

# Tallmadge Curriculum

January, 2024

## 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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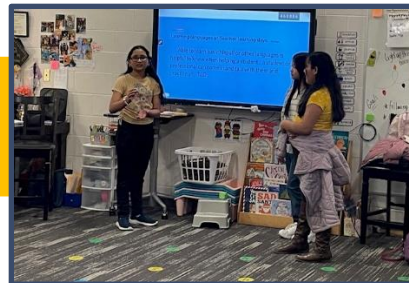
## Personalized Learning: Employ, Enlist, Enroll

Personalized learning can be a powerful tool to support the goal of preparing students for employment, enrollment in higher education, or enlistment in the military. By tailoring education to individual needs, interests, and aspirations, personalized learning can better equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in various post-graduation pathways.

- **Career Exploration and Exposure:** Personalized learning can incorporate opportunities for students to explore different careers and industries based on their interests. Through internships, virtual experiences, or project-based learning, students can gain insights into various professions and make more informed decisions about their future paths.
- **Flexible Pace of Learning:** Personalized learning accommodates students who may need more time to master certain concepts or skills. This flexibility ensures that each student can progress at their own pace, reducing the risk of leaving students behind and providing a solid foundation for future learning and career pursuits.
- **Real-World Application of Knowledge:** Personalized learning often emphasizes the application of knowledge to real-world scenarios. This approach helps students see the relevance of their education to their future careers and fosters a deeper understanding of how academic concepts translate into practical skills.
- **Project-Based Learning (PBL):** PBL is a common component of personalized learning. By engaging in hands-on projects, students can develop problem-solving skills, collaboration, and critical thinking—all of which are valuable in various career settings.
- **Self-Directed Learning and Initiative:** Personalized learning encourages students to take ownership of their education. This sense of autonomy fosters self-directed learning and initiative, qualities that are highly valued in the workforce and essential for success in higher education or military service.
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** SEL is often integrated into personalized learning programs. Emotional intelligence, resilience, and interpersonal skills are crucial in any career or educational setting. SEL helps students develop the social and emotional skills needed to navigate diverse workplace environments.
- **Technology and Digital Literacy:** Personalized learning often involves the use of technology. This exposure helps students develop digital literacy skills, which are increasingly important in today's workforce. Familiarity with technology tools can give students a competitive edge in various professions.
- **Tailored College and Career Guidance:** Personalized learning programs can offer tailored guidance and counseling services to help students explore and pursue post-secondary education or career options. This can include assistance with college applications, career assessments, and guidance on military enlistment.
- **Alignment with Industry Standards:** Personalized learning can be designed to align with industry standards and expectations. This ensures that students are acquiring the skills and knowledge relevant to the current demands of the workforce, making them more marketable to employers.
- **Continuous Learning and Adaptability:** Personalized learning instills a mindset of continuous learning and adaptability. In rapidly changing industries, the ability to learn new skills and adapt to evolving technologies is crucial. Personalized learning helps students develop a growth mindset and the resilience needed for a dynamic workforce.

“Personalized Learning provides that critical preparation for students, and in the process keeps them engaged and excited about learning.”

The customization of learning experiences ensures that students are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in their chosen paths.



## State and District Assessment Windows

### MAP

WINTER: December 18-22/January 8-12

SPRING: April 15-May 3

### OST

#### TES Spring:

ELA (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>) – April 10 and 11

ELA (4<sup>th</sup>) – April 16-17

Math (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>) – April 18-19

Math (4<sup>th</sup>) April 23-24

Science (5<sup>th</sup> 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

### 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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Everyone,  
Everyday**



## MTSS

While MTSS primarily addresses academic and behavioral concerns, its principles can indirectly support the development of empathy in students. Here's how MTSS can contribute to fostering empathy:

- **Early Identification of Needs:** MTSS emphasizes early identification of students who may need additional support, whether academically or behaviorally. By recognizing and addressing challenges early on, educators can create a supportive environment that promotes understanding and empathy for students with diverse needs.
- **Tiered Interventions:** MTSS provides tiered interventions, offering varying levels of support based on individual student needs. This approach recognizes that students have different strengths and challenges, encouraging educators to tailor interventions that consider the unique circumstances of each learner. This personalized support can foster empathy among educators and students alike.
- **Collaborative Problem-Solving:** MTSS promotes a collaborative approach to problem-solving. Teachers, support staff, and specialists work together to address student needs. This collaborative effort encourages empathy by fostering a sense of shared responsibility for each student's well-being and success.
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Integration:** MTSS can integrate social-emotional learning components, addressing not only academic concerns but also the social and emotional well-being of students. SEL programs help students develop skills such as self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making, contributing to the development of empathy.
- **Data-Informed Decision Making:** MTSS relies on data to inform decision-making processes. This data-driven approach allows educators to identify patterns, monitor progress, and make informed decisions about the most effective interventions for individual students. This commitment to evidence-based practices supports a systematic and empathetic approach to addressing student needs.
- **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS):** PBIS is often a component of MTSS that focuses on promoting positive behavior and preventing behavior problems. By creating a positive and inclusive school climate, PBIS contributes to the development of empathy among students, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility for each other's well-being.
- **Culturally Responsive Practices:** MTSS encourages educators to adopt culturally responsive practices. This involves recognizing and valuing the cultural backgrounds of students, which can contribute to a more empathetic and inclusive learning environment.
- **Student Voice and Choice:** Incorporating student voice and choice in the intervention process is an essential aspect of MTSS. Allowing students to have a say in their support plans and expressing their needs fosters a sense of agency and promotes empathy by acknowledging and respecting their perspectives.

By implementing MTSS with a focus on holistic support, social-emotional learning, and collaborative problem-solving, schools can create environments that not only address academic and behavioral challenges but also contribute to the development of empathy among students, educators, and the broader school community.



## Social Emotional Learning

### Empathy in the Classroom ~

Incorporating empathy into classroom lessons is crucial for creating a positive and inclusive learning environment. Here are some strategies to foster empathy in the classroom:

- Create a Positive Classroom Culture:** Establish a classroom culture that values and celebrates diversity. Encourage students to appreciate and respect each other's differences.
- Incorporate Diverse Perspectives:** Integrate diverse perspectives and voices into your lessons. Include literature, history, and examples that reflect a variety of cultures and experiences.
- Use Literature and Media:** Choose books, articles, and multimedia that highlight characters facing challenges or situations that require empathy. Discuss characters' feelings and perspectives.
- Classroom Discussions:** Facilitate open and respectful discussions about current events, social issues, and personal experiences. Encourage students to share their thoughts and feelings.
- Role-playing and Scenarios:** Incorporate role-playing activities or scenarios that allow students to step into someone else's shoes. This helps them understand different perspectives and experiences.
- Service Learning Projects:** Engage students in community service or service learning projects. Working together for a common cause fosters empathy and a sense of responsibility for others.
- Teach Active Listening:** Dedicate time to explicitly teach and practice active listening skills. Help students understand the importance of listening to others without judgment.
- Emotion Vocabulary:** Teach students a rich vocabulary for expressing emotions. This helps them better communicate their feelings and understand the emotions of others.
- Individual Conferences:** Schedule one-on-one conferences with students to check in on their well-being. This personal connection can make students feel valued and understood.
- Empathy Journals:** Have students keep empathy journals where they reflect on situations where they demonstrated or observed empathy. Encourage them to think about how they can apply empathy in various aspects of their lives.
- Conflict Resolution Skills:** Teach effective conflict resolution strategies. Help students understand how empathy can play a crucial role in resolving conflicts peacefully.

## Personalized Learning

### Personalized Learning: Nurturing Empathy

Personalized learning, when designed and implemented thoughtfully, has the potential to build empathy in students by addressing their individual needs, interests, and learning styles. Here's how personalized learning can contribute to the development of empathy:

- **Tailored Content:** Personalized learning allows educators to tailor content to individual students, considering their interests, backgrounds, and preferences. By incorporating diverse perspectives and topics that resonate with students, the learning experience becomes more relatable, fostering empathy toward different cultures and viewpoints.
- **Individualized Pace:** Students learn at different rates, and personalized learning accommodates these differences by allowing individuals to progress at their own pace. This flexibility promotes understanding and empathy for classmates who may need more time or have different learning speeds.
- **Student Choice and Autonomy:** Allowing students to have a say in their learning path and projects empowers them to make decisions based on their interests. This autonomy helps students understand and appreciate the unique passions and strengths of their peers, fostering empathy and respect for individual differences.
- **Project-Based Learning:** Personalized learning often involves project-based approaches where students can choose topics that matter to them. Collaborative projects can encourage teamwork, communication, and the understanding of diverse perspectives as students work together toward a common goal.
- **Reflection and Self-Awareness:** Personalized learning encourages students to reflect on their own learning styles, strengths, and areas for improvement. This self-awareness can extend to an awareness of others' strengths and challenges, promoting empathy for the diverse ways people approach learning.
- **Real-World Application:** Personalized learning often emphasizes real-world application of knowledge and skills. Connecting learning to real-life situations allows students to understand how their education can be applied in different contexts, fostering empathy for the varied challenges and experiences of others.
- **Feedback and Reflection Loops:** Continuous feedback loops in personalized learning environments provide students with insights into their progress and areas for growth. This iterative process encourages students to understand and appreciate the growth trajectories of their peers, promoting a supportive and empathetic learning community.
- **Cultivating a Growth Mindset:** Personalized learning environments often emphasize a growth mindset, encouraging students to view challenges as opportunities for learning and improvement. This mindset fosters empathy by promoting a positive and supportive approach to the challenges faced by peers.
- **Global Perspectives:** Leveraging technology in personalized learning can connect students with peers from around the world. Virtual collaborations and global projects expose students to diverse cultures and perspectives, promoting empathy on a global scale.



## Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education

### How can AI Foster Empathy?

AI can play a role in helping students develop empathy:

- **Virtual Reality (VR) Simulations:** VR simulations created with AI technology can immerse students in scenarios that allow them to experience different perspectives and situations. These simulations can help students understand and empathize with the challenges faced by others.
- **Personalized Learning Paths:** AI algorithms can analyze individual learning styles, preferences, and challenges to create personalized learning paths. By tailoring educational content to each student, AI can help foster a sense of understanding and empathy for diverse learning needs.
- **Language Processing for Communication Skills:** AI language processing tools can assist students in improving their communication skills. By providing feedback on tone, choice of words, and empathy in written or verbal communication, AI can help students develop more considerate and empathetic communication habits.
- **AI-Enhanced Literature Analysis:** AI can assist in analyzing literature and identifying emotional themes and character perspectives. This can be used to facilitate classroom discussions on empathy and understanding the emotions of characters in books, fostering empathy in students.
- **Digital Storytelling with AI:** Students can use AI tools to create digital stories or animations that explore different perspectives and emotions. This hands-on approach allows them to express empathy through creative means.
- **Collaborative AI Projects:** AI-powered collaborative projects can bring students together to solve real-world problems. Working on projects that address societal issues can encourage empathy by helping students understand the impact of their work on others.
- **Language Translation and Cultural Understanding:** AI language translation tools can expose students to content from different cultures and languages. This exposure can enhance cultural understanding and empathy by allowing students to connect with perspectives and experiences outside their own cultural context.
- **Data Analytics for Emotional Intelligence:** AI can analyze data related to student behavior, participation, and engagement to provide insights into emotional intelligence development. This information can guide educators in tailoring interventions to support empathy development.

It's important to note that while AI can be a valuable tool, it should complement, not replace, human interactions and guidance. Educators play a crucial role in facilitating discussions, providing context, and helping students apply empathy in real-life situations. Integrating AI thoughtfully into the learning environment can enhance the educational experience and contribute to the development of empathetic individuals.

## English Learner Services

[Five Short and simple reading tips for teacher EL students](#)

[Interpreter Request Form](#)



## 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

- **THS Science Department Meeting** on Wednesday, January 10 all-day at the Summit County ESC.
- **New Teacher Cohort** on Tuesday, January 16 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Library at THS.
- **Science content Committee Meeting** on Thursday, January 18 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Library at THS.
- **LPDC Meeting** on Thursday, January 18 fat 3:15 p.m. in the MEC Conference Room.
- **TMS Science Department Meeting** on Wednesday, January 24 all-day at the Summit County ESC.