Tallmadge Curriculum

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.

The Challenges of Traditional Grading Systems

Traditional grading systems can have a number of drawbacks that limit their effectiveness in assessing student learning and promoting academic growth. Here are a few potential issues with traditional grading systems:

Focus on compliance rather than learning: Traditional grading systems often emphasize compliance with rules and procedures, such as meeting deadlines and submitting work on time, rather than focusing on actual learning. This can lead to students prioritizing completing assignments quickly rather than taking the time to truly understand the material.

Lack of feedback: Traditional grading systems may not provide enough feedback to students about their performance. A single letter grade does not provide specific information about what a student does well or where they need to improve.

Difficulty in measuring complex skills: Traditional grading systems may struggle to assess complex skills, such as critical thinking or creativity, which cannot be easily measured through multiple-choice tests or simple assignments.

Inconsistent grading standards: Traditional grading systems may lack consistency in grading standards between different teachers or even between different assignments from the same teacher. This can make it difficult for students to know what is expected of them and for parents and administrators to accurately assess student performance.

Grading bias: Traditional grading systems may be prone to grading bias, where certain students are given higher grades based on factors such as race, gender, or socio-economic status, rather than their actual performance.

These issues highlight the need for alternative approaches to grading and assessment that focus on promoting learning and providing meaningful feedback to students. One such approach is mastery learning, which emphasizes student progress towards specific learning objectives rather than just grades.

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

State and District Assessment Windows

OST
Science: Grade 5, May 1 and 2 (TES)
MAP
K-8: April 24-May 5

Empower Everyone, Everyday

MTSS

Every student has their unique learning style and pace. Mastery learning is an approach that focuses on ensuring students truly understand the material before moving on to more advanced concepts. It involves breaking down the curriculum into smaller chunks, called learning objectives, and assessing students' mastery of each objective before moving on to the next. This approach helps students build a strong foundation of knowledge and skills, which they can then apply to more complex topics.

One of the key benefits of mastery learning is that it enables students to take ownership of their learning. Instead of just memorizing information for a test, students can focus on truly understanding the material, knowing that they will not be moved on until they have mastered the current objective. This approach helps students develop a growth mindset and a love for learning.

Mastery learning can be implemented in a variety of ways. Here are a few suggestions:

Set clear learning objectives: Before you start teaching a new concept, break it down into smaller learning objectives. This will help students see what they need to accomplish and make it easier for you to assess their understanding.

Assess frequently: After each learning objective, assess your students' understanding. This can be done through quizzes, tests, or other assessments.

Provide feedback: When students do not master an objective, provide specific feedback on what they need to work on. This can be in the form of one-on-one discussions, written feedback, or even peer feedback.

Offer opportunities for practice: Students need time to practice the skills and knowledge they are learning. Provide opportunities for them to practice, either through homework assignments or in-class activities.

Mastery learning is an effective approach that can help students learn more deeply and develop a love for learning. It takes time and effort to implement, but the benefits are well worth it.

Social Emotional Learning

Student agency refers to the degree of control that students have over their own learning. It allows them to become active participants in the learning process, rather than passive recipients of information. Here are some reasons why student agency is important in the classroom:

Engagement: When students have agency, they are more likely to be engaged in their learning. They can choose topics and projects that interest them, and they have a say in how they will learn and demonstrate their understanding.

Motivation: By giving students agency, we can help them develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for their learning. When students feel like they are in control of their learning, they are more motivated to succeed.
Critical thinking: When students have agency, they are encouraged to think critically about their learning. They can ask questions, make connections between different concepts, and evaluate their own progress.

Collaboration: Student agency can promote collaboration and teamwork. When students are given the opportunity to work together on projects and assignments, they learn to communicate effectively, share ideas, and work towards a common goal.

Life skills: Student agency helps students develop important life skills, such as self-direction, problem-solving, decision-making, and time management. These skills are essential for success in school and in the workplace.

Student agency is important in the classroom because it empowers students to take control of their learning, become active participants in the learning process, and develop important skills that will serve them well in the future.

Personalized Learning

Student Choice in the Classroom
There are several ways that teachers can incorporate student choice in the classroom. Here are some ideas:

Student Engagement: Key to Personalized Learning

Choice of topics: Allow students to choose topics for assignments or projects. For example, if you are teaching a history class, you could give students a list of topics to choose from or allow them to come up with their own.

Choice of activities: Provide students with a choice of activities to demonstrate their understanding of a concept. For example, instead of giving all students a written test, you could give them the option to create a video, a poster, or a presentation.

Choice of groups: Allow students to choose their own groups for collaborative projects. This gives them the opportunity to work with peers they feel comfortable with and who share similar interests.

Choice of reading materials: Provide students with a choice of reading materials that align with your learning objectives. This can be a great way to differentiate instruction and meet the needs of diverse learners.

Choice of assessment: Provide students with a choice of assessment methods. For example, they could choose to take a traditional test, write an essay, or participate in a class discussion.

Choice of pacing: Allow students to work at their own pace. For example, you could provide a menu of activities for students to complete throughout the week and allow them to choose which ones to complete each day.

"The beauty of personalized learning is that even the smallest change can make the biggest difference."

Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education

Ways that teachers can use AI in their classrooms:

Personalized learning: AI-powered software can create personalized learning plans for each student based on their individual needs and learning styles. Teachers can use these plans to differentiate instruction and help each student reach their full potential.

Automated grading: Teachers can use AI-powered software to automate grading for assignments and assessments, freeing up time to focus on other tasks such as lesson planning, individual student support, and professional development.

Adaptive testing: AI-powered assessments can adapt to the individual student's learning level and provide them with appropriate questions and feedback.

Virtual tutoring: AI-powered virtual tutors can help students with personalized learning, answering questions, and providing support 24/7.

Data analysis: AI can analyze student data and provide insights into student progress, such as identifying areas where students are struggling or excelling, allowing teachers to adjust their instruction to meet the needs of their students.

Language translation: Teachers can use AI-powered language translation software to communicate with students who speak a different language, breaking down language barriers and allowing for better communication.

Classroom management: AI can help teachers with classroom management, such as tracking attendance, behavior, and identifying potential areas of concern.

AI can help teachers provide more personalized instruction and support, save time on administrative tasks, and improve the overall learning experience for students.

English Learner Services

Interpreter Request Form

Strategies for Diverse Learners Using the UDL Model Focus on English Learners

How to Set Preferred Language in Remind for Parents

Tier 2 intervention Practices for English Learners

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

- **Authentic Learning Steering Committee Meeting** on Tuesday, May 2 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at THS.

- **EL Department Meeting** on Friday, May 5 at 1:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.

- **ELA Content Committee Meeting** on Tuesday, May 9 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at THS.

- **District Lead Teacher Meeting** on Thursday, May 11 at 3:45 p.m. in the Community Room at THS.

- **LPDC Work Session** on Friday, May 12 – all day in the Community Room at THS.

- **New Teacher Cohort** on Tuesday, May 16 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at THS.

- **Art Department Meeting** on Thursday, May 18 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at TES.