

Teaching, Learning & Relevance

Current Work

- **August Retreat Day, Inservice, and Open House**
 - A big thank you to our staff for the time, energy, and collaboration they put into preparing for the upcoming school year. Our grade-level teams, Hatchet Pride Committee, and Building Leadership Team spent time reflecting on our work, identifying priorities, and establishing concrete goals for the year ahead. Their collaboration has provided us with a strong direction as we begin the school year and a clear focus for our continued growth.
 - We reorganized our Open House format this year, and the response was very positive. We had 84% attendance, and feedback from both families and staff highlighted the success of the new format. We will continue to reflect on the feedback and build on what worked well as we plan for next year.

Whole Student

Current Work

- **ACP Opportunities**
 - Our new counselor, Ms. Holt, will be implementing a new ACP format for our middle school students this year. Each week, she will meet with groups of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students during TEAM time to provide ACP lessons and activities. Groups will rotate each quarter, allowing all students to participate in this new opportunity throughout the school year. We are excited to expand our ACP programming and provide students with meaningful opportunities to begin exploring their interests, strengths, and future goals. We look forward to sharing updates with the Board as this initiative evolves throughout the school year.
- **WEB Program**
 - A big thank you to our WEB student leaders for helping make our 6th Grade Orientation Day a tremendous success. Their enthusiasm and leadership helped our newest students feel welcomed and connected as they began their middle school journey. A special thank you goes to our staff WEB leaders for the tremendous amount of time, planning, and effort they put into organizing and leading this important transition program. Their leadership and commitment help create a positive start for our incoming 6th grade students and set the tone for a successful transition to middle school.
- **Hatchet Pride Day**
 - This year, we continued using our Hatchet Pride videos with 6th grade students to introduce and reinforce what it means to be Respectful, Responsible, and Safe in different settings throughout our school. For our returning 7th and 8th grade students, we revised and updated the videos to take a greater focus on leadership, ownership, and what it means to model Hatchet Pride for others. This approach allowed us to build on the foundation students established in previous years while providing returning students with new and more meaningful ways to demonstrate leadership and take ownership of our school culture.

- **Hatchet Houses**

- Developed and planned by our Hatchet Pride Committee, Hatchet Houses is a new initiative designed to strengthen community and connection across our middle school. Students were randomly assigned to one of five Houses (Pine, Ember, Granite, River, or NorthStar) with each House having its own color, symbol, and set of associated traits. Houses include students from all three grade levels, along with staff members who serve as House leaders and mentors. We kicked off the initiative with a school-wide House Reveal during an assembly during TEAM on the second day of school, followed by a team-building activity. Our goal is to build stronger relationships, school pride, and a greater sense of belonging across grade levels. We plan on holding quarterly House activities throughout the school year, with our next event being planned for Homecoming Week, as we continue to develop this initiative and build community within TMS.

Communication & Community Engagement

Current Work

- **[September Newsletter](#)**
 - Back to school information
 - **[TMS Back to School Flyer - English](#)**
 - **[TMS Back to School Flyer - Spanish](#)**
 - **[TMS Back to School Flyer - Africans](#)**
- **Mystery “Celebrity” Announcement Guest**
 - We will continue our Mystery “Celebrity” Guest activity once each month this year as a fun way to build excitement, engagement, and school spirit. On “Celebrity Guest Day”, students will listen to the announcements and work with their 3rd hour classes to guess the identity of the mystery guest based on what they hear. The first classroom to correctly identify the guest will receive a Hatchet Pride prize. Our first Mystery “Celebrity” Guest is scheduled for September 17.
- **Veteran’s Day Program**
 - Planning for our annual Veterans Day Program will begin with the first committee meeting on September 17. This year, we are excited to make a significant change by expanding the involvement of our high school students, with Mr. Potter playing an active role in our planning. While the high school band and choir have traditionally participated in the Veterans Day Program, this will be the first year that the high school student body will attend and be part of the program experience. This expanded participation, along with the increased involvement of our 5th grade students last year, will allow us to create an even more meaningful school-wide experience as we honor our veterans. The Veterans Day Program will be held on Wednesday, November 11, and we look forward to sharing more details as plans develop.

District Workforce

Current Work

- **TMS Building Leadership team**

- The TMS Building Leadership Team (BLT) met during our August inservice to identify priorities and develop next steps for the school year. The team focused on three key areas:
 - Exploring additional or alternative options to lunch detention that provide meaningful and effective responses to student behavior.
 - Developing a peer observation structure to encourage professional learning, collaboration, and the sharing of effective instructional practices among staff.
 - Developing a consistent academic honesty policy and procedure to establish clear and consistent expectations for students and staff across the middle school.
- The BLT will continue working on these areas throughout the school year
- The BLT will meet the last Wednesday of each month

