

STUDENT HANDBOOK
THURMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2019-2020



805 EAST MAIN STREET
THURMONT, MARYLAND 21788

Phone: 240-236-0900

Fax: 240-236-0901

Web address: <http://education.fcps.org/tes/>

School Hours: 8:40 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.
Students should arrive at school between 8:10 a.m. and 8:40 a.m.

Debra O'Donnell, Principal

A note from the Principal

August-Sept. 2019

Dear Cougar Families,

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year. It is with both anticipation and excitement that we begin another school year. Just like our students, we as educators, also have mixed emotions at the beginning of each school year. At TES we recognize that our students come to school each day, sometimes ready to learn, and other times not so ready due to social, emotional, or academic apprehension that impacts their ability to fully engage. As such, our staff is committed to serving students, with care, compassion, and kindness. We promote health and wellness by incorporating mindfulness practices, and building classroom communities where students feel accepted and valued.

There are lots of ways to stay connected to your children while they're at school. I invite you to volunteer wherever and whenever possible, and to stay abreast of what's happening in your child's classroom. Our teachers are committed to communicating regularly with families, and will keep you informed through a variety of means including email, phone calls, and newsletters. Our TES website is another avenue where we house information, including access to curriculum information. I'll also send out newsletters during the month through **FindOutFirst** to share some of the things happening around our school. In addition, I will be busy on Twitter, celebrating learning and "ROARing Students", so be sure to follow me on **Twitter** at **#TESCougars1**.

I invite you to join **FindOutFirst** (FOF), so that you're "in the know" regarding essential information including schedule changes (closures), events happening around FCPS, and celebrations. Go to www.fcps.org/fof/tes to sign up, if you don't already have a FOF account. The **FCPS Calendar Handbook** is the official source of information for FCPS, and will be distributed to students on the first day of school. This handbook has a variety of information including the school calendar, important FCPS policies, and contact information for key personnel, so make sure that it's easily accessible for you at home. Additionally, the FCPS website (www.fcps.org) is a "one stop shop" for information you need about policies and regulations, calendar dates, school health (and forms), breakfast and lunch menus (and information about student lunch accounts through *My School Bucks*), and much more!

Our school was a busy place this summer with our custodians cleaning, rearranging furniture, and preparing for your children to have access to a safe learning environment. We also housed a camp for FCPS students, which kept children busy with learning-infused fun and frolics! I met with teachers all summer long, planning and preparing for the new school year. I look forward to working with you and your child to ensure a successful, safe, and engaging school year. Please don't hesitate to call or email me a message with any questions or concerns.

Your Partner in Education,

Debbie O'Donnell

Frederick County Public Schools, MD, School Year 2019-2020 Calendar

August 2019

23, 26-30 Fri, Mon-Fri Teacher Work Days

September 2019

02 Mon FCPS Closed: Labor Day

03 Tue First Day of School for Students

20 Fri Schools Closed: Fair Day

October 2019

08 Tue 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Mid-Term Work Session

09 Wed Schools Closed. Yom Kippur.

23 Wed Elementary and Middle Schools Open 4 Hours Late for Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences; High Schools Are Full Day

24 Thu Elementary and Middle Schools Open 4 Hours Late for Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences; High Schools Are Full Day

25 Fri Elementary and Middle Students Dismissed 3.5 Hours Early for Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences; High Schools Are Full Day

November 2019

07 Thu End of Term 1

08 Fri Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Work Day

11 Mon Term 2 Begins

27, 28*, 29* Wed-Fri Schools Closed: Thanksgiving Break

December 2019

20 Fri 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Mid-Term Work Session

23, 24*-31* Mon-Tue Schools Closed: Winter Break

January 2020

01* Wed Schools Closed: New Year's Day

20* Mon Schools Closed: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

28 Tue End of Term 2

29 Wed Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Work Day

30 Thu Second Semester and Term 3 Begin

February 2020

14 Fri 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session

17* Mon Schools Closed: Presidents' Day

March 2020

04 Wed 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Mid-Term Work Session

April 2020

08 Wed 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session; End of Term 3

09 Thu Schools Closed for Students: Teacher Work Day

10*, 13* Fri-Mon Schools Closed: Spring Break

14 Tue Term 4 Begins

28* Tue Schools Closed: Primary Election Day

May 2020

25* Mon Schools Closed: Memorial Day

June 2020

22** Mon Last Day of School for Students /2-Hour Early Dismissal: Teacher Work Session. End of Term 4

23** Tue Last Day of School for Teachers

*State-Mandated Public Schools Holiday

**This calendar includes 8 days for snow or other emergency closings. If there are no days needed for emergency closings, the last day for students will be June 10. Subject to BOE revision, FCPS will make up emergency-closing days in the following sequence: June 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 22. The June two-hour early dismissal will occur on the last day of school for students.

May 15, 2019

Positive Behaviors, Interventions & Supports (PBIS)

Thurmont Elementary School is a PBIS school. By providing school-wide expectations and frequent feedback, redirection and support as needed, we hope to reinforce appropriate behaviors and increase student awareness of those expectations in order to promote safety, learning and kindness. We expect our students to use “ROARing” behavior daily. ROAR is an acronym for our school-wide expectations:

- Students will be RESPONSIBLE
 - Follow classroom/school rules and routines
 - Follow directions
 - Exhibit self-control
 - Be prepared for learning
- Students will take OWNERSHIP
 - Engage/maintain attention to learning tasks
 - Use strategies to solve social problems
 - Show initiative and self-direction
 - Handle changes and transition
 - Take personal responsibility
- Students will ACHIEVE ACADEMICALLY
 - Follow oral/written directions
 - Maintain a growth mindset
 - Complete class and homework
 - Show a positive attitude towards learning
 - Organize self and materials
- Students will show RESPECT
 - Interact kindly with others
 - Use classroom materials appropriately
 - Show courtesy and consideration for others
 - Listen attentively to adults/peers

Kindness is the central theme of our school, with the expectation that students show kindness in all of their interactions. Citizenship is reinforced through our ROAR expectations, as well as attendance. Part of being responsible is attending school daily, with the expectation for all students to maintain a **96% attendance rate**, no more than 7 days of absence during the school year.

Our students learn the importance of mindfulness and taking time out if they need a break. We encourage students to self-monitor and pay attention to their bodies if they are struggling. We teach the “zones of regulation”, which are color cues to help students better articulate how they are feeling. Throughout the year we also teach yoga poses, which we encourage students to help them with attention, frustration, and self-regulation.

Clear consequences are also part of the supports provided in a PBIS school. At TES the teacher will alert you if your child is having difficulty following the rules using a “Cougar Reminder”. Progressive consequences will follow through a referral to Administration if the inappropriate behavior continues. We will reach out to you, our partner, in providing accountability and problem solving. Our goal is to support your child so that s/he can be successful.

ATTENDANCE

We expect all children to be here every day ON TIME unless they are sick, seeking medical treatment, or have a legitimate excuse. Because attendance is directly tied to academic success, we monitor it daily and will contact you if we notice that your child is struggling to be here daily. In order to document a legitimate (legal) absence, students are required to bring a note signed by a parent or legal guardian when they return. Phone calls do NOT document an absence. Thank you for your partnership and for making sure that your child(ren) are at school, ready to learn! Please contact Administration or our School Counselor if you need support in getting your child to school.

TARDINESS

School doors open at 8:10 and instruction begins promptly at 8:40. The 8:10-8:40 time is a crucial part of the academic day for all students. Staff and students use this time to eat breakfast, settle into class routines, organize their materials and complete class work. Your vigilance in getting your child(ren) to school on time every day helps us to ensure they are ready and available for learning.

VACATIONS

Vacations taken during the school year are discouraged because of the disruption to a student's academic program. However, if you have planned a vacation during the school year, please alert your child's teacher and the principal as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ORGANIZATION FOR INSTRUCTION

Students are assigned to heterogeneous homerooms in order for them to access appropriate and focused instruction. Teachers plan for enrichment and intervention, based on the needs of their students. Assessment is embedded into instruction informally and formally through county benchmark assessments so that teachers can monitor student achievement. Student achievement is monitored by Administration, our Intervention Team and classroom teachers regularly and formally each quarter, which may necessitate a different and more appropriate placement. Students having difficulty mastering grade level content may receive intervention, and those with more advanced skills may participate in extension or acceleration activities.

Students receive two periods of Art, Music and P.E. weekly as part of the general education program. Students in grades four and five also have access to instrumental music with opportunities to participate in the band or orchestra, an experience students have to sign up for each year. Our specials classes each have designated curricula and whenever possible, reinforce and extend concepts taught in the classroom.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The ultimate goal of the language arts program is to build our students' skills and stamina in order to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Our FCPS elementary language arts program is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Students are engaged daily in over two hours of language arts instruction, which includes direct teacher instruction, guided and independent practice activities, learning centers, listening stations, and other related activities. Whenever possible learning is integrated to reinforce Social Studies and Science concepts, incorporating technology to practice reading, oral and written communication skills

MATHEMATICS

The mathematics program is also aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Problem-solving, fact acquisition, communication, reasoning, and real-life problem solving are integrated into daily instruction. Concrete learning experiences are encouraged through the use of manipulatives to provide multi-sensory opportunities for problem solving. Students are engaged in an average of one and ½ hours of math daily including direct instruction, guided and independent practice, re-teaching, and assessment. Students not mastering grade level content may also receive intervention through reteaching opportunities provided by the classroom teacher or math specialist. Blended learning experiences, incorporating targeted, sometimes adaptive, technology applications into daily instruction, are built into our academic program, including Study Island, which will be a new program this year. Targeted 5th graders will participate in the *Pathways Program*, designed to prepare students for accelerated math in the middle school. Students were identified for this program based on their math benchmark scores from last year, and their 2018 PARCC scores.

SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE

Each grade level has specific Social Studies and Science units that are taught throughout the year, based on a scope and sequence recommended by the county. Science units include concepts related to life, physical and earth science, and involve multi-sensory experiences including experiments and problem solving. Social Studies concepts are often integrated into language arts instruction, where students have opportunities to read about, write about and discuss them.

STATE ASSESSMENTS

This spring our students in grades 3-5 will participate in a MD State Assessment, which will be similar to the PARCC Assessment given previously. The PARCC Assessment was developed by a consortium of states, but the new assessment will be unique to Maryland, still measuring grade level Common Core State Standards in an effort to build college and career readiness.

Students in grade 5 will take the MD Integrated Science Assessment in March (MISA), which is administered over a few days based on its four “units.” This assessment is comprehensive, in that it measures student learning of concepts taught in the elementary school, grades K-5.

HOMEWORK

Homework is part of the learning experience, but should not require assistance. This is a time for students to independently practice skills taught, to read, and to practice math facts. Reading should be part of your child’s nightly homework routine, as well as practicing math facts to improve automaticity. Children who read daily improve their vocabulary, their understanding of written text, and their fluency. Math fact fluency allows students to focus on complex problem solving and computation with larger numbers.

CLASSROOM OR SCHOOL CONCERNS

If you have concerns about your child’s instruction, instructional materials or behavior management, be sure to contact the classroom teacher first, so that you can problem solve together. If concerns continue to exist after conferring with the teacher, feel free to contact our Literacy, Math, or Media Specialist, our School Counselor, or the Principal.

MEDIA CENTER

The media center (library) is open to all Thurmont students, with weekly visits for all classes, and opportunities before and after school to check out books if needed. Please remind your children that these are borrowed books, and should be treated with respect and responsibility. If a book is defaced or destroyed by a student, families will be responsible for paying for the cost of the replacement.

TECHNOLOGY

Thurmont is a fully wireless school and has laptops, tablets, Chromebooks and a computer lab. Students may access Google Classroom and other tools through the technology device provided at school. We ask that students do NOT bring their personal devices to school, as we do not participate in the *Bring Your Own Device* (BYOD) Program, and do not have the resources to monitor student access on their devices. Phones may be brought to school, but must remain in backpacks and turned OFF. If your child brings a device to school, we will not be liable if it is lost or stolen.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

The services of the School Counselor are available to students, families and teachers. In addition to teaching the counseling curriculum, our counselor works with individual students and small groups to support their success in the classroom. She is available to support families who are struggling with difficult situations including a death in the family, substance abuse, peer concerns, or divorce. Parents who wish to utilize these services should call Mrs. Tammy Brotman, School Counselor, 240-236-0926.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Support services include all personnel who provide specialized services to identified students, and consultation with classroom teachers. These support personnel may include the: School Counselor, Literacy Specialist, Intervention teacher, School Psychologist, Special Education teacher, Behavioral Support Specialist, Speech Pathologist, or Pupil Personnel Worker. To support students with mental health challenges, FCPS also partners with outside counseling services who provide professional services in the school setting.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are a part of the curriculum, connected with concepts taught, and provide enrichment opportunities, along with concrete experiences outside of the classroom. We encourage all students to take advantage of these opportunities, and request permission from families. If you would like to chaperone, we encourage you to volunteer your time! Teachers typically choose chaperones randomly from their pool of volunteers. Due to liability and safety issues, **younger siblings or infants may not accompany an adult who is chaperoning.**

STUDENT PROGRESS MONITORING

With specialists, grade level teams and administration, we review data regularly to monitor how students are progressing academically, socially and behaviorally. These meetings allow us to implement interventions and supports as needed. We will inform you if we have significant concerns, or if we need to make any changes to your child’s program. Progress is also shared through interim reports and conferences.

INTERIM REPORTS

Interims are sent between the regular reporting dates when there is a need to communicate about a child’s academic or behavioral performance. We request that they be returned with a parent/guardian signature.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences will be scheduled in October (refer to 2019-20 FCPS School Calendar). However, please know that you are welcome to schedule a meeting with your child's teacher or another specialist in the building. Families are encouraged to call or write a note if there is a problem or a question rather than waiting.

SPECIAL SERVICES

FOOD SERVICES

Free and reduced cost meals are offered to those families who qualify. Applications and guidelines are distributed the first week of school. Reduced price breakfasts are \$.20 and lunches are \$.30. Contact the school cafeteria if you have any questions. The cafeteria number is 240-236-0959.

Food Service Information – 240-236-2513

Breakfast will be served daily from 8:10 – 8:40.

Elementary Breakfast - \$1.60

Reduced Price Breakfast - \$.20

Lunch will be served daily between 11:10 – 1:00.

Elementary Lunch - \$2.65

Reduced Price Lunch - \$.30

Adult Lunch - \$4.25

You may put money on your child's account at myschoolbucks.com.

Breakfast will be served on 2-hour late arrival days and will not be served on the October conference days when school starts 4-hours late.

Lunch will be served on 2-hour early dismissal days.

For more information, including Menus, visit www.fcps.org / Families & Students.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Your child will receive literature about the program at the beginning of the school year. *Parents are to mail the premiums directly to Mutual Insurance Company.* All claims forms are to be completed by the parents and mailed. While this service is offered through the schools, it is independent of our operations.

SCHOOL PICTURES

During the year, individual pictures are taken in the fall and spring, and group pictures are taken in the spring. The school receives a percentage of the income from the sale to support miscellaneous needs.

LOST AND FOUND

To help alleviate the problem of lost clothing articles, *please LABEL ALL of your child's belongings.* If your child loses something, have him/her check the lost and found as soon as possible. If items are not claimed within a reasonable amount of time, they will be donated to a charity.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL RULES

PROCEDURES FOR DELIVERING STUDENTS TO SCHOOL

Our doors open to students at 8:10 a.m. Students may not arrive before 8:10 a.m. because no adult supervision is provided prior to that time. Childcare is available at Thurmont Primary before and after school by the YMCA. Contact the YMCA directly at 301-663-5131 for more information about hours of operation and cost.

If you are walking your child to school, please be mindful of cross walks. This is a great time to teach your child about safety and careful monitoring when walking. For safety reasons please **do not bring pets** with you to school. Students who are **late** to school (arrive at 8:40 a.m. or later) must report to the office for a late pass indicating the reason for tardiness.

SECURITY PROTOCOL

Please accompany your child to school when s/he is late. If you are picking your child up early from school, note that FCPS has implemented the RAPTOR security system in every school building. You will be required to show a **photo ID every time** you come to the school for a visit.

PARENT PROCEDURES – 3:10 P.M. DISMISSAL

Cars will be allowed to park in any lot for dismissal pick-up except for the reserved spots. Please be sure to park in our parking lots if you are leaving your car to enter the building. **Do not park in the bus lane.**

Walkers and car riders will be dismissed after the end of day announcements are completed. Walkers dismiss from the third grade hallway and car riders from the main lobby.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

For safety purposes, we require a note any time you are changing your child's dismissal routine. Without a note, we will send your child home via his/her original routine. To eliminate confusion and error, please call **before 2:30 PM** to make changes. We announce these changes every day at 3:10 PM. If you have arranged to have someone different pick up your child from the front office, **make sure that person brings ID**, so we can confirm his/her legitimacy with the emergency card on file.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

In order to provide safe service, children are expected to be orderly and follow the same safety rules that are in place at school. Your child is under the supervision of the **bus driver who has the same authority as a classroom teacher**. Bus rules will be reviewed at the beginning of the school year. Riding the school bus is a privilege which can be temporarily or permanently revoked by the administration, if students do not follow the safety bus rules. Required emergency bus evacuation drills are held twice annually, one in the fall and one in the spring.

SCHOOL LATE TWO HOURS

If school is two hours late, your child(ren) should arrive at 10:10 a.m. Please remember that no adult supervision is provided prior to 10:10 AM. Breakfast will be served if we are operating on a two hour delay schedule.

BICYCLE RULES

A bike rack is provided outside at the front of the school for students to park. Students should have bike locks and are responsible for making sure bikes are secured before coming into the building. Parents are requested to remind students of proper bicycle safety protocol. To ensure a safe arrival and departure to and from school, and to make sure students are fully alert, they should **walk their bike on campus**. Students should also wear helmets when riding their bikes.

EARLY DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

Doctor and dental appointments should be scheduled before or after school when possible. Students should return to school for the rest of the day following their doctor or dental appointments so they do not miss out on instructional time. Early dismissals are discouraged as they interrupt instruction not only for your child, but for all children in the classroom. Parents who have students dismissed prior to 3:10 must send a note to the teacher. The note should state the reason for and time of the dismissal. Children are released through the office. Parents must come to the office and **your child will be called from the classroom at that time**.

Please plan to come a few minutes early when picking your child up early in order to give your child time to get to the office once they are called. TES practice is NOT to have students waiting in the office for families, as we want our students to be engaged in instruction as long as possible. Children will only be dismissed from the classroom with a call or note from the office.

Children will be allowed to leave school with a parent, guardian or individuals listed on the emergency card. Children may also be released to other individuals when written permission has been given by parents or guardians. **The individual with whom the child leaves must be prepared to show ID and sign the child out in the office.**

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING AND DELAYS

Information regarding cancellations, delays, and early closings is announced on local radio stations, television Channel 18 (Frederick Cablevision), and *FindOutFirst*. For safety reasons, it's important that you discuss what to do and where to go if schools close unexpectedly. It is also extremely important that the school be able to contact you or an emergency backup, so **please make sure we have up-to-date information** on your child's emergency card. Be sure to plan ahead by arranging emergency backup care.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

DRESS CODE

Our school is a learning community. We believe students should wear appropriate clothing that contributes to a positive, safe learning environment. As you and your child prepare for school each day, we appreciate your consideration of these standards when your child dresses for school:

- Shirts and blouses should cover the student's stomach, chest, back and shoulders.
- Skirts and shorts should be an appropriate length and cover the student's under clothing.
- Proper shoes should be worn for physical education and recess to ensure safety.
- Coats and outer clothing gear should not be worn during class.

The following items are prohibited in school:

- hats, visors or headgear, except on announced special days
- clothing worn as under garments such as muscle shirts
- clothing with offensive or obscene language
- clothing with pictures or words depicting sex, drugs, alcohol or weapons, offensive groups, or offensive comments

If students wear inappropriate clothing to school, they may be asked to turn their clothing inside out or to wear alternative clothing provided by the school. All visitors should serve as models for appropriate dress when visiting our school.

HEALTH ROOM SERVICES

The Health Technician, under the direction of a Health Department Registered Nurse is on-site to provide the following services:

- Administration of medication
- Basic first aid (cleaning with soap and water, applying ice and/or bandages)
- Monitoring and charting of health room visits
- Monitoring immunization records

General Health Information

- No medication (prescribed or over the counter) will be administered in school without a physician's written authorization or a Medication Authorization Form which is available either from your doctor or on the FCPS website.
- It is the parent's responsibility to arrange for the delivery of properly labeled medication to the school by an adult. All medication must be in the original container. If the medication is over the counter, it must be supplied in an unopened container. **Medicine cannot be sent to school in backpacks or carried to school by a student.**
- The first full day's dosage of any new prescription will not be given in school.
- Non-prescription medications are NOT dispensed unless a healthcare provider has completed the Authorization Form for that purpose.
- Classroom teachers may NOT dispense any medications.
- The parent is responsible for submitting a **new form** to the school **each time there is a change in dosage** or time of administration. Previous dosage must be discontinued by physician before new dosage can be administered.
- Notify your child's teacher and the school health nurse if your child has any health restrictions or limitations (i.e. allergies to certain foods; mobility, vision, hearing issues).
- A written excuse from the health care provider is required when a child is not able to participate in physical education or recess. Please use **www.fcps.org/forms** for an activity restriction form or call our school health technician. A **note** is also required when your child cannot go outside during recess and must stay inside due to health reasons.

- Please write or call the school, the health room, and classroom teacher if your child has contracted a communicable disease, such as chicken pox, measles, or head lice, so that we can monitor the situation for students who may have had contact with him/her.
- **Vision and Hearing Screenings:** The School Health staff will conduct vision and hearing screenings for all students who are new to FCPS in any grade.
- **Pediculosis (Head Lice):** Check your child's hair regularly for nits and lice. Contact the School Health Room if nits or lice are found. Your child may be sent home if there are prolific live lice. School personnel will check other students according to county policy. A letter with instructions for treatment will be sent home with the student. An information letter will be given to all students who were checked.
- **Health Room Visits:** Your child will be allowed to visit the Health Room during the school day to take prescribed medications; to determine if s/he has a temperature or is not feeling well; to receive medical attention for an injury/accident; or for any other health issues. Your child will receive a Health Room Visit Form following a visit to the Health Room. If you have questions regarding health care, please contact the School Nurse or Health Tech. In the event of a medical emergency, your child will be transported to the appropriate setting and you will be notified immediately. Please be sure to **update your child's Student Information Card** as needed throughout the school year. **Note:** Health room visits will be monitored to ensure students are not losing valuable instructional time and are accessing the health services provided appropriately.

Please use the following guidelines to determine when to keep your child home from school:

- A temperature of 100 degrees or above anytime in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea anytime in the past 24 hours
- Pink Eye: This is highly contagious and your child should not return to school without being seen by a doctor
- Strep Throat: Your child should be on antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school
- Ringworm: Your child should see a doctor prior to returning to school

Please follow these guidelines to decrease illnesses/communicable diseases being "shared" between classmates.

For more information on specific diseases or school health care and services, please contact our school nurse or health room technician at **240-236-0907**.

GENERAL INFORMATION

BIRTHDAYS - Students **MAY NOT distribute invitations to personal birthday parties**. Invitations should be mailed to avoid hurt feelings and inequity. Due to privacy laws, school personnel cannot share addresses of other families without permission.

- Students are not permitted to share birthday edibles (cakes, cupcakes, candy) with their class or at lunch due to food allergies.
- You are welcome to send in goodie bags with small treats as long as they are NOT edible. We also encourage you to celebrate with your child during his/her lunch time.

ITEMS NOT PERMITTED IN SCHOOL... Pets of any kind are not permitted on school property. Valuable personal possessions, tobacco products, weapons (including pocket knives and stars), look-alike weapons, athletic equipment, iPods, iPads, radios, cards, balls and electronic games of any kind **are not permitted**. If your child brings his/her phone, it **MUST** be turned **OFF** while school is in session to avoid distractions.

WE VALUE YOUR PARTNERSHIP and WANT YOU TO BE INFORMED!

Remember to check...

- **WEEKLY Thursday FOLDERS:** Most written information, fliers and newsletters will be sent home in this folder. These folders contain pertinent information that will keep you informed of important school and classroom events and activities. Check your child's book bag EVERY night, but especially on Thursdays.
- **FOF ANNOUNCEMENTS:** We regularly send out FindOutFirst (FOF) announcements about upcoming events, weather announcements, etc. as well as a parent newsletter. To receive our free FOF announcements and weekly newsletters, please sign up at www.fcps.org/fof/tes.

- **OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE:** Thurmont Elementary has its own website that is updated regularly and provides valuable information. To learn more about our school, find lunch menus, and other important news, visit <https://education.fcps.org/tes>.
- **EMAIL:** Every staff member at Thurmont can be contacted through email. All of the addresses follow the same format. For example: firstname.lastname@fcps.org. (ex. – Debra.Odonnell@fcps.org)
- **MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS** from grade level teams.
- **Bi-monthly NEWSLETTERS** from the principal
- **Twitter** – follow our Principal at **#TESCougars1**

Visiting the school...

- We encourage and welcome parents/guardians to visit throughout the school year to observe the school program. If you would like to visit the classroom, please make arrangements with the teacher so as not to disrupt instruction.
- We encourage families to enjoy lunch with your child(ren) any time, so that you can interact in the school environment.
Remember that ALL VISITORS ARE REQUIRED to show a Photo ID.

VOLUNTEERS

We need you! Volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to get to know what's happening at Thurmont ES. We will provide an orientation session at the end of September to discuss important safety protocol and expectations for working at the school. Younger siblings and/or babies are not permitted to accompany volunteers to the classroom or volunteer workroom, due to liability and potential safety issues.

There are two parties for students during the school year. We encourage volunteers to plan these parties in cooperation with the classroom teacher.

Thurmont Elementary and Primary School (TEPS) PTA

Because we are a "split school", in 2 locations, our PTA serves us and the primary school. The PTA offers many opportunities for students and families. Parent involvement is the heart of our PTA. The PTA meets once a month and encourages all families to join and volunteer their time planning and implementing PTA activities and events. Please feel free to contact a board member if you are interested in becoming a member of the TPS/TEPS PTA.

Board Members Include:

President, *Kyra Fry*
First Vice President, *Heather Martin*
Second Vice President, *Charity Emert*
Treasurer, *Danielle Bloxham*
Secretary, *Candace Delauter*

In past years, PTA has provided support to our school community in many ways including:

- Fall Carnival
- Race for Education (funding school priorities that support students)
- Advocacy on behalf of the students
- Funding of Field Trips
- Cultural Events
- Scholastic Book Fair support
- Family Fun Nights
- Fifth Grade Celebrations
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Parent Volunteers

Be sure to access the PTA Facebook page (TEPS PTA) for more information.



HERE'S TO A WONDERFUL SCHOOL YEAR AHEAD!

Together may we give our children the roots to grow and the wings to fly.