

Tallmadge Curriculum

November, 2024

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.

Newsletter Theme:

Core Competencies and Character Traits

Core Competencies and Character Traits

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“There is no innovation and creativity without failure. Period.”

~Brené Brown

Our four core competencies—collaboration, creation and innovation, communication, and critical thinking—play a significant role in developing our character traits - empathy, resiliency, self-direction, and productivity. Here's how each competency contributes to building these traits:

1. Collaboration

- Builds Empathy: Working with others in a team requires understanding different perspectives, recognizing others' emotions, and adjusting one's behavior to support group dynamics. This nurtures empathy as students learn to appreciate diverse viewpoints and work toward shared goals.
- Develops Resiliency: Collaboration often involves overcoming challenges, such as disagreements or setbacks in group projects. Learning to navigate these difficulties without giving up strengthens resiliency.
- Encourages Self-Direction: Collaboration encourages individuals to manage their own contributions effectively while being accountable to the team. This balance fosters self-direction, as students must regulate their efforts to ensure the group's success.
- Enhances Productivity: Effective collaboration improves productivity by leveraging collective strengths, enabling students to achieve more together than they could individually.

2. Creation and Innovation

- Promotes Resiliency: The process of creating and innovating often involves trial and error. Facing failures or obstacles during this process encourages students to persevere and develop resilience.
- Fosters Self-Direction: Creation requires initiative. Whether it's inventing a new solution or designing a project, students must manage their time, resources, and focus, reinforcing self-direction.
- Boosts Productivity: Innovation typically focuses on solving problems efficiently and effectively, which improves a student's ability to be productive by finding better or more creative ways to reach their goals.
- Builds Empathy: Innovation can be empathy-driven when students are designing solutions that address the needs or challenges of others. Understanding the end-user or the community they are designing for fosters a deep sense of empathy.

3. Communication

- Strengthens Empathy: Effective communication requires listening and understanding others, which naturally builds empathy. Students must put themselves in others' shoes to communicate effectively.
- Develops Resiliency: Communication also involves receiving feedback, sometimes critical. Learning to accept and integrate feedback without losing motivation develops resiliency.
- Promotes Self-Direction: Clear communication helps students articulate their thoughts and take charge of their learning by asking for what they need, setting goals, and advocating for themselves.
- Increases Productivity: Good communication streamlines processes, clarifies misunderstandings, and ensures that tasks are completed efficiently, boosting overall productivity.

4. Critical Thinking

- Enhances Resiliency: Critical thinking involves analyzing problems and considering multiple solutions. Students develop resiliency as they learn to persist in seeking answers and overcoming obstacles through logical reasoning.
- Fosters Self-Direction: Critical thinkers are naturally self-directed learners. They actively seek out information, question assumptions, and explore solutions independently.
- Builds Productivity: Critical thinking helps students make better decisions, prioritize effectively, and avoid unnecessary tasks, which makes them more productive.
- Promotes Empathy: Thinking critically about social issues or interpersonal situations helps students see things from multiple perspectives, deepening their empathy.



State and District Assessment Windows

MAP – District Testing Windows

December 16-20/January 6-10

April 21-May 9

THS Fall OST

- Dec. 9 - U.S. Govt / ELA II, Pt. 1
- Dec. 10 - ELA II, Pt. 2 / Algebra, Pt. 1
- Dec. 11 - Algebra, Pt. 2 / Geometry
- Dec. 12 - American History
- Dec. 13 - Biology

ACT

February 25, 2025 (Juniors only)

AASCD

February 24-April 18

District Spring OST Testing Windows (including makeups)

ELA District Testing Window - April 7-25

Math/Science/Social Studies District Testing Window - April 14-May 2

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

Our core competencies directly support SEL goals by helping students build emotional intelligence, navigate social contexts, and make thoughtful decisions.

Collaboration and Social Emotional Learning

Self-Awareness: Collaboration allows students to understand their own strengths, weaknesses, and emotions when working with others. By engaging in group activities, students learn to recognize how their behaviors and attitudes affect their peers.

Social Awareness: In collaborative settings, students learn to respect and appreciate the perspectives of others. This builds empathy and helps students become more aware of the diverse emotions and experiences of those around them.

Relationship Skills: Collaboration nurtures relationship-building by encouraging students to cooperate, share ideas, and resolve conflicts. It enhances their ability to maintain positive and healthy relationships.

Creation and Innovation in Social Emotional Learning

Self-Management: Engaging in creation and innovation requires students to manage their time, emotions, and behavior in pursuit of a goal. They learn to handle stress, overcome obstacles, and stay motivated, which is central to SEL.

Responsible Decision-Making: In innovation, students often face choices that require critical thinking and ethical consideration. They learn to evaluate the consequences of their actions and decisions, reinforcing responsible decision-making.

Self-Awareness: The creative process helps students understand their own passions, abilities, and areas for growth. This builds self-awareness, which is key to setting personal goals and making informed decisions.

Communication and Social Emotional Learning

Self-Awareness: Effective communication starts with understanding oneself—knowing how to express thoughts, feelings, and needs in a constructive manner. This aligns with SEL's focus on emotional literacy and self-expression.

Relationship Skills: Communication is central to building and maintaining relationships. Students learn how to express themselves clearly, listen actively, and handle conflicts peacefully, which enhances their interpersonal relationships.

Social Awareness: Communication involves recognizing the needs and emotions of others. When students learn to adjust their tone or message based on the social context, they practice empathy and social awareness.

Critical Thinking and Social Emotional Learning

Responsible Decision-Making: Critical thinking helps students evaluate the consequences of their actions, consider ethical implications, and make thoughtful decisions. This aligns with SEL's focus on responsible and constructive decision-making.

Self-Management: Thinking critically about a problem requires students to manage their emotions, stay focused, and regulate their behaviors in the face of complex challenges.

Social Awareness: Critical thinking encourages students to look at issues from multiple perspectives, helping them better understand others' emotions, cultures, and experiences. This deepens their social awareness and ability to empathize with others.



The Tallmadge Way



CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Collaborators** actively engage and contribute insights in discussions that lead to possible outcomes. They understand roles and responsibilities while respecting group and leadership dynamics.
- **Creators and Innovators** problem-solve to achieve goals. They utilize imagination and reasoning to develop unique ideas and design products in the pursuit of success.
- **Communicators** actively share ideas, insights, and questions while being active listeners. They effectively express thoughts and ideas to diverse audiences.
- **Critical-Thinkers** analyze, synthesize, and respond to problems while actively reflecting on the process and product, seeking continuous improvement.

CHARACTER TRAITS

- **Productive** - able to complete purposeful tasks in an efficient manner
- **Empathetic** - able to understand feelings of others and demonstrate compassion
- **Resilient** - able to persevere through challenges with a growth mindset
- **Self-Directed** - able to take initiative to accomplish goals

Authentic and Personalized Learning

Authentic learning connects academic content to real-world applications, making learning experiences relevant and engaging. Core competencies are essential to creating these types of experiences:

- **Collaboration:** Authentic learning often involves group work, community engagement, or partnerships with local organizations. By collaborating in real-world contexts, students develop empathy, communication skills, and the ability to work with diverse individuals toward a common goal.
- **Creation and Innovation:** Authentic learning encourages students to apply their knowledge in practical ways, such as through hands-on projects, solving real-world problems, or developing innovative solutions. These tasks require creativity, resilience in overcoming challenges, and a productive mindset to see projects through to completion.
- **Communication:** Authentic learning projects often require students to communicate their findings to real audiences—whether it's a presentation to their peers, a public event, or a written report for community stakeholders. Effective communication skills help students articulate their ideas clearly and persuasively, enhancing their learning experience.
- **Critical Thinking:** Authentic learning challenges students to think deeply about complex, real-world issues. Whether they are addressing environmental concerns, developing business models, or engaging in scientific inquiry, students must critically evaluate information, weigh potential solutions, and think strategically about their choices.

Personalized learning tailors education to the individual needs, strengths, and interests of each student. The core competencies empower students to take ownership of their learning journey:

- **Collaboration:** Personalized learning doesn't mean students work in isolation. By collaborating with peers, teachers, and even external mentors, students engage in meaningful interactions that help them learn from others' perspectives. This promotes empathy as students work together in small groups or on projects that matter to them.
- **Creation and Innovation:** Personalized learning emphasizes student agency, allowing them to engage in creative and innovative projects that align with their passions. Students can explore real-world problems, design solutions, and innovate in ways that feel relevant to their interests. These opportunities allow for self-direction, as students must navigate their own path toward the project's completion.
- **Communication:** Personalized learning often involves students articulating their learning goals and reflecting on their progress. Regular communication between students and teachers allows for feedback, goal setting, and adjustments to the learning process. This communication fosters self-direction as students actively participate in designing their own learning pathways.
- **Critical Thinking:** In a personalized learning environment, students are encouraged to think critically about what and how they learn. They evaluate different sources of information, analyze problems, and make informed decisions, which builds their independence and enhances productivity.



Artificial Intelligence

Collaboration and AI

AI as a Collaborative Tool: AI technologies can enhance collaboration by facilitating communication, project management, and knowledge sharing. In education, AI can support personalized learning platforms that encourage group work, facilitate discussions, and connect students with others across the globe.

Creation, Innovation, and AI

AI as a Creative Assistant: AI can be used as a tool for creativity and innovation, assisting in fields such as design, engineering, and the arts. For example, AI can help students develop creative solutions to problems by suggesting new ideas or analyzing trends, but it requires human oversight to apply these ideas meaningfully.

Communication and AI

AI as a Communication Tool: AI-powered communication platforms (like chatbots, language translation tools, and virtual assistants) are transforming how people communicate across languages and cultures. These tools can facilitate dialogue and connection but need to be designed with sensitivity to cultural nuances and emotional intelligence to avoid miscommunication.

Critical Thinking and AI

AI as a Decision-Making Aid: AI can enhance critical thinking by providing data, insights, and multiple perspectives on complex problems. For instance, AI tools can help analyze scenarios, suggest solutions, and offer evidence-based recommendations. However, critical thinking remains a uniquely human skill, especially when ethical judgment or creativity is required.

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, November 1 at 1:15 p.m. at the Conference Room at the MEC.
- **District Lead Teacher Meeting** on Thursday, November 14 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 230 at TMS.
- **TALLMADGE VIRTUAL VISIT** on Wednesday, November 13 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. via ZOOM
- **TES Personalized Learning Cohort** on Thursday, November 21 all-day visit to Chagrin Falls
- **LPDC Meeting** on Thursday, November 21 at 3:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.

