

Thomson Middle
School
2011 - 2012

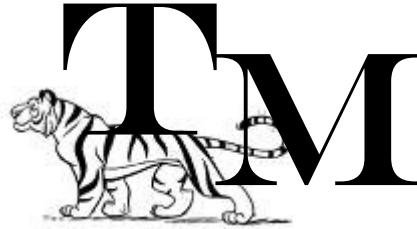
GO TIGERS

Student handbook

Motto

“Make Every Day Your Best Day”

Thomson Middle School



**Student Handbook
2011 - 2012**

**Tammy Dunn, Principal
Dustin Dykes, Assistant Principal for Discipline
Tonja Simmons, Assistant Principal for Instruction**

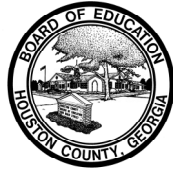
MISSION

Our mission is to provide, in partnership with the parents and community, a quality education so that all students are able to reach their full potential within a caring and secure environment.

BELIEFS

- *Student learning is the chief priority.*
- *Instruction is based on the unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs of each student.*
- *Student needs are the foundation of all decisions made by stakeholders.*
- *Higher expectations and a rigorous curriculum, including a variety of instructional approaches, increases individual student performance.*

Houston County Schools Calendar for Students, 2011-2012



HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
1100 Main Street - Post Office Box 1850
Perry, Georgia 31069
478-988-6200
www.hcbe.net

July 25 - July 29, 2011		Pre-Planning
August 1, 2011	Monday	First Day of School
September 5, 2011	Monday	Labor Day Holiday
October 3, 2011	Monday	Student Holiday/Parent Conf.
October 4 - 7, 2011		Fall Break, Students & Teachers
October 10, 2011	Monday	Columbus Day Holiday
November 11, 2011	Friday	Veterans Day Holiday
November 21 - 25, 2011		Thanksgiving Holidays
December 16, 2011	Friday	Last Day of Semester
December 19 - 30, 2011		Christmas Holiday
January 2, 2012	Monday	Teacher Work Day / Student Holiday
January 3, 2012	Tuesday	Second Semester Begins
January 16, 2012	Monday	Martin Luther King Holiday
February 20, 2012		Presidents' Day Holiday
February 21-23, 2012		Winter Break (Teachers & Students)
February 24, 2012	Friday	Professional Learning/Parent Conferences
April 2 - 6, 2012		Spring Break
May 25, 2012	Friday	Last Day of School
May 29 - 30, 2012		Post-Planning

Approved by the HCBOE on December 14, 2011

Thomson Middle School Exam & Reporting Schedule

Exam Schedule

September 29 & 30	1 st nine-week grading period
December 15 & 16	2 nd nine-week grading period
March 13 & 14	3 rd nine-week grading period
May 29 & 30	4 th nine-week grading period

Middle School Reporting Schedule

	<u>Progress Reports</u>	<u>Report Cards</u>
1 st 9-week period	September 1	October 13
2 nd 9-week period	November 14	January 6
3 rd 9-week period	February 7	March 21
4 th 9-week period	April 25	May 30

ACADEMIC POLICIES

It is the intent of the district to provide a high quality middle school experience. That experience should also prepare students adequately to move on to the next grade level or to a successful high school career. In order to move on, middle school students must maintain a 70% passing rate: passing all core academic courses and one connections course. All 8th Grade students must pass the Reading and Math portion of the CRCT.

Every effort will be made by Thomson Middle School teachers and staff to ensure the success of our students.

ACADEMIC TEAMS

Thomson is a large school with more than 800 students. To help students share more personal learning and social experiences, there are interdisciplinary teams at each grade level. There are three academic teams at each grade level.

Time is set-aside every week for teachers on each team to prepare lessons and/or meet together to discuss their students and the program. Appointments may be arranged through each individual teacher by phoning the school at (478) 953-0489.

ACADEMIC TEAM TRIPS

Academic teams may plan field trips. These trips are designed to recognize students for appropriate behavior during the year, build team spirit, improve students' social skills, and foster positive working relationships between students and staff. Students choosing not to follow school/class rules may not be eligible to participate.

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS/HOMEWORK

An important goal of middle school is to help students assume more responsibility for their own learning and academic progress. Students should complete their class work and homework by the due dates assigned by their teachers. Teachers and parents share the important task of fostering student's awareness that education extends beyond the classroom and that gaining knowledge or perfecting skills requires practice. It is expected that middle school students spend approximately 90 minutes each school night (Monday through Thursday) studying and completing homework assignments. If there is no specific homework due, students should be working on long-term assignments such as book reports or research projects, studying for upcoming tests, or practicing to improve skills such as reading or writing. Even art, music and physical education skills require practice in order to improve.

GRADING PERIOD/REPORT CARDS

Thomson has four grading periods; each is about nine weeks in length. Students receive report cards four times a year. Progress reports or deficiency notices are also issued halfway through the grading period. Academic teams are available to meet and discuss student performance. Appointments may be made with the team leader or teacher by phoning (478) 953-0489. If you do not receive a report card within two weeks of a grading period's closing, phone (478) 953-0489 ext. 43486.

FINAL EXAMS

- Sixth-grade students will take a comprehensive nine-week test beginning second semester which will count as a regular test grade.
- Seventh-grade students will take a comprehensive nine-week test beginning first semester which will count 10% of their nine-week grade.
- Eighth-grade students will take a comprehensive nine-week test beginning first semester which will count 20% of their nine-week grade.

HONORS, RECOGNITIONS, AND AWARDS

Honor Roll

The names of students who have achieved academic excellence, Honor Roll and Honorable Mention, are posted in the main office and on each hall each nine week grading period, and an Honor Roll reception is planned each grading period. Special recognition is given to students who earn all A's or all A's and one B.

Terrific Tiger of the Month

Academic teams select outstanding students each month. Students are recognized on the basis of good citizenship and achievement. Students of the month will be treated to lunch with the principal.

SMARTWEB

In addition to receiving printed progress reports and report cards, parents can access their student's grades at any time via the Internet. You will be required to go through the parent registration in order to view information by going to the Houston County Board of Education website, www.hcbe.net.

DIRECTIONS FOR ACCESSING SMARTWEB

At this site, you will need to select "Links", then "Parents", then "SmartWeb Parent Information Center". At this point, as a first time user, you will need to select "Register me!" You will be prompted to enter Student ID (located on past report cards, picture ID, etc.), SS#, and Birth Date. To complete the process, you will be asked to give an e-mail address and password. This password will be the one that you will always need to use for future log-ins. You may even be asked to download the latest

version of JAVA (which is required for viewing). If you are asked about JAVA Security, choose "Grant Always". SmartWeb will then assign you a "Family Number". It will be something like . . . FN _____ (with the FN being part of the number that you will have to enter). **These steps are in place to ensure security and to protect your child's privacy.**

After the initial log-in, you will only be required to enter the Family Number and Password.

FN _____ (assigned by SmartWeb)
Password (the one you selected) It is a good idea to save the "Registered Parents/Guardians" site to your Favorites list for easier future access. If you have any questions or problems accessing SmartWeb, please call the school's office for assistance.

PROMOTION POLICY

According to the Houston County Board of Education's promotion and attendance policy, all students must pass five out of six classes including all academic subjects in order to be promoted to the next grade, and must be in attendance for 95% of the school term.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TO AND FROM SCHOOL

All car riders are to be dropped off and picked up in the gym parking lot.

The school opens at **7:00 A.M.** each morning. Students who are **car riders** should be dropped off and picked up in front of the **gym. Students are not to be dropped off or picked up in front of the school between the hours of 6:30 A.M. – 7:30 A.M. or after 2:30 P.M. Any student entering the front door should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.**

Upon entering through the gym lobby or from the bus ramp, seventh and eighth-grade students report to the gym where they will be supervised until the homeroom bell rings at 7:15 A.M. Sixth-grade students will report to the cafeteria until the 7:15 A.M. bell. **No students should be on any other hall or in any other parts of the building prior to 7:15 A.M. An announcement will be made to dismiss bus riders. At 2:50 P.M. a second bell will sound to release car riders to the gym parking lot. Students will not be allowed to exit the front doors during dismissal.**

Any students present after 2:50 P.M. should be with their group, club, teacher, or they should wait for their ride outside of the gym lobby. All students must be picked up no later than 3:20 unless they are attending a teacher-sponsored activity after school. Students left on campus after 3:30 P.M. who are not attending an official school activity, are unsupervised.

STUDENTS MAY NOT RIDE OR BRING SKATEBOARDS TO SCHOOL.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

To be eligible for promotion to the next grade, students in grades K – 8 are expected to achieve 95% attendance (absent no more than 9 days). Students who achieve 90 – 94% attendance (absent no more than 10 – 18 days) may be promoted at the discretion of the building principal.

When you are absent, you should bring a dated written absence note (within three (3) days) when you return to school from your parent or guardian that includes: the dates of absences, the reason, and their signature. You should present the note to your homeroom teacher. Absence notes have been provided for your use. Please see the absence notes in the back of this handbook.

According to Houston County Board of Education policy, three (3) unexcused tardies to school and/or unexcused early dismissals are counted as one (1) absence.

ATTENDANCE

Research shows that there is a direct correlation between student achievement and school attendance. It is, therefore, most important that students be in school unless there are legitimate reasons why they must be absent. Georgia law allows for student absences to be excused only for the following reasons:

1. personal illness
2. illness in immediate family
3. death in family
4. recognized religious holidays
5. absences mandated by other government agencies, such as a court order
6. serving as a legislative page (excused and counted as present)

No other absence from class will be considered excused. Students on field trips or officially sanctioned instructional trips organized by the school will be counted present. A student who is absent from school for any portion of a school day must have a written excuse for the absence from the parent or guardian. School officials will then determine if the absence is excusable, using the reasons listed above as guidelines. If a student is absent and does not bring a written excuse within **three days** of his return to school, the absence will be considered **unexcused.**

Parents can apply for an unexcused, but prearranged absence in instances where it is absolutely necessary for the family to be out of town. This must be done prior to the absence by sending a letter to the principal explaining the reason for the child's

impending absence. In so doing, a student will be allowed to make up work missed.

1. EARLY DISMISSALS

If at all possible, parents should schedule appointments after school hours. Students must be picked up in the office, and parents are required to show picture identification. Parents must also sign the early dismissal sheet for safety reasons. Students who leave school early should do the following:

- a. come to the office in the morning before homeroom;
- b. present their reason for early dismissal signed by parents;
- c. receive a slip from the office stating the time to be dismissed; and
- d. show the slip to the classroom teacher at the time of departure.

A student will not be called to the office until a parent/designee arrives to pick him or her up. If a student returns the same day, he or she must come to the office to sign back in and get an admittance slip.

***Parents please note the following:**

The office makes afternoon announcements and calls students for messages at 2:35 p.m. each day. If at all possible, allow this time frame to get a message to your child. If you are picking up your child from school who usually rides a bus, it needs to be done before 2:35 p.m. For safety reasons, we cannot allow students to be taken off the bus.

2. TARDIES TO SCHOOL (After 7:30 a.m.)

Students are tardy if they are not in homeroom by 7:30 a.m. If you arrive after 7:40, report to the office. Acceptable reasons for excusable tardies include: personal illness, family illness, death in the family, or certain religious activities.

Remember: HCBOE policy states that 3 unexcused tardies or early dismissals will equate to 1 absence from school.

Students should not arrive on campus before 6:55 a.m. and should be picked up by 3:20 p.m. unless participating in a school supervised activity approved by the principal.

We discourage parents from planning prolonged vacations during the school year, as these absences will be considered unexcused. As per Board policy, a student absent for 10 consecutive days may be disenrolled in school. Additionally, students will miss class assignments, which may affect their grade. If this cannot be avoided, please make arrangements for make-up work at least 1-2 weeks ahead of time with your child's teachers.

CHANGING SCHOOLS

Students moving to a new location outside of the Thomson Middle School attendance area must notify the main office one week in advance. The student should bring a note from a parent or guardian stating where he or she will be attending school. The student should be prepared to return all textbooks and school materials and, if applicable, pay any necessary fines for lost or damaged materials. A clearance sheet must be signed by each of the student's teachers and the librarian, and returned to the main office prior to leaving.

CHANGING STUDENT INFORMATION

If you change address or phone numbers, or if you go on vacation and leave your student under the temporary care of someone other than his/her legal guardian, please notify the main office.

I.D. CARDS

All students will receive a student I.D. card. This card will contain the student's picture, name, student number, and bar code. This card must be presented at the front office when the student is checking in or out of school. If you lose your card, you can purchase a new one in the media center for a small fee. In the future, you will use your I.D. card for all dance admissions, media center and lunchroom transactions.

ILLNESS OR INJURY

The Health Tech's office is located in Thomson's main office. It is important to inform the office of any special health matters concerning a student. In case of illness or injury, students must get a pass from a teacher to go to the nurse's office. The health tech or other office staff will determine whether a student needs to go home and contact the parent or guardian or a person listed on the student's Emergency Information Card. In case of a serious accident or injury on campus, the paramedics will be contacted to administer medical aid to students and parents or guardians will be notified immediately.

LEAVING OR RETURNING DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Thomson Middle School is a closed campus throughout the entire school day. Students leaving for appointments must bring a note from their parent or guardian to the attendance office **before school**. Students will be issued a "permit to leave" slip to present to their teacher before signing out in the attendance office. Students will then be allowed to leave the campus with their parent or guardian for the appointment. Students returning from an appointment must first check in with the attendance office.

LONG-TERM EXCUSED ABSENCES

After an absence of two days, the parent or guardian may request assignments missed during that time.

Requests received in the main office by 8:00 A.M. will be available for pick up by 3:30 P.M. the same day. Parents are advised to phone to confirm that there is specific work to be picked up before coming to school. If there is work to be picked up, please be sure that it is picked up by 4:00 P.M.

MAKE-UP WORK

The students must make up assignments for schoolwork missed during an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to find out about missed assignments from a classmate or to request make-up work from the teacher. The student must then make sure it is completed within the time allotted. If work that is missed cannot be made up, the teacher may decide upon a suitable alternative assignment.

PASSES

When leaving a classroom, students must have a PASS signed by the teacher showing permission to be out of class. The pass is also to be signed by the person in charge of the room to which the student is going.

TRUANCY

During the school day the Police Department will pick up students who are off campus without proper permission forms.

The Board of Education of the Houston County School District recognizes the value of regular attendance in enabling students to profit from the school program. To meet special needs of students with chronic school attendance and/or behavioral problems, the Houston County School District declares that habitual truants are willfully defying the valid authority of school administrators and shall be subject to disciplinary action. This action includes a truancy contract, and or a court referral.

CAMPUS POLICIES

CLEAN CAMPUS

Take pride in your campus. The appearance of our school is important to all of us. It is the responsibility of each student to keep the campus clean.

GUIDANCE COUNSELING SERVICES

The Counseling Department at Thomson Middle School provides both academic and personal counseling for students in grades six through eight. Our counselors have an open-door policy for students, parents and teachers. The department works in partnership with the school psychologist and other outside agencies. Students may be referred for guidance counseling by other students, parents and teachers. Student Support Teams are conducted for students who are having academic or personal difficulties. For students who are in need of more in-

depth counseling, the department can provide recommendations and community referrals to the parent of the student as needed.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARDS

Every student MUST have emergency information on file in the main office. If parents cannot be reached in emergency situations such as illness, injury or disaster, Thomson Middle School will notify the emergency contacts on the emergency card.

INFORMATION / STUDENT SERVICES:

1. **ALL over-the-counter** medications **MUST** be brought to the office upon arrival at school (includes Tylenol). A **parent note must** accompany the medicine. All medications will be administered in the office. All prescription medication, taken on a daily basis, must be accompanied by a physician's statement form, which may be obtained from the office.
2. **Student lunch is provided at a cost of \$2.00 per day.** Students may pay for lunch by the month in advance with the exception of the last month of school. **Students are not allowed more than one charge.**
3. Students will **not** be permitted to have fast food or hot lunches delivered to school, except when parents come to dine with their child. Parents eating with their student are requested to sit in a designated area.
4. Students will **not** be dismissed to leave campus for lunch.
5. Book bags must remain in student lockers throughout the day. Rolling book bags will be allowed, but must remain in the student's homeroom class. Note: Rolling book bags will not fit inside the lockers; the school is not responsible for lost or damaged items.
6. Flowers, balloons, etc. will not be delivered to students.

MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center is open everyday of the school year from 7:10 A.M. until 3:25 P.M. The general collection of books may be checked out for a period of two weeks. Reference books, magazines, and reserve books may be checked-out after 2:15 P.M. and must be returned the following morning before homeroom. Students are charged fines for overdue library books. The fines for the general collection are \$.10 per day. Fines for reference books, magazines, and reserve books are \$.25 per day. Fines for overdue books do not exceed \$5.00. When a book is lost, the student must pay for the book. The replacement cost of the book is charged. When a book is found, the student will receive a refund of the cost, less \$2.50 (for any overdue fines and processing of lost book). Refunds are made during the school year in which the book is lost. Fines and overdue notices are given to students by homeroom teachers on a regular basis.

The student and/or parent is responsible for settling these financial obligations.

LOCKERS

Each student is provided with a locker at the beginning of the school year. The use of these lockers is a privilege. Do not share lockers or locker combinations with any other person. Any student caught entering another student's locker or with another student's combination will be seen by the Assistant-Principal.

LOST AND FOUND

Students must assume sole responsibility for loss or damage to any personal property left in classrooms, P.E. lockers or on campus. Thomson Middle School will try to help protect personal possessions, but it is not responsible for them. Check the lost and found located in the media center, or see the custodians about recently lost items. If belongings are not recovered, immediately advise the office. The best way to assure items are returned is to have your name in permanent ink on all articles of clothing, notebooks, and other personal property. If you find something that does not belong to you, please turn it in. If you keep something you find it is considered stolen. Students who have witnessed a theft or know a student is in possession of someone else's belongings should inform a teacher, counselor, or an administrator.

LUNCH

Lunch is considered part of the school day. In order to maintain safety and cleanliness, students must observe the following rules:

- Form orderly lines with no cutting.
- Sit in chairs only, not on tabletops. Place all trash in containers
- Keep all food and drink within the designated eating areas.
- Glass containers of any kind are not permitted at school.
- Respect and follow direction of adults.
- Respect the rights of others, as you would want others to respect your rights.

OFFICE

Thomson's offices are important places of business in which all are welcome. The office staff is happy to answer questions about school procedures or policies. Students coming to any office during class must have a pass or call slip. Parents are requested to refrain from attempting to deliver messages to students via the office staff, except in emergency situations.

The office is available for the following services. All students entering the office must have a pass from their teacher.

1. To request a conference with the principal, assistant principals, or counselors.
2. To receive permission to use the phone. The phone is for emergency use only, and is not to be used to call for forgotten assignments or items.
3. To call home when ill.
4. To withdraw from school.
5. To get permission to leave early.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are to be used for their intended purpose. Students may not loiter in or around restrooms. Vandalism to restrooms will be cause for disciplinary action.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

We all enjoy celebrating special occasions such as birthdays. However, sending flowers, balloon bouquets or other gifts to the students during school hours disrupts instruction. Therefore, parents and students are asked to refrain from such deliveries. If such deliveries occur, they will not be accepted.

STUDENT SUPPLIES /TEXTBOOKS

Students need to have his/her notebook, paper, pencils and pens at all times. All students need a notebook to organize their schoolwork. Covers are required on all textbooks. Students may purchase a book cover in the library. Students are responsible for the condition of books assigned to them. Textbooks and materials must be returned at the end of the year or when withdrawing from school. Any student who damages textbooks or any other school materials, or fails to return these materials will be charged replacement costs. Fines and bills are paid in the library. Unpaid fines may result in the withholding of report cards.

TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLES

Thomson provides a bicycle rack area located in the front of the gym. This area is open during school hours. If you use the bicycle area, be sure to lock your bike to the racks provided. Each bike must have its own chain and lock. Bicycles may not be ridden anywhere on campus during school hours. Thomson Middle School takes no responsibility for the theft or vandalism of any bike brought to school. Bikes should be licensed or marked to be easily identified.

CARS/STUDENT PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

Parents or guardians who drive students to school or who pick them up after school must follow all traffic regulations in effect on public roads. School administration requires that all students be picked up within 30 minutes of the end of the school day unless they are involved in an after-school or academic activity. The drop-off and pick-up area is located in

front of the gym. This area is limited to one lane only.

SCHOOL BUS

Riding the school bus is a privilege. Buses are provided for students who live within the authorized bus range. The Board of Education holds the driver fully responsible for student conduct on the school bus. It is important that students know and follow the rules and regulations for riding the bus safely. All school rules are in effect while riding the school bus. For a detailed list of rules, go to the county portion of the handbook.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required to take physical education a minimum of two nine weeks during the school year (the only exception is band students). Students are to dress out for class every day. Solid blue, white, or orange T-shirts and athletic shorts are required dress. During cold weather, sweat suits of the same colors may be worn. Athletic shoes and socks are also required. Sweat suits are only allowed in P.E. Students are expected to participate every day, however, they may be excused from participation due to illness or injury with a note signed by a parent or guardian (sore muscles may result from exercise but should not prohibit participation). If a student needs to be excused from participation for an extended period of time (more than two days) a note from a physician will be required.

Skateboards/Rollerblades/Motorized Scooters
Skateboards, Rollerblades, and Motorized Scooters are not to be ridden on campus. This applies before, during, and after school hours.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

The administration and teaching staff encourage parents to become parent volunteers. Parent volunteers must complete a form authorizing a background check. This form is available in the student handbook and/or the office.

VISITOR'S POLICY

Thomson welcomes parents to our school. We encourage you to learn about our school and what we teach so that you will realize the positive influence THOMSON MIDDLE SCHOOL has on your children, the leaders of tomorrow.

Since we wish to neither jeopardize the safety of any student nor to make you feel unwelcome at TMS, we recommend that you follow these guidelines in observing class:

1. To avoid confusion, please pre-arrange your visit with the office staff (953-0489).
2. All visitors should report to the office upon entering the building to sign in and receive a visitor's badge.
3. To minimize interruptions to the educational process, a staff member will escort visitors to

their child's classroom at the beginning of a class period.

4. Classroom observations cannot be viewed as times for discussing a student's progress. We encourage parents to arrange such conferences with individual teachers for another time.

If you wish to visit the campus, contact the main office at (478)953-0489 for appointment and orientation information.

ALL visitors must check in at the main office upon entering the building.

DISCIPLINE POLICIES

At Thomson Middle School, we are working together to provide a positive and safe learning environment by respecting others, our work, property and ourselves. We realize that the parent has a great responsibility in the area of discipline, and we will keep you informed of your child's progress toward self-discipline. We feel it is important for the school and parent to work together toward this goal. We strive to maintain a discipline policy that is both fair and consistent. In general, the guidelines below outline the consequences assigned for any offense. However, the administration reserves the right to skip and/or change a consequence at our discretion, based on the severity or continued recurrence of the offense.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. All students are expected to abide by policies as described in the Middle School Handbook section of the THOMSON Student Handbook.
2. School telephones are for emergency use only. If a student becomes ill, they should ask for teacher permission to report to the office to phone their parent or guardian.
3. THOMSON students are not to be on any school campus without permission from that school's administration.
4. Students are not allowed to have energy drinks on campus.
5. Students may not bring open drink containers into the school building. Drinks sealed in a lunch box are allowed.
6. Chewing gum is not allowed. Students should not have excessive amounts of candy in their possession.
7. The wearing of rubber bands or silly bands is prohibited.
8. Pouches or any other type storage items may not be worn on the waist.
9. Attendance - All make - up work as a result of an excused absence must be completed according to the following schedule:

Student Missed Days to Make Up Work
1 day 2 days

- 2 days 3 days
 3 days 4 days
 4 or more days 5 days
10. Attendance - Excessive absences will be reported to the school social worker.
 11. Early dismissal - Students may leave school early with a parent/guardian or only those persons listed on the student information card.
 12. When computing averages for awards, the highest numerical grade to be used is 100.
 13. Prohibited items - No items, such as cell phones, walk-mans, mp3 players, tape players, beepers, trading cards and electronic games can be brought to school.
 14. Selling at school - No items may be sold at school without the permission of the principal or her designee.
 15. Student offenses and discipline procedures:
 - Toy replicas of guns, knives, and other weapons are prohibited on campus. Principal discretion
 - Bringing unknown substances on campus and passing them off as drugs are prohibited. Principal discretion
 - Gambling, playing cards, tossing coins, etc. are prohibited. Principal discretion
 - Possession of pornographic pictures and/or inappropriate pictures of a sexual nature are prohibited. Principal discretion
 16. ISS - Students assigned ISS cannot attend extracurricular activities at any school in the county. This includes McConnell-Talbert Stadium.
 17. THOMSON'S Administrative staff has the authority to remove students from any extra-curricular activity when deemed necessary.
 18. Students are not permitted to leave campus for lunch, or receive fast food lunches at school.
 19. It is the responsibility of each student to acquire a note to be in the halls during class time for any reason.
 20. Only **THOMSON MIDDLE SCHOOL** students are allowed to attend dances.
 21. Disciplinary action will be taken when a student is tardy to class.
 22. Adults will be asked for I.D. to see students and/or to take a student off campus.

Note:

School administrators and/or designated representatives possess the authority to conduct a reasonable search of lockers, students, and their possessions while either on campus or at a school sponsored activity. Drug dogs are brought in periodically to conduct random searches.

***Parents, please be advised and encouraged to communicate to your children the**

consequences and potential criminal penalties of underage sexual conduct and related crimes for which children may be tried as adults.

REQUIREMENTS.

- Use good manners as you pass through the halls, cafeteria, and other areas of the school. Don't run, shove, shout, scream, or act in a way that creates disorder in the school.
- Show respectful behavior to the adults working in the school. When they give you instruction about your behavior, pay attention and do as you are told.
- Show respect to other students in the school. Treat them the way you want to be treated.
- Use courtesy during assemblies and other group meetings. Stop talking when the program begins, pay attention to the speaker or program, use appropriate applause when the program is finished.
- Do not verbally or physically intimidate, threaten, harass or assault any other student. If you are being "pushed" or feel there is a risk to your safety, report it to an adult in the school or have your parents report it to us.
- If you become aware of some situation that makes you feel unsafe, TELL US! Come to the Office, speak to an adult in the hall, find some reason to come to the office so that you can give us the information.
- If you bring something to school by mistake, and you know you should not have brought it, bring it to a teacher or to the School Office immediately.

What determines a "mistake"? If you are showing it around to other students, bragging or laughing about having it, and you don't turn it in, "It's NOT a mistake".

BEHAVIOR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY: (before Homeroom)

- All 7th and 8th grade students arriving before the 7:15 AM bell must report to the Gym. Students eating breakfast should report to the cafeteria, eat breakfast, and then report to the gym for dismissal to homeroom.
- 6th grade students should report to the cafeteria, eat breakfast, and then wait for dismissal to homeroom.
- Car riders should enter the building from the gym area: then go to your designated location.
- Do not enter any classroom on your way to the Cafeteria.
- After the 7:15 AM bell, all students must report directly to homeroom by 7:30 AM or you will be counted tardy. (Three unexcused tardies equals one absence.)
- No bookbags are allowed in the Restrooms.

CAFETERIA AND BREAK BEHAVIOR

- Walk in line to lunch and break as directed by your teacher. Do not drag behind to wait for friends.
- After you get your breakfast, lunch, or snack sit at your assigned table and/or seat.
- Do not save seats for others.
- Talk **quietly** to people around you. You will be asked to move if you become too loud.
- You should have a clean place to eat when you arrive. Leave a **CLEAN** eating area in the cafeteria. Push your chair in when you leave. Throw away all trash.
- Walk in an orderly manner to return your tray.
- If something falls off your tray as you are walking, pick it up and throw it away.
- Put your tray and silverware away properly.
- Place all of your waste in the trashcans.
- Line up to report back to class in an orderly manner as directed by your teacher.

HALLWAY BEHAVIOR

- We change classes and move about the building by grades. This means that when one grade is moving about, the other two grades are in class. Therefore, students must be quiet in the halls to ensure that other students are not disrupted during their class time.
- All students are to walk in a single file line on the right side of the hall at all times. When in hallways, **walk to the right**.
- Do not place your feet on the walls.
- Hall passes are required at all times if you are not with your class.
- Walk down the hall. **Do not run**.
- Do not push or shove other students.
- Keep voices at a quiet tone and keep your hands to yourself. Excessive or loud noise could result in a discipline referral.
- Do not loiter in the hallway, restrooms, or at the water fountain.
- You are to use the restroom or water fountain nearest to your class.
- Respect school property and the possessions of others.

The principals and faculty reserve the right to reprimand students when guidelines, rules, and regulations are not followed. Students are expected to ask about any questionable aspect of school interaction before becoming involved. Principals are given wide latitude of discretion in the determination of whether behavior is acceptable or not.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/STUDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Students who are referred to the alternative school for long term suspension have the right to a Student Review Committee (SRC) hearing. Parents have the right to a **Tribunal** hearing before the School Board if they do not agree with the recommendation of the SRC. Any student entering Thomson Middle School from the alternative school will be placed on a behavior contract.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

Some instances of serious rules infractions may result in students being assigned to the In-School Suspension (ISS) program. The ISS program at Thomson Middle is an alternative to home suspension. The ISS program at Thomson Middle is staffed by a certified teacher. In addition, while in ISS, students have access to their instructors who monitor the progress of students daily. Students in ISS receive assignments that are the same or are equivalent to those being completed in their classes. When students are assigned to ISS, a copy of the rules and procedures are sent home. Should your child be assigned to ISS, please review in-depth with him, or her, the rules and procedures of ISS so that your child may perform successfully.

HOME SUSPENSION

For infractions of the rules, disruptions, disobedience, or failing to carry out previously assigned punishment - students may be suspended home up to 10 days. While suspended home the student will be counted as absent (unexcused) from school.

BUS POLICIES AND BEHAVIOR PROCEDURES

Riding a school bus is a privilege – it is not a required service. Bus suspension is a reasonable and often necessary discipline action. Bus privileges can be suspended either temporarily or permanently.

We believe all students can behave appropriately and safely while riding on a school bus. We cannot allow student behavior that may impair the ability of the bus driver to carry out his/her duties while driving the bus. In order to insure the safety of our students riding the bus, the following rules (but not limited to) must be observed on the bus:

- Respect yourself and the rights of others.
- Follow the driver's directions the first time they are given.
- Stay in your seat; keep all parts of your body and all objects in the bus.
- Pushing, shoving, or fighting is not allowed.

- Eating, drinking, chewing gum, smoking, or spitting is not allowed.

If a student exhibits disruptive behavior, the driver will notify the parents immediately in an attempt to solve the problem at that level. However, if the student chooses to break the same or another rule, the following consequences will apply:

1st reported incident: School official, parent, and driver conference. A suspension from the bus for minimum of three days will follow if the parent fails to attend the conference. A contract may be executed between the students, parents, and school administrator.
 2nd reported incident: three days off bus.
 3rd reported incident: five days off bus.
 4th reported incident: ten days off bus
 5th reported incident: suspension off the bus for the remainder of the year
 A student may be suspended from the bus for 1-10 days on the first report if the principal determines the incident warrants suspension. More serious offenses will receive consequences beginning at the third report level. Additionally, these behaviors will receive the appropriate disposition of time in ISS. This stipulation applies, but is not limited to, the following offenses. Disrespect of driver, monitor, or administrator, Fighting, Vandalism, and Possession of tobacco. Any other infractions, such as possession of weapons or drugs, or severe disrespect of the driver, the student will be suspended from the bus for the remainder of the year.

GANG INVOLVEMENT (Gang Related Activities)

Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, accessories or grooming that indicate or imply that he/she is a member of a gang.

This includes:

- throwing gang signs
- wearing towels around the neck
- bandanas
- displaying gang symbols, drawing symbols or possessing drawings of gang involvement
- rolling up shirt sleeves or pant legs
- wearing sweatbands or headbands
- tattoos

ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The use of technology is a privilege. The district acceptable use policy was included in your handbook. All students must complete the form in the handbook and return it to school to be eligible to use technology on campus. Violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action.

APPROPRIATE STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

Thomson Middle School does not condone public displays of affection. Holding hands, arm-in-arm, hugging, and kissing are not appropriate in school. Disciplinary action will be taken.

DRESS CODE

SCHOOL DRESS - In addition to county school dress policy:

1. **ALL** shirt tails must be tucked at all times.
2. Students are not to wear **sweat pants (to include terry cloth, fleece, and velour/velvet material), mesh athletic shorts, jeggings, or leggings**. Wind suits are allowed.
3. Shorts, skirts, and dresses **must touch the knee**.
4. **Underwear** of any kind is not to be worn as an outer garment and **must not** be visible. Appropriate undergarments must be worn.
6. **Cut-offs, pants, or skirts** that are frayed, ragged or have holes are not to be worn.
7. No **sagging-pants** may be worn. The waistband must encircle the body at the waist (at or above the hipbone) and the buttocks must be covered. Any student, who violates this rule, shall be required to wear a belt daily.
8. Pants cannot be worn with wide leg openings that cover the shoes. Pants cannot be rolled up or bound at the ankle with bands or strings. Students may not adorn their clothing with safety pins, excessive button pins, or studs of any kind.
9. Basketball jerseys must be worn with a T-shirt underneath.
10. No oversized jackets, hoodies, sweat shirts, or over shirts that fall below the buttocks are allowed.
11. Tank tops, layered tank tops, shirts with spaghetti straps or shirts that reveal any portion of undergarments are not permitted.
12. Students **may not** cover up any non-compliant clothing with a jacket, shirt, or sweater.
13. Students may not wear a plain white t-shirt.
14. **Sleeveless shirts are permitted for females if the shoulder is covered, the arm-holes are tight, and undergarments are not exposed. Shirts must not cut in on the back, expose the back, or be cut low in the front.**
15. **Girls' shirts must be long enough so that when they raise their arms, their midriffs are not exposed.**
16. Girls may be allowed to wear spaghetti strap dresses at the Valentine's Day Dance as long as the dresses are modest and undergarments can be worn without being

- exposed. **No back lace-up dresses or dresses that expose the back will be allowed, even if covered with a shawl.**
17. Students must refrain from wearing clothes that are **too tight or immodest** such as the wearing of female-cut pants by males.
 18. Shoes that have straps must be fastened.
 19. Unconventional or un-natural hair coloring (including black) or styles (including Mohawks) is not permitted.
 20. Students may not dress in a color or style that associates them with an identified gang or group that could intimidate or make other students uncomfortable. This includes dressing in all black, “gothic” dress, and colors known to be associated with gangs. Student may not wear any jewelry with metal spikes. Students may not wear oversized belt buckles (2 inches or larger in length or width).
 21. Tattoos that can be covered with clothing must remain covered at all times. This could result in a student having to wear long sleeved shirts, pants, and shirts with a collar.
 22. Students enrolled in physical education (PE) may use a draw string bag for that class only. When they are not in PE, the draw string bag must be in their locker.

Students are expected to dress appropriately for school. Neatness, cleanliness, and simplicity are the keys to good grooming. A student's appearance should not attract undue attention. Footwear **MUST** be worn at all times. Bedrooms (slippers) are not allowed. Students will be required to exchange inappropriate clothing for appropriate ones. If no one is available to bring appropriate clothing, the student will be placed into ISS for the day. Other examples of inappropriate clothing include but is not limited to: tops that are strapless, backless, reveal any bare midsection or are generally worn as undergarments; any clothing advertising alcohol, tobacco, or drugs; headbands, muscle shirts, tank tops; pants and skirts with slits up the sides; t-shirts, hats, or jackets identifying club/gang slogans, double meanings, or suggestive sayings. Students may not wear hats in any school building. Bandannas and do rags of any color may not be brought or worn to school. The Houston County School District Secondary Dress Code Policy is included in your handbook. For further details, please refer to that document.

Note: Dress Code Policies are enforced at all school related functions unless other notice is given. Final decisions and judgments concerning appropriate dress are made at the discretion of the administration. Students who violate dress code will be asked to call their parents for a change of clothing; if parents cannot bring appropriate clothing, the student will be placed in the In-School Suspension (ISS) classroom for the day. Students who arrive at school with unacceptable hair color or style may be placed in ISS until the color or style is corrected.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No electronic devices (Cell phones, IPODs, CD players, Game Boys, etc.) are allowed at school. If a student is found in possession of an electronic device during school, it will be confiscated and returned to a parent.

Any cell phone going off in class or found to be in use during class time will result in 3 days ISS on the first offense, 5 days ISS on the second offense, and 10 days ISS on the third offense.

FIGHTING

Fighting is prohibited. Students are to use the Conflict Management Program, counselor, teachers, or administrators to discuss problems they are having with other students. The office is always open to discuss problems between students. In general students shall receive a suspension of 1-5 days for fighting. Students may also be cited by the Centerville Police Department. The principal will recommend a student's expulsion for causing serious physical injury to another person.

GAMBLING

Any form of gambling will not be tolerated.

GIVING FALSE INFORMATION

Students are to properly identify themselves to all school employees. Students are not to forge notes nor falsify any information concerning school. This could result in ISS.

HARRASSMENT OF ANY TYPE

Harassment is defined by the person it is done to, not by the person doing the harassment. Any action that causes another person to feel threatened, ashamed, put down, afraid, angry, hurt or in any other way upset must stop immediately. It may be necessary for you to have no further contact with each other.

Responding to harassment with harassment is not acceptable. If you are being harassed, involve an adult. While students have rights to freedom of speech, you may not menace or threaten others, invite them to fight, use obscene language, or do any other behaviors meant to cause harm. Students found

guilty of harassment will receive ISS. If it continues, it will lead to expulsion.

LOITERING

Students are not to loiter in front of the school, near the office, in the faculty parking lot, or in the parking lot in front of the gym before or after school hours. Loitering is also prohibited in the gym corridors and around the bicycle compound area. School administration requires that all students be picked up within 30 minutes of the end of the school day unless they are involved in an after-school or academic activity.

NO PLAYING CARDS POLICY

Due to the various problems and issues that we could have to deal with involving playing cards, we do not allow Yu-Gi-Oh, Pokemon, Magic or other playing cards, including photocopies, on the school campus for student use. If any staff member sees the cards, they will be instructed to confiscate and return the cards in accordance with the confiscated items return policy.

PROFANITY

Students are not to use profane or vulgar language. Swearing will not be tolerated. The circumstances will determine the severity of the consequences.

REFUSAL TO OBEY SCHOOL AUTHORITY— DEFIANCE

Students are expected to follow the instructions of the teachers and staff. If a student disobeys any school employee either by action or word, he/she shall be subject to disciplinary action.

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

The Houston County Board of Education prohibits the unlawful sexual harassment of any student by any employee, student, or other person in or from the district. Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone in or from the district may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Any student who feels that he/she is being sexually harassed should immediately contact the principal or designee at his/her school. If the principal or designee does not promptly remedy a situation involving sexual harassment, a complaint of harassment can be filed in accordance with the district's Executive Director of Secondary Education.

THEFT

Students have the responsibility of taking care of their own possessions. Lockers should be secured and only necessary school items kept in them. Do not leave money in classrooms, gym lockers and/or dressing room! Do not leave personal items or backpacks unattended. Make sure that bicycles are locked in the school compound. If you are a victim of

a theft, notify the office and fill out a stolen property report. Theft is a serious violation of the law and will be dealt with severely.

VANDALISM/TAGGING

Writing on the walls or destroying school property or the property of others will not be tolerated. A police report may be filed and disciplinary action will be taken.

WEAPONS/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES— ZERO TOLERANCE

The possession, use or sale of any weapon or device that may be used to harm others (including imitation firearms) is prohibited by the Houston County Board of Education's Student Code of Conduct. The possession, use or sale of any controlled substance or paraphernalia (pipes, lighters, rolling papers, etc) is also prohibited by Student Code of Conduct. Any involvement in such activity shall result in suspension and/or expulsion from the school or district.

Students who know of anyone in possession of any weapons/controlled substances or have information about any weapons/controlled substances being on campus should report to an administrator immediately.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A great deal of emphasis is placed on student activities at Thomson. We encourage all of our students to become involved in the variety of activities offered. We believe that students who participate in any activity can more closely identify with the school and therefore develop feelings of commitment and pride for Thomson. Activities are for those students making sufficient academic progress and with good citizenship only.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Thomson Middle School has many after school clubs such as TSA, FCCLA, Student Council, Student Exchange Club, Partner's Club, Book Club and more. Students are encouraged to join.

ASSEMBLIES

Many programs are offered in assemblies scheduled throughout the year. Students must be seated in assemblies by class and will be monitored by their teachers. Appropriate audience behavior is expected.

DANCES AND SOCIALS

School dances and socials occur throughout the year. Students assist in the planning process. Specific dates will be included in the daily announcements. These dances are open to Thomson students only. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Students may lose the privilege of attending dances or socials based on academic effort

(2 or more F's during the current grading period), citizenship, or attendance. Any students that have been assigned to ISS during the grading period of the dance will not be allowed to attend. Students from other schools or former Thomson students may not attend. An admission charge is collected to cover the costs of music and security. Students must be picked up immediately following the dance or social. Any student not picked up immediately will not be allowed to attend any future dances. The Centerville Police Department will be called to pick up any student that remains 30 minutes after the dance. All school dances will run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

6th, 7th, 8th GRADE DAY/ FIELD TRIPS

Students, who are passing all classes, have demonstrated good citizenship, and good attendance will be eligible to attend these activities. **Students who are in ISS or who have been assigned to ISS two or more times during the semester of the field trip will not be allowed to participate in these activities.** Parents will be informed if their child is not attending these activities and those students will remain in class doing regular schoolwork.

Administrators reserve the right to make the final decision on participation in all school sponsored events. **Refunds will NOT be made to those students that are not able to attend the trip due to discipline reasons.**

SPORTS TEAMS

Thomson Middle School is very fortunate to have competitive sports teams in football, softball, basketball, baseball, cheerleading, soccer and track. Transportation after practice is not provided. Students must meet the county eligibility requirements and must have a current physical on file. Please contact the Athletic Director for more information.

STUDENT ACADEMIC AWARDS PROGRAM

An Academic Awards Program is held annually honoring those students who have been nominated by their teachers in specific academic areas.

The Student Academic Awards Program will be held on an evening late in the spring where we set aside time to recognize and reward those students who have shown good academic effort, good citizenship, and good attendance. Teachers and staff select students who deserve to participate. Parents will be informed if their child is receiving an award during Academic Awards Program.

Criteria to attend this event are the following:

1. Year-to-Date Highest GPA in core academic and connections classes
2. Honor Roll
3. Perfect Attendance
4. Outstanding Citizenship
5. Most Improved

YEARBOOK

Students interested in working on the yearbook make a significant time commitment. Students have rewarding experiences with photography, writing, editing, layout, and graphics. Yearbook order forms are available in the fall. The forms are completed and a notice is mailed to the parents. If you decide to purchase a yearbook, simply send the payment directly to the company. The yearbooks are distributed the last week of school. If there are any extra books, they are offered for sale on a first come, first served basis.

Thomson Middle School Progressive Discipline Chart

Level I (Teacher Assigned)	1st Discipline Referral	2nd Discipline Referral	3rd Discipline Referral	4th Discipline Referral
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress code violation • Failure to follow procedures • Minor class disruption • Other infractions deemed as Level I 	3 days break detention	5 days break detention	3 days silent restricted lunch	Student moves to level II
Level II (Teacher Assigned)	1st Discipline Referral	2nd Discipline Referral	3rd Discipline Referral	4th Discipline Referral
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial class disruption • Skipping less than one class • Profanity • Verbal Confrontation • Academic Dishonesty • 4th Level I infraction • Other infractions deemed Level II 	5 days silent restricted lunch	1 day team ISS	3 days team ISS	Student moves to level III
Level III (Administrator Assigned)	1st Discipline Referral	2nd Discipline Referral	3rd Discipline Referral	4th Discipline Referral
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme Disrespect • Aggressive Behavior/Threats • Defiance/ Refusal to follow direct request of an adult • Vulgarity/ Inappropriate sexual contact • Computer/Electronic misuse • Forgery/giving false information • Verbal Confrontation /Disruption • Gambling • Fighting/Instigating Fighting • Skipping off campus • Possession or use of fireworks/tobacco • Bullying/harassment/malicious teasing • Property abuse • Electronic device that disrupts instruction • 4th Level II infraction • Infraction of School or Board policy 	3 days ISS	5 days ISS	5 days ISS/ behavior contract may be issued	3 days home suspension *Any further infractions may result in a MDR or SRC

* The administration reserves the right to skip and/or change a consequence at our discretion, based on the severity or continued recurrence of the offense.

CLUBS and ORGANIZATIONS

<u>Clubs Opportunities/Obligations</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Selection Procedures</u>	
ATHLETICS	Coach Ivory	Tryout – 7 th and 8 th Grades – Physicals are Required	Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track, Softball, Cheerleading
BAND after	Mrs. Herron	Own an instrument or rent one	Perform at festivals, school events and school rehearsals
CHORUS	Mrs. Roye	Join/Membership Fee	Attend performances, festivals, and after school rehearsals
DRAMA CLUB	Mrs. Roye	Auditions	Attend performances and after school rehearsals
FCCLA	Mrs. Cape	Join/ Membership Fee	A career and technical student organization for students in Family and Consumer Science Education
FBLA	Mr. Sikes	Join/Membership Fee	Business Education Association of students preparing for careers in business related fields
FELLOWSHIP of CHRISTIAN ATHLETES	Mr. Tucker	Join/Fee	Meet once a week before school
MAC	Ms. Hawkins	Application Process	Help in the Media Center with circulation, shelving, laminating, etc.
PARTNERS CLUB	Mrs. Leary	Application	Conduct school and community service projects and work with students with special needs as a peer buddy and to learn about assistive technology

PRAYER CLUB before	Mr. Freeman	Desire to be a Christian	Meet once a week school.
STUDENT EXCHANGE	Ms. Hawkins	Application Process	Work with the Book Fairs to generate funds for the Media Program
TMS Academic Team	Mrs. Goff	Based on student's general knowledge in a variety of subjects	Participate in Academic Competitions
Technology Student Association (TSA)	Ms. Green	Join and a \$15.00 Membership fee	Promoting technological literacy, leadership, and problem solving, resulting in personal growth and opportunity.
WTMS	Ms. Hawkins	Application and Interview Process	Raise monies through fundraisers and prepare and present the <i>Thomson's Student News Show</i>
YEARBOOK	C. Stanley	Application	Work to produce school yearbook

Approved by the Houston County Board of Education on January 11, 2005

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE

Student Agreement

I understand and will abide by the above Terms and conditions for Internet use. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal or school system offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and appropriate legal action may be taken.

User Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent or Guardian Agreement

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Terms and Conditions for Internet access. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and the Houston County School System has taken available precautions to eliminate controversial material. I also recognize that it is impossible for the school system to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold the school system responsible for materials acquired through the Internet. Further, I hereby accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission for my child to use the Internet on resources provided by the Houston County Board of Education and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Student (please print) _____

Parent or guardian (please print) _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

THOMSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

*301 Thomson Street
Centerville, Georgia 31028
(478) 953-0489*

**Principal
Tammy Dunn**

Assistant Principals
Dustin Dykes
Tonja Simmons

Counselors
Pat Johnson
Missy Walker

Dear Parent,

Photographs and/or video may be taken of your child while s/he is participating in school activities by either media or school system representatives. The photograph may possibly be published in the newspaper, on the Web site, or used on an exhibit board, and the video may be used for a TV broadcast or as part of videotape.

Please sign the release form below indicating whether the Board of Education and/or the media have permission to use your child's photograph and/or video. **Only photographs and/or video of children with signed permission forms will be used.**

The Houston County School System/Thomson Middle School (check one)

_____ has

_____ does not have

my/our permission to use my student's (Check ALL that apply)

_____ photograph and/or video (for news releases)

_____ the yearbook

_____ athletic teams

_____ interview

_____ name on Honor Roll

to publicize news or information concerning the Thomson Middle School/Houston County School System.

Student's Name _____

Parent/Guardian (please print) _____

Homeroom Teacher _____

"Home of the Tigers"



Dear Parent/Guardian:

We would like to personally take this opportunity to welcome your child to Thomson Middle School. We would especially like to welcome him/her to the Health/Physical Education program. We are excited about the upcoming year and look forward to working with your child in both the classroom and outdoors.

Since the Physical Education portion of the class may involve some strenuous activities at times, we would like to know the physical condition of each student. Be sure to sign the bottom of the form. Please add any information you feel will help with your child's safety. This would include things such as asthma, allergies, diabetes, epilepsy, etc. You must also indicate if he/she is on any medication for such conditions.

We sincerely thank you for your time and look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year. If we can ever be of help to you, feel free to call the school at 478- 953-0489.

Coach Ivory, Coach Vickers, Coach Jones, and Coach Hartman

Health History

Please complete in ink by parent or guardian

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>HAS STUDENT HAD ANY</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>HISTORY OF</u>
___	___	Chronic or recurrent illnesses	___	___	Injuries requiring medical treatment
___	___	Illnesses lasting over 1 week	___	___	Neck injury
___	___	Hospitalizations	___	___	Ankle injury
___	___	Surgery	___	___	Knee injury
___	___	Missing organs (eye, kidney, etc.)	___	___	Broken bones
___	___	Allergy to medication	<u>FAMILY HISTORY</u>		
___	___	Problems with heart or blood pressure	___	___	Diabetes
___	___	Chest pain with exercise	___	___	Heart Problems
___	___	Dizziness or fainting with exercise	___	___	Asthma
___	___	Headaches or convulsions	___	___	Shortness of Breath
___	___	Concussion or loss of consciousness	___	___	Sudden death under age 40 years
___	___	Heat exhaustion; heat stroke	___	___	
___	___	Wear eyeglasses or contacts	___	___	
___	___	Wear dental braces	___	___	
___	___	Take any medications	___	___	

Other conditions:

Please explain any YES answers:

Student Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Emergency Telephone Number: _____

Parent /Guardian Signature: _____

Homeroom Teacher _____

Revised: May 18, 2011

THOMSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

IS COMMITTED TO CREATING A SAFE, CREATIVE, AND CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR CHILD TO PROSPER AND GROW ACADEMICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

THEREFORE....we have created this Parent/Student/Teacher Compact. Please sign on the indicated line. Together, we can prepare our students for tomorrow's challenges.

• Teacher Agreement:

As staff of Thomson Middle School, we agree to:

1. Hold high expectations for ourselves, students and other staff members
2. Provide a safe and orderly school environment
3. Provide opportunities for parents to be a part of the school and instructional environment through a variety of settings
4. Maintain open lines of communication with student and his/her parents
5. Encourage students and parents by providing information about student progress
6. Provide appropriate homework activities
7. Come to school prepared to teach
8. Respect cultural, racial, and ethnic differences

Signature of Staff Member: _____

• Parent/Guardian Agreement:

I want my child to succeed; therefore, I will encourage him/her by doing the following:

1. See that my child attends school regularly and on time
2. Provide a home environment that encourages my child to learn
3. Insist that all homework assignments are completed
4. Communicate regularly with my child's teacher
5. Encourage the development of positive behavior and support the school's discipline policy
6. Show respect and support for my child, the teacher, and the school
7. Set an example for my child by being a lifelong learner myself

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

• STUDENT AGREEMENT:

It is important that I work to the best of my ability; therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

1. Attend school regularly and actively participate
2. Come to school each day with pens, pencils, paper, and other necessary tools for learning
3. Complete and return homework assignments in a timely manner
4. Conform to the rules of student conduct
5. Respect the personal rights and property of others
6. Ask for help when needed
7. Always try to do my best in my work and in my behavior
- 8.

Student Signature: _____

TMS Parent Volunteer Group – “Tiger STRIPES”
(Student & Teacher Resources Including Parental Educational Support)

Thomson Middle School teachers and staff always welcome parent involvement. Parental support is the key ingredient to our school’s success. You are a valuable resource for our classroom teachers and without your help and contributions, our jobs would be much more difficult and our goals unobtainable. We need YOU to be an active member of our parent volunteer group, the **Tiger STRIPES**. Parent volunteers serve as a liaison between the home, school, community, and student body and assist school personnel in meeting the educational goals of our school through volunteer work. We believe a strong commitment from all of our stakeholders makes Thomson Middle a great place to teach and learn!

The Board of Education has a policy in place to ensure a well-planned and effective volunteer program. Parent volunteers must complete a consent form authorizing a background check. This means the Houston County Board of Education requests a clearance regarding any criminal and/or driver’s history record information that may be in files of the criminal justice agency in Georgia. **If you filled out a form last year at your child’s school, your name is still on the volunteer list. If you didn’t, you will need to complete a volunteer form and return it to the school secretary.**

If you wish to volunteer for the 2011/2012 school year, please fill in all information below and return completed form to your child’s homeroom teacher. We appreciate your cooperation and support as we work hard to build a strong and effective parent volunteer program! Thanks for your response!

Student’s Name: _____

Grade: _____ **Homeroom Teacher:** _____

Parents’ Name: _____

Phone #(s): _____

E-mail: _____

I give my permission for my information to be given to my child’s homeroom teacher’s room parent. Please circle: YES NO

Parent Signature: _____

Please check volunteer opportunities which interest you to become involved at TMS.

- _____ Room Parent (Serving a liaison between classroom teachers and other volunteers)
- _____ Academic Help (Tutoring, homework help, etc.)
- _____ Mentoring
- _____ Fund Raising
- _____ Special Events or Projects (Teacher Appreciation Week, Career Day, 8th Grade Day, etc.)
- _____ Chaperoning Dances
- _____ Media Center (Reading Counts, Book Fairs, etc.)
- _____ Proctoring for Tests (ITBS, 8th Grade Writing Test, CRCTM, CRCT)
- _____ Decorating (Bulletin Boards, Special functions, etc.)
- _____ Concession stands at sporting events
- _____ Career Day Speaker (What is your career? _____)
- _____ Other (Sewing, Baking, Special talents/interests, etc.): _____

THOMSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
301 Thomson Street
Centerville, Georgia 31028
(478) 953-0489

Principal
Tammy Dunn

Assistant Principals
Dustin Dykes
Tonja Simmons

Counselors
Pat Johnson
Missy Walker

Dear Parents,

Please read over the attendance policy carefully. Please note that if your child misses nine (9) days or more of school during the year, a letter will be mailed to your residence at the end of the year. This letter will inform you that your child has exceeded the total days allowed by the Houston County Board of Education.

To be eligible for promotion, students in grades K-8 are required to achieve 95% attendance. Students that achieve 90-94% attendance may be promoted at the discretion of the building principal. Students missing more than 18 days will be retained without HCBOE approval for promotion. Also, don't forget that three unexcused tardies or three unexcused early dismissals will constitute an absence.

I have read and understand the attendance policy.

Student signature

Parent Signature

Student Print Name: _____

Parent Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____



DR. ROBIN HINES, SUPERINTENDENT
BOARD MEMBERS

DR. CHARLES M. (TOBY) HILL, VICE CHAIRMAN
SKIP DAWKINS
DR. MARIANNE MELNICK

TOM WALMER, CHAIRMAN

HELEN HUGHES
JIM MADDOX
FRED WILSON

**HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
PARENT RECEIPT OF TITLE I DOCUMENTS
2011-2012**

August 1, 2011

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s):

Your participation in your child’s education is extremely important to us. We believe in maintaining regular, two-way communication between home and school. As such, we distribute information to explain how parents can work with the school to ensure that students achieve their maximum potential. Please take time to read all documents that you receive from the school.

Federal regulations require us to distribute copies of the following documents to you:

- *School Title I Parent Involvement Plan [Printed in the Thomson Middle Parent Handbook]*
- *School-Parent Compact [August 1, 2011 First Day of School Packet]*
- *Complaint Procedure [Printed in the Houston County School System pages of the Student Handbook]*
- *FERPA – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [Printed in the Houston County section of the Student Handbook]*
- *Notification of Highly Qualified Teacher Status [Printed in the Thomson Middle Parent Handbook]*
- *Parent’s Right to Know Highly Qualified Teacher Status [Printed in the Thomson Middle School Parent Handbook]*
- **Needs Improvement (NI) Schools ONLY: NOT APPLICABLE**
- *Notification of School’s AYP Status*
- *Notification of Public School Choice (if applicable)*
- *Notification of SES (if applicable)*

Please complete and sign the form below, and return to your child’s teacher by, **August 8, 2011**. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at Thomson Middle School at 478-953-0489.

Sincerely,

Tammy Dunn, Principal

I have received copies of the above-referenced documents. List any documents not received.

Parent’s Signature _____ Date _____

Students Name: _____ Grade: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Please return this form to your child’s school. Thank you.

Student's Name _____ Grade _____ School Year 2011-12

HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Consent Form

THOMSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

I hereby authorize the Houston County School System to receive any criminal and/or driver's history record information pertaining to me which may be in the files of any state or local criminal justice agency in Georgia.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Volunteer's Name _____
Last First Middle (Maiden)

Address _____
Street City State ZIP

Sex _____ Race _____ Date of Birth _____ Social Security Number _____

Drivers License Number/State ID Number _____ Signature _____

Notary Public Signature _____ Date _____

(DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)

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**Perry Police Department
Perry, Georgia**

_____ I certify that I have conducted a search through the GCIC System on the person named above and the results were that, as of this date, this individual has no record on file.

_____ Record on the above named person is attached.

Name _____ Date _____