Tallmadge Curriculum

TALLMADGE CITY SCHOOLS
DIRECTIONAL SYSTEM

OUR MANTRA
Empower - Everyone, Everyday

OUR VISION
Tallmadge is a collaborative community that empowers every student.

OUR MISSION
Every Tallmadge graduate is successfully employed, enrolled or enlisted.

Newsletter Theme:
THE TALLMADGE WAY

> "Empower students to own their learning experiences in ways that are authentic to their lives now and into the future."
>
> ~Chris Bronke

To support the development of our four core competencies (communicators, collaborators, critical thinkers, creators and innovators), we can implement various strategies and provide experiences tailored to each competency;

Communicators:
- **Encourage classroom discussions:** Teachers can facilitate discussions where students express their thoughts, ask questions, and engage with each other.
- **Assign presentations:** Assignments that require students to present their ideas in front of the class can improve their communication skills.
- **Provide feedback:** Offer constructive feedback on students' written and verbal communication to help them improve their skills.
- **Incorporate technology:** Use platforms such as blogs, forums, or video presentations to allow students to communicate in different formats.

Collaborators:
- **Group projects:** Assign collaborative projects where students must work together to achieve a common goal. Rotate group members to encourage interaction with different peers.
- **Establish group norms:** Teach students how to work effectively in teams by setting expectations for communication, participation, and problem-solving.
- **Encourage peer feedback:** Foster an environment where students provide feedback to each other, promoting collaboration and constructive criticism.
- **Use technology for collaboration:** Utilize tools like Google Docs, Slack, or project management software to facilitate online collaboration.

Critical Thinkers:
- **Inquiry-based learning:** Design activities and projects that require students to ask questions, analyze information, and draw conclusions.
- **Problem-solving tasks:** Present students with real-world problems or scenarios that require critical thinking skills to solve.
- **Encourage reflection:** Ask students to reflect on their learning process, challenges faced, and how they overcame them.
- **Debate and discussion:** Engage students in debates or discussions on complex topics, encouraging them to consider different perspectives and defend their own viewpoints.

Creators and Innovators:
- **Project-based learning:** Assign projects that allow students to create something original, such as a product, artwork, or multimedia presentation.
- **Foster creativity:** Provide opportunities for students to brainstorm, experiment, and take risks in their learning.
- **Embrace failure:** Create an environment where failure is viewed as a natural part of the learning process, encouraging students to learn from their mistakes and iterate on their ideas.
- **Integrate technology and maker activities:** Incorporate technology tools, coding, robotics, or maker spaces into the curriculum to encourage hands-on creation and innovation.

It's essential that we create a supportive and engaging learning environment where students have opportunities to develop and practice these core competencies in meaningful ways.

State and District Assessment Windows

MAP
SPRING: April 15-May 3

OST
TES Spring;
ELA (3rd and 5th) – April 10 and 11
ELA (4th) – April 16-17
Math (3rd and 5th) – April 18-19
Math (4th) April 23-24
Science (5th only) – April 25 and 26

TMS Spring;
ELA - April 10 and 11
Math - April 17 and 18
Science - April 24 and 25

THS Spring;
April 15 - American History
April 16 - Biology
April 17 - Government. / ELA II, Pt. 1
April 18 - Algebra, Pt. 1 / ELA II, Pt. 2
April 19 - Algebra, Pt. 2 / Geometry

Empower Everyone, Everyday

WE ARE TALLMADGE

MTSS

MTSS can effectively support the development of core competencies through its multi-tiered approach. Here's how MTSS can support each competency:

Communicators:
- **Universal screening and progress monitoring:** MTSS includes regular assessment and monitoring of students' communication skills. Teachers can use data from these assessments to identify students who may need additional support in communication and tailor interventions accordingly.
- **Tiered interventions:** MTSS provides tiered levels of support based on student needs. Students who require additional support in communication can receive targeted interventions such as speech therapy, language development programs, or social communication skills training.

Critical Thinkers:
- **Data-informed decision-making:** MTSS relies on data to identify areas where students may need additional support in critical thinking skills. Teachers can use assessment data to target interventions that promote higher-order thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making abilities.
- **Differentiated instruction:** MTSS provides flexible instruction tailored to students' learning needs. Teachers can differentiate instruction to challenge students' critical thinking skills by incorporating inquiry-based learning, problem-solving tasks, and authentic assessments.
- **Tiered interventions:** MTSS offers tiered levels of support, allowing educators to provide targeted interventions for students who struggle with critical thinking skills. These interventions may include small-group instruction, individualized coaching, or specialized enrichment programs.

Collaborators:
- **Positive behavioral supports:** MTSS includes behavioral interventions to promote positive social interactions and collaboration among students. Teachers can implement strategies such as cooperative learning structures, peer mediation, and social skills training to foster collaboration in the classroom.
- **Tiered interventions:** MTSS provides tiered levels of support for students who may struggle with collaboration skills. Interventions may focus on building interpersonal communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution skills through targeted instruction and support.

Creators and Innovators:
- **Differentiated instruction:** MTSS allows educators to differentiate instruction based on students' strengths, interests, and learning styles. Teachers can provide opportunities for creative expression and innovation through project-based learning, inquiry-based tasks, and personalized projects.
- **Tiered interventions:** MTSS provides targeted interventions for students who may need additional support in developing creativity and innovation skills. These interventions may include creative problem-solving workshops, maker spaces, or mentorship programs with industry professionals.

Social Emotional Learning

Building character traits in the classroom requires intentional strategies and experiences. Here's how we can provide experiences that foster these traits:

Empathy:

- *Cultivate a supportive classroom culture:* Create a classroom environment where kindness, understanding, and respect are valued and modeled by both the teacher and students.
- *Promote perspective-taking:* Encourage students to consider the feelings and perspectives of others through activities such as role-playing, literature discussions, or reflective writing.
- *Community service projects:* Engage students in projects that involve serving others in the community, fostering empathy by providing opportunities to understand and address real-world issues.
- *Empathy-building exercises:* Incorporate activities like storytelling, empathy journals, or empathy maps where students explore different perspectives and emotions.

Resilience:

- *Set realistic expectations:* Encourage students to set achievable goals and emphasize the importance of perseverance in overcoming challenges.
- *Teach problem-solving skills:* Provide opportunities for students to practice problem-solving strategies and learn from setbacks.
- *Growth mindset:* Foster a growth mindset culture where mistakes are seen as opportunities for learning and growth rather than failures.
- *Reflective practices:* Encourage students to reflect on their experiences, identify strategies that helped them overcome obstacles, and set goals for improvement.

Productivity:

- *Goal setting:* Help students set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals to increase their motivation and productivity.
- *Time management skills:* Teach students effective time management strategies such as prioritization, creating schedules, and breaking tasks into smaller, manageable steps.
- *Task organization:* Provide tools and strategies to help students organize their tasks, such as to-do lists, calendars, or digital productivity apps.
- *Feedback and reflection:* Offer feedback on students' productivity habits and encourage them to reflect on their work habits and make adjustments as needed.

Self-directed learning:

- *Inquiry-based projects:* Design projects that allow students to explore topics of interest, encouraging autonomy and self-directed learning.
- *Choice and autonomy:* Provide opportunities for students to make choices about their learning, such as selecting topics for research or choosing project formats.
- *Scaffolded independence:* Gradually release responsibility to students by providing support and guidance as needed, allowing them to take ownership of their learning.
- *Reflection and goal-setting:* Encourage students to reflect on their learning progress, identify areas for improvement, and set goals for future learning endeavors.

Personalized Learning

Personalized learning can significantly support the development of the four core competencies: communicators, critical thinkers, collaborators, and creators and innovators:

Communicators: Tailoring instruction to individual needs enables teachers to provide targeted support for language development, verbal expression, and written communication skills.

Critical Thinkers: By allowing students to pursue topics of interest and relevance, personalized learning engages them in meaningful learning experiences that require critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Collaborators: Through personalized group activities and projects, students can develop essential collaboration skills such as communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution. Teachers can facilitate personalized learning communities where students collaborate with peers who have similar interests or goals, fostering a sense of belonging and collective achievement.

Creators and Innovators: Personalized learning empowers students to explore their interests and passions, providing opportunities for creativity and innovation. By allowing students to pursue self-directed projects and inquiry-based learning, personalized learning environments support the development of creative thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education

Top AI Teaching Tools

Question Generator: These AI tools are a great starting point for class discussions, exam prep, and icebreakers. Several can export questions into popular platforms like Kahoot!
- Quizbot
- Quizlet
- Conker
- QuestionWell

Lesson Plan Assistant: These tools will help you build an entire unit focused on specific grades and subjects including learning objectives, instructional resources, and more:
- MagicSchool.AI
- Eduaid.AI
- Copilot
- Curipod

Teaching Assistant: These AI teaching assistants generate instructions for assignments or even support grading to align with rubrics:
- Wolfram Alpha: Step-by-step solutions
- Hello History: "Talk" to historical figures
- GoblinTools: Generates step-by-step to-do list for tasks
- Gradescope: AI-assisted grading

Presentation Assistant: Easily make eye-catching presentations and images to support instruction:
- Canva: Use the Magic Write and Create tools to improve presentations
- DALL-E or Bing Create: Generate images from text
- SlidesAI: Google Slide add-on that automatically creates slides
- Slidesgo: Automatically create slides to download as a PDF or PPT

> **"If real learning is to take place, our classrooms must be dependent on the collaboration of its learners, not solely on the knowledge of its teachers."**
> ~Robert John Meehan

English Learner Services

English Learner Family Toolkit

Interpreter Request Form

Website Information for EL Families

EL Newcomer Students Resources

Gifted Programming

High Quality Professional Development (HQPD) for Gifted Service in General Education Settings;

Professional Development in Gifted Education

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Upcoming Trainings from Summit County ESC;

Summit County ESC Professional Development

Committee Meeting Schedule

- **K-2 Science Content Committee** resource review on Wednesday, April 3 all-day at the Summit County ESC.

- **EL Department Meeting** on Friday, April 5 at 1:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.

- **District Lead Teacher Meeting** on Thursday, April 11 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 230 at TMS.

- **LPDC Meeting** on Thursday, April 18 at 3:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.