TCMS Student Handbook 2025-26

#BulldogBEST

Taylor County Middle School
850-838-2516

Principal, Kasey Roberts
Assistant Principal, Monica Whiddon

Vision:
Equip and inspire students to think, create, perform, and advocate

Mission:
Our mission at Taylor County Middle School is to provide a positive, safe, healthy, nurturing, and respectful learning environment in which all students can learn and have the opportunity to become productive members of society.

BULLDOG TIDBITS
OUR SCHOOL.....
Principal: Kasey Roberts
Assistant Principal: Monica Whiddon
Mascot: BULLDOG
Colors: ROYAL BLUE, ORANGE and WHITE
Telephone Number: 850-838-2516
Fax Number: 850-838-2559
Address: 601 East Lafayette Street, Perry, Florida 32347
Web Site: www.taylor.k12.fl.us

GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

🐾 Bulldog B.E.S.T.
B – Be Safe
E - Engage Fully
S - Show Respect
T - Take Responsibility

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025-2026

AUGUST 11	First day for students
SEPTEMBER 1	Labor Day Holiday
SEPTEMBER 8	Family Engagement
OCTOBER 13	Last Day of 1st 9 Weeks
OCTOBER 15	Student Holiday
OCTOBER 22	Report Cards Available
NOVEMBER 11	Veteran's Day Holiday
NOVEMBER 17	Family Engagement
NOVEMBER 24 – 28	Fall Break/Thanksgiving Holiday
DECEMBER 19	Early Release / Last Day of 2nd 9 Weeks
DECEMBER 22 - JAN. 5	Student Holiday
JANUARY 6	First Day Back for Students
JANUARY 14	Report Cards Available
JANUARY 19	Martin Luther King Holiday
FEBRUARY 11	Student Holiday
FEBRUARY 16	Presidents' Day Holiday
MARCH 13	Last Day of 3rd 9 Weeks
MARCH 16-20	Spring Break Holiday
APRIL 1	Report Cards Available
APRIL 3	Good Friday Holiday
APRIL 6	Holiday
APRIL 13	Family Engagement
MAY 26	Memorial Day Holiday
MAY 29	Early Release/Last Day of 4th 9 weeks/Report Cards Issued

TAYLOR COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL'S CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

All students who attend this school are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will contribute to the orderly productivity of the educational process and the safety of all students. In pursuit of this goal and in keeping with our school's philosophy and Chapter 76-236 of Florida Statutes, the Code of Conduct will be the standard of behavior expected of all students. All students are expected to behave in a manner that contributes to our positive school climate.

Please read this carefully and share it with your parents.

RIGHTS OF STUDENTS: All students enrolled at Taylor County Middle School have the following rights as students:

1. The right to learn without interference from other students or unauthorized persons on school premises.
2. The right to grow and learn in a healthy environment.
3. The right to be free from adverse moral influence.
4. The right of free speech and publishing, consistent with the constraints imposed by the Code of Student Conduct.
5. The right to freedom of assembly and association, consistent with the constraints imposed by the Code of Student Conduct and the rules of the Florida High School Activities Association.
6. The right to participate in school programs and activities, consistent with the constraints imposed by the Code of Student Conduct.
7. The right to equal access to curricular programs and services without regard to sex, race national origin, or religion.
8. The right of a hearing. A student threatened with expulsion shall be accorded his/her constitutional rights through due process.
9. The right to counsel. In any hearing before the School Board, the student has the right to be represented by counsel. However, there is no obligation on the part of the Board or other school official to furnish such counsel for the student.
10. The right to retain status. Once a student has been notified of a charge against him/her, or a recommendation for expulsion, the official status of the student shall not be altered except by affirmative vote by a majority of the Board.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Some of the responsibilities of the students who attend Taylor County Middle School are:

1. Students have the responsibility to attend school regularly and to use this educational opportunity to their fullest potential.
2. Students have the responsibility to make arrangements with their teachers for makeup work to be completed within the specified time.
3. Students have the responsibility to provide an adequate explanation with proper documentation indicating the reason for each school absence.
4. Students have the responsibility to show respect for fellow students and school personnel.
5. Students have the responsibility to respect school property and the property of other

students.

6. Students have the responsibility to be aware of and abide by all applicable classroom, school and district rules.
7. Students have the responsibility to contribute toward the development of a positive climate in the school that is conducive to learning.
8. Students have the responsibility to utilize the educational experiences made available to them.
9. Students have the responsibility to protect the free speech of others.
10. Students have the responsibility to refrain from slander and abusive language.
11. Students have the responsibility to refrain from publishing and distributing libelous or other unlawful materials, to seek full information on the topics about which they write, to observe the rules of responsible journalism, and to follow the guidelines of the school concerning publication.
12. Students have the responsibility to conduct themselves and their activities, consistent with the educational objectives of the school.
13. Students have the responsibility not to carry or conceal any such material that is prohibited by law or would detract from the educational process.
14. Students have the responsibility to adhere to the policies governing the use of lockers, which are the property of the school.
15. Students have the responsibility to participate regularly in their respective organizations and to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Send their children to school in good health.
2. See that their children attend school between the ages of six and sixteen.
3. Report and provide a written note explaining all absences from school.
4. According to Florida Statutes, parents are required to pay for school property damaged by their children.
5. Respond to notices for parent conferences.
6. Support school personnel in their efforts to discipline fairly.
7. Bring to the attention of school authorities any condition which affects the welfare of their child or other children.
8. Check on their child's progress-don't always wait to be notified by teachers.
9. Send notes if they want their child to leave school early for doctors' appointments, funerals, etc.
10. Parents have the right to inspect and review all education records of their children.
11. Parents have the right to sign for the release of their children's records to other agencies.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM TO:

1. Make available adequate student services, some of which are: guidance services, psychological services, occupation and placement services, evaluation and testing, career education and health services.
2. Provide and maintain an atmosphere conducive to good behavior and learning.
3. Respect students by treating them fairly and impartially.
4. Plan a flexible curriculum and activities to meet the needs of all students and provide materials necessary to implement those plans.
5. Develop within the school a good working relationship among the staff and with students.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TEACHERS TO:

1. Maintain an orderly classroom.
2. Prepare adequate lesson plans for an effective program.
3. Encourage the development of trust, cooperation and responsibility.
4. Make an effort to improve the self-image of each student through positive reinforcement.
6. Deal with discipline problems personally until all strategies at the teacher's command have been exhausted.
7. Exemplify the high standards set forth in this code.

ACCIDENTS

Any accident occurring on campus or during school hours should be reported immediately to the teacher so that the proper accident reports can be completed, and the student can receive the first aid necessary. If a student has school accident insurance, medical attention should be received within 30 days following the accident to receive benefits. Claim forms are available in the front office.

AFTER SCHOOL

- Doors lock at 2:30 p.m.
- Students remaining on campus must be in a supervised activity.
- Students who plan to ride a bus other than their assigned bus must have a written bus note from the front office prior to dismissal. A note from the parent is required for approval.
- At 2:15 p.m. bus riders are expected to proceed directly to the buses. Buses will leave promptly at 2:20 p.m.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

The use of illegal drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol are wrong and harmful and are violations of this Code. (**Prescription medication should be turned into the school nurse upon arrival to school.)**

Students may not possess, sell, transfer, distribute or use any alcoholic beverage, any controlled drugs, hallucinogens or similar substances on school property, including buses, and at school-sponsored activities, except those specifically prescribed by a licensed physician.

1. Violation of this prohibition is a serious breach of conduct. The school will notify law enforcement officials and your parent(s) or guardian(s).
2. If a student possesses, uses or is under the influence of any item listed above, except under the direction of a licensed physician, students will be suspended from school for a period of five (5) to ten (10) days for the first offense and the principal may recommend the student be expelled. For a second offense, students will be suspended for ten (10) days and the principal will consider expulsion. The principal may consider the student's disciplinary record in other schools and school districts.
3. If a student sells any item listed above or that you represent to be any item listed above, you will be suspended from school for ten (10) days for the first offense and the principal will recommend that you be expelled. If you solicit a sale, transfer, or distribution other than selling, you will be suspended from school for five (5) to ten (10) days and the principal may recommend that you be expelled. For a second transfer or distribution offense, you will be suspended for ten (10) days and the principal will recommend that you be expelled.
4. Students may not use any legal substance to attain a mood-altering effect and you may not possess any equipment or device for preparing or taking drugs.
5. If you are found to be guilty of a felony the student may be recommended for expulsion.
6. Students may be entitled to a waiver of discipline or expulsion if you divulge information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who supplied such controlled substance to you or if you voluntarily disclose your unlawful possession of such controlled substance prior to your arrest. A waiver also may be granted if you successfully complete a state-licensed drug abuse treatment program. [F.S. 1006.09]

If a student has a doctor's orders to take prescription medicine at school, it is important to first notify the school principal or designee so that you know the proper procedures to follow. For students with disabilities, the mandatory penalties provided by this policy shall be subject to the procedures for discipline of students with disabilities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements of general interest are made at the beginning of each school day.

ATHLETICS

At Taylor County Middle School, good sportsmanship is just as important as winning and is something in which every student can take pride. All athletic programs at TCMS stress physical and character development as well as good sportsmanship.
TCMS athletes not only represent themselves, but also the student body, faculty, their families, and the community at large. Participation in athletics is a privilege. Along with meeting the GPA requirements, discipline and attendance are supremely important in determining your eligibility to participate. **Students serving an Out of School Suspension will not be permitted to participate during the term of their suspension.**

Every student is encouraged to get involved in our athletic programs. All athletes must comply with the eligibility rules set forth by the Florida High School Athletic Association. If a student is arrested and charged with a misdemeanor or felony, he or she will immediately be suspended from extracurricular activities while the matter is investigated. In substantiated cases, the student may be suspended from participating in all extracurricular activities, including practices/meetings, for an entire school year (from the beginning date of his or her suspension). If a student is convicted of a felony or delinquent act, the student's participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities will be suspended for the balance of the school year. (Florida Statutes 1001.41 and 1001.42)

ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

TCMS offers a variety of sports, clubs, and other extra-curricular organizations in which we encourage students to become involved in. Selection of members and participation in these extra-curricular activities varies. Please consult with the coaches/sponsors if you have any questions on specific requirements.
Before a student may participate or practice, he/she must adhere to the following policies:

1. To be eligible for athletics and interscholastic activities, a student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in all courses taken. A student's eligibility is determined after each semester (not a nine-week grading period).
2. Try-Outs: No student may try out for a team after the designated sign-up/formal practices have begun. Exceptions may be granted for following conditions: documented illness, transfer, participating in another sport, or pre-approved absence.
3. Insurance: All athletes must have insurance provided by school or parents or submit a written release of responsibility by school from parent or guardian.
4. Physical: All athletes must have an up-to-date physical before beginning practice.
5. Parent Consent: All athletes must have a consent form signed by parent or guardian before beginning practice.
6. Birth Certificate: All athletes must show proof of age by submitting a birth certificate to the coach for registration. A student must be under 16 years of age on August 31 of any school year.
7. Consent for drug screening form.
8. You can participate only once as a seventh grader, and once as an eighth grader.
9. Promotion from the prior school year. However, a student may become eligible if he/she passes the first grading period of the next school year.
10. Equipment: All athletes are responsible for the equipment issued to them. Lost or mishandled equipment will be charged to the athlete.
11. If a student athlete's conduce results in an FHSAA fine, the student is responsible for paying the fine. The student will not be eligible to participate in any athletic event until the fine is paid in full.
12. Discipline: Students serving out-of-school suspension cannot participate in extra-curricular activities during the suspension.
13. Students must be in attendance for at least ½ the school day to be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities that same day.

14. Students who have violated the district's drug and alcohol policy are not eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities until they have completed a rehabilitation program with an accredited counseling service provider and provided the school with a clean drug test.

ALL ATHLETIC DOCUMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN TO COACH POORE.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The school day at Taylor County Middle School is from 7:40AM to 2:15PM. Students are expected to attend school and their regularly-scheduled classes every day. The first bell will ring at 7:40, and the tardy bell will ring at 7:42. Drop off will begin at 7:20. There will be no supervision before 7:20.

Attendance procedures shall be carried out in accordance with Taylor County School Board Rule 5.02, Florida Statute 1003.26, and the Code of Student Conduct and Attendance Policies. According to FS 1003.26, any student between the ages of 6 and 16 is within compulsory school attendance age requiring regular school attendance. Parents of a child within the compulsory school attendance age shall be responsible for such child's attendance as required by FS 1003.26. It is understood that ALL students will be subject to the stipulations within this attendance policy. Attendance is required of all students for at least 180 days of instruction, or the equivalent as provided by law, except for absences which are excused or as otherwise provided by law.

1. Class attendance is imperative to student achievement and success. Attendance is defined as the actual presence of a student at school or away from school on a school day engaged in an educational activity that constitutes a part of the school-approved instructional pupil program. Absence is defined as the nonattendance of a student on days that school is scheduled to be in session. Absences may be defined as excused or unexcused in accordance with local policy.
2. Excused Absence -–(1) Documented illness of the student; (2) Documented major illness in the immediate family, (3) Death in the immediate family, (4) Duration of a religious holiday of the specific faith of the student, (5) Special and unique situations approved by the principal.
3. Unexcused Absence – (1) **Inadequate or unacceptable reason for the absence**; i.e. car trouble, oversleeping, alarm and power failures are all unexcused (2) Results from school disciplinary action (3) Truancy.
4. Students who miss one (1) or more periods during the school day must, within three (3) school days, bring a note from a parent or guardian stating the reasons for that absence, notes should be turned into Guidance. If a student fails to bring a note within three (3) school days after being absent, or if the reason is not a valid one, the student will receive an unexcused absence for the days/classes missed.
5. The principal or designee has the authority, within the guidelines of the law, to determine if an absence is excused. In the case of excessive excused absences for illness, a parent/guardian may be asked to provide documentation from a physician.
6. Absences for vacation or other anticipated reasons must be given prior approval from an administrator and the student must plan for completion of work prior to the absence. Students with excessive absences will not be excused for such reasons.

7. Parents will be notified of unexcused or unexplained absences. If a pattern of non-attendance develops, parents will be asked to conference with school staff and participate in efforts to remediate the situation. If unexcused absences continue, truancy procedures will be initiated.
8. Any student who has 15 unexcused absences, excluding suspensions, within 90 calendar days, with or without the knowledge or justifiable consent of the child's parent or legal guardian is considered habitual truant.
9. If reasonable doubt exists regarding a sickness or injury, the principal is authorized to require a statement from an accepted medical authority. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in the absence being unexcused.
10. The school shall provide opportunities for the student to make-up assigned work within a reasonable time (one day per absence). It is the student's responsibility to request and complete make-up work. Make-up work for excused absences not turned in on time will result in teachers deducting up to 50%. In the case of unexcused absences, a teacher may deduct up to 50% from the earned grade for work made-up. When a student DOES NOT complete make up work within the required length of time, a grade of "F/0" shall be assigned for missed work or any un-finished portion thereof.
11. **TCMS will accept three (3) parent notes per semester. A doctor's note is required after that.**

SIGN-OUT POLICY

Students under eighteen years of age must have parent authorization to sign out from school during the school day. This means that the parent/guardian, themselves, or someone that they have given written authorization to must come into this school and sign their student out. If the student returns during the same school day (ie., after a dentist appointment), then the student signs back in on the same log sheet in the front office. If a student is signed out and misses 15 minutes or more of a class period, it is considered an absence from that class. ***STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE CAMPUS UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR PARENT OR GUARDIAN OR A PERSON PRE-APPROVED BY THEIR PARENT OR GUARDIAN IN WRITING IN ADVANCE OF THE DAY/TIME IN QUESTION.***

TARDY POLICY

TARDY TO SCHOOL: Students entering the school after the tardy bell (8:20AM) are considered tardy and must report to the Dean's Office for a tardy slip. The student should have a note explaining the reason for that tardy. If there is no valid reason for the tardy, then that tardy is marked as "unexcused", and the student's completed work missed during the unexcused absence may be deducted up to 50%. The first tardy will result in a student warning and teacher parent contact, the second tardy will result in a student conference and parent contact from administration, and every subsequent tardy may result in a referral and disciplinary action assigned by the Dean or Principal's Designee.
TARDY TO CLASS: If a student is late to class, the student will be marked tardy. The first tardy will result in a student warning and teacher parent contact, the second tardy will result in a student conference and parent contact from administration, and every subsequent tardy may result in a

referral and disciplinary action assigned by the Dean or Principal's Designee. If a student is tardy to a class 15 minutes or more it is considered an absence from that class.

BAKER ACT ATTEMPT TO NOTIFY

s. 1002.20(l)1., F.S. states "The public school principal or the principal's designee shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent of a student before the student is removed from school, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity to be taken to a receiving facility for an involuntary examination pursuant to s. 394.463. For purposes of this subparagraph, "a reasonable attempt to notify" means the exercise of reasonable diligence and care by the principal or the principal's designee to make contact with the student's parent, guardian, or other known emergency contact whom the student's parent or guardian has authorized to receive notification of an involuntary examination. At a minimum, the principal or the principal's designee must take the following actions: a. Use available methods of communication to contact the student's parent, guardian, or other known emergency contact, including, but not limited to, telephone calls, text messages, e-mails, and voice mail messages following the decision to initiate an involuntary examination of the student. b. Document the method and number of attempts made to contact the student's parent, guardian, or other known emergency contact, and the outcome of each attempt. A principal or his or her designee who successfully notifies any other known emergency contact may share only the information necessary to alert such contact that the parent or caregiver must be contacted. All such information must be in compliance with federal and state law".

Timely Notification of threats, unlawful acts, significant emergencies:
s. 1002.20(24), F.S. states "Parents of public school students have a right to timely notification of threats, unlawful acts, and significant emergencies pursuant to s. 1006.07(4) and (7)."

CAMPUS ATTIRE

STUDENT DRESS CODE 6-12:

The dress and grooming of students at Taylor County Middle and Taylor County High Schools shall contribute to the health and safety of the individual, promote a positive educational environment and not disrupt the educational activities and processes of the school. Because inappropriate clothing worn by a student is detrimental to the school program, the wearing of garments suitable for school shall be encouraged. All faculty and administrative staff shall be on the alert to give positive guidance in these matters, without embarrassment to the student. These rules on the personal appearance of students are intended to enable the students of TCMS and TCHS to dress casually but reasonably. However, the school principal is the final authority regarding the appropriateness of student dress. Nothing in these rules shall be construed to pre-empt the principal's authority to act in specific cases when, in the principal's judgment and discretion a student's dress threatens to disrupt the educational process or the good order and discipline of the school or is otherwise inappropriate.

A student's apparel and grooming shall be the responsibility of the individual student and his or her parents or guardians. Each student is expected to dress appropriately and in such a manner that it is respectful to self and others. Dress and grooming shall be clean, healthy, and safe and shall

not be permitted to disrupt the teaching and learning environment. This dress code is designed to promote safety and good hygiene as well as allow students the convenience of dressing comfortably while at school. Encouraging students to dress appropriately for school will prepare them to be productive members of society.

Dress Code specifics

1. Shorts, Skirts, Skorts and Dresses: Clothing should be at least as long as the middle finger with arms extended by the side, this includes holes and/or slits.
2. Shirts: Shirts, tops, jackets, dresses or blouses should cover all aspects of the bosom, chest, stomach, back and sides. This should also include when arms are raised above the head.;
    a. Cleavage should not be visible.
    b. Sleepwear, pajamas, bedroom clothes are not permitted.
    c. Crop tops, tank tops, tube tops, halters, racerbacks, cutouts, sheer materials or spaghetti straps are not permitted as a primary top.
    d. Beachwear, revealing clothing, lingerie are not acceptable.
    e. Undergarments should not be visible at any time.
3. Pants: Pants must be worn at the waist, should fit appropriately, without sagging, and hide all undergarments. (Underwear, boxers, shorts, etc.)
    a. Any pants with holes or slits should be at least as long as the middle finger with arms extended by the side.
    b. Leggings/spandex should only be worn with a shirt that is as long as the middle finger with arms extended by the side.
    c. Pajamas are not permitted.
4. Hats: Head coverings are not permitted on campus. This includes but is not limited to hats, hoods, bandannas, do- rags, and caps. Exceptions may be made by the principal for special school activities or if the student is a member of a legally recognized religious organization requiring head covering or if there is a legitimate medical necessity.
5. Items that when worn together are usually indicative of gang memberships, or apparel that contains a message that is obscene, racist, or promotes illegal activities, (weapons, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products) shall not be permitted on school grounds or at school functions. Gang graffiti will not be drawn or worn on backpacks, notebooks, folders, papers, clothing, or any other object or on the body of any student or person on school property.
6. Shoes: Students must wear shoes that are safe and appropriate for the learning environment. Shoes must be worn at all times and conform to the safety requirements of any activity in which the student will take part. Open-toed and backless slides are acceptable if they are sturdy and fit securely. Sneakers/Tennis Shoes must be worn at PE. Bedroom shoes or slippers are not permitted (unless pre-approved by the principal).
7. Accessories and Jewelry: Accessories and jewelry must not be sexually suggestive or feature crude or vulgar commercial lettering, printing, or drawings which would be offensive or insensitive to anyone on campus. They may not depict drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or be indicative of gang membership. Accessories and jewelry must not be capable of causing physical harm (i.e. fish hooks on caps, spikes on bracelets or necklaces). Also, suggestive, or offensive accessories are not permitted.

8. Clothing for special programs (i.e. physical education) is not to be worn in the regular classroom. Uniforms for sports and special activities sponsored by the school and district may be exempt from the Student Dress Code if approved by the administration.

Any administrator or designee shall make the final determination concerning questions regarding the appropriateness of dress for school and for school sponsored functions. Students who dress in a manner inconsistent with the approved Dress Code Policy will be required to change their clothes. Students may be sent to ISS temporarily while they wait for their parent or guardian to arrive with clothing that meets dress code.
Personal attire may be in the style of the day, but clothing that is immodest, revealing, or distracting in character is unacceptable. Clothing, piercings and accessories shall not be worn if they display profanity, violence, discriminatory messages, sexually suggestive phrases, advertisements, phrases or symbols of alcohol, tobacco or drugs or create a safety issue within the learning environment.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Each student is responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies, laptops, furniture, etc supplied by the school. A student who vandalizes or does damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item. There will be consequences for any damage to Taylor County Middle School.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is important that the school office records be up-to-date. Please inform the Registrar of any change of address, phone number(s) or significant information.

CLASSROOM TRANSFER

A parent has the right to request that his or her student be transferred to a different classroom teacher: however, this does not give a parent the right to choose a specific classroom teacher. A request for such transfer is to be made in writing to the school principal. Within 2 weeks after receiving the request, the school will approve or deny the request. A denial of such a request shall specify the reason(s). The school principal's decision is final.

A parent whose student is assigned an out-of-field teacher may request that his or her child be transferred to an in-field classroom teacher within the school and grade in which the student is currently enrolled; however, this does not give a parent the right to choose a specific classroom teacher. A request for such transfer is to be made in writing to the school principal. The school district must approve or deny the parent's request and transfer the student to a different classroom teacher within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 2 weeks, if an in-field teacher for the course or grade level is employed by the school and the transfer does not violate maximum class size pursuant to s.1003.03 and 3677 s.1, Art IX of the State Constitution. If a request for transfer is denied, the school must notify the parent and specify the reason(s).

CLINIC

Taylor County Middle School is proud of the clinic and health services offered to our students. The rules that we have are designed to allow all students equal access to the clinic and school nurse without interfering with the normal educational process.

All students must have an **Emergency Medical Form** on file. This will allow the nurse to notify the appropriate people in case of emergency. It will also list those persons that the parent/guardian has given permission to take that student off campus if illness or an injury has occurred. Please make sure your child's Emergency Medical Form is on file and up to date and notify the school nurse as soon as possible if any changes occur in home/business telephone numbers, or if any additional information needs to be added.

It is requested that these procedures be followed when using our Clinic:

1. Written parental consent on Taylor County School Board form is required before **any**
    a. medication can be administered. This form may be obtained in the clinic, and should
    b. explain the necessity for such medication to be provided during the school day.
2. Parents are responsible for providing and bringing necessary medications to the school clinic in its **original container**. For prescription medicines, the bottle must have a legible pharmacy label with the student's name, current dosage and frequency, and the name of the prescribing physician on it. For "over the counter" medications, the store label must be present, and the bottle must be marked with the student's name.
3. Students are **not** permitted to bring to school or carry medications of any kind in his/her pocket, purse, backpack, etc. during school hours and on the school campus. Asthmatic students may be allowed to carry inhalers with signed physician and parental consent. These consent forms may be obtained from the school clinic.
4. **No** medication will be administered at school unless these requirements are met.
5. There shall be no liability for civil damages as a result of the administration of medication as specified in Fl. Statute 232.46.
6. **Students who are sick are encouraged to stay home** until they feel well enough to attend school all day.
7. If a student becomes too sick to stay in class, or is seriously injured, he/she will report to the clinic with a pass from his/her classroom teacher. The school nurse or clinic aide will notify this student's parent/guardian.
8. Students **may not** go to the clinic between classes or at break time. They must report to their next class and there they may receive a pass from that teacher to go to the clinic.
9. The clinic is not designed as a social center. Students may go only if they are ill or injured. STUDENTS MAY NOT "VISIT" WITH ANYONE IN THE CLINIC. Once our school nurse or clinic aide has administered whatever care is warranted, the student must return to his/her classroom.

COMMUNICATION

Please make sure we have an updated cell phone number and email address for your parent/ guardian on file. We may send important information/ announcements home via text messages and through email.

CONDUCT AT SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

Students are expected to exhibit proper behavior at both home and away events. This includes no fighting, heckling, throwing items, etc. and no loitering in the immediate area before or after an event. School policy prohibiting the use or possession of tobacco, drugs and alcohol applies at all events in which the school is involved regardless of the site. Students serving an out-of-school suspension or referred to truancy court may not attend any school-related activity.

Field trips and after school functions are a part of this school's program of activities; therefore, the same Code of Conduct required at school will be enforced during these functions. The conduct of students at public events projects the image of our student body, therefore students shall meticulously observe the rules of conduct on such occasions. On trips or excursions, students are subject to the Code of Student Conduct and responsibilities of transported students. Strict observance of student bus rules will be enforced on such trips. The rules of discipline as set forth in this handbook apply during the period of any school sponsored off-campus activity such as a sporting events, reward trips, etc.

CONFERENCE REQUESTS

If parents/guardians wish to request a conference for academic reasons, please call our guidance office at 838-2571. If a conference is desired for disciplinary reasons, please call our deans office at 838-2517.

DELIVERIES

No outside deliveries will be available for students. This includes, but is not limited to: lunch/food, flowers, balloons, birthday gifts, etc.

DISCIPLINE MATRIX

The TCMS Discipline Matrix can be accessed online on the Taylor County School District website at: taylor.k12.fl.us

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

A student may possess electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, headphones, ear buds, etc) in school, on school property, at after-school activities, and at school-related functions. **In the classroom setting, use of electronic devices during instruction is prohibited.**

The student who possesses an electronic device is responsible for its care. The school board is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to electronic devices brought onto its property.

Cell Phones: Students may have cell phones on campus but must keep them turned off and in their backpacks during school hours, 7:20 –2:15PM. Cell phone use is prohibited during school hours unless otherwise instructed by the principal. When a student is using a cell phone without permission, the cell phone will be collected by a faculty or staff member. The cell phone will then be turned in to the Dean's Office, at which time the student's parent/guardian will be contacted. The student's parent/guardian is then responsible for signing documentation in-person at the front office to retrieve their child's cell phone.

Smart Watches: Students may have smart watches on campus but must keep them turned off and in their backpacks during school hours, 7:20 –2:15PM. Smart watch use is prohibited during school hours unless otherwise instructed by the principal. When a student is using a smart watch without permission, the smart watch will be collected by a faculty or staff member. The smart watch will then be turned into the Dean's Office, at which time the student's parent/guardian will be contacted. The student's parent/guardian is then responsible for signing documentation in-person at the front office to retrieve their child's smart watch.

Headphones/Earbuds/Air Pods: Students may have headphones/ear buds/air pods on campus, but such items must be kept in backpacks. If the student is using the item, it will be taken up and the parent will need to pick it up from the Dean's office. The rules that apply to cell phones and smart watches will also apply to headphones, earbuds, Air Pods, etc.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

During the school year all students will participate in emergency evacuation drills to promote safety and prepare students for emergencies. Your child's classroom teacher will go over the drill procedures. The following evacuation drills may be used: Fire, Lock Down, Tornado. All faculty, staff, and students are required to report to their designated safe locations during each drill.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA):

Student Records and Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents certain rights with respect to student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents must submit a written request to the principal that identifies the record(s) you wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education record that you believe is inaccurate or misleading. Parents must write the principal, clearly identify the part of the record the parent wants changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the parent of the decision and advise the parent of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

3. The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff; the person elected to the school board; or, a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Personal identifiable information will be released without consent to appropriate officials in emergency situations, to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena and in cases involving compulsory school attendance and child abuse.

FIGHTING POLICY

The penalty for being involved in a fight, defined as an exchange of physical blows, (hitting, slapping, pushing, shoving), will be an out-of-school suspension. Students who do not fight back will not be subject to consequences. Those students should report the incident immediately to an administrator or teacher. Students should not take matters into their own hands but should allow an administrator to handle the situation.
If an altercation/fight occurs, students are advised to move away from the area of the disturbance. Students must remain clear of the area, as staff members/administrators attend to the situation. Students who do not comply will receive a consequence for their actions.
Students who instigate fights but are not actively involved (that is, students who **film/photograph/or post fights on the internet or their phones**, carry rumors, put others up to fighting, carry information back and forth between other individuals who subsequently fight) submit themselves to the same penalties as those who are involved in the fight. Students who are intimidated or harassed by another student should report all information immediately to a staff member or administrator. **Fighting will not be tolerated on this campus, on the school bus, or at a school-sanctioned event and may lead to an automatic 10 day suspension from school.**

FIELD TRIPS

School field trips are a privilege for students. All required forms and emergency information must be submitted prior to the field trip. Field trip participation for students may be curtailed for students who have poor grades, poor attendance, or for disciplinary reasons.

FORTIFYFL

Suspicious activity reporting app: FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information

GRADING/PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Grade books
Grade books should reflect an accurate documentation of student assessment and attendance. For students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of concepts being taught every teacher will have at minimum of 4 graded summative assessments per grading period, and at least 8 graded

formative assignments with at least 1 completed prior to each summative assessment. Adequate assessment means that for each course, a minimum of 12 grades should be taken for the grade book each 9 weeks. Grading protocols for TCMS: summative assessments (assessments) account for 60% of the final grade and formative assignments (class assignments, etc) account for 40% of the final grade.

Posting Grades
All grades should be updated and posted in Focus weekly.

Midterm reports
Midterm reports will be distributed electronically via Focus on the days designated during the nine weeks grading period (check calendar for dates).

Grading Standards

Grade	Scale	Point Value
A	90-100	4
B	80-89	3
C	70-79	2
D	60-69	1
F	0-59	0

Report Cards
Report cards will be issued electronically via Focus on the following dates:

Nine Weeks	Report Cards Available
1st Nine Weeks	October 22, 2026
2nd Nine Weeks	January 14, 2026
3rd Nine Weeks	April 1, 2026
4th Nine Weeks	May 29, 2026

The 4th nine weeks/final year report card will be printed and distributed.

Promotional Policy for Taylor County Middle School
To be eligible for promotion within the middle school, a student must satisfactorily complete a minimum of four subjects per year, which must include language arts, math, science, and social studies.

GUN FREE SCHOOLS ACT

1006.13.(2) The zero-tolerance policy shall require students found to have committed one of the following offenses to be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than 1 full year, and to be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system. (a) Bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in Chapter 790, to school, to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored transportation or possessing a firearm at the school. (b) Making a threat or false report, as defined by ss.790.162 and 790.163,

respectively, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Some students may feel that they have been treated unfairly under the code and other rules and regulations. The following steps provide a fair resolution of student grievances, including complaints alleging any action which would be prohibited by Title IX.

1. Student/teacher conference.
2. Student/assistant principal conference.
3. Student/principal conference.

The first step taken by the student is with the member of the staff involved in the unfair action. If the grievance is not resolved after initial contact, the student may involve the parent(s), a guidance counselor, or any other person of the student's choice.

HARASSMENT/BULLYING

Bullying means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. It is further defined as unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by a student or adult, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation; and may involve but is not limited to: teasing, social exclusion, threat, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, theft, sexual, religious, or racial harassment, public humiliation, or destruction of property. F.S. 1006.147

TCSD treats bullying as a serious breach of the Code of Student Conduct. Students who engage in such conduct shall be subject to a range of consequences, including verbal or written reprimand, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, change of placement, and/or recommendation for expulsion.

1. It is the policy of the TCSD that all of its students and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The district will not tolerate bullying and harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment, as defined herein, is prohibited.
2. The School Board will not tolerate bullying or harassment, including sexual harassment of any student or school employee:

    a. During any education program or activity conducted by a public K-12 educational institution;
    b. During any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity;
    c. On a school bus of a public K-12 educational institution; or
    d. Through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network of a public K-12 education institution.

If a student is found to have committed an act of bullying or harassment, including sexual harassment, or found to have falsely accused another as a means of bullying or harassment, the student may receive positive behavioral interventions or be disciplined up to and including suspension or expulsion. If you or your parent/guardian believes you have been the victim of bullying or harassment, immediately report the situation to a teacher, school counselor, school principal or designee, or other school staff.

Cyber stalking/bullying as defined in *F.S. 784.048 (1)(d),* means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

Taylor County has online reporting system located on the district website, www.taylor.k12.fl.us. If a student sees someone being bullied or does not feel safe at school any student may use the link to report the problem. False reports will be considered bullying. Reports may be given anonymously.

Sexual harassment policy statement: Taylor District Schools have adopted sexual harassment policies and will not tolerate sexual harassment by any of it students, employees, or volunteers based on race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, creed, marital status or national origin. A complete description of the student and employee sexual harassment policy is located in the School Board Policy Handbook and at each school site.

HOSPITAL/HOMEBOUND PROGRAM

Any student who will be absent from school for a minimum of three weeks, with a doctor's authorized signature, may be eligible for homebound student status. Please contact the guidance office or the ESE staffing specialist.

HOMEWORK

Home study is a necessary part of each student's educational program. Each student is expected to spend some time studying, in addition to the scheduled classroom instruction time, to achieve satisfactory work.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found is in the Dean's Office. Students are requested to bring articles found on campus to the Dean's Office.

LUNCH

The school policy of TCMS is that students must remain on campus during their lunch time. Parents/guardians are not permitted to have lunch with their child on campus. To protect students' safety, lunch deliveries will not be permitted. This also includes third party delivery services, as well as apps such as Door Dash, are not permitted to deliver student lunches. Standard student lunch will be free for every student.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students returning to school after an excused absence shall have a time period equal to the number of days excused or a minimum of five (5) days, whichever is greater, to make up missed work. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with his/her teachers to complete missed work. If reasonable doubt exists regarding a sickness or injury, the principal is authorized to require a statement from an accepted medical authority. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in the absence being unexcused. An incomplete grade must be completed within 3 weeks of the end of grading period unless prior arrangements have been made.

MEDIA CENTER

Every student enrolled in Taylor County Middle School has the privilege of checking out library materials.

1. The Media Center is open for use from 8:15AM to 2:45PM to students with a pass.
2. Books in regular circulation may be checked out from the center for a period of two weeks and may be renewed at the end of that time. Students may check out two books at a time.
3. A fine of ten (10) cents per day is charged for overdue books. Students who owe overdue fines or who owe for lost books will not be allowed to check out more books.
4. Stealing any materials from the center is a serious offense and will be dealt with accordingly.
5. Library/Media Center privileges will be taken from students who do not comply with the above rules.

MESSAGES (IN CASE OF EMERGENCY)

If an emergency occurs that would require a student to use a telephone, teachers should allow students to use the classroom phone unless the circumstance requires that they use the dean's office telephone. This is for EMERGENCIES ONLY. Students must make plans for activities (i.e., go home with another student, stay for after school activity, etc.) before or after school, not once they arrive on campus. This will keep our school's phones free for emergencies and school business. Parents, please remember that only emergency calls to your students will be delivered through the front office. Due to the time constraints of getting a message to your student before the 2:15 bell rings, please do not call with a message for your student after 1:45.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence will be held each morning during announcements for a minimum of one (1) minute. This will be a time for EVERYONE to be silent and think through their day. HB 529: Principals of each public school shall require teachers in all grades to set aside at least one minute but not more than two minutes daily for the moment of silence. Teachers may NOT make suggestions as to the nature of any reflection that a student may engage in during the moment of silence.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The School Board of Taylor County, Florida does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other reason prohibited by law, regarding nondiscrimination. See 34 C.F.R.100.6(d); 34 C.F.R. 106.9; 34 C.F.R. 110.25. In addition, the School Board provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. See 34 C.F.R. 108.9. Disabled individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in and enjoy the benefits of services, programs, and activities of the School Board are required in advance to notify the administrator at the school/center at which the event or service is offered to request reasonable accommodations. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to any opportunity or event associated with Taylor County Schools. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to: Kiki Bell- Director of Personnel and Title IX Coordinator, 318 N. Clark St. Perry, Fl. 32347: 850-838-2500/ kiki.bell@taylor.k12. fl.us or Kamryn Sands- Supervisor of ESE and Student Services and Section 504 Coordinator, 318 N. Clark St. Perry, Fl. 32347: 850-838-2500/ kamryn.sands@taylor.k12.fl.us.

The **Florida Educational Equity Act,** chapter 228.2001 Florida Statutes, requires that public education agencies regularly notify staff, students, and applicants for employment, parents, collective bargaining units, and the general public of its policies of non-discrimination. The information below is posted to comply with the requirements of the act.

The Taylor County Public School District does not discriminate the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, or any other basis prohibited by law in its educational programs, services or activities or in its hiring or employment practices. Retaliation against an employee for engaging in a protected activity is prohibited. The District also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boys Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boys Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

Limited-English-Language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in educational programs including Career and Technical Educational programs.

Applicants/individual with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with disabilities ACT (ADA) may call the district's Superintendent's Office at 850-838-2500 for assistance.

Questions, complaints or request for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to: Kiki Bell, Director of Personnel, Taylor County School superintendent's Office, 318 North Clark Street, Perry, Florida 32347, Ph: 850-838-2500, email: kiki.bell@taylor.k12.fl.us

OTHER SCHOOL CAMPUSES

No Taylor County Middle School student should be on another school's campus before school, during the school day, or after school, unless they have received authorization from this school's principal. Students who do not comply with this rule are considered to be trespassing and are subject to arrest or disciplinary action depending on the circumstances.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

While students are permitted to bring personal items to school, including cell phones and other electronic devices, the school and its staff do not assume responsibility for loss of, or damage to, personal possessions.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and justice for all," shall be rendered by students standing with the right hand over the heart. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag shall be recited at the beginning of the day in each public, elementary, middle, and high school in the state.

Upon written request by his or her parent, a student may be excused from reciting the pledge, including standing and placing the right hand over his or her heart. When the pledge is given, unexcused students must show full respect to the flag by standing at attention, men removing the headdress, except when such headdress is worn for religious purposes, as provided by Pub. L. ch.77-435, s. 7, approved June 22, 1942, 56 Stat. 377, as amended by Pub. L. ch.77-806, 56 Stat. 1074, approved December 22, 1942.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

These items should not be brought on to this school's campus:

1. Alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances, vapes, or drug-related materials.
2. Weapons of any kind, including firearms and knives.
3. Gambling devices, including cards and dice.
4. Cameras, radios, tape players or CD players of any kind.
5. Chewing gum.
6. Hats.
7. Fireworks, water pistols, or shaving cream.
8. Any item to be sold for a non-school sponsored organization.
9. Items of significant value, including trading cards.
10. Electronic pagers.
11. Athletic equipment (i.e. bats, balls, mitts) unless required by coach.
12. Any item that may cause a disruption in the classroom or at school.
13. Taylor County Middle School will not be responsible for any damage, loss or theft of a

cellular phone.

REUNIFICATION

In the event of an emergency and evacuation of TCMS, parents/guardians will need to report to the reunification site. Parents/guardians must present an ID and be listed as a contact on the student's FOCUS account to pick up the student.

SAFE HARBOR

A student who inadvertently possesses or finds a prohibited object shall immediately notify school staff and surrender the object. Thus, a student may approach a school official and voluntarily surrender an object prohibited by the Code of Student Conduct without being subjected to discipline so long as the object (excluding a firearm) is one that the student could lawfully possess off school grounds. If a student discovers an illegal item (i.e., drugs or weapons) or other contraband on school property or at a school function, the student may approach a school official and report the discovery. A student shall not be in violation of the Code of Student Conduct solely for making such a report. School officials shall make a determination after an investigation of the report. The Safe Harbor Provision may not apply if a search is ongoing in any location at the school, if the object is surrendered during a search, or if the object is not turned in prior to discovery by school staff. With respect to objects that have been turned over to school staff, the parent/guardian must make arrangements to pick up the object from the school, unless it is an object that must be turned over to law enforcement.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

It is the goal of the School Board of Taylor County that all school environments remain safe and students remain free from harm. These procedures are implemented as a means of achieving that goal through the use of personal searches, searches of property and searches of motor vehicles upon school property. It is the intent of the School Board that searches be conducted in the least intrusive manner possible in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of students, faculty, staff and visitors. The rights of students as citizens to be free from unreasonable search shall be preserved in the schools, however, when an administrator has a reasonable suspicion that an individual possesses an item of contraband, the following types of search may be utilized as appropriate: search of the person, search of personal property.

A complete description of the student and employee search and seizure policy is located in the School Board Policy Handbook and at each school site.

SESIR

1002.20(25), F.S. states "Parents of public school students have a right to access school safety and discipline incidents as reported pursuant to s. 1006.07(9)."

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

Individuals may not solicit funds at schools, nor may individuals sell or distribute items on campus, unless approved by the principal. Officially recognized organizations may seek fund-raising approval for items to be sold before school, at lunch and after school, as well as in the community. Edible items cannot be sold during the school day.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes are handled by the Guidance Department and requests for changes are not guaranteed.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

For parents of students with disabilities – To assist you in making decisions regarding your child's education, please refer to the Taylor County School District ESE website (https://www.taylor.k12.fl.us/exceptionalstudenteducation) for information regarding transition planning and services, eligibility, placement, least restrictive environment, procedural safeguards and a list of contact organizations.

Reasonable Accommodations Provided - Disabled individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in and enjoy the benefits of services, programs and activities of the School Board are required to notify the administrator at the school/center at which the event or service is offered, in advance, to request reasonable accommodation.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

For security and safety purposes video cameras are used for recording at this facility.

TEXTBOOKS/TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

Textbooks and technology devices (ex. laptops) are loaned to students for use during the school year. Once assigned to a student, textbooks and technology devices are that student's responsibility. Since textbooks and technology devices are very expensive to replace (the average cost of a textbook is $60.00 and laptop is $200-400), students are asked to take special care in their use and storage. If a textbook or technology device is lost or damaged, the student will be asked to pay for that textbook or technology device. Students will not be issued take-home textbooks if they owe for textbooks from previous years.

STUDENT RULES FOR COMPUTER USE:
Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on computers at school. Computer files, including e-mail, are not private. The use of the school's computers and computer networks, computer software, data files, Internet access, and intellectual property is intended for educational purposes only and is a privilege. The privilege may be revoked and/or other disciplinary action taken for violation of any of the following rules.

Students may not:

1. Share computer account IDs and passwords, except when authorized.
2. Create, copy, receive, or use data, language or graphics which are obscene, abusive, harassing, or otherwise inappropriate at school.
3. Access, change or delete computer programs, data files or electronic mail belonging to others, without express permission.
4. Steal or destroy the school's computer hardware or peripherals (printer, mouse, monitor, modem, cable, connector, etc.).
5. Steal or destroy computer software or data files owned by the school or other persons.
6. Violate or attempt to violate the security of the computer/network systems; student may not attach or install any personal communication device to the district's computer/network systems.
7. Take unauthorized actions which deny access to, disrupt, or destroy the service of the computer/network systems.
8. Make unauthorized or unlawful installation of personal computer software on the school's computers or the computer networks, including, but not limited to, games, virus programs, and applications software. Student provided software must be used only in accordance with the license agreement.
9. Use computers, computer networks, or computer peripherals (printers, mouse, monitors, modems, etc.) to commit a forgery or to create a forged instrument.
10. Reveal personal address, phone numbers, or other personal information of self or classmates without approval of teacher or parent.
11. Use the District's network resources or the internet for product advertisement, commercial activities, political campaigning, or solicitation.
12. Use computers, computer networks, computer software, data files or intellectual property in any unauthorized way. Messages relating to, or in support of, activities that are prohibited by law or Board policy will be reported to the authorities and may result in the loss of user privileges and/or other discipline.

Social Media Policy

Rules of Engagement for Social Media Platforms the Taylor County School District's Facebook and YouTube accounts are meant to be another source of information to the community, as well as a place for the district to engage with its stakeholders. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you and encourage your participation. At the same time, we would like to establish some rules for engagement. We expect that the people who use our pages exercise civility and common sense when posting comments to our pages. Please remember that your comments can be viewed by many people in our community and are in the public domain. While the district does not want to limit the opinions or comments of its community members, certain types of comments will not be tolerated. We reserve the right to delete posts that: * Are vulgar or profane; * Contain personal attacks or accusations; * Could be offensive to or target specific ethnic or racial groups; Incite violence; * Encourage others to break the law; * Could be considered campaigning for a political office; * Easily identify students and/or staff in defamatory, abusive or generally negative terms; * Promote services or products; or * Are rude or deride the opinions of others. Thank you for observing the rules of engagement and we welcome your participation and feedback. If you have any questions or concerns about your school's Facebook page, please email or call your child's school.

TOBACCO/SMOKING/VAPING

Students may not use, possess, distribute or sell tobacco products (including papers used to roll cigarettes) or electronic smoking device or products on school property, at school-sponsored events, at school bus stops or on school buses. Students who disregard this policy will be referred to an administrator for disciplinary action.
In addition, it is unlawful for any person under 18 years of age to knowingly possess any tobacco product. *[F.S. 386.212; 569.11]*

TRANSPORTATION

Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right for students. In order to help ensure that all students arrive safely at school in the morning and home in the afternoon, there are a few rules that students are expected to follow. An infraction of any of these rules will be dealt with according to the school board approved school bus discipline matrix.

These rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Stand off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
2. Pupils must be on time; the bus cannot wait for latecomers.
3. Remain seated while the bus is moving.
4. Enter and leave the bus only from the front door, except in cases of emergency.
5. Walk ten (10) feet in front of the bus when entering and leaving the bus.
6. Silence is required at all railroad crossings.
7. Outside of normal conversation, classroom type conduct is required.
8. Do not put head, hands, or feet out the bus window.
9. No eating, drinking or smoking (use of any tobacco product) on the school bus.
10. The driver has the right to assign seats to promote order and safety on the bus.
11. Students must obey the bus driver at all times.
12. Do not damage the bus by scratching/writing on walls and seats, and do not cut the seats.
13. No throwing of objects inside or outside of the school bus.
14. No playing or fighting on the bus at any time.

Students who wish to ride another bus other than their own must have a note from parent/guardian presented in advance an administrator for approval signature. For more information concerning this service, parents should contact the Director of Transportation at 838-2505.

VIOLENCE AGAINST SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Battery or assault against any school personnel by a student is a Level 4 violation of the Code of Student Conduct. If you, as a student, use force or violence, accidental or intentional, against school personnel, you will be suspended from school and the principal will recommend that you be expelled. Subject to federal and state law, if you are formally charged with a violation of *F.S. 784.081* (assault, aggravated assault, battery, or aggravated battery upon a school employee) you will be removed from the classroom immediately and placed in an alternative school setting pending disposition. If you are found by the court to have committed a violation of *F.S. 784.081* you will be expelled for a minimum period of one year *[F.S.1006.13(5)]*.

VISITORS

Any visitor must gain admission to the building through the main office. Students are not allowed to have visitors accompany them to classes who are not their parent or guardian.

WATER BOTTLES

Students are only allowed to bring water to school in clear plastic bottles that have a screw-on lid**. For safety reasons glass and metal/aluminum drink containers are prohibited on TCMS campus.**

WITHDRAWAL TO HOMESCHOOL

A student who withdraws from TCSD and enrolls in homeschool must complete the semester for which they are enrolled prior to returning to the TCSD. Upon re-enrolling the student must provide the following documentation:

> A Florida certified teacher (Certified teachers must hold a regular teaching certificate, not a temporary teaching certificate) chosen by the parent/guardian may evaluate the child's progress based on the review of the portfolio and discussion with the student; or a transcript of grades for completed courses.

ZERO TOLERANCE OF SCHOOL-RELATED CRIMES

The School Board has zero tolerance for crimes, violence, weapons and drugs. Procedures include the reporting of acts that pose a serious threat to school safety at times when you are under the authority of the School Board. Such acts include but are not limited to: *[F.S. 1006.13]*.

- Homicide
- Sexual battery
- Armed Robbery
- Aggravated Battery
- Battery or aggravated battery on teacher or other school personnel
- Kidnapping or abduction
- Arson
- Possession, use or sale or controlled substances
- Possession, use or sale of any firearm
- Possession, use or sale of any explosive device
- Making a threat or false report about placing or discharging any destructive device, bomb, or explosive

Anyone who is a victim of a crime at school has the right to press charges against the offender.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2023-2024 School Financial Report
Educational Funding Accountability Act, Sec. 1010.215. F.S.

Taylor County School District
Taylor Middle School

Revenues	School	%	District	%	State	%
Federal	$ 1,314,176	24.60%	$ 9,481,595	24.29%	$ 6,878,339,611	19.19%
State/Local (Excludes Lottery)	4,027,924	75.40%	$ 29,390,534	75.29%	$ 28,940,818,077	80.73%
Lottery	-	0.00%	$ -	0.00%	$ -	0.00%
Private	-	0.00%	$ 165,554	0.42%	$ 29,521,897	0.08%
TOTAL	5,342,100	100%	39,037,683	100%	35,848,679,585	100%

Operating Costs	PER FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT School	District	State	Total School Costs
Teachers/Teacher Aides (Salaries/Benefits)	$ 4,476	$ 5,514	$ 6,109	2,809,368
Substitute Teachers (Salaries/Benefits)	See Footnote (1)	-		
Other Instructional Personnel	1,342	1,522	1,531	778,310
Contracted Instructional Services	201	261	456	110,601
School Administration	720	1,026	761	323,257
Materials/Supplies/Operating Capital Outlay	466	692	372	241,158
Food Service	782	781	718	497,381
Operational and Maintenance of Plant	2,257	2,996	1,368	514,008
Other School Level Support Services	112	144	327	68,017
TOTAL SCHOOL COSTS	10,356	12,936	11,642	5,342,100

Additional Detail Information	PER FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT			
Teacher/Teacher Aides (Salaries/Benefits)	School	District	State	Total School Costs
Basic Programs	$ 3,892	$ 4,715	$ 5,030	$ 1,837,430
ESOL Programs	-	-	5,989	-
Exceptional Programs	5,944	8,236	9,618	971,938
Career Education Programs	-	4,440	4,944	
Adult Programs		-	-	

	PER FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT			
Materials, Supplies, Operating Capital Outlay	School	District	State	Total School Costs
Textbooks	$ 94	$ 52		$ 48,566
Computer Hardware and Software	75	158		38,844
Other Instructional Materials	89	198		45,752
Other Materials and Supplies	209	432		107,996
Library Materials and Supplies	8	8		3,983

(1)-Total Cost of Substitute Teachers: $ 9,588

District Costs: The amounts above represent only school-level costs. No district-level costs have been included. District costs such as transportation and