

Tallmadge Curriculum

February, 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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10 Project Ideas Aligned with The Tallmadge Way:

1. Community Impact Proposal

Students identify a local issue, such as food insecurity or environmental sustainability, and develop a proposal to address it. They present their solutions to community leaders or organizations.

Skills: Critical thinking, communication, collaboration

2. Entrepreneurial Challenge

Students create a small business or product idea that solves a real-world problem. They develop a business plan, budget, and marketing strategy, culminating in a pitch presentation to a panel.

Skills: Creativity, problem-solving, financial literacy

3. Cultural Exchange Showcase

Students research a culture different from their own and create a presentation, performance, or artifact to share what they've learned. Partnering with students from other schools or countries can enhance the experience.

Skills: Global awareness, empathy, communication

4. Environmental Action Plan

Students investigate an environmental issue (e.g., water conservation or pollution) and design a plan to improve the situation. This could include a school-based initiative, such as creating a recycling program.

Skills: Sustainability, leadership, problem-solving

5. Oral History Project

Students interview members of their community about historical events, family traditions, or personal experiences. They compile the stories into a book, podcast, or video series.

Skills: Communication, empathy, research

6. STEM Innovation Challenge

Students work in teams to tackle a STEM-related problem, such as designing a sustainable building or creating an assistive technology device. They prototype and test their solutions, documenting the process.

Skills: Collaboration, innovation, analytical thinking

7. Advocacy Campaign

Students select a cause they are passionate about and develop an awareness campaign. This could include creating posters, social media content, or a public service announcement.

Skills: Leadership, communication, digital literacy

8. Career Exploration Fair

Students research a career field of interest and create an interactive display to share with peers. They can include interviews with professionals, hands-on activities, and multimedia presentations.

Skills: Self-awareness, goal setting, communication

9. Global Connections Pen Pal Program

Partner with a classroom in another country to exchange letters, videos, or collaborative projects. Focus on understanding cultural similarities and differences while building global friendships.

Skills: Global citizenship, empathy, collaboration

10. Health and Wellness Initiative

Students research physical or mental health topics and create resources, such as guides, videos, or workshops, to promote wellness in their school or community.

Skills: Responsibility, leadership, research

“The best learning happens in real life with real problems and real people.”

~Charles Handy



State and District Assessment Windows

MAP – District Testing Windows

April 21-May 9

TES Spring 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

ACT

February 25, 2025 (Juniors only)

AASCD

February 24-April 18

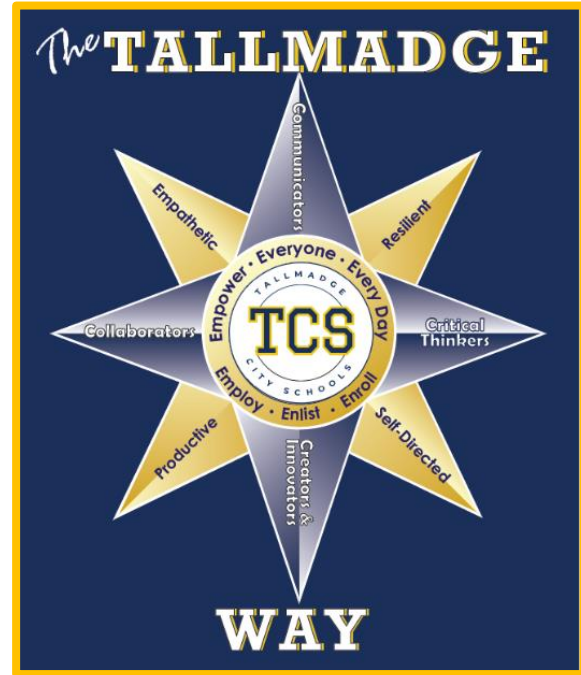
OELPA - Ohio English Language Proficiency Tests

Screener: Aug. 6, 2024-June 30, 2025

Assessment: Feb. 3-March 28, 2025

Alternate Assessment: Feb. 3-March 28, 2025

**Empower
Everyone,
Every Day**



Social Emotional Learning

The link between SEL and Academic Achievement

Here are some of the ways SEL directly supports academic success:

- **Improved Focus and Engagement:** When students are emotionally regulated and feel a sense of belonging, they can focus better on their learning tasks.
- **Enhanced Problem-Solving Skills:** SEL equips students with the tools to approach academic challenges creatively and persistently.
- **Positive Classroom Climate:** A classroom that prioritizes respect and empathy creates a safe space where students are more willing to take academic risks.
- **Higher Attendance Rates:** Students who feel connected to their peers and teachers are more likely to attend school consistently, which is critical for academic success.

Practical Strategies to Integrate SEL into Instruction:

- **Morning Meetings and Check-Ins:** Begin the day with a quick check-in to help students identify their emotions and set a positive tone for learning.
- **Collaborative Learning Opportunities:** Use group activities to build teamwork and interpersonal skills.
- **Reflective Journaling:** Encourage students to reflect on their feelings, challenges, and successes to build self-awareness.
- **Incorporate SEL into Academic Lessons:** Design activities that blend SEL with subject matter, such as analyzing characters' emotions in literature or exploring ethical dilemmas in history.
- **Model SEL Skills:** Demonstrate active listening, empathy, and effective conflict resolution to show students how these skills are applied in real life.

Assessing SEL's Impact on Academics: To measure the effectiveness of SEL integration, consider tracking both qualitative and quantitative data:

- **Student Feedback:** Use surveys or discussions to gather insights on how SEL practices impact their learning experience.
- **Academic Performance:** Monitor changes in grades, test scores, and participation rates.
- **Behavioral Metrics:** Track improvements in classroom behavior, attendance, and disciplinary incidents.



The Tallmadge Way



The Tallmadge Way serves as a guiding vision, outlining the skills, mindsets, and dispositions students need to thrive in an ever-changing world. To make this vision meaningful, we are embedding it into daily instruction, curriculum, and school culture. This means designing lessons that foster critical thinking, collaboration, and adaptability while connecting learning to real-world contexts through authentic and personalized experiences like project-based learning and community partnerships.

A key part of this work involves creating a continuum of experiences that builds these competencies over time. From early exploration in elementary classrooms to deeper, real-world applications in middle and high school, we ensure every student has opportunities to develop and apply these essential skills in meaningful ways.

By aligning assessments and instructional practices with The Tallmadge Way, we ensure students are not only gaining academic knowledge but also developing the competencies needed to succeed beyond school. As we continue this work, we remain committed to preparing future-ready learners who can confidently navigate a complex and interconnected world. Together, we are transforming this vision into a reality for every student in Tallmadge.

Authentic and Personalized Learning

Coaches Corner: Your Authentic Learning Partners

Did you know that each building has two dedicated Authentic Learning Coaches ready to support you? These coaches are here to help you bring innovative and meaningful learning experiences to life for your students. Whether you need assistance brainstorming project ideas, designing lessons aligned with The Tallmadge Way, or integrating real-world connections into your curriculum, they're just a conversation away!

How Your Coaches Can Help

- Collaborating on lesson and project design
- Providing resources and tools to support authentic learning
- Offering guidance on student-centered strategies
- Supporting professional growth through personalized coaching sessions

Don't hesitate to reach out to your building's Authentic Learning Coaches to explore how they can support you in enhancing student engagement and success. Together, let's continue to create learning experiences that inspire and empower!

TES

Sara Courie -- Catrina Madden

TMS

Chad Nash -- Jen Stewart

THS

Julie Headrick -- Tom Rozborski



Artificial Intelligence *Teaching Students to Use AI Responsibly*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an integral part of our world, shaping industries and transforming the way we interact with technology. As educators, it's crucial to equip students with the skills and knowledge to use AI tools effectively and ethically. Teaching students to navigate AI responsibly not only prepares them for future opportunities but also ensures they approach this powerful technology with a critical and informed perspective.

Understanding AI and Its Applications: Before students can use AI responsibly, they need a foundational understanding of what AI is and how it works. Begin by explaining:

- **What AI Is:** AI refers to computer systems designed to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as problem-solving, language understanding, and pattern recognition.
- **Where AI Is Used:** Highlight everyday examples, like virtual assistants (Siri, Alexa), recommendation systems (Netflix, Spotify), and tools like ChatGPT or Grammarly. By making these connections, students can see the relevance of AI in their daily lives and its broader societal impact.

Ethical Considerations in AI Use: Students must understand the ethical implications of AI to use it responsibly. Key topics to explore include:

- **Bias and Fairness:** Discuss how AI systems can inherit biases from their training data and why it's essential to question outputs.
- **Privacy and Security:** Emphasize the importance of protecting personal information and being cautious about sharing sensitive data with AI tools.
- **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:** Teach students that while AI can assist with generating ideas or refining work, copying AI-generated content without attribution is unethical.
- **Accountability:** Remind students that they are responsible for how they use AI and should critically evaluate its outputs rather than accepting them at face value.

Best Practices for Responsible AI Use: Here are practical strategies to guide students in using AI tools effectively and responsibly:

- **Use AI as a Tool, Not a Crutch:** Encourage students to use AI to enhance their learning rather than replace critical thinking. For example, they can use AI for brainstorming, summarizing information, or practicing problem-solving.
- **Verify Information:** Teach students to cross-check AI-generated content with reliable sources to ensure accuracy and relevance.
- **Cite AI Tools Appropriately:** Provide guidance on how to acknowledge the use of AI tools in their work, just as they would cite other sources.
- **Ask the Right Questions:** Help students craft clear, specific prompts when using AI tools to get more meaningful and relevant responses.

Activities to Promote Responsible AI Use: Incorporate hands-on activities to help students practice responsible AI use:

- **Ethics Debate:** Present scenarios involving AI use (e.g., facial recognition, deepfakes) and have students discuss the ethical implications.
- **AI Literacy Projects:** Assign projects where students explore how AI works, its benefits, and its challenges in a specific field.
- **Problem-Solving with AI:** Challenge students to use AI tools to brainstorm solutions to real-world problems, emphasizing collaboration and critical thinking.

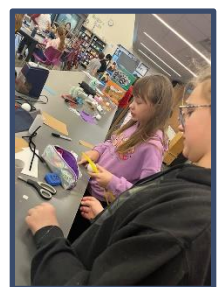
English Learner Services

[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, February 7 at 1:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.
- **Math Content Committee Meeting** on Wednesday, February 12 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at THS.
- **District Lead Teacher Meeting** on Thursday, February 13 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 245 at TES.
- **District Staff Professional Development Day** on Friday, February 14 all day at the K-8 Campus.
- **Professional Development Committee Meeting** on Thursday, February 20 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.
- **LPDC Meeting** on Thursday, February 20 at 3:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.