Tallmadge Curriculum

August/September, 2023

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.

"Feedback, reflection, and personalized approaches to learning that take into account the needs of each student are what truly develop effective learners."

Welcome back to another exciting year! As we embark on this journey together, I wanted to extend my gratitude for your unwavering commitment to our students' growth and development. Your passion and dedication make a world of difference in shaping the minds of our learners, and I am thrilled to collaborate with such a talented and caring group of educators.

This year, we are going to amplify our efforts to promote authentic learning experiences for our students. Authentic learning is not just a buzzword; it's a transformative approach that empowers our learners to connect their education to the real world, fostering deeper understanding and practical application of knowledge.

As we embrace authentic learning, here are some key points to keep in mind:

- **Real-World Relevance:** Let's strive to link our lessons to real-world scenarios, challenges, and applications. By demonstrating the practical relevance of what our students are learning, we can ignite their curiosity and motivation.
- **Experiential Learning:** Encourage hands-on experiences, projects, and activities that allow students to learn through doing. Whether it's conducting experiments, engaging in community service, or solving problems collaboratively, these experiences leave a lasting impact.
- **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** Foster an environment where students are encouraged to think critically and solve problems independently. This approach nurtures their problem-solving skills and prepares them for life beyond the classroom.
- **Student-Centered Approach:** Tailor our teaching to the individual needs and interests of each student. By recognizing and respecting their diverse strengths, we can create a more inclusive and effective learning environment.
- **Feedback and Reflection:** Regularly provide constructive feedback and encourage self-reflection. This helps students to understand their progress and identify areas for improvement, promoting continuous growth.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Emphasize teamwork and collaboration. Encouraging students to work together enhances their communication skills and exposes them to diverse perspectives.
- **Incorporate Technology:** Integrate relevant technologies to enhance learning experiences. Technology can provide access to vast resources, facilitate research, and encourage creativity.
- **Cultivate Lifelong Learners:** Instill a love for learning that extends far beyond the classroom. Our ultimate goal is to nurture lifelong learners who seek knowledge proactively and embrace personal growth throughout their lives.

Let's collaborate, support one another, and lead by example as we create an educational environment that empowers our students to become confident, capable, and compassionate individuals.

Here's to an enriching and successful year filled with authentic learning experiences!

State and District Assessment Windows

CogAT
October 9-13 for 2nd and 5th grade students only

MAP
FALL: August 28-September 15
WINTER: December 18-22/January 8-12
SPRING: April 15-May 3

OST
FALL:
Third Grade ELA: District testing window October 30-November 3
SPRING:
ELA April 8-26
Math/Science/Social Studies April 15- May 3

FALL 2023 TEST ADMINISTRATION WINDOWS
» **Fall Grade 3 English language arts:** Oct. 16-Nov. 3, 2023
- Five consecutive school days, including makeups
» **Fall high school end-of-course:** Nov. 27, 2023-Jan. 12, 2024
- 15 consecutive school days, including makeups

SPRING 2024 TEST ADMINISTRATION WINDOWS
» **Spring English language arts:** March 25-April 26, 2024
- 15 consecutive school days, including makeups
» **Spring math/science/social studies:** April 1-May 10, 2024
- 15 consecutive school days, including makeups

SUMMER 2024 TEST ADMINISTRATION WINDOWS
» **Summer Grade 3 English language arts:** June 24-28, 2024
» **Summer high school end-of-course:** June 24-July 5, 2024

ACT
February 27, 2024 **(Juniors only)**

AASCD (Alternate Assessment)
February 26-April 19

EOC
November 27-January 12

OELPS (Screener)
Opens August 2

OELPA (Assessment)
January 29-March 22

Empower Everyone, Everyday

MTSS

MTSS is not just a set of strategies; it's a philosophy that places students at the core of our educational practices. Through its multi-tiered approach, MTSS facilitates early identification of academic, social, emotional, and behavioral challenges, allowing us to intervene proactively and provide targeted support.

- **Equity and Inclusivity:** MTSS ensures that every student, regardless of their background or abilities, receives the necessary support to succeed academically and socially. It enables us to address disparities and promote equitable opportunities for all.
- **Data-Informed Decision Making:** By collecting and analyzing data at various tiers, we gain valuable insights into our students' progress. This data-driven decision-making process helps us tailor interventions and instruction to meet individual needs.
- **Early Intervention:** MTSS emphasizes the early identification of struggling students. By detecting challenges at their onset, we can intervene promptly, preventing further academic setbacks and fostering a positive learning experience.
- **Personalized Learning:** With MTSS, we can differentiate instruction to match the unique learning styles, strengths, and weaknesses of our students. This personalized approach enhances engagement and academic growth.
- **Collaborative Teamwork:** The MTSS process encourages collaboration among teachers, support staff, administrators, and families. Working as a cohesive team, we can pool our expertise and resources to better support each student's journey.
- **Holistic Development:** Beyond academics, MTSS acknowledges the importance of addressing social-emotional and behavioral needs. Nurturing students' holistic development fosters a positive school climate and enhances overall well-being.
- **Continuous Progress Monitoring:** MTSS involves ongoing assessment and progress monitoring. This allows us to track students' development, celebrate their successes, and make timely adjustments when needed.

By embracing the MTSS process, we demonstrate our commitment to fostering a learning environment where every student can thrive. MTSS is a reflection of our core values as educators – empathy, care, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of our students and empower them for a brighter future.

Social Emotional Learning

Beyond academics, our role as educators encompasses fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment where our students can thrive emotionally and mentally.

Why is it crucial to prioritize social and emotional support?

- **Holistic Development:** When we address the social and emotional needs of our learners, we contribute to their holistic development. Emotional well-being is intrinsically linked to academic success, personal growth, and building healthy relationships.
- **Positive School Climate:** A supportive school climate, where students feel valued, respected, and safe, promotes a sense of belonging and connectedness. This positive atmosphere enhances learning experiences and encourages students to actively engage in their education.
- **Resilience and Coping Skills**: By providing social and emotional support, we equip our students with essential resilience and coping skills. These skills are invaluable in navigating challenges, setbacks, and stress, both inside and outside the classroom.
- **Improved Focus and Learning:** When students feel emotionally secure, they can better focus on their studies and absorb information effectively. An emotionally balanced mind is more receptive to learning and critical thinking.
- **Social Skills Development:** Supporting social and emotional needs helps students develop strong interpersonal skills, empathy, and emotional intelligence. These skills are fundamental in forming positive relationships and being successful in various life settings.
- **Preventing Mental Health Issues:** Early intervention and emotional support can help prevent the escalation of mental health issues. A caring and attentive approach from teachers can make a significant difference in a student's well-being.
- **Fostering a Sense of Purpose:** When students feel that their social and emotional needs are recognized and supported, they develop a sense of purpose and motivation to achieve their goals.
- **Lifelong Benefits:** The social and emotional skills our students acquire in school are essential for their personal and professional lives. By nurturing these skills, we empower them to become emotionally resilient and compassionate individuals throughout adulthood.

Personalized Learning

> "Traditional teaching is something that is given to you. Personalized Learning is something you seek."

At the heart of our educational philosophy lies the belief that each student is unique, with distinct learning styles, strengths, and interests. Embracing personalized learning is our commitment to nurturing the potential within every learner and empowering them to flourish.

Why is personalized learning so crucial?

- **Tailored Learning Experience:** Personalized learning allows us to customize the learning experience for each student. By acknowledging their individual needs and preferences, we can present information in ways that resonate with them, fostering a deeper understanding of the subject matter.
- **Enhanced Student Engagement:** When students feel that their education is relevant and catered to their interests, they become more engaged in the learning process. This heightened engagement ignites curiosity and fuels a passion for learning.
- **Addressing Learning Differences:** Every student learns at their own pace and may have varying learning challenges. Personalized learning enables us to address these differences and provide appropriate support, ensuring that no student is left behind.
- **Promotes Ownership of Learning:** When students are active participants in their learning journey, they develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for their education. This ownership cultivates self-motivation and a lifelong love for learning.
- **Nurturing Critical Thinking:** Personalized learning encourages students to explore topics that align with their interests. This exploration fosters critical thinking skills as they question, analyze, and develop their perspectives on the subject matter.
- **Diverse Learning Pathways:** By adopting personalized learning, we can offer diverse learning pathways to accommodate varied interests and career aspirations. This versatility allows students to pursue their passions while still meeting academic requirements.
- **Positive School Climate:** As we embrace personalized learning, our classrooms become inclusive, supportive, and respectful environments. Each student feels seen, valued, and understood, fostering a positive school culture.
- **Preparing for the Future:** In an ever-changing world, adaptability and continuous learning are essential. Personalized learning equips our students with the skills they need to thrive in a dynamic and evolving society.

Your role as educators in personalized learning is paramount. Your deep understanding of your students' unique needs, aspirations, and challenges allows you to tailor instruction and create enriching learning experiences.

Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education

AI has the potential to revolutionize the way we teach and empower our students to achieve new heights of academic success and personal growth.

Why is AI a game-changer for education?

- **Personalized Learning:** AI can analyze vast amounts of data to understand each student's learning style, strengths, and weaknesses. By leveraging this information, we can deliver personalized learning experiences tailored to individual needs, interests, and paces.
- **Data-Driven Insights:** AI-powered analytics provide deep insights into student progress, allowing us to make data-driven decisions about instructional approaches and interventions. This enables us to identify challenges early and provide timely support.
- **Adaptive Learning Tools:** AI-driven adaptive learning platforms can dynamically adjust the difficulty and content of educational materials based on a student's performance. This ensures that every student is challenged at the appropriate level.
- **Efficient Assessment and Grading:** AI can streamline the assessment and grading process, freeing up valuable time for teachers to focus on providing feedback and engaging with students.
- **Virtual Tutors and Mentors:** AI chatbots and virtual tutors can offer instant assistance and support to students, extending learning opportunities beyond traditional classroom hours.
- **Enhanced Content Creation:** AI tools can assist in creating and curating educational content, offering diverse resources that cater to various learning styles.
- **Early Intervention:** AI can help identify potential learning difficulties and provide early intervention strategies, ensuring that students receive the support they need to succeed.
- **Professional Development:** AI-powered tools can facilitate personalized professional development for educators, helping them continuously improve their teaching practices.

Embracing AI does not mean replacing teachers; rather, it compliments your expertise and dedication. Your role as educators is irreplaceable in fostering meaningful connections with students, providing mentorship, and inspiring a love for learning. AI empowers you with valuable insights and tools to enhance your teaching effectiveness, making your impact even more profound. Let's be open to experimentation, collaboration, and continuous learning as we integrate AI into our classrooms.

English Learner Services

Interpreter Request Form

How to Set Preferred Language in Remind for Parents

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

- **Professional Development Committee Meeting** on Tuesday, August 29 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.
- **Teacher Evaluation Committee Meeting** at 3:45 p.m. via Google Meet.
- **EL Department Meeting** on Friday, September 1 at 1:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.
- **SAVVAS Social Studies Resource Training** for 3-12 staff on September 5-8 in respective buildings.
  **September 5 – Grades 3-5 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Virtual)
  Grades 6-8 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. (Virtual)
  **September 6 – Grades 9-12 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Virtual)
- **Art Department Meeting** on Thursday, September 7 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at TES.
- **Authentic Learning Steering Committee Meeting** on Wednesday, September 13 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Library at THS.
- **District Lead Teacher Meeting** on Thursday, September 14 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 230 at TMS.
- **New Teacher Cohort** on Tuesday, September 19 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Library at THS.
- **LPDC Meeting** on Thursday, September 21 at 3:35 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.