

# Tallmadge Curriculum

December, 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.

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“Only 15% of job success comes from technical skills and knowledge. The other 85% comes from well-developed soft skills.”

## Personalized Learning: Nurturing Individual Potential

Recognizing the unique strengths, interests, and learning styles of each student, personalized learning tailors instruction to meet individual needs. By embracing this approach, we empower students to take ownership of their education, fostering a sense of agency and self-motivation.

### Real-World Connections: Bridging the Gap

The integration of real-world connections into classroom activities is an essential component of 21st-century education. It goes beyond traditional rote learning and enables students to apply knowledge in practical, meaningful ways.

### Ways to Foster Real-World Connections:

- Project-Based Learning (PBL): PBL engages students in real-world problem-solving, encouraging critical thinking and collaboration. Students can apply their knowledge to create solutions for authentic challenges.
- Guest Speakers and Field Trips: Inviting experts or organizing field trips exposes students to professionals in various fields, connecting classroom learning to real-world applications.
- Technology Integration: Leveraging technology tools and resources helps bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world. Virtual simulations, online collaborations, and digital projects provide hands-on experiences.

### Alignment with State Learning Standards: A Holistic Approach

While embracing personalized learning and real-world connections, it's crucial to ensure alignment with state learning standards. This integration enhances the educational experience by meeting the necessary benchmarks while promoting a more comprehensive understanding of content.

### Key Considerations:

- Curriculum Mapping: Ensure that personalized learning plans and real-world activities are mapped to state standards, guaranteeing a cohesive and standards-driven educational experience.
- Assessment Strategies: Develop assessments that measure both traditional standards and the skills acquired through personalized learning and real-world applications.
- Collaboration: Foster collaboration among educators to share best practices and create a unified approach to personalized learning that aligns with state standards.

By combining personalized learning with real-world connections, we empower students to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and lifelong learners. As we navigate the educational landscape together, let's continue to champion innovation, individuality, and the pursuit of knowledge.





## State and District Assessment Windows

### MAP

WINTER: December 18-22/January 8-12

SPRING: April 15-May 3

### OST

#### THS Semester 1:

December 4 - American History

December 5 - Biology

December 6 - Govt. / ELA II, Pt. 1

December 7 - Alg., Pt. 1 / ELA II, Pt. 2

December 8 - Alg., Pt. 2 / Geometry

#### TMS Spring:

ELA - April 10 and 11

Math - April 17 and 18

Science - April 24 and 25

### 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

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Everyday**



## MTSS

When implemented effectively, MTSS can synergize with personalized learning and real-world connections, creating a comprehensive approach to education that meets the unique needs of each student while preparing them for the challenges of the real world. Here's how MTSS implementation can support these goals:

**Personalized Learning Pathways:** MTSS allows educators to identify students' individual strengths, challenges, and learning styles through ongoing assessment and data analysis. This information can be used to tailor instruction to meet the specific needs of each student, creating personalized learning pathways that align with their abilities and interests.

**Targeted Interventions:** The tiered structure of MTSS provides a framework for delivering targeted interventions to students who may need additional support. This personalized approach ensures that students receive the specific assistance they require to succeed, fostering a sense of self-efficacy and promoting a positive attitude toward learning.

**Real-World Relevance in Instruction:** By incorporating real-world applications into the curriculum, educators can enhance the relevance of learning experiences. MTSS allows for the identification of students who may benefit from more practical, hands-on approaches, ensuring that they can connect classroom learning to real-world scenarios.

**Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Integration:** MTSS recognizes the importance of addressing students' social-emotional needs. Integrating SEL components into personalized learning plans enhances students' emotional intelligence, resilience, and interpersonal skills, preparing them for the complexities of real-world interactions and relationships.

**Flexible Grouping and Collaborative Learning:** MTSS supports flexible grouping strategies, allowing educators to organize students based on their current needs. This flexibility enables collaborative learning experiences where students with different abilities work together, fostering a sense of community and providing opportunities for peer support and mentorship.

**Data-Informed Decision Making:** MTSS relies on continuous data collection and analysis to inform instructional decisions. This data-driven approach ensures that educators have up-to-date information on student progress, allowing them to adjust personalized learning plans and interventions as needed to keep students on track.

**College and Career Readiness:** MTSS can incorporate elements that align with college and career readiness standards. By addressing academic and behavioral challenges in a timely manner, MTSS helps ensure that students are well-prepared for the demands of higher education and the workforce, making the connection between education and real-world success explicit.

By combining the principles of MTSS with personalized learning and real-world connections, educators can create a dynamic and responsive learning environment that addresses the diverse needs of students while preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of the real world. This integrated approach supports a holistic view of education, emphasizing academic, social-emotional, and career readiness for all learners.



## Social Emotional Learning

Personalized learning and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) are both powerful educational approaches that, when integrated effectively, can significantly enhance students' overall development. Here's how personalized learning can support and align with the goals of Social-Emotional Learning:

- **Goal Setting and Reflection:** Personalized learning often involves setting individualized learning goals. This process encourages students to reflect on their strengths and areas for growth, fostering self-awareness and a sense of purpose. Aligning these goals with SEL competencies such as self-awareness and self-management promotes holistic development.
- **Student Agency and Responsibility:** Personalized learning empowers students to take an active role in their education. This increased agency and responsibility contribute to the development of social-emotional skills, including self-efficacy, self-discipline, and a sense of accountability for one's own learning and behavior.
- **Collaborative Learning Opportunities:** Personalized learning doesn't mean isolated learning. Collaborative projects and group activities can be incorporated into personalized learning approaches. Working together on tasks, students practice communication, teamwork, and relationship-building skills—key components of social-emotional competence.
- **Flexible Learning Environments:** Personalized learning often involves flexible learning environments, allowing students to choose how, when, and where they learn best. This flexibility supports the social-emotional needs of students by providing a learning environment that accommodates various preferences and allows for self-expression.
- **Emphasis on Intrinsic Motivation:** Personalized learning is often designed to tap into students' intrinsic motivation by connecting learning experiences to their interests and aspirations. This approach aligns with SEL principles, emphasizing the development of a growth mindset, motivation, and a sense of purpose.
- **Teacher-Student Relationships:** Personalized learning allows educators to build stronger one-on-one relationships with students. These positive teacher-student relationships are crucial for fostering a supportive and emotionally safe learning environment, contributing to students' social-emotional well-being.

By intertwining personalized learning with Social-Emotional Learning, educators can create a learning environment that not only addresses academic needs but also nurtures the holistic development of students, preparing them for success in both their academic and personal lives.

## Personalized Learning

### *Personalized Learning and our Portrait of a Graduate*

By embracing the principles reflected in our Portrait of a Graduate, we are not just educators; we are architects of a future generation equipped with the skills to navigate an ever-evolving world.

#### **1. Collaborators in the Making:**

Encourage collaboration through group projects, peer mentoring, and cooperative learning experiences. By working together, students develop teamwork skills, learn to appreciate diverse perspectives, and cultivate a sense of collective responsibility.

#### **2. Effective Communicators:**

Incorporate activities that emphasize effective communication, such as presentations, debates, and collaborative writing projects. These opportunities not only enhance verbal and written communication skills but also foster the ability to listen actively and respond thoughtfully.

#### **3. Nurturing Empathy:**

Integrate literature, historical studies, and experiential activities that prompt students to understand and appreciate diverse cultures, perspectives, and experiences. Empathy is a cornerstone of global citizenship and a skill that will serve students well in all aspects of life.

#### **4. Resilience Builders:**

Guide students through challenges that require perseverance and adaptability. Whether it's overcoming obstacles in a project or dealing with setbacks, these experiences cultivate resilience and teach students to view failures as opportunities for growth.

#### **5. Critical Thinking Initiatives:**

Design learning experiences that prompt students to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information. Incorporate problem-solving scenarios, case studies, and discussions that require students to think critically and apply their knowledge to real-world situations.

#### **6. Self-Directed Learners:**

Foster a sense of autonomy by providing opportunities for students to choose topics of interest, set learning goals, and manage their time effectively. This not only enhances their self-directed learning skills but also instills a sense of ownership over their education.

#### **7. Productivity in Action:**

Integrate project-based learning and time management activities to cultivate a sense of productivity. Students can plan, execute, and reflect on their work, developing organizational skills that will serve them well in future endeavors.

#### **8. Innovation Catalysts:**

Encourage creativity by incorporating open-ended projects, design thinking challenges, and opportunities for students to explore their passions. This sparks innovation and prepares students to be adaptable in an ever-changing landscape.

**Our Collective Mission:** As educators, our mission extends beyond imparting knowledge. We are sculptors of character, builders of resilience, and architects of future leaders. By infusing personalized learning opportunities into our classrooms, we pave the way for students to not only succeed academically but also thrive as collaborators, communicators, empathetic individuals, resilient problem solvers, critical thinkers, self-directed learners, productive contributors, and innovators.



## Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education

### How can AI Help to Build Soft Skills?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to play a significant role in fostering the development of soft skills in students. Here are several ways in which AI can contribute to building these crucial skills:

- **Personalized Learning Paths:** AI can analyze individual learning styles, preferences, and performance data to tailor educational content, adapting to the unique needs of each student. This personalized approach allows students to learn at their own pace, reinforcing skills like self-direction and adaptability.
- **Interactive Virtual Environments:** AI-powered simulations and virtual environments can provide students with realistic scenarios to navigate. These environments offer opportunities to practice communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills in a controlled and safe setting, enhancing their ability to interact effectively in real-world situations.
- **Feedback and Assessment:** AI algorithms can provide instant and constructive feedback on students' work, helping them understand their strengths and areas for improvement. This immediate feedback loop contributes to the development of resilience and a growth mindset, as students learn to embrace challenges as opportunities for learning and improvement.
- **Language Processing for Communication Skills:** Natural Language Processing (NLP) technology allows AI to analyze and assess students' written and verbal communication. AI tools can provide insights into language use, tone, and clarity, helping students refine their communication skills and promoting effective expression.
- **Emotional Intelligence Training:** AI can be used to create virtual scenarios that evoke emotional responses, helping students develop emotional intelligence. Through interactions with AI-driven characters, students can practice recognizing and responding to emotions, empathy, and conflict resolution skills.
- **Collaborative AI Projects:** AI can facilitate collaborative projects by intelligently assigning roles, suggesting tasks, and supporting communication within teams. This fosters teamwork, adaptability, and leadership skills as students work together to achieve common goals.
- **Adaptive Learning Platforms:** AI-driven adaptive learning platforms can identify areas where students may be struggling and provide additional support or alternative learning materials. This adaptability ensures that students receive the resources they need, promoting a growth mindset and perseverance.
- **Cultural Awareness and Inclusivity:** AI can expose students to diverse perspectives and cultures by curating content that reflects a wide range of experiences. This exposure contributes to the development of cultural awareness, open-mindedness, and global citizenship.

While AI offers exciting opportunities to enhance soft skills development, it's crucial to integrate these technologies thoughtfully and ethically, ensuring a balanced approach that complements traditional teaching methods. Additionally, fostering human connections and mentorship remains essential in the holistic development of students' soft skills.

## English Learner Services

[Interpreter Request Form](#)

## Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Upcoming Trainings from Summit County ESC;

[Summit County ESC Professional Development](#)

## Gifted Programming

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

[Professional Development in Gifted Education](#)

### Committee Meeting Schedule

- **Personalized Learning TRANSFORM Team Meeting** in Columbus on Thursday, December 7 (all-day).
- **EL Department Meeting** on Friday, December 8 at 1:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.
- **ELA Content Committee Meeting** on Tuesday, December 12 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Library at THS.
- **District Lead Teacher Meeting** on Thursday, December 14 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 230 at TMS.