Class of 2027 and Class of 2028 Google Classroom under Dual Enrollment.

Please contact the TCCHS guidance department for more dual enrollment details.

Maximizing Education to Realize Intellectual Transformation (MERIT)

The Thomas County School System offers gifted and high achieving students in grades 5-12 a unique program integrated into our middle and high school campuses. The purpose of MERIT is to challenge students to achieve their maximum academic potential while providing a supportive learning environment. MERIT offers the most comprehensive and flexible academic options for gifted and accelerated study in our area. It is an incentive program to promote academic excellence in class, at academic competitions, and on national and state exams.

TCCHS MERIT students take a range of Advanced Placement, Honors, and Dual Enrollment classes. The program offers an AP Focus class to provide extra support to students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses. MERIT students can qualify for the academic patch and letter jacket and may earn recognition as an AP Scholar. Upon completion of high school, MERIT students who complete the program earn the MERIT seal on their diploma and wear the MERIT stole at graduation. Transfer students will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

There is no formal application for the high school MERIT program. High school students will earn and maintain MERIT status by completing the required program of study, participating in the required activities, maintaining the appropriate grade-point average, and completing the required community service hours. **To be considered a MERIT student at Thomas County Central High School, a student must:**

- Successfully complete at least of 2 honors level, AP, and/or Dual Enrollment classes each year.
- Successfully complete a minimum total of 4 AP or Dual Enrollment courses.
- Earn 4 high school foreign language credits.
- Maintain an 88 academic average.
- Complete and document a minimum of 20 community service hours per year for a total of at least 80, with 20 of those being service learning hours.
- Actively participate in at least one extracurricular activity each year: a sport, band, club, or student government.
- Participate in an average of at least one academic competition per year.

Students intending to earn the MERIT designation should schedule a meeting with TCCHS MERIT Coordinator, Farran Burnette (fburnette@tcjackets.net), to discuss any questions or concerns as well as to documentprogress toward the designation.

<u>Thomas County Central High School MERIT Personnel</u>

The MERIT Team is responsible for providing guidance and encouragement to MERIT students as they navigate their path through high school and into college. Specific assistance available to students includes

SAT and ACT preparation, college and scholarship application support, scheduling of high school classes, Advanced Placement readiness, providing opportunities for community service and service learning, and much more. The TCCHS MERIT office (E3) is located on E-wing near the band room and is accessible to students before, during, and after school. Any questions about the MERIT program should be directed to Erin White, Thomas County Schools Director of MERIT. She can be reached at ewhite@tcjackets.net or 229-413-1704.

ONLINE COURSE OPTIONS

Student/Parent Notification:
In July 2012, Senate Bill 289 passed allowing students opportunities to take online courses. This legislation does not currently require an online course to graduate, but simply provides an online learning option for students. Students attending public schools are provided this option at no cost if taken as part of their regular school day. In addition, House Bill 175 passed establishing a clearinghouse for stakeholders to find online courses and online course providers in the state of Georgia.

Current Online Course Option:
Parents and students may access information about the Georgia Virtual School at www.gavirtualschool.org. Students interested in taking an online course with Georgia Virtual School should contact their school counselor to help ensure that the course will count toward his/her high school graduation requirements. There is no cost to the student/parent for a course taken with Georgia Virtual School during the regular school day. Students will earn credit by demonstrating content mastery through completion of the online course. Students must also take any required End of Course (EOC) at TCCHS according to state policy guidelines.

In order to ensure accurate information about eligibility and requirements for high school sports and NCAA with regard to Georgia Virtual courses, it is highly recommended that the student and parent be in close contact with Georgia Virtual School, the NCAA, the school counselor, and Dr. Philip Duplantis, the Thomas County School System's Athletic Director.

Visit www.doe.k12.ga.us for more dual enrollment, virtual, or online opportunities.

GRADUATION CEREMONY
Saturday, May 29, 2027

Only active TCCHS students who have met all graduation requirements set forth by the state of Georgia will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony, unless an exception is written into a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students may also be excluded from participation in graduation ceremonies for failure to attend the required graduation practice, outstanding debts, and/or other reasons deemed necessary by the administration**. Only ticket holders will be permitted into the graduation ceremony.** Entry must be made through the designated locations. Non-ticket holders may view the ceremony via Internet, CNS Cable, or a live video broadcast. The number of tickets given to each graduate will be determined by the number of graduates in any given year and based on the seating capacity of the graduation facility as set by the local Fire Marshal. Tickets will be distributed at graduation practice on Friday, May 28. Inclement weather may result in a change of graduation date and location.

CORDS

Students have the opportunity to earn multiple cords to wear at graduation. These cords are distributed to students at the Senior Honors Day ceremony.
Dual Enrollment Cord: Student must complete 3 or more college courses with an A (unweighted; without the 10 points); Student cannot make less than an 80 in any dual enrollment course
Foreign Language Cord: Student must make an A in three foreign language courses; Student cannot make less than an 80 in any foreign language course
Fine Arts Cord: Student must earn an A in three fine arts courses; Student cannot make less than an 80 in any fine arts course
CTAE Cord: Student must complete a pathway; Student must pass the End of Pathway assessment
Military Cord: Student must be fully enlisted and have attended MPES

Governors Honors Cord: Student must participate in the Governors Honors program

GUIDANCE OFFICE

The guidance office is open to students and parents from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. daily. Four school counselors are available for individual or group counseling, post-secondary education and career planning, information about testing, jobs, tutors, registration for classes, and advisement. The Career Center, located in the Lee Bailey PREP Academy, is also available as a resource to students in career area education planning at the high school and post-secondary levels.

PARENT PORTAL

Parents can view attendance and grades for their students using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal available online through the Thomas County School District or through the Campus Portal App. To obtain an access code, parents should contact the TCCHS Guidance Office. *Access codes will not be issued by phone, mail, or fax.*

COMPLAINTS, CRITICISM, AND COMMENTS

Should any issues arise between a student and teacher, the first course of action is to make an appointment with the teacher through the guidance office to discuss the issue. Each student is encouraged to register complaints and criticism which foster school improvement. Students should discuss their complaint with their teacher, counselor, or an administrator. Thomas County Central welcomes parents or guardians to our school; however, to maintain an orderly and safe school environment, we require that parents check in and obtain administrative approval.

CONFERENCES

The faculty at Thomas County Central High School welcomes the opportunity to discuss with students and parents the student's classroom performance, behavior, or any other related concerns or interests.

Conferences with a teacher should be scheduled through the guidance clerk. Teachers must be given at least a 24 hour notice for after-school conference requests. Appointments will be made at a time that is convenient to everyone involved. Appointments may not be made at a time that interferes with instructional activities. Conferences may be held before school, after school, or during a teacher's planning period.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students will complete make-up work within three days upon their return to school. The three-day rule does not apply to assignments that were previously assigned to be due on the date of a student's absence; when a student is absent on the day that an assignment is due, it must be turned in on the first day of the student's return. When a student is absent on a test day, he or she should be prepared to take the test on the first day of his/her return. Teachers may require students to schedule time after school hours to make up tests, labs, special projects, or exams. Work for students returning from suspension is due the day the student returns to school. If a student has intentionally skipped a class, he/she may receive zeros for the work missed. Administrative discretion applies to the policy.

WITHDRAWALS

Students withdrawing from school for any reason should report to the guidance office for the proper forms. The student must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Books, Chromebooks, and parking permit must be returned and debts paid in order to clear a student's records. Students who quit school are required to have an exit conference with the grade level counselor and an administrator to discuss their future options prior to withdrawal.

WORK PERMIT

A work permit may be required for any student under the age of 16 who works outside of school. These may be obtained from the student's employer.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Over the past couple of years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools have significantly developed and become more complex. Tools like ChatGPT use machine technology to generate data that can appear to be human-created. According to The University of Michigan, "Since its launch by OpenAI in late 2022, ChatGPT (and other artificial intelligence products) can be used for purposes both good and bad. There are legitimate ways to use these tools for research, and there are ways to use them to cheat on academic work." In our courses at Thomas County Central High, students are to complete assignments based on

their own thoughts and efforts. Additionally, TCCHS students often turn in assignments using a website called Turn it In (turnitin.com) which uses AI detection software. Unless a student has been instructed or allowed to utilize artificial intelligence tools to complete an assignment, the use of such tools constitutes a violation of the code of conduct at TCCHS. Behavior consequences will be those for academic dishonesty listed on page 45 of this handbook.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE

The Thomas County Board of Education believes that all students will achieve better academically in a learning environment free from distraction due to the use of personal electronic devices. The Thomas County Board of Education intends to promote a distraction-free learning environment, which means a learning environment where access to personal electronic devices is restricted to minimize distractions, improve academic outcomes, and increase meaningful interactions and focused learning experiences. This policy outlines the access and use of personal electronic devices for students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade while on school premises during school hours.

Students in grades PK-12th are not permitted to access personal electronic devices while on school premises during school hours, including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, earbuds, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission during school hours. Any student found in violation of this policy and/or its procedures during the school day shall be subject to progressive discipline consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

This policy applies to students in grades PK-12th on school premises, during school hours. School activities such as trips, athletic events, extracurricular activities may be used in accordance with the appropriate use guidelines in the Student Code of Conduct. A student whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or medical plan explicitly mandates the use of a personal electronic device shall be permitted access to the device as necessary to fulfill the requirements of the respective program or plan. Parents wishing to reach their child during school hours should contact the front office.

The district or individual schools within the district shall not assume any responsibility or liability for the theft, loss, or damage to a personal electronic device.

Thomas County Schools Nutrition Program

The school nutrition program strives to instill healthy habits in all of our students along with promoting health and wellness while supporting academic success. Through good nutrition and healthy habits, every student in Thomas County Schools will be challenged, prepared and successful. The school nutrition program participates in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) which allows ALL students in Thomas County Schools to eat breakfast and one lunch meal at **NO COST** to the student. We provide quality school meals to help your student get the nutrition they need to learn, grow and develop.

Thomas County School Nutrition Program must comply with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) federal guidelines regulating school meals. Each age/grade group served has different nutritional requirements regulating calories, sodium, fat, and serving sizes for meal components. USDA Nutritional Guidelines for School Meals can be found by visiting https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/short-and-long-week-calculations.

Thomas County Central High School participates in "Offer versus Serve" when providing your student school meals which means that we offer the required meal components to your student and they get to choose which items they want on their tray. Your student must pick up at least 3 of the meal components (fruit, vegetable, grain, meat, milk) with one of those being a fruit or vegetable. Each tray served must contain at least ½ cup of a fruit or vegetable. If your student refuses to pick up a fruit or vegetable then it is not considered reimbursable (by the USDA) and we would then have to charge your student "a la carte" pricing for the items that they put on their tray. Please encourage your student to put a fruit and/or vegetable on their tray at school.

Thomas County Central High School's cafeteria menu is posted monthly on the Thomas County School's website, https://www.tcjackets.net/departments/school-nutrition/breakfast-lunch-menu. You can also view the school menu with allergens and nutrition facts on the LINQ CONNECT website, https://tinyurl.com/TCCHS-Menu.

Breakfast: Thomas County Central High School offers breakfast in the cafeteria from 7:30 until 7:50 AM. In addition to breakfast before school, TCCHS offers Second Chance Breakfast via mobile carts set-up in various hallways during the break between 2nd and 3rd period. Any student can participate in both breakfast opportunities. Students participating in Second Chance Breakfast should pick up their items from the breakfast carts and take them back to their 3rd period classroom to eat. At breakfast, students must pick up a fruit in order to make the breakfast reimbursable (i.e. to avoid being personally charged for the meal.) We offer a variety of fruit (juice, fresh, canned, and/or fruit cups) at breakfast.

Lunch Number: Each student and staff member is assigned a lunch number that they will need to key in when eating breakfast or lunch in the cafeteria.

Online Cafeteria Payments: Adults (staff, parents/guardians, special visitors) are welcome to eat in the cafeteria with us. Adult meal prices are **$5.25** for lunch and **$3.00** for breakfast. Adults must present cash or check at time of meal service or if employed by the district, may set up a lunch account and pre-pay for meals online with a credit/debit card or by bringing cash or check to the cafeteria for deposit into their account. Students are allowed to purchase a la carte items or extra meals, but each student must have a complete meal (or lunchbox) before purchasing any "a la carte" (extra) items. Students wishing to purchase "a la carte" items (above what is offered in the free school meal) must have cash, check or money in their lunch account. There will be no charging of "a la carte" items by students or adults. Students wishing to purchase an additional school meal (after already receiving their free school meal), must pay the adult price ($5.25 for lunch or $3.00 for breakfast.) School Nutrition uses LINQ Connect for online meal payments. Students and staff may set-up a cafeteria account online via the LINQ connect website: https://linqconnect.com/main (you can also access this link via our website.)

We encourage staff to keep money in their cafeteria account. Staff are not allowed to charge a la carte items, but may charge up to $50 for meals. Once your account reaches -$50, you will not be allowed to eat a meal in the cafeteria until your negative balance has been paid. The cafeteria manager will send out emails and put letters in your school mailbox when your account falls into the negative. Any staff member with unpaid meal charges at the end of the last day of school will have their paychecks garnished in May. School Nutrition will add an additional 10% processing fee to any negative account balances remaining after school is over to cover the time and labor required to garnish your paycheck.

BUZZ Cafe: The Buzz Cafe located in the TCCHS cafeteria is open to students and adults during breakfast and lunch. The BUZZ Cafe sells Smart Snack compliant drinks (including coffee drinks and smoothies) and snacks. No charging is allowed at the BUZZ Cafe. You can pay for items at the BUZZ Cafe with cash, check, credit or debit card or from money prepaid in your cafeteria account (https://linqconnect.com/main). All items in the BUZZ Cafe are considered "a la carte" and are not part of the free school breakfast or lunch.

Supper Program: TCCHS offers a supper program free of charge to students Monday through Thursday during the school year. This program is only open to students enrolled in the Thomas County School System. Please contact our School Nutrition office at 229-584-9139, if you would like to get additional information about the supper program.

Food Allergies or Intolerances: If your student has a food allergy or intolerance, you must notify the School Nutrition Director in writing in order for your student to receive accommodations to meals served at school. Some meal accommodations require a medical statement signed by a licensed healthcare provider. The school nurse or school nutrition director can provide you with a meal accommodation form that you can take to your healthcare provider to document any food allergies or intolerances requiring special meal accommodations. You can also find this form on our website at https://www.tcjackets.net/departments/school-nutrition.

Food/Beverages brought in the cafeteria during the school day: Federal guidelines and our local school board policy prohibits the sale and marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages during the school day in all areas of the school campus. With this in mind and in order to promote healthy eating habits for all of our students, staff, students, and parents **are not allowed** to bring in food or beverages to school from outside restaurants any time during the school day (with the exception of special events like parties and celebrations.) Of course, lunches from home sent with students in lunch boxes or plain bags are permissible. We encourage parents and staff to set a good example for healthy eating throughout the school day.

Fundraisers: According to our wellness policy, any food or beverage based fundraiser needs prior approval in order to remain compliant with the federal regulations. Please email Jeana Smith at jeana.smith@tcjackets.net if your class, club, or team would like to have a food or beverage based fundraiser.

Parties and Celebrations:
When bringing food for celebrations or parties, we strongly encourage healthy food choices, such as those listed below. Due to the number of food allergies in our schools, we ask that all foods be brought in sealed containers with food labels that list nutrition facts and ingredients. Homemade goods, including cupcakes & other snacks will not be served to students.

Healthy Celebration Snacks:
- Whole Fruit
- Pretzels, Goldfish, Cheese Crackers
- Animal Crackers, Graham Crackers
- Trail Mix
- Yogurt
- Light Popcorn
- Applesauce or Fruit Cups
- Raw Veggies/Low Fat Dip
- Low Fat Pudding Cups
- String Cheese

- 100% Fruit Snacks
- Whole Grain, Reduced Sugar Cookies
- Fruit Sherbet, Sorbet, or Italian Ice
- Reduced Sugar, Low-Fat Ice Cream
- Reduced-Sugar or Whole Fruit Popsicles

More information about Thomas County School Nutrition can be found on our website https://www.tcjackets.net/departments/school-nutrition. Follow us on Facebook at Thomas County School Nutrition or on Instagram at bee_well_tc to see the quality school meals served to your student throughout the school year.

School Nutrition Contact Information: For questions or concerns regarding school nutrition, please contact Jeana Smith, Director of School Nutrition and Wellness by email at jeana.smith@tcjackets.net or phone at 229-584-9139.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider."

CHROMEBOOKS

Thomas County Central High School was awarded a Blended Learning Scaling grant from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. This grant enables our school system to provide a Chromebook, a small laptop computer, for each student at TCCHS.

Chromebooks will be issued to students at the beginning of the school year. A contract which details students' responsibilities for the care of the Chromebook must be signed by both the student and the guardian and returned before a student will be issued a Chromebook.

Student accounts and Chromebook usage are monitored through "Go Guardian" software and "Gaggle.net" through the Thomas County School System. These programs provide filtering and monitoring of internet usage at all times, regardless of location.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are made daily on News4You and each morning and afternoon when needed and must be approved by the activity sponsor and an administrator. Quiet attention, including no talking and movement in classrooms and hallways, is mandatory during announcements, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the moment of quiet reflection. Afternoon announcements, including information about bus changes, are pushed to the ViewBoard in every classroom prior to dismissal.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Thomas County Central High School believes in the importance of giving our time and sharing our talents with those in our community. Throughout the school year, students will have numerous opportunities to participate in community service activities. See Dr. Farran Burnette in E-Hall to get communityservice approved. Students who complete 50 (bronze), 100 (silver), or 150 (gold) hours of community service will receive a medal at Senior Honors Day. Hours are tracked using the Mobile Serve app.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

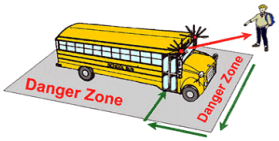
Please contact the guidance office by phone for extended illnesses or to request a teacher/parent conference. Parents are encouraged to exchange e-mail addresses with teachers and to sign up for Parent Square and Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found items should be turned in to the guidance office or Ms. Carroll's room (D-3).

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY INFORMATION

Smarts



- Stay out of the danger zone at all times!
- Remember — if you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you!
- Never go near the bus unless the driver has given you the signal to come!
- Never walk or play behind a vehicle!
- When you go near the bus, always be sure you can see the bus driver!
- If you drop anything in the danger zone, leave it. Never stop to pick it up!

Know the Danger Zones

- Every child must know the DANGER ZONES around the school bus.
- Children should never enter the DANGER ZONE unless the driver has given them permission.
- If a child can touch the bus, he or she is too close.
- If a child must cross the street, know all the rules to cross safely.
- The 10 Giant Step rule is a good measurement for children to identify the DANGER ZONE around the school bus, particularly when crossing in front of the bus.
- When near a bus, the children must have the attention of the school bus driver.
- Children should never play around or near school bus vehicles.
- When leaving the bus, children must walk directly home.

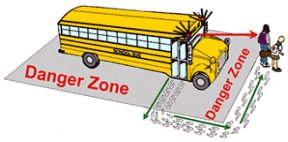
Getting On and Off the Safe Way

- Always be on time with your school things tucked safely away.
- Never run to or from the bus.
- Wait for the bus at a safe place away from the road.
- Wait for the bus to stop before approaching to get on.
- Remember if you can touch the bus, YOU ARE TOO CLOSE!
- Your driver will tell you when to get on.
- Walk up the steps, one at a time, using the hand rail.
- Never push or shove.
- IF YOU DROP ANYTHING IN THE DANGER ZONE, LEAVE IT; NEVER STOP TO PICK IT UP!
- Sit facing the driver, feet in front of you.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times.
- ALWAYS LISTEN TO AND OBEY YOUR SCHOOL BUS DRIVER!

Getting Off the Bus

- Use the handrail.
- Do not push or shove.
- Walk; don't run away from the bus.
- Never go behind the bus.
- Go right home.

Crossing the Street After Getting Off the Bus



- If you must cross the road after getting off the bus, use the 10 GIANT STEPS as a guide to take you out of the DANGER ZONE at the front of the bus.
- Be sure you can see the driver and that the driver sees you.
- Watch for the driver's signal that it is safe to cross.
- Stop when you reach the edge of the bus.

Regulations

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL BUILDING USE

The school building is open for student use from 7:00 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. each day; students may remain in the Media Center under supervision until 3:30 p.m. Students may not enter the hallways before the 7:40 a.m. bell. Loitering on campus before, during, or after school hours is prohibited. Any use of school facilities after hours, including gyms and practice fields, must be supervised by a staff member and approved by the administration. Students are expected to use school property responsibly. Vandalism or damage to school property, including class pranks, will result in disciplinary action, restitution for damages, and may result in the loss of participation in graduation ceremonies and other school activities. Students must leave campus by 4:00 p.m. unless participating in a school-sponsored activity or under the direct supervision of a teacher, coach, or sponsor. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in disciplinary action for being in an unauthorized area.

DELIVERIES

Flowers, balloons, gifts: The TCCHS faculty and staff will not permit the delivery of flowers, balloons, or gifts to students at any time during the school day. Parents and students should ask businesses to deliver these items to the recipient's home.

Food: Students may not bring food or drinks from outside vendors on campus at any time. Students may not have fast food delivered by parents, friends, or other relatives.

FIELD TRIPS

Educational field trips have a proper place in the school program. Supervision is furnished for students who go on such trips. In order to participate:

- All students must return a field trip permission form signed by a parent or guardian.
- Permission form must be returned to the activity sponsor and filed with an assistant principal.
- Permission may be denied if a student has excessive tardies or absences, poor conduct, or has a failing grade in any class.
- Students must ride in school provided transportation.
- No field trips will be scheduled on standardized testing days.
- No field trips will be scheduled without proper administrative approval.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Fire Drills will be held monthly. Students are to file out of the building to the designated area where their teacher will take roll. Students remain in place until an all-clear is given.

Lockdown Drills
A soft lockdown means all exterior and classroom doors are secured but class activities continue as scheduled. In the event of a hard lockdown, all exterior and classroom doors are secured and staff and students remain in place until further notice is given.

Severe Weather Drills
When a tornado watch is issued, staff secures all exterior doors and students remain indoors and continue to conduct the day as usual. A tornado warning is issued when tornadic activity has been spotted in the vicinity. Staff and students transition to safety zones and remain in place until an all-clear has been given. All emergency drills are practiced throughout the school year.

HALL PASSES

Students are not to be in the halls during class without a hall pass. Beginning in the 25-26 school year, we will implement the SMART Pass system. **No pass should be issued the first or last 10 minutes of any class period**. It is the student's responsibility to secure permission before leaving any class.

TEXTBOOKS

The care of textbooks is the responsibility of the student to whom the books are issued. The condition and number of the textbook are recorded when the teacher issues it. The student must pay for any unnecessary abuse or loss of the textbook must be paid for by the student.

VISITORS

Any visitor, including former students, having valid business at the school must report to the front office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. Students may not bring friends or relatives who are not enrolled at TCCHS with them to school.

AUTOMOBILES and MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Students who provide their own transportation to and from school must abide by the following guidelines:

- Student will have a valid Georgia driver's license. Anyone operating a vehicle without a proper license will be reported to law officials.
- Student must display a valid school parking permit. Using another student's parking permit is not permissible.
- Student will park in any parking space in the student parking lot. Student is not allowed to park behind the gym, in faculty parking areas, or in any other undesignated areas.
- Student will have evidence that the vehicle is covered with liability insurance.
- Upon arrival on campus in the morning, student will park the vehicle, exit the car, lock all doors, and move to the cafeteria.
- Student will not sit in vehicle during the school day.
- Student will not return to his/her vehicle unless he/she is officially dismissed from school or has written permission of an administrator or School Resource Officer.
- Student will abide by all Georgia traffic laws while driving on campus and will follow posted speed limits. The maximum speed allowed on campus is posted at 10 m.p.h.
- Improper parking, driving too fast for conditions, and reckless driving will not be permitted.
- Weapons may NOT be kept in vehicles on school property. Guns and knives used for hunting must be removed from vehicles before the vehicle is brought on campus.
- Obscene or inappropriate bumper stickers, decals, murals, or other items that cause dissention will not be permitted on vehicles parked on the TCCHS campus. What is obscene or inappropriate will be determined by the TCCHS administration.

Students, parents, staff members, and others who have legitimate business on campus are permitted to park on school property as a matter of privilege and not of right. The Thomas County Board of Education, through its delegated representatives, retains authority to conduct routine patrols of parking lots and inspections of vehicles on school property. Such inspections may be conducted by school officials or by appropriate law enforcement officers. The interiors of vehicles may be searched when a school official has reason to believe that illegal or unauthorized objects or materials may be contained within the vehicle. Vehicle owners and/or operators may be required to unlock vehicles in order to permit such searches. Such patrols, inspections, and searches may be conducted without notice, without the vehicle owner's or operator's consent, and without a search warrant. Vehicles parked on school property shall be subject to canine searches in cases where school officials have reasonable grounds to believe that illegal drugs, contraband, or other improper objects or substances are on campus. **Any vehicle parked on school property may be searched on any given day with or without the presence of reasonable suspicion.**

PARKING

Driving and parking on campus are privileges, not rights, and may be revoked by administration if abused. Students who leave campus without permission, transport unsanctioned students, or violate driving expectations may have parking privileges suspended or revoked. All drivers must observe a maximum speed limit of 10 mph on campus.

Regulations

To park on campus, students must purchase a $30 parking permit and park in assigned spaces. A valid Georgia driver's license, proof of insurance, and a signed parking contract are required. Permits are sold during designated summer and registration periods, with a one-week window at the start of school to obtain them; late purchasers must secure permits promptly. Vehicles parked without a permit, in unauthorized areas, or in violation of school rules may be ticketed, fined the cost of a permit, considered insubordinate, and/or towed at the owner's expense. Continued violations will result in disciplinary action.

MEDIA CENTER

The Thomas County Central High School Media Center is a contemporary 10,000 square foot research facility available to the students, faculty, and staff for information retrieval and academic inquiry. A library media specialist and library assistant are available to assist patrons using traditional and advanced technological means to complete their objectives. Computer facilities exist for classes and individuals along with print, non-print, and online resources. Patrons are encouraged to utilize the resources of the media center while respecting everyone's equal access to them.

Philosophy

The Media Center exists to provide extended support and enrichment for the school's total educational curriculum.

Hours and Staff

The staff consists of a library media specialist and an assistant. The Media Center is open to students from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each school day.

Destiny

The TCCHS Media Center's online catalog, Destiny, is available at destiny.thomas.k12.ga.us. The website is linked on the school's website and Clever page. TCCHS is proud to extend to students and patrons this service which allows them to search materials and information from home or at school. Destiny Quest, also available online, "combines a visually engaging interface, broad-based integrated searching power and social networking components to create the new library for the 21st century learner." It allows students to virtually peruse the collection for titles or information, including WebPath Express and other factual online resources. Students and teachers are encouraged to use this feature to check on material availability ahead of their media center visit.

Checkout

Books in the general collection may be checked out for four weeks before they need to be returned or renewed. They may be renewed unless a "hold" has been requested. Reference books and magazines are checked out for overnight use and must be returned to the circulation desk before first period the following school day. The charge for lost books is determined by replacement costs. Borrowing privileges are suspended until overdue materials are returned.

Photocopying/Printing

A copy machine is available for students who need to make copies of material related to academic assignments. A minimal fee will be assessed for copies. Patrons are asked to notify a library media specialist immediately if they have problems printing to avoid over-printing and multiple copies.

Entry/Exit

Students are expected to enter the media center from the cafeteria entrance and sign in their name, arrival time, and teacher's name when they present their passes. Students should also have a signature to return to class or leave the media center.

Rules of Behavior

ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD OR DRINK is permitted in the Media Center. Students must have a pass to be admitted to the media center. There should not be more than six persons per table. Above all, please respect everyone's right to a place for quiet study, reading, and research. School rules, policies, and procedures apply to before and after school use. Restrooms located in the media center are to be used individually. Any problem with the restroom should be reported immediately. Students should respect the facility and refrain from damaging, vandalizing, or altering property in the Media Center.

Computers

Students have access to the computers on the main floor and the computer lab when accompanied by a teacher. We ask that students not alter or adjust the settings on the computer or the monitor. Please refer to the Acceptable Use Policy against prohibited behaviors involving computers.

Challenged Materials

If you find materials which you or your parent(s) regard as inappropriate for the Media Center collection, bring them to the attention of the media specialist. If your concerns are not resolved, a complaint must be submitted in writing by a parent or permanent guardian to the principal. Complaints must provide a reasonably detailed description of the material alleged to be harmful to minors.

Internet Access/Computer Use

Technology equipment, the Internet, and digital learning provide vast, diverse, and unique resources that can be used to transform learning. Our goal in providing these resources to teachers, staff, and students is to provide a unique and personalized learning experience in the Thomas County School System. By promoting quality instruction while using digital tools, educational excellence can be achieved.

In the schools, student access to and use of the Internet will be under teacher direction and monitored as any other classroom activity. The use of technology equipment and digital tools in the Thomas County School System is a privilege that requires all users to act responsibly. All users are accountable for any violations of this Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, Thomas County Schools has an Internet filtering system in place to protect the students in our schools. The filtering system blocks unacceptable sites that fall into the following categories: violence, pornography, drugs, chat, free email, hate/discrimination, etc. However, it is impossible to control all materials on a global network, and an industrious user may discover inappropriate information. The school system cannot completely prevent the possibility that some users may access material that is not consistent with the educational mission, goals, and policies of the school system. Violations of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy may result in disciplinary action.

It is the belief of the board that the Internet's advantages far outweigh its disadvantages. The Thomas County Board of Education views information gathered from the Internet in the same manner as reference materials identified by the schools. Specifically, the system supports resources that will enhance the learning environment with directed guidance from the faculty and staff. Exploration of resources, by both teachers and students, within the confines of this Acceptable Use Policy, is encouraged.

All students in Thomas County Schools will receive age-appropriate curriculum and instruction regarding safe and appropriate online behavior including, but not limited to, electronic interactions with others on social networking sites and in chat rooms; behaviors that may constitute cyberbullying; and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying.

Guidelines for Internet Usage

- Internet use must be in support of education and research consistent with classroom curriculum.
- Use of the Internet must be consistent with the rules appropriate to any network being used or accessed.
- Unauthorized use of copyrighted material is prohibited, including accessing and/or downloading pirated music, movies, and television shows.
- Threatening or obscene materials are prohibited.
- Distribution of material protected by trade secret is prohibited.
- Product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
- Commercial activities are not acceptable.
- Non-instructional games are prohibited on school computers.
- Staff and students shall not download software from home or unauthorized programs from the Internet. The use of proxy sites and/or VPN services to access Internet sites that are blocked by ThomasCounty Schools is prohibited.
- Nothing should be posted on the Internet that would be inappropriate for parents, teachers,

students, etc., to read. The Internet is a public forum. Any blog post or social networking post, including photographs, which are posted on the Internet, are there permanently. Any post that is deleted may be cached in a search engine, school system server, or Internet archive. Internet posts that are a violation of this Acceptable Use Policy may result in disciplinary action.

- Faculty, staff, and students should refrain from the use of personal social networking sites including, but not limited to, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok or Tumblr during working and school hours.
- Faculty and staff should not post pictures of students or school activities to their personal social networking sites.

Privileges

- Access to the Internet is not a right, but a privilege.
- Unacceptable and/or inappropriate usage will result in the cancellation of the user's network account and/or Google account.
- Administration will deem what is inappropriate use, and the administration's decision is final.
- Administration reserves the right to regulate any particular use of computing resources.
- An administrator, faculty member, or staff member may request the denial, revocation, or suspension of specific user(s) account(s).
- Students may be issued electronic devices, such as Chromebooks, upon signing and returning a required parent and student agreement letter. Students are required to adhere to all policies set forth in the agreement notice and the Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

Appropriate Digital Citizenship

- Use of profanity, vulgarities or other inappropriate language is prohibited.
- Users should not reveal their or anyone else's personal information including, but not limited to, home address, phone number, credit card number, Social Security number, or student identification number.
- The network should not be used in a way that would disrupt the use of the network by others.
- Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- Students should not use personal or school-issued devices or accounts in a way that would threaten, harass, abuse, intimidate, or embarrass others.
- The use of websites or other types of electronic communication to circulate gossip and rumors about staff or students is prohibited.
- The use of cameras, camera phones, or other camera devices to take or exchange threatening or potentially embarrassing photographs of staff or students is prohibited.

Security

- Security problems should be reported to the system administrator immediately.
- Account passwords should be kept confidential.
- Users should use the network via the account assigned to them.
- Users must not interfere with or disrupt network users, services, traffic, or equipment. Disruptions include, but are not limited to, distribution of unsolicited advertising, downloading and/or streaming music or videos that slow the network, propagation of computer viruses, and using a network to make unauthorized entry to any other machine accessible via a network.
- Attempts to log on as another user or log-in to any accounts belonging to another user will result in cancellation of privileges.
- Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access.

Vandalism/Harassment

- Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the internet or other networks. This includes, but is not limited to, creating and/or uploading computer viruses.
- Vandalism also includes the attempt to harm or destroy computer hardware and unauthorized installation of software.

- Students should carefully handle all technology equipment, including, but not limited to, iPads, Chromebooks, desktop computers, and all specialty equipment in labs or other specialized areas. For example, Chromebooks should be handled with two hands, should not be picked up by the screen, keys should remain intact, and all items should be removed from the Chromebook before the screen is closed.
- Users should report damages to the technology department in their schools and not attempt to make the repairs themselves.
- Vandalism and/or harassment will result in the cancellation or revocation of the offender's privileges and disciplinary action will result.

Google for Education, Email, and Other Electronic Communication

- Google for Education accounts are provided for all employees and students in grades 2-12. Google for Education accounts include Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Sheets, Google Classroom, etc. as a part of the tcjackets domain.
- Google for Education accounts are provided for professional and academic purposes. These accounts should not be used for personal gain, personal business activities, or to solicit for non-school system business. Broadcasting of unsolicited messages is prohibited.
- All users, including students, should not use school-issued email accounts to sign up for personal accounts on websites, including, but not limited to, social media and gaming websites.
- All school-related business should be sent via the email account provided by Thomas County Schools. Personal email accounts should not be used for school-related business.
- All electronic communication created, sent, or received via the Thomas County Schools email system is property of Thomas County Schools. Employees and students shall not have any expectation of privacy regarding this information. The Board reserves the right, as deemed necessary, to access, read, review, monitor, and copy all messages and files on its computer system without notice. Thomas County Schools reserves the right to disclose text, video, audio, or image files to law enforcement agencies without the employee or student's consent.
- Student related messages should be guarded and protected in compliance with FERPA in order to protect the privacy of students. Employees must abide by copyright laws, ethics rules, and applicable state and federal laws.
- Email messages should only contain professional and appropriate language. Employees and students shall not send abusive, harassing, intimidating, threatening, discriminatory, or otherwise offensive messages.
- Thomas County Schools has a SPAM filter in place to prevent inappropriate email messages, viruses, malware, etc. However, this does not guarantee that this type of email message will not make it through and those who make use of electronic communication will occasionally receive messages that are found offensive or annoying. When this happens, the employee should delete the messages. The Thomas County School System is not responsible for the items employees or students may view via links to other web pages if the employee chooses to open and read these messages.
- Student Google accounts are monitored for inappropriate usage through Gaggle.net and filtered through Go Guardian. Inappropriate use of Google accounts is reported to school and system administrators and handled as a disciplinary violation.
- The use of school-issued Google accounts on personal/home devices will install extensions and/or apps for monitoring purposes for that account. School-issued student accounts are monitored on home and personal devices when students are logged in.
- Students should log out of school-issued Google accounts when not in use.

Electronic or Mobile Devices

- Per Georgia law, all personal electronic devices (including cell phones, headphones and earbuds, smart watches, etc.) must be put away and silent from 8:00 AM to 3:05 PM. This includes during school days.
- Students in all schools have access to either iPads, Chromebooks, or desktop computers.
- Teachers and staff reserve the right to check devices for inappropriate use or inappropriate material.
- The Thomas County School System is not responsible for lost or damaged devices.
- Cell phones and all device cameras are to be turned off and not used during any testing or

examination period. During the testing session cell phones/camera phones are to be stored in a case, book bag, knapsack, or purse, and may not be placed on the table, desktop, or individual's lap. Staff members have the right to confiscate devices during testing.

- Students should not use their own data connection in order to access the Internet during the school day. Students shall access the Internet via the Thomas County Schools' wireless network only while on school grounds in order to insure their Internet connection is filtered through Thomas County Schools' filtering system as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act. Teachers and staff reserve the right to check an electronic or mobile device for proper connection. Students who do not follow this guideline may potentially lose the right to use their own electronic or mobile device while at school.
- Students may only access the Internet during class sessions for instructor authorized, class-related purposes, unless otherwise authorized by the school administration. It should be noted that the school controls the Internet connectivity in classrooms and may elect to "turn-off" the wireless network during class time or restrict student passwords for wireless connections.
- Electronic or mobile devices should not be used to video or take pictures of disruptive behavior such as fights or other class/school disruptions. The sharing or posting of such videos or pictures or any other inappropriate videos or pictures is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action. This activity is a violation of privacy under FERPA and, depending upon the severity, may be reported to law enforcement.
- Students who use their own personal devices to access their Google for Education accounts should realize that account activity is monitored through Gaggle.net. Inappropriate usage or violations of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy are still applicable.
- TCCHS staff will not be responsible for searching for lost electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones and headphone devices.

Penalties

- Any user violating these provisions, applicable state and federal laws or posted classroom and district rules is subject to the loss of network privileges and other system disciplinary options, including criminal prosecution.
- School and system administrators will make the final determination as to what constitutes unacceptable use and their decision is final.

Disclaimers

The Thomas County School System makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Thomas County School System will not be responsible for any damages a user may suffer, including loss of data, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence or errors or omissions. The use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The system will not be responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet connection.

Media Advisory Council

The media center relies on a representative group of primary stakeholders who meet and act in an advising capacity to help guide the operation of the media center. Each year, a student is selected as a student representative to serve on this panel.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's use of all social media including email, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Discord, and all other forms of electronic or digital media. Many disciplinary matters and conflicts among students are rooted in communication that originates in social media. Students and parents should be aware that students may be subject to disciplinary action for their communication on social media even if such communication occurs off campus and during non-school hours, if such communication constitutes cyber-bullying, and/or if such communication in any way interferes with the good order of the school or the ability of other students to feel safe and comfortable at school. When posting messages on social media, students should apply this four-way test:

(1) Is it the truth? (2) Is it fair to all concerned? (3) Will it build good will and better friendship? (4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned? If the answer to any one of these questions is “no,” it is probably better to not post. The school appreciates the help of parents in monitoring student use of social media. Disciplinary action for inappropriate use of social media will be at the discretion of the administration and may include counseling, detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, recommendation for a tribunal, or referral to law enforcement, depending upon the severity of the offense.

EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

All academic requirements are based on a minimum passing grade of 70. GHSA refers to the Georgia High School Association activities which are governed by that body. Certain other school activities may also be governed by these policies. Approved high school and middle school summer sessions are an extension of the spring semester/quarter. Classestaken prior to enrolling in 9th grade may not be used to determine eligibility.

Insurance

Students that are on an athletic roster will be covered by a supplemental insurance policy provided by Thomas County Central High School. Thomas County Schools will not be responsible for any deductibles, charges not covered by insurance, or balances remaining after policies have paid.

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is important to Thomas County Central High School. Spectators represent the school as much as the athletes do and are responsible for much of the school’s reputation. We ask spectators to support our team enthusiastically but with consideration of the other team’s players and fans. We encourage applauding fine play and good sportsmanship by both teams. We can take much pride in our tradition of excelling on the field and in showing good sportsmanship. All students/spectators displaying unsportsmanlike conduct may be removed from that event.

Scholar-Athlete Award

Students in grades 10-12 who maintain a 3.5 Grade Point Average and complete an athletic season are eligible for the student Scholar-Athlete Award.

ATHLETICS, ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Students are encouraged to take an active part in student clubs and organizations provided they meet eligibility requirements as set forth by the State Board of Education. Only clubs and organizations which do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin and religious affiliation will be approved by the principal or his designee. All approved organizations must have a faculty sponsor. Student initiated organizations which exist to foster or advocate religion will be allowed in accordance with the Equal Access Act.

Class Activity	Sponsor
Art	Maria Pittman
Band	Joe Regina
Broadcasting	Kristy Faucett
Chorus	Stephanie Hart
Debate/Moot Court/Mock Trial	Brian Bellamy
Drama	Casey Dyksterhouse
Robotics	Brian Bellamy
Strings	Boyan Bonev
Student Ambassadors	Joshua Niswonger
Work Based Learning	Brandi Miranda
Yearbook	Michelle Outlaw

Extracurricular/Code of Conduct

The following is a list of all athletic teams and head coaches:

Athletic Director	Athletic Coordinator for Female Sports
Dr. Philip Duplantis	Allison NeSmith

Fall Sports	Coach
Cheerleading - Football	Meggin Van Hook
Cross Country	Rosalie Wilson
Football	Justin Rogers
Softball - Fast Pitch	Randy Adams
Volleyball	Rena Ramirez
Flag Football - Girls	Chad Parkerson

Winter Sports	Coach
Basketball - Boys	Modzelle Atkins
Basketball - Girls	Stacy Masten
Bass Fishing	Todd Wilson
Cheerleading - Basketball	Ambrionna Dallas
Swimming	Ashley Lanatta
Riflery	Jason Dinkins
Wrestling	Matt Tanner

Spring Sports	Coach
Literary	Brooke Bassett
Baseball	Sy Jones
eSports	Mark Thompson
Golf	Kevin Esch
Soccer	Matt Tanner
Tennis - Boys	Brian Bellamy
Tennis - Girls	JC Skeen
Track	Mikeal Lovejoy
Gymnastics	Carson Kimbrell

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The code of conduct provides for the welfare and safety of all students and ensures a productive learning environment. The school's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by the following progressive code of conduct.

This code of conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places:

- At school or on school property at any time
- Off school grounds at any school activity, function, or event and while traveling to and from such events
- On vehicles provided for student transportation by the school system

Students may also be disciplined for conduct off campus which is felonious or which may pose a threat to the school's learning environment or the safety of students and employees.

Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the code of conduct and to be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

All dispositions for offenses listed in the discipline code are considered minimal. The severity of the offense may dictate stricter measures.

Georgia law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-766) provides that school administrators who identify a student as a chronic disciplinary problem may require the parent to attend a conference to participate in the development of a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan. Parents who do not attend such conferences may be referred to the courts where they may be fined up to $500. The need for a parental conference is indicated whenever a student is suspended at home or when a teacher or administrator informs the parent that a conference is needed.

DISCIPLINE CODE

Teacher-assigned Detention: Upon 24 hour notice, teachers may assign students to detention in their classrooms before or after school. Students who fail to report will be referred to the administration for disciplinary action. The time and location of teacher-assigned detention may be determined by the teacher. Students who fail to serve teacher detention will be referred for administrative detention.

Administrative-assigned Detention: Upon 24 hour notice, administrators may assign students to detention in a designated classroom. Administrative detention will be held during lunch in room E-2 (ISS). Students should pick up a lunch before reporting to administrative detention. Students who fail to report will be assigned to In-School Suspension.

Time-out: Time out is the removal of students from a specific class or classes for a specified period of time. Parents will be notified by phone or letter when students are assigned. Students are counted present for school attendance and are provided individualized assignments from their regular classroom teacher.

In-School Suspension Program (ISS): ISS refers to the removal of students from their regular classes for a period of one or more days to a highly-structured, supervised environment. Students who exhibit disruptive behavior and/or repeat school offenses are subject to ISS. Parents will be notified by phone or letter when students are assigned. Students are counted present for school attendance and are provided individualized assignments from their regular classroom teachers. Students who fail to abide by the rules and regulations of ISS will receive additional ISS days or be terminated from the program. Any absences during an ISS assignment will be made up before the student returns to the regular classroom. Students will bring basic learning supplies and will do assigned work quietly in their seats. Students will obey all school rules and regulations.

Suspension for Parent Conference: Students who are suspended for a parent conference are not allowed to attend school until a parent accompanies the student to school for a conference. It is not necessary for students to miss any school time provided a parent/guardian accompanies the student to school the following day.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS): Out-of-School Suspension is the removal of students from school for a specified period of time. Students are not allowed on campus during the school day nor are they allowed to attend any school functions or activities during the period of suspension.

Behavior Intervention Plan: A Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) is a plan between the school, student, and parent that addresses a student's disruptive behavior.

The Renaissance Center: Housed at the Board of Education, The Renaissance Center provides an alternative learning environment featuring small class sizes and individualized instruction for students who have exhibited behavior that has led school administrators to believe that the student should be removed from the regular high school environment. Students who continually display poor behavior and are chronic discipline problems will be assigned to The Renaissance Center.

Expulsion: Expulsion is the removal of a student from school.

Searches and Investigations: School representatives have authority to conduct investigations, may question students, and may search students' belongings when there is reason to believe the search could prevent danger or disruption or the continued violations of established district policies and/or school rules/laws. Students may also be charged with insubordination, up to level 3, for failure to comply with a search directive.

Code of Conduct

Security Cameras: Security cameras are strategically placed throughout the building and on the campus to assist building administrators in maintaining a safe and supervised environment. Students who are videotaped while engaging in misconduct are subject to the same disciplinary action that they would receive if their behavior had been directly observed by a teacher or administrator.

Offense	Disposition
1. Academic Dishonesty Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assignments or exams	
• Academic Dishonesty 1 - Unauthorized assistance on classroom assignments or projects. May include but is not limited to failure to cite sources.	Academic Dishonesty 1: Warning; parent notification; opportunity to revise and resubmit
• Academic Dishonesty 2 - Plagiarism or cheating on classroom assignments or projects. Includes but is not limited to Intentional dishonesty on minor classroom projects, assignments, homework, etc. Includes the unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).	Academic Dishonesty 2: Administrative discretion; parent notification
• Academic Dishonesty 3 - Intentional plagiarism or cheating on a major exam, statewide assessment or project or the falsification of school records (including forgery). Includes but is not limited to cheating on major exams, statewide assessments or other state mandated academic work; Includes the falsification of school records; forgery; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on academic dishonesty three or more times during the same school year.	Academic Dishonesty 3: Administrative discretion; parent notification
2. Aggressive Behavior Aggressive behavior toward another student.	**1st Offense**: Minimum 3 days ISS **2nd Offense**: 5 days ISS
3. Alcohol Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or consumption of beverages or substances represented as alcohol.	
• Alcohol 1 - Unintentional possession	Alcohol 1: 5-10 days ISS; notification of law enforcement
• Alcohol 2 - Under influence without possession	Alcohol 2: 10 days OSS; notification of law enforcement
• Alcohol 3 - Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol	Alcohol 3: 10 days OSS; possible tribunal recommendation; notification of law enforcement

4. Arson

Unlawful and intentional damage or attempted damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary devices.
Note: Possession of fireworks or incendiary devices must be reported as "Possession of Unapproved Items". Use of such items should be reported as Arson.

- Arson 2 - Attempt to commit arson or use of matches, lighters or incendiary devices at school; includes but not limited to the use of fireworks. Includes but is not limited to trashcan fires without damage to school property.

  Arson 2: 6-10 days ISS; restitution

- Arson 3 - Intentional damage as a result of arson-related activity or the use of an incendiary device. Includes but not limited to setting fires to school property.

  Arson 3: 10 days OSS; restitution; possible tribunal recommendation

5. Attendance

- Attendance 1 - Truancy is defined as any absence from school without parental permission.

  Attendance 1:
  Administrative discretion and parent notification

- Attendance 2 - Skipping class, skipping a required school activity, or leaving class without permission. A student should have a hall pass signed by a teacher any time he/she is out of class. This also applies to dual enrollment students.

  Attendance 2:
  1st Offense: 3 days ISS; parent notification
  2nd Offense: 5 days ISS; guidance referral; parent notification
  3rd Offense: 2 days OSS; BIP implementation

- Attendance 3 - Leaving campus without permission.

  Attendance 3:
  1st Offense: 3 days ISS; parent notification
  2nd Offense: 5 days ISS; guidance referral; parent notification
  3rd Offense: 2 days OSS; BIP implementation; referral to system truant officer
  Students who are caught taking other students off campus will also have driving privileges revoked for 10 days.

Note: Once a student arrives on campus at any time before or during the school day, he/she must obtain a sign-out slip from the office before leaving campus. Students who leave campus during their lunch period without properly signing out are in violation of this rule and will be disciplined. Students who bring other students on campus and then leave without signing out are also in violation of this rule even if they leave before the bell rings to signal the beginning of the school day.

6. Battery

Intentional touching or striking of another person to intentionally cause bodily harm.
Note: The key difference between battery and fighting is that fighting involves mutual participation.

- Battery 1 - Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in no bodily injuries. Includes but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other intentional physical confrontations.

  Battery 1: 3-5 days ISS

- Battery 2 - Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in mild or moderate bodily injuries. Includes but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other physical confrontations that result in mild or moderate injuries.

  Battery 2: Minimum 4 days OSS

• Battery 3 - Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack on school personnel; Physical attack on teachers should be reported as Violence Against a Teacher. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on battery three or more times during the same school year. Includes but not limited to choking, pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other physical confrontations resulting in severe injuries; Includes any physical attack on school personnel; includes incidents serious enough to warrant calling the police or security	Battery 3: 10 days OSS; possible tribunal recommendation
7. Breaking & Entering - Burglary Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft). (Note: The key difference between Trespassing and Breaking & Entering-Burglary is that Trespassing does not include forceful entry into the school building.).	
• B&E/Burglary 3 - Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft).	B&E/Burglary 3: 10 days OSS; possible tribunal recommendation; notification of law enforcement
8. Bullying Bullying behavior is defined as willful attempts or threats to inflict injury, physical and/or mental stress on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or intentional displays of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm. No student shall engage in verbal or written harassment, threat or abuse of, or towards, another student or students. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.4) Behavior, which may include written, verbal, physical acts, or through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology occurring on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm or visibly bodily harm. Includes but is not limited to unwanted teasing, threats, name-calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, racial slurs, or the use of electronic equipment on school property or using school equipment to harass or intimidate.	
• Bullying 1 - First incident of bullying.	Bullying 1: Minimum of 3 days ISS with administrative discretion depending on the severity of the contact; parent notification, counselor referral; documentation of bullying behavior
• Bullying 2 - Second incident of bullying	Bullying 2: 5 days ISS; parent notification; counselor referral; BIP implementation; documentation of bullying behavior

• Bullying 3 - Three or more incidents of bullying in the same school year	Bullying 3: **1st Incident**: 2 days OSS; parent notification; documentation of bullying behavior **2nd Incident**: 10 days OSS; parent notification; tribunal recommendation
9. Computer Trespass Use of a school computer for anything other than instructional purposes or unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging, or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s) or data.	
• Computer Trespass 2 - Unauthorized use of school computer for anything other than instructional purposes. Includes but not limited to computer misuse, using computer to view or send inappropriate material, and violation of school computer use policy.	Computer Trespass 2: **1st Offense**: Warning; parent notification **2nd Offense**: 5-10 days loss of Internet privileges; 3 days ISS
• Computer Trespass 3 - Unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging, obtaining confidential information or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s) or data; includes disclosure of a number, code, password, or other means of access to school computers or the school system computer network without proper authorization. Includes but not limited to hacking.	Computer Trespass 3: Maximum 10 days OSS; possible tribunal recommendation
10. Disorderly Conduct Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff or others. (Includes disruptive behaviors on school buses).	
• Disorderly Conduct 1 - Creating or contributing to a moderate disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment but does not pose a threat to the health or safety of others. Includes but not limited to general bus misbehavior, encouraging disruptive behavior.	Disorderly Conduct 1: **1st Offense**: 3 days ISS **2nd Offense**: 5 days ISS
• Disorderly Conduct 2 - Creating or contributing to a severe disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment but does not pose a threat to the health or safety of others; may represent a repeat action. Includes but not limited to general bus misbehavior, encouraging disruptive behavior.	Disorderly Conduct 2: **1st Offense**: 5 days ISS **2nd Offense**: 10 days ISS
• Disorderly Conduct 3 - Creating or contributing to a severe disturbance that substantially	Disorderly Conduct 3: Maximum 10 days OSS; possible tribunal recommendation

disrupts the school environment or poses a threat to the health and safety of others. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on disorderly conduct three or more times during the same school year. Includes but not limited to disruptive behavior on school bus, misbehavior during a fire drill or other safety exercise.

11. Dress Code Violation

It is expected that every student will maintain the level of personal hygiene and safety necessary to ensure a healthy school environment and will refrain from any mode of dress which is distracting to classroom instruction or which contributes to the disruption of the normal function of the school. The dress code applies to all school functions. School officials will make the interpretation of what is acceptable dress. Students who are judged to be inappropriately dressed will be allowed to correct the violation. Students who are unable to correct the violation will be suspended or placed in ISS until the violation is corrected.

1st Offense: Warning; parent notification
2nd Offense: 2 days administrative detention; parent notification
3rd Offense: 1 day ISS; parent notification
4th Offense: 3 days ISS; parent notification

After the 4th offense, the student will be considered insubordinate and will be disciplined accordingly.

The TCCHS dress code is located in the back cover of this handbook. TCCHS administration will make the final decision regarding dress code related issues.

12. Driving Violations

- Driving Violations 1 - Reckless driving: Exceeding speed limit (10 mph in parking lot; 25 mph elsewhere); endangering one's safety or the safety of others; driving on other than approved passageways.

Driving Violations 1:
1st Offense: Administrative discretion; parent notification
2nd Offense: Revocation of driving privileges for 10 school days; parent notification; possible notification of law enforcement
3rd Offense: Revocation of driving privileges for 20 school days, parent notification; possible notification of law enforcement

- Driving Violations 2 - Parking without a permit

Driving Violations 2:
1st Offense: Warning
2nd Offense: Parking Ticket
Chronic violations of the parking policy will be considered insubordination and appropriate discipline will be administered.

- Driving Violations 3 - Driving while driving privileges are revoked

Driving Violation 3:
Administrative discretion depending on the severity of the offense

13. Drugs, Except Alcohol and Tobacco

Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics; or any medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to school. Does not include auto-injectable epinephrine as properly administered pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-776.

• Drugs 1 - Unintentional possession of prescribed or over the counter medication. Does not include the possession of narcotics or any illegal drugs.	Drugs 1: Administrative discretion
• Drugs 2 - Any medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to school	Drugs 2: Administrative discretion
• Drugs 3 - Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance (including Delta 8, 9, or 10 or any product containing cannabidiol (aka "CBD" or "hemp oil" with or without THC), or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics.	Drugs 3: 10 days OSS; tribunal; notification of law enforcement
14. Electronic Communication Device Students shall not use, display, or turn on cellular phones or any other electronic devices (including headphones/earbuds, smart watches, etc.) during the school day from 8:00 AM – 3:05 PM including during lunch breaks. Any electronic device seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated. External speakers are prohibited.	Device will be confiscated and must be retrieved from the front office by a parent or guardian listed in Infinite Campus between 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Refusing to hand over a device to staff constitutes insubordination and will result in disciplinary action according to the Student Incivility Guidelines listed on page 56.
15. Electronic Smoking Device Any device used to deliver nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that may be used by a person to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the device. Such devices include those manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, electronic hookah, vape pen, electronic nicotine delivery system or any cartridge or other component of the device or related product.	
• Electronic Smoking Device 1 - Unintentional possession of an electronic smoking device • Electronic Smoking Device 2 - Use or knowledgeable possession of an electronic smoking device • Electronic Smoking Device 3 - Distribution and/or selling of electronic smoking devices: Level 3 may be used for students that violate school policy on electronic smoking devices three or more times during the same school year	Electronic Smoking Device 1, 2, or 3: **1st Offense**: 3 day ISS; parent notification **2nd Offense**: 5 days ISS; parent notification; BIP implementation; counselor referral **3rd Offense**: 2 days OSS; parent notification; review of BIP
16. Failure to put away breakfast/lunch tray or littering.	Administrative discretion, which may include cleaning the area, detention, or ISS and parent notification

17. Fighting

Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there is no one main offender and intent to harm. Note: The key difference between fighting and battery is that fighting involves mutual participation.

1st Offense: 4-10 days OSS; parent notification; possible notification of law officials; BIP implementation; possible tribunal recommendation
2nd Offense: 10 days OSS; parent notification; tribunal recommendation; notification of law enforcement

18. Gambling

On school property or while attending an activity under school supervision. Playing cards are not allowed on campus.

1st Offense: Warning; parent notification
2nd Offense: 2 days administrative detention; parent notification
3rd Offense: 3 days ISS; parent notification; BIP implementation

19. Gang-Related

Any group of three or more students with a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire which engage in criminal gang activity (O.C.G.A. § 16-15-3)

The Thomas County Board of Education establishes this policy to eliminate or prevent the influence and activities of gangs in schools. For the purposes of this policy a “gang” is defined as any group or association, whether formal or informal, which encourages, solicits, promotes, urges, counsels, furthers, advocates, condones, assists, causes, advises, procures, or abets any illegal or disruptive activity or behavior of any kind, whether on school campuses, during school-related events, or in the community. A gang member is defined as an individual who, as a representative of on behalf of, participates in any of the activities associated with gangs. Gangs which initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property are harmful to the education process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, tattoos, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, disrupts the school environment. Such behaviors are contrary to educational objectives and promote an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulation may occur.

10 days OSS and students who violate this policy may be subject to arrest and/or a disciplinary hearing referral, which could result in expulsion or alternative school placement.

20. Horseplay

Includes rough or boisterous play or pranks, resulting in no injuries.

1st Offense: Warning; parent notification
2nd Offense: 2 days administrative detention; parent notification
3rd Offense: 3 days ISS; parent notification; BIP implementation

21. Lab Safety

- Lab Safety 1 - Failure to follow prescribed safety measures in the instructional labs, following at least one warning. (Offenses may include not wearing goggles or using careless techniques.)

Lab Safety 1:
1st Offense: Administrative discretion
2nd Offense: Removal from all lab situations. Alternative assignments will be provided.

- Lab Safety 2 - Conduct in the instructional lab which endangers the safety of the student, other students, or the teacher.

Lab Safety 2:
Minimum 3 days ISS. Ability to participate in future labs will be evaluated by the teacher and administrator.

22. Larceny/Theft
The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity (e.g., school) (including vending machines) without threat, violence or bodily harm. Includes but not limited to theft by taking, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft by deception.

Note: The key difference between larceny/theft and robbery is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in a robbery.

- Larceny/Theft 1 - The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity with a value between $25 and $100.

Larceny/Theft 1:
1st Offense: 5 days ISS; restitution; parent notification
2nd Offense: 10 days ISS; restitution; parent notification

- Larceny/Theft 2 - The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity with a value between $100 and $250.

Larceny/Theft 2:
1st Offense: 10 days ISS; restitution; parent notification
2nd Offense: 1-5 days OSS; restitution; parent notification

- Larceny/Theft 3 - The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity with a value exceeding $250. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on larceny/theft three or more times during the same school year.

Larceny/Theft 3:
1st Offense: Maximum 10 days OSS; possible tribunal recommendation; restitution; parent notification
2nd Offense: 10 days OSS; restitution; tribunal recommendation; parent notification

23. Other Incident - State-Reported Discipline Action
Any behavior that is subversive to the good order and discipline of Thomas County Schools.

Administrative discretion and possible tribunal

24. Outside Food or Drink
Students may not bring food from outside vendors on campus at any time. Please refer to Board policy on page 31.

Administrative discretion

25. Possession of Unapproved Items
The use or possession of any unauthorized item disruptive to the school environment.
Note: The use of fireworks or incendiary devices must be coded as Arson.

- Possession of Unapproved Items 1 – The possession of unauthorized items. Includes but is not limited to possession of toys, gadgets, personal items, lighters, pepper spray or other self-defense items, etc.

Possession of Unapproved Items 1:
Administrative discretion

- Possession of Unapproved Items 2 - The use of any unauthorized item. Includes but is not limited to possession of toys, gadgets,

Possession of Unapproved Items 2:
1st Offense: 3 day ISS; parent notification
2nd Offense: 5 days ISS; parent notification

personal items, lighters, pepper spray, or other self-defense items.	
• Possession of Unapproved Items 3 - The use or possession of unauthorized items including but not limited to toy guns or other items that can be construed as dangerous or harmful to the learning environment; Includes the possession of matches or lighters with intent to use for arson, incendiary devices, or fireworks. The use of matches, lighters, incendiary devices or fireworks should be coded as Arson; Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to unapproved items.	Possession of Unapproved Items 3: Maximum 10 days OSS; parent notification; possible tribunal recommendation; possible notification of law enforcement
26. Refusing to serve assigned ISS	OSS for an equal number of days with loss of opportunity to complete missed work
27. Repeated Offenses Collection of offenses not previously assigned a state reportable action that occurs on a single or across multiple school days that leads to a state reportable disciplinary action. • Repeated Offenses 1 - Collection of minor incidents • Repeated Offenses 2 - Collection of moderate incidents • Repeated Offenses 3 - Collection of severe incidents	Disciplinary action will be reflective of frequency and severity of events. Action may include, but not limited to parent notification, counselor referral, implementation of BIP, or tribunal recommendation.
28. Robbery The taking of, or attempting to take, anything of value that is owned by another person or organization under confrontational circumstances by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. Note: The key difference between robbery and larceny/theft is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in a robbery. • Robbery 2 - Robbery without a weapon. Taking something by force or threat of force. • Robbery 3 - Robbery with the use of a weapon. Weapons may include but are not limited to guns, knives, clubs, razor blades, etc.	Maximum 10 days OSS; parent notification; tribunal recommendation; notification of law enforcement
29. School Visitors (A student shall not invite a visitor to attend any part of the school day without prior permission of the principal.)	Penalty at the discretion of the principal
30. Selling Selling candy or any item not approved as a legitimate fundraiser.	**1st Offense**: Warning; parent notification **2nd Offense**: 2 days administrative detention **3rd Offense**: 3 days ISS

31. Sexual Battery

Any sexual act against the person's will or where the victim did not give or is incapable of giving consent.

- Sexual Battery 3 - Any incident involving sexual battery. Includes but is not limited to rape, fondling, child molestation, indecent liberties and sodomy.

Administrative discretion; possible tribunal recommendation; parent notification; notification of law enforcement

An official written statement of findings on each charge will be kept on file in the principal's office.

Any sexual act occurring on school property, on any school sponsored trip, or at any school function will result in 10 days OSS and tribunal recommendation.

32. Sexual Harassment

Non-physical and unwelcome sexual advances, lewd gestures or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature; requests for sexual favors; gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment.

- Sexual Harassment 1 - Comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes, suggestive jokes or lewd gestures that are not directed towards specific individuals. Includes but not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes.

- Sexual Harassment 2 - Comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes, suggestive jokes or lewd gestures that are directed towards specific individuals or group of individuals. Includes but not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes; leering.

- Sexual Harassment 3 - Physical or non-physical sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on sexual harassment three or more times during the same school year.

Administrative discretion; possible tribunal recommendation; parent notification; notification of law enforcement.

An official written statement of findings on each charge will be kept on file in the principal's office.

Any sexual act occurring on school property, on any school sponsored trip, or at any school function will result in 10 days OSS and tribunal recommendation.

33. Sex Offenses

Unlawful sexual behavior, sexual contact without force or threat of force, or possession of sexually explicit video or images; can be consensual.

- Sex Offenses 1 - Inappropriate sexually-based physical contact including but not limited to public displays of affection including public groping, inappropriate bodily contact, or any other sexual contact not covered in levels 2 or 3. Public groping or inappropriate bodily contact.

Sexual Offenses 1:
1st Offense: Warning; parent notification
2nd Offense: Administrative detention; parent notification
3rd Offense: 3 days ISS; parent notification

- Sex Offenses 2 - Inappropriate sexually-based behavior.

Sexual Offenses 2: Administrative discretion; possible tribunal recommendation; parent notification; notification of law enforcement

- Sex Offenses 3 - Engaging in sexual activities on school grounds or during school activities.

Sexual Offenses 3: 10 days OSS; parent notification; tribunal recommendation; notification of law enforcement

Any sexual act occurring on school property, on any school sponsored trip, or at any school function will result in 10 days OSS and tribunal recommendation.

34. Student Incivility

Insubordination or disrespect to staff members or other students; includes but is not limited to refusal to follow school staff member instructions, use of vulgar or inappropriate language, and misrepresentation of the truth

- Student Incivility 1 - Failure to comply with instructions or the inadvertent use of inappropriate language. May include but is not limited to general disrespect toward students; profanity; class disruption.

Student Incivility 1:
1st offense: Immediate removal from class or activity; 3 days of time out; parent notification
2nd Offense: 3 days ISS; parent notification; BIP implementation
3rd Offense: 5 days ISS; parent notification; BIP review

- Student Incivility 2 - Blatant insubordination or the use of inappropriate, profane, or obscene language including the use of racial slurs toward peers; intentional misrepresentation of the truth, including false reports. Includes refusal to hand over an electronic device.

Student Incivility 2:
1st Offense: 3 day ISS; parent notification
2nd Offense: 5 days ISS; parent notification; BIP implementation
3rd Offense: 4 days OSS

- Student Incivility 3 - Blatant and repeated insubordination or the use of inappropriate, profane, or obscene language including the use of racial slurs toward staff; issuing false reports on school staff. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on student incivility three or more times during the same school year. Level 3 is used for students who refuse to submit to a search at administrative request and could result in a tribunal recommendation.

Student Incivility 3:
1st Offense: 9 days OSS; parent notification; BIP implementation; possible tribunal recommendation
2nd Offense: 10 days OSS; tribunal recommendation

35. Tardy/Late to Assigned Area

Students who are late to class or an assigned location are marked tardy. Over 10 minutes tardy to a class without a signed pass from a teacher or administrator is considered skipping (See #5 attendance). Missing 25 minutes or more of class is considered an absence. These behavior dispositions will also apply to excessive unexcused absences to first period.

1st-4th Offense: Teacher documentation; teacher detention, if assigned; parent notification at 3rd tardy
5th Offense: 2 days administrative detention; parent notification
6th Offense: 3 days timeout; parent notification
7th Offense: 1 day ISS; parent notification
8th Offense: 3 days ISS; attendance contract

36. Taunting

Teasing, taunting, demeaning others, picking, or causing emotional stress (not on a repeated basis)

1st Offense: Administrative detention; counseling; parent notification
2nd Offense: 3 days ISS; counseling; parent notification

3rd Offense: 5 days ISS; counseling; parent notification

37. Threat/Intimidation

Any threat through written or verbal language or act which creates a fear of harm and/or conveys a serious expression of intent to harm or violence without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack.

- Threat/Intimidation 2 - Physical, verbal or electronic threat which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack.

Threat/Intimidation 2:
1st Offense: 1-5 days ISS; parent notification; threat assessment; possible tribunal recommendation
2nd Offense: 6-10 days ISS; parent notification; threat assessment; possible tribunal recommendation
3rd Offense: 4-10 days OSS; threat assessment; possible tribunal recommendation

- Threat/Intimidation 3 - School-wide physical, verbal or electronic threat which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack; Note: Students that display a pattern of behavior that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm, threat of harm or visibly bodily harm may be coded as bullying. Includes but not limited to bomb threats or unauthorized pulling of the fire alarm.

Threat/Intimidation 3:
Maximum 10 days OSS; threat assessment; possible tribunal recommendation; notification of law enforcement

38. Tobacco

Possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and on transportation to and from school. Does not include electronic smoking devices.

- Tobacco 1 - Unintentional possession of tobacco products.
- Tobacco 2 - Use of or knowledgeable possession of tobacco products.
- Tobacco 3 - Distribution and/or selling of tobacco products; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on tobacco three or more times during the same school year.

Tobacco 1, 2, or 3:
1st Offense: 3 day ISS; parent notification
2nd Offense: 5 days ISS; parent notification; BIP implementation; counselor referral
3rd Offense: 2 days OSS; parent notification; review of BIP

39. Unauthorized Area

- Unauthorized Area 1 - Being in an unauthorized area while on campus. This includes loitering in the student parking lot before or after school or being in the parking lot during school hours without a pass signed by an administrator, loitering in the bathroom,

Unauthorized Area 1:
1st Offense: 3 days ISS; parent notification
2nd Offense: 5 days ISS; referral to guidance; parent notification
3rd Offense: 2 days OSS; BIP implementation

hallway, at a vending machine during class time, or being in a restroom stall with another student. Students are not permitted to enter the hallways until the bell rings at 7:40 AM. Students should stay in designated areas during lunch. A student should have a SMART pass any time he/she is out of class. Being out of class for longer than 10 minutes is considered being in an unauthorized area. This also applies to dual enrollment students. All students should exit the building at 3:15 pm unless under the direct supervision of a teacher, coach, or sponsor.

- Unauthorized Area 2 - The unauthorized presence of a TCCHS student on another school campus during normal school hours of operation is prohibited.

Unauthorized Area 2:
1st Offense: 5 days ISS; parent notification
2nd Offense: 2 days OSS; referral to guidance; parent notification
3rd Offense: Administrative discretion

40. Unlawful Eavesdropping – Invasion of Privacy

9 days OSS; parent notification; BIP implementation; possible for tribunal recommendation and possible notification of law enforcement

41. Vandalism

The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property without consent including, but not limited to, participation in class pranks

- Vandalism 2 - Participating in the minor destruction, damage or defacement of school property or private property without permission.

Vandalism 2:
3-5 days ISS; parent notification; restitution for damages; possible exclusion from the graduation ceremony

- Vandalism 3 - Participation in the willful/malicious destruction, damage or defacement of school property or private property without permission; Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on vandalism three or more times during the same school year.

Vandalism 3:
Minimum of 3 days OSS; possible tribunal recommendation; possible exclusion from the graduation ceremony; possible notification of law enforcement where students appears to be in violation of the law; Restitution for damages.

42. Violence Against a Teacher

Intentional physical attack against a teacher with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack against a teacher.
Violence against other school personnel should be reported as Battery - Level 3.

- Violence Against a Teacher 3 - Intentional physical attack against a teacher with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack against a teacher.

10 days OSS; tribunal recommendation; notification of law enforcement

Reporting Requirements

Any employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a student possesses a weapon as defined in paragraph 1, is involved in an assault using a weapon as defined in paragraph 2, or is involved in a second offense with a weapon on campus must report such violations to the principal or assistant principal of the school. If the principal has reasonable cause to believe that such report is valid, he/she must immediately make an oral report to the superintendent and to the appropriate law enforcement authority and district attorney.

The student's parents or guardian will be notified immediately of his/her child's involvement in any activity involving weapons. Students will be given a copy of the Code of Conduct, which includes a statement of prohibited conduct with regard to weapons and possible disciplinary actions.

43. Weapons/Other

Possession of a weapon, other than firearm, or simile of a weapon that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.

Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or Taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

10 days OSS; parent notification; notification of law enforcement if law is violated; possible tribunal recommendation.

A student who uses or threatens to use a weapon on a student or employee will be suspended for a formal hearing. Punishment by the state is a fine of not more than $10,000; imprisonment for not less than two nor more than ten years, or both. (O.C.G.A. 15-11-37)

44. Weapons/Firearm-Incendiary Device

Intentional or unintentional possession or use of a handgun in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.

It is the policy of the Board of Education that a student shall not possess, use, handle or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon on property or in a building owned or leased by a school district, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation provided by the school district. Weapons may include, but are not limited to: any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.

Students in violation of this policy will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year expulsion.

The superintendent shall have the authority either before or after the student is referred for a tribunal hearing to reduce the mandated one year expulsion under circumstances where the one year expulsion appears excessive to the superintendent. The tribunal shall also have the authority to modify such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis in determining the appropriate punishment. Finally, in any tribunal decision appealed to the board of education, the board may reduce the mandated punishment but shall consider whether the superintendent and/or tribunal considered a reduction and any rationale in denying such a reduction.

Clubs

TCCHS CLUB DESCRIPTIONS

Art Club **Sponsor: Ms. Pittman**
The purpose of the Art Club is to encourage fellowship and creative expression among students interested in the visual arts. The focus is on group projects and earning community hours through service in the arts.

Debate Club **Sponsor: Mr. Bellamy**
Students work together to learn basic debating skills, researching and writing casework, and compete in local, regional and national weekend debate tournaments. Events include Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Policy and Student Congress debate. The team meets on Wednesdays after school to prepare for the weekend debate tournaments. If you are interested in development of speaking and critical thinking skills in a rigorous and competitive environment, then debate is for you.

FCCLA **Sponsors: Ms. Barrow and Ms. A. Smith**
Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a national student organization designed to promote personal growth and leadership through Family and Consumer Science education. Students will participate in the following activities: Community Service projects (Halcyon Home), School Service (hosting College Probe, Career Fair, Staff children's Easter Celebration, etc.), FCCLA competition (STAR events) and leadership (State Leadership Conference). Dues for the club are $20. Students must have an FCS class before or at the time of application.

FCA **Sponsors: Ms. Wilkes, Ms. Allison Nesmith, and Coach Duplantis**
Fellowship of Christian Athletes is a club whose mission is to present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church. Highlights of the year include an annual Powder Puff game, FSU Game Day, Fields of Faith, FCA summer camps for the football, boys and girls basketball, and wrestling teams, and many other volunteer opportunities in our community.

FFA **Sponsors: Ms. Hernandez-Perez, Ms. Jackson, and Dr. Wynn**
Future Farmers of America (FFA) makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

French Club **Sponsor: Ms. Arno**
The mission of the French club is to promote learning and appreciation of the French culture, language and history. The goal is to foster fellowship, creative expression, and cultural awareness of francophone cultures through planned activities, guest speakers, art exhibits, and attending cultural events. Dues will be $7. French Club Activities: Watch French Movies, French scavenger hunt, listen to French Music, French cheese tasting, prepare and eat French cuisine, Mini Tour de France, Play French games, and French Projects

Future Business Leaders of America **Sponsors: Mr. Haskin, Ms. Vonier and Mr. Thompson**
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) provides innovative leadership development programs to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship. Participation in FBLA-PBL can have a direct impact on the direction and success of a young person's career. Millions of students have learned through active membership in FBLA-PBL about the world of business and what is expected of them in the workplace. FBLA competes at regional, state, and national competitions involving over 140 different areas of competition.

Health Occupation Students of America **Sponsors: Ms. Griner**
Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) is a group that represents all those in health science or those interested in health careers after high school. Students attend local health facilities and interact in regional as well as state competitions to learn more and understand more about the available health careers.

Key Club **Sponsor: Ms. Pierce, Ms. Burnette, Ms. Ponder**
Key Club is an international student-led organization which provides its members with opportunities to provide service, build character, and develop leadership. The club's vision is to develop competent, capable, and caring leaders through the vehicle of service. Activities this school year include many community service projects with a goal of building good character.

Mock Trial **Sponsor: Mr. Bellamy**
The Mock Trial Club is an association that looks at debatable cases of law. Both sides of a case are presented through witness affidavits, evidence and case law. The students who participate break down the case and act as lawyers and witnesses representing the two sides of the case. Students learn how to debate and how to put forward a case for their particular side: prosecution/plaintiff or defense. The club supports formation of a competitive mock trial team that participates in competitions during the year, including a regional tournament in January. Here, members of the club are selected to put on the case at a courthouse in front of a real judge in a real courtroom. If you are interested in learning more about the law and want to participate in lively debate, mock trial is certainly the club for you.

National Honor Society **Sponsor: Ms. Pierce and Ms. Benfield**
Invitations to join NHS will be mailed to students who have at least a 90% average and good discipline. Directions for joining will be attached to the invitations. Being involved with NHS requires good grades, good behavior, and community involvement.

SkillsUSA **Sponsors: Mr. Barrett, Mr. Clapper, Ms. Faucett**
SkillsUSA is a nationally recognized club that helps develop career technical students. We have two divisions: Metals and Automotive. We meet as a group then have breakout sessions with one of the two fields of study. We have competition teams that compete in Regional Competitions and can qualify for State and Nationals as well.

Spanish Club **Sponsor: Sra. Parmer**
Spanish is a language spoken by over 600 million people across the globe, all of them with varying stories and lifestyles. With this in mind, the TCCHS Spanish Club focuses on cultural appreciation and education, with an emphasis on bringing people with different backgrounds together. We are committed to highlighting different Spanish-speaking countries through activities like presentations, preparing food, arts and crafts, music, and much more. More specifically, this club intends to immerse students fully in customs unknown to them, from both the past and the present. If this catches your interest, please join us!

Student Council **Sponsor: Ms. Vonier**
Student Council is an elected organization. Only students who participated in spring elections or met requirements to serve as class senators may participate in Student Council. Student council serves to improve our school by promoting student interest and working with school administration.

Thespian Officers Club Sponsor **Sponsor: Ms. Dyksterhouse**
This club is designed to serve the elected thespian officers throughout the school year with inductions, planning events, and keeping points up to date.

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2026-2027 TCCHS STUDENT DRESS CODE AND APPEARANCE

General Guidelines:

1. All students should maintain appropriate hygiene standards.
2. Clothing or ornamentation that advertises alcohol or substances that are illegal for minors, or that displays suggestive phrases, designs, markings, or profanities is prohibited.
3. Clothing that displays weapons, violence, gang affiliations, or other logos that cause dissension is not permitted.
4. No tattoos depicting gang signs or symbols will be permitted. The principal or designee shall have the final say in determining if an item is gang-related.
5. Students who dress out for PE classes must dress back in after class to meet school dress code.

Pants, Skirts, Dresses, Jumpers, and Shorts:
These items must not be overly tight, extremely loose, or extend past the sole of the shoe.

6. Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be longer than the student's fingertips when his/her fingers are extended at arm's length by his/her side.
7. Slits in dresses and skirts may be no shorter than fingertip length when standing or sitting.
8. Backless or strapless dresses are not permitted.
9. All pants and trousers must be worn at waist level and must fit.
10. Pants may not have holes above the knee or unfastened belts.
11. No coveralls, jumpsuits, or form-fitting bodysuits are allowed.
12. Appropriate undergarments are required. Clothing must not reveal undergarments.

Shirts, Sweaters, and Vests:
These items must be the appropriate length, not exposing the midriff or back area during the course of normal daily activities. Shirts should cover the midriff area even when hands are raised.

13. No sheer garments (lace, mesh, crochet, plastic, etc.) and no low-cut necklines are permitted. Cleavage must not show.
14. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, tube tops, halter tops, and similar tops are not allowed. Straps on shirts or dresses must be at least 3 fingers wide (approximately 2 inches).
15. Backless tops are not permitted.
16. Undershirts may not be worn as outer shirts.
17. Appropriate undergarments are required. Clothing must not reveal undergarments.

Shoes:
Footwear (shoes) must be worn and appropriate for the school setting both in appearance and in safety.

18. House shoes/slippers are not acceptable footwear for school.
19. Cleats, spurs, taps, or other unnecessary objects will not be affixed to shoes.

Head Coverings:

20. No headgear is permitted in the school building at any time during the school day. This includes hats, beanies, caps, scarves, ski masks, etc.
21. The hoods of hooded sweatshirts or jackets are not allowed on the head while in the building.

Accessories:

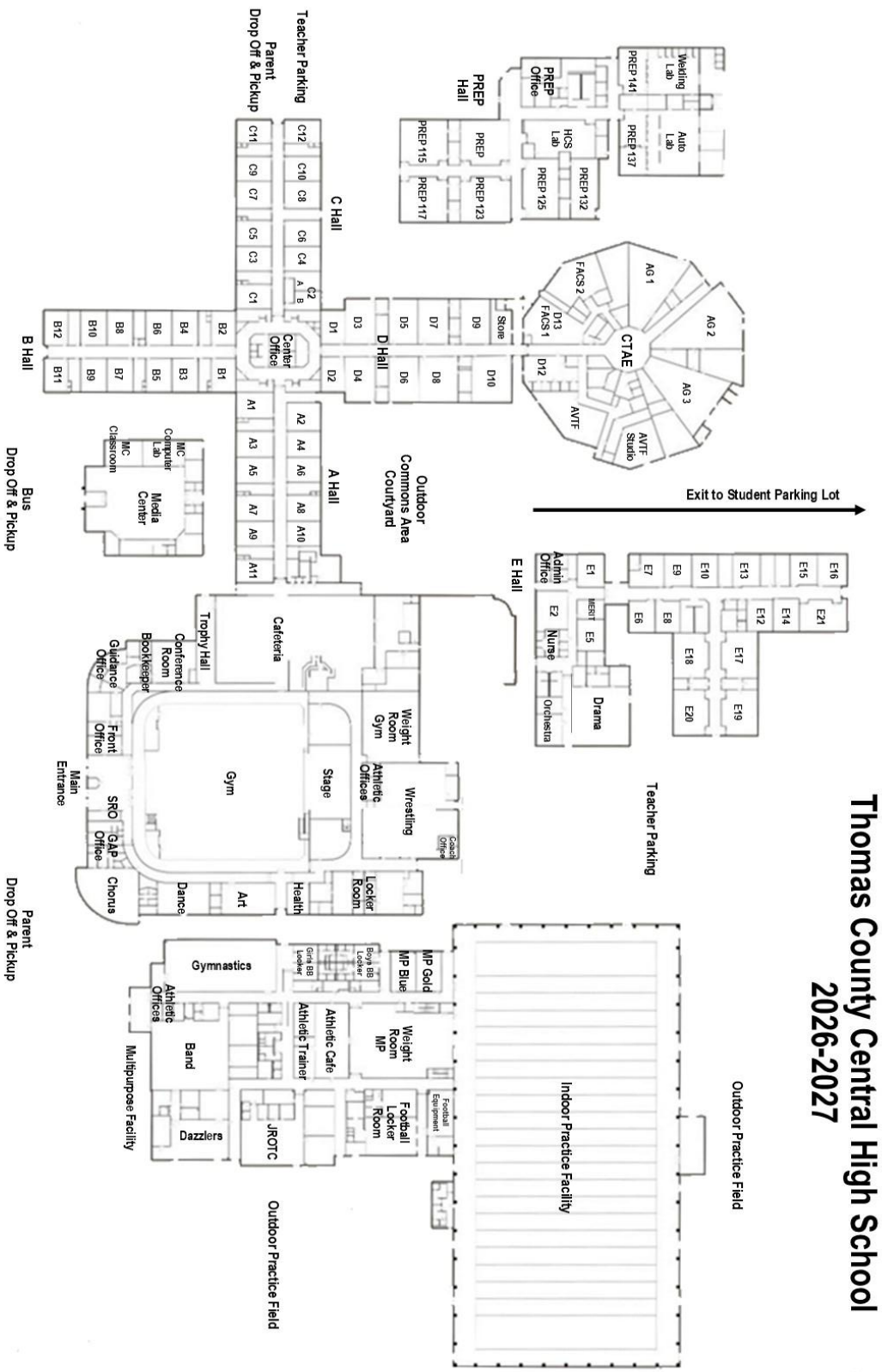
22. Distracting hairstyles are prohibited.
23. Piercings will not be tolerated with the exception of the ears.
24. No clothing or accessories should contain spikes.
25. No pajamas, robes, or blankets should be worn or brought on campus.
26. No sunglasses should be worn on the face or head inside the building.
27. No costumes are permitted unless approved by administration for special events.

TCCHS administration will make the final decision regarding dress code-related issues.

TCCHS MAP AND BENCHMARK EXAM SCHEDULE 2026-2027

	A LUNCH	B LUNCH	C LUNCH
First Bell	7:45	7:45	7:45
1st Block (1st or 2nd period)	8:00 - 9:35	8:00 - 9:35	8:00 - 9:35
2nd Block (3rd or 4th period)	9:45 - 11:20	9:45-11:20	9:45-11:20
3rd Block (5th period)	Lunch 11:20 - 11:50	11:30 - 12:10	11:30 - 12:40
	11:55-1:10	Lunch 12:10 - 12:40	News 4 You 12:40 - 12:50
	News 4 You 1:10-1:20	12:45 - 1:10	Lunch 12:50 - 1:20
		News 4 You 1:10- 1:20	
4th Block (7th or 6th period)	1:30 - 3:05	1:30 - 3:05	1:30 - 3:05

Day 1 Exams (1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th)
Day 2 Exams (2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th)

MAP and Benchmark Exam Schedule Dates 2026-2027
August 25, 26 (MAP testing)
October 8, 9 (Benchmark testing)
November 10, 11 (MAP testing)
December 17, 18 (Benchmark testing)
March 10, 11 (Benchmark testing)
March 16, 17 (MAP testing)
May 24, 25 (Benchmark testing)

Campus Map
Thomas County Central High School