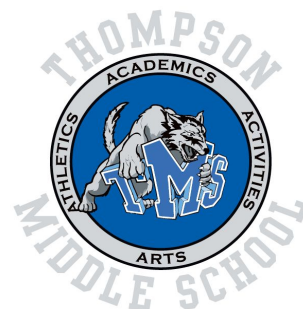


# *Welcome to Thompson Middle School!*



Dear Thompson Families,

We are so excited to start the 19-20 school year. Whether you are new or returning, we are thrilled that you will be with us. Below you will find some information to help with a smooth transition into a new school year.

**School Schedule:** We will have NO block schedule for the first two weeks of school. Block schedule will begin on August 27th.

**Schedule Pick-up/Schedule Changes:** If you were unable to attend Schedule Pick-up last week, please have your student come to the MPR first thing Wednesday morning to pick-up their schedule. You may also view your student's schedule on our [AERIES parent portal](#). Our counselors have received your schedule change requests and are working through them as quickly as they can. Please understand that due to program impaction, we may not always be able to accommodate the request. This is especially true with regards to our elective classes.

**Drop off/Pick-up:** Expect heavier traffic than normal the first few days of school. To avoid long waits, arrive early in the morning and wait 10-15 minutes after dismissal. Please use extreme caution while driving through our parking lots and on the surrounding streets. Student safety is compromised when drivers are distracted or in a hurry. Always remember that we are a school of nearly 1700 students and that makes for a busy dismissal. Please pull all the way forward in the loop so that we can make drop off and pick-up move quickly. Please do not block our handicap parking spots.

**Safety:** Our top priority as a district and school is our commitment to keeping our students safe. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with our district protocols and resources with regards to bullying prevention, emergency response, vaping, suicide prevention and more safety related topics. You can find all safety related information [HERE](#).

**School Communication:** Our goal is that you are always informed of important events and activities that occur throughout the year. To help in this regard, we utilize a number of communication platforms including: our [school website](#), [Thompson Middle School facebook page](#), and AERIES communication via phone, text, and email. If you are not receiving our communication, please contact Students Services at 696-1410. You can view our School Activities Calendar [HERE](#).

**House System:** We are so excited to rollout our house system this school year! I am sure some of you have noticed our house flags as you have come down Nighthawk and Hayes. Our 6th graders have already been sorted into houses during their orientation day and they were so excited! Our 7th and 8th graders will be participating in a sorting ceremony on August 20th. Our goal through the house system is to foster camaraderie, build positive relationships, and create a sense of community and ownership. Students can earn points for their house in a number of different ways, such as attending school events and activities, participating in house challenges and dress up days, having positive attendance, and showing P.R.I.D.E. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

**Electronic Device Policy:** Because of our commitment to student safety and academic achievement and learning, we are restricting the use of electronic devices. Please review our new electronic device phone policy [HERE](#). Cell phone use has increasingly become a distraction in our school environment. We believe it has negatively impacted student achievement and compromised student safety at times, therefore we believe it is in the best interest of students to move towards greater restriction. We ask for your full support on this matter. We also ask that if your students have access to social media and the internet that you monitor it frequently.

**Student Planners:** Each student will be receiving a TMS planner this week. We believe this organizational tool is an integral part of student success and our expectation is that students utilize it daily. If students misplace their planners, they may go to the Pack Shack and pay a small fee to replace it. Parents, please check your student's planner frequently to ensure that they are using it and completing their assigned homework and projects.

**Back to School Night:** Plan on joining us at Back to School Night on August 20th from 5:30-7:40pm. You can access the schedule [HERE](#).

**Weather:** It is going to be extremely hot over the next couple of weeks and likely through September. Please make sure your students pack plenty of water. We do have a cool water filling station near our TMS cafe for students to refill their bottles. We will be following our Heat Illness Prevention Protocol to ensure our students stay safe during these very hot days.

**Commitment to Student Learning & Achievement:** My administrative team is committed to supporting students and teachers in the classroom. We will routinely be doing classroom walkthroughs and visits. When school administration is present in classrooms, academic achievement improves and discipline decreases. To this end, we may not always be available to speak to you when you drop in or telephone us. So when you want to speak with an administrator, please contact our front office personnel, who will then direct you to the individual who can address your needs as quickly as they can. Thank you for your ongoing support of our schools and your patience and understanding as we implement these practices. Our school phone # is 696-1410.

**Follow us** on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/thompsonmiddleschool/> and the School Website (<https://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/thompson>) for up to date information.

We are looking forward to a fantastic school year!

TMS Administration

*Inspiring every student to think to learn, to achieve, to care.*