

Thompson Middle School

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Dear TMS Parents:

The purpose of this message is to clarify a recent social media post of an email message between a grade 7 teacher and a parent. This particular e-mail is just one of several e-mails that have been exchanged between the teacher and parent relative to a variety of activities and information regarding grade 7 students and their classes. This e-mail in particular, addresses an on-going concern for grade 7 teachers that some students are not coming to class prepared with the appropriate supplies and materials for class activities. This issue has continued over the past several weeks despite frequent reminders to students and communication to parents regarding the problem. In addition to being reminded to replenish their supplies, they have also been informed that if they lacked the financial resources to obtain their supplies, that the school and/or teachers would provide them with the needed materials. The grade 7 teachers made the decision to assign students that have not obtained the required supplies by the end of the week to a cardio period detention. The problem of students' failure to bring in the required supplies and the decision to assign detention as a result, was unknown to the TMS administration. Not until the social media post appeared were we even aware there was a problem. This was not brought to our attention by the teacher or by the parent that posted the email or any other parent. Clearly, the situation could have been addressed in a manner that did not include punitive consequences such as a cardio detention. This situation has been addressed with the grade 7 teachers and will be resolved through other means. Additionally, TMS has a budget line dedicated to classroom supplies with funds available to our teachers. Parents should be aware that in the event that school-related requests or responsibilities provide a financial burden to families for supplies, materials, field trips, etc. that Thompson Public Schools and our individual teachers and staff will always provide for our students in need.

Hopefully, this communication clarifies the nature of the situation and that an alternative plan has been put in place to address everyone's concerns. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with further questions or concerns regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Steven C Knowlton,
Principal TMS