

Tallmadge Curriculum

April, 2025
May, 2025

Tallmadge City Schools Directional System



OUR MANTRA

Empower - Everyone, Every Day



OUR VISION

Tallmadge is a collaborative community that empowers every student.



OUR MISSION

Every Tallmadge graduate is successfully employed, enrolled or enlisted.

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The Lasting Impact of Authentic and Personalized Learning

As students graduate and step into the world beyond school, the skills and knowledge they acquire through authentic and personalized learning experiences become invaluable. These approaches to education move beyond rote memorization and standardized testing, instead preparing students for real-world success by fostering critical thinking, adaptability, and self-directed learning.

Authentic Learning: Bridging School and the Real World

Authentic learning connects classroom instruction to real-world applications, engaging students in meaningful, hands-on experiences. Whether through project-based learning, internships, or problem-solving scenarios, this approach ensures that students:

- Develop problem-solving and collaboration skills.
- Gain confidence in tackling real-world challenges.
- Understand how their education applies beyond the classroom.

For example, students who work on a business plan in an entrepreneurship class or participate in a local community service project graduate with practical skills that employers and colleges value.

Personalized Learning: Empowering Students to Own Their Education

Personalized learning tailors education to students' strengths, needs, and interests, giving them greater agency over their learning journey. This fosters:

- **Self-motivation and independence** – Students become lifelong learners who know how to seek knowledge and adapt to new challenges.
- **Greater engagement and mastery** – When students explore topics relevant to their passions and goals, they retain knowledge more effectively.
- **Stronger future-readiness** – Graduates who have experienced personalized learning are better prepared to navigate college, careers, and life, where self-direction and adaptability are essential.

Preparing Students for Lifelong Success

By integrating authentic and personalized learning, educators ensure that students graduate not just with a diploma but with the skills, confidence, and adaptability needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. These approaches prepare students to be problem-solvers, innovative thinkers, and lifelong learners—essential qualities for success in any path they choose.

“Empower students to own their learning experiences in ways that are authentic to their lives now and into the future.”

~Chris Bronke



State and District Assessment Windows

MAP – District Testing Windows

April 21-May 9

TES Spring OST

4/14 - 4th Grade ELA OST (Part I)
4/15 - 3rd & 5th Grade ELA OST (Part I)
4/16 - 4th Grade ELA OST (Part II)
4/17 - 3rd & 5th Grade ELA OST (Part II)
4/22 - 3rd & 5th Grade Math OST (Part I)
4/23 - 4th Grade Math OST (Part I)
4/24 - 3rd & 5th Grade Math OST (Part II)
4/25 - 4th Grade Math OST (Part II)
4/29-4/30 - 5th Grade Science OST

TMS Spring OST

April 9-10 - ELA OST
April 16-17 - Math OST
April 23-24 - Science OST

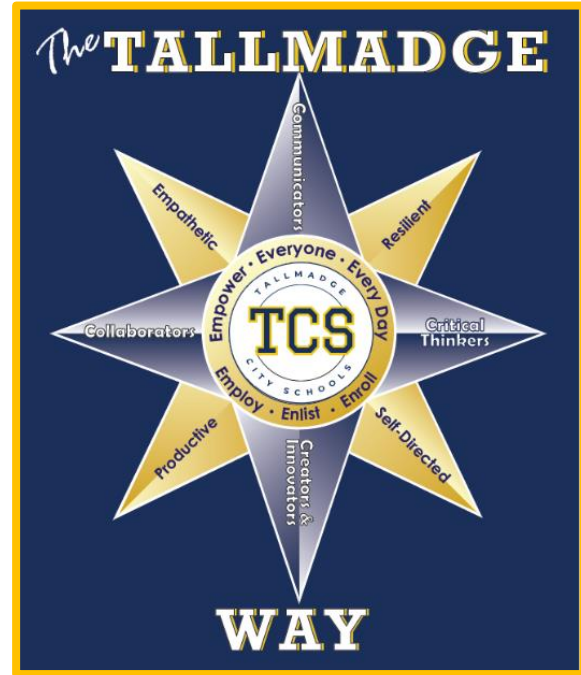
THS Spring OST

April 17 - Biology
April 22 - ELA II, Pt. 1 / Algebra, Pt. 1
April 23 - ELA II, Pt. 2 / Algebra, Pt. 2
April 24 - Geometry
April 25 - American History / U.S. Govt

AASCD

February 24-April 18

**Empower
Everyone,
Every Day**



Social Emotional Learning

The Role of SEL in Operationalizing The Tallmadge Way

SEL is a critical foundation for student success, shaping how they navigate challenges, relationships, and personal growth. SEL directly supports *The Tallmadge Way* by fostering the four key character traits—**Empathetic, Resilient, Productive, and Self-Directed**—that prepare students to thrive academically, socially, and beyond graduation.

How SEL Strengthens The Tallmadge Way

- **Empathetic:** SEL fosters emotional awareness and perspective-taking, strengthening relationships and collaboration.
- **Resilient:** Students learn to manage challenges, persevere, and develop a growth mindset.
- **Productive:** SEL reinforces focus, time management, and teamwork, ensuring students contribute meaningfully.
- **Self-Directed:** By building self-awareness and decision-making skills, SEL empowers students to take ownership of their learning.

Bringing SEL and The Tallmadge Way to Life

Operationalizing *The Tallmadge Way* means embedding SEL into daily instruction, classroom interactions, and school-wide initiatives:

- ✓ Incorporating self-reflection and goal-setting into lessons.
- ✓ Encouraging collaborative projects that build empathy and communication skills.
- ✓ Teaching problem-solving strategies that support resilience.
- ✓ Providing opportunities for student choice and leadership to develop self-direction.

When SEL is woven into the fabric of our schools, students not only excel academically but also develop the character and emotional intelligence to navigate life successfully. By intentionally fostering **empathetic, resilient, productive, and self-directed learners**, we ensure that *The Tallmadge Way* is not just a vision but a lived reality for every student.



The Tallmadge Way



Bringing The Tallmadge Way to Life

Operationalizing **The Tallmadge Way** means transforming its principles into action through intentional practices:

- **Collaboration:** Learning is most impactful when students work together to solve problems, share ideas, and develop solutions. Classrooms should foster teamwork through project-based learning, peer discussions, and real-world problem-solving opportunities.
- **Communication:** Effective communication is key to success in any field. By emphasizing writing, speaking, and digital literacy, educators can help students articulate their ideas clearly and confidently, preparing them for future academic and career opportunities.
- **Critical Thinking:** Encouraging students to analyze information, ask meaningful questions, and approach problems with curiosity ensures they become independent thinkers. Lessons should challenge students to evaluate different perspectives, think logically, and make informed decisions.
- **Creation/Innovation:** Students must be empowered to think creatively and develop original ideas. Through hands-on learning, design thinking, and exploration of new technologies, schools can cultivate an environment where students are encouraged to innovate and take intellectual risks.

The Impact on Students

By embedding these four competencies into instruction, school culture, and community partnerships, Tallmadge students graduate as **collaborative problem-solvers, effective communicators, critical thinkers, and creative innovators**. These skills prepare them not only for success in college and careers but also to be engaged and responsible citizens in an ever-changing world.

Authentic and Personalized Learning

Need Support with PBL and Authentic Learning? Your Coach is Here to Help!

Looking to bring more Project-Based Learning (PBL) and authentic learning into your classroom? Your Building Authentic Learning Coach is here to support you! Whether you're just getting started or looking to refine your approach, they can help with lesson design, resources, and strategies to create meaningful, real-world learning experiences for students.

Reach out today to collaborate and bring The Tallmadge Way to life in your classroom!

TES

Sara Courie -- Catrina Madden

TMS

Chad Nash -- Jen Stewart

THS

Julie Headrick -- Tom Rozborski



Artificial Intelligence *Managing AI Misuse in the Classroom*

As artificial intelligence (AI) tools become more prevalent in education, educators must navigate their responsible use while mitigating misuse. While AI can enhance learning, students may also use it to complete assignments dishonestly, bypass critical thinking, or engage in unethical behavior.

Here are key strategies for managing AI misuse in the classroom:

1. Establish Clear Expectations

Set clear guidelines on how AI can and cannot be used. Define acceptable AI-assisted learning, such as using it for brainstorming or grammar checks, versus inappropriate uses like submitting AI-generated essays as original work.

2. Foster AI Literacy

Teach students about AI's strengths and limitations. Help them understand issues like bias, accuracy, and over-reliance on technology. When students understand how AI works, they can make informed decisions about its use.

3. Use AI-Resistant Assessments

Incorporate assessments that emphasize critical thinking, creativity, and personal reflection—elements that AI struggles to replicate. Examples include in-class writing, discussions, oral presentations, and project-based learning.

4. Leverage AI Detection Tools Thoughtfully

While AI detection tools exist, they are not foolproof. Instead of relying solely on detection, use them as one piece of a broader approach to assessing student learning. Compare students' past work for consistency in writing style and depth of understanding.

5. Encourage Ethical Use of AI

AI isn't going away, so rather than banning it outright, guide students in ethical AI use. Teach them how to use AI as a tool for research, organization, and feedback while ensuring they remain the creators of their own work.

6. Maintain Open Communication

If misuse occurs, address it as a learning opportunity rather than just a punitive measure. Discuss why integrity matters and how misusing AI undermines real learning.

By setting clear expectations, fostering AI literacy, and designing meaningful assessments, educators can ensure that AI is a tool for enhancing learning rather than replacing it. With the right approach, students can learn to use AI responsibly, preparing them for a world where technology and ethical decision-making go hand in hand.

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

- **EL Department Meeting** on Friday, April 4 at 1:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.
- **District Lead Teacher Meeting** on Thursday, April 10 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 230 at TMS.
- **LPDC Meeting** on Thursday, April 17 at 3:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.
- **EL Department Meeting** on Friday, May 2 at 1:15 p.m. in the conference room at the MEC.
- **District Lead Teacher Meeting** on Thursday, May 8 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 230 at TMS.
- **LPDC Work Session** all day on Friday, May 9 in the Conference Room at the MEC.
- **New Teacher Cohort** on Tuesday, May 13 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at THS.