

2024 - 2025 Tarkington Middle School Course Catalog



All students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are required to take **English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.**

PE (6th-8th), Pre-Athletics (6th) or Athletics (7th-8th) are required courses for 6th and 7th graders and will be offered to 8th grade students.

Teen Leadership and **Student Discovery** are both taught to all 6th grade students,

BIM (Business Information Management I) is taught in 7th grade, and **General Employability Skills** is taught in 8th grade.

Other Elective courses will make up courses to finish out their schedules.

For course request forms, visit <https://tms.tarkingtonisd.net/>, click on Our Campus, select Counselor, and look under Quick Links. Requests are restricted to TISD accounts and will be filled out at school.)

Advanced Courses

Advanced courses are designed for highly advanced students who consistently demonstrate skills above grade level. Students will experience the regular content at a faster pace and be expected to direct their own studies more independently and in greater depth. Advanced courses are available in English Language Arts and Math for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.

ADVANCED COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Students are expected to maintain an 85 or higher in advanced courses in order to remain in advanced courses.

	Advanced Math	Advanced ELA	*Algebra I Students should be in the advanced math pathway beginning in 6th grade.
6th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with a scale score of 1651 or higher (58%) are considered to be in the top 60th percentile of students who took the 5th grade math STAAR test statewide. These students will automatically be enrolled in 6th grade advanced math. • Students who do not have a 5th grade math STAAR score, must score 58% or higher on the most recent released 5th grade math STAAR test. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score High Meets or Masters on 5th grade reading STAAR test AND; • Cumulative final grade average of 85 or higher in 5th grade reading class 	
7th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score High Meets or Masters on 6th grade math STAAR test AND; • Cumulative final grade average of 85 or higher in 6th grade math class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score High Meets or Masters on 6th grade reading STAAR test AND; • Cumulative final grade average of 85 or higher in 6th grade reading class 	

8th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Score High Meets or Masters on 7th grade math STAAR test AND; ● Cumulative final grade average of 85 or higher in 7th grade math class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Score High Meets or Masters on 7th grade reading STAAR test AND; ● Cumulative final grade average of 85 or higher in 7th grade reading class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Score Masters on 6th grade math STAAR test; AND ● Earn a 85 or higher in 6th grade math class in order to qualify for 7th grade advanced math, which leads into taking Algebra I in 8th Grade
------------------	---	---	--

Tarkington Middle School Electives 2024-2025

All students will take the elective classes below according to the grade level they are enrolled in.

- **Teen Leadership: (6th Grade)**
 Teen Leadership is a program in which students learn leadership, professional, and business skills. They gain an appreciation for the importance of having a vision when setting personal and professional goals. Students learn to develop a healthy self-concept, build healthy relationships, and understand the concept of personal responsibility. They investigate emotional intelligence and the parameters it measures: self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation, and effective social skills. Students learn skills in public speaking, communication, and problem solving. They also investigate the concept of personal image, the process of principle-based decision-making, and the importance of making responsible financial decisions. They identify the effects of peer pressure and develop skills to counteract those effects. Students also investigate the key aspects of family and group dynamics, thus enabling them to become better family members and citizens.
- **Student Discovery: (6th Grade)**
 Student Discovery is designed to create a foundation for success in middle school, high school, future studies, and careers such as Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Business and Industry, Public Service, Arts and Humanities, and Multidisciplinary Studies. The students will research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment. Career and technical education instruction provides students a chance to explore all career clusters in order to determine a Program of Study for High School.
- ***Business Information Management I (BIM): (7th Grade)**
 In Business Information Management I, students implement personal and interpersonal skills to strengthen individual performance in the workplace and in society and make a successful transition to the workforce and postsecondary education. Students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies, create word-processing documents, develop a spreadsheet, formulate a database, and make an electronic presentation using appropriate software. The course meets the middle school technology requirement.

- ***General Employability Skills: (8th Grade)**

This course provides students with knowledge of the prerequisite skills for general employment as well as the means of obtaining those skills. Employability skills include fundamentals of maintenance of personal appearance and grooming. The course also includes the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that allow employees to get along with their co-workers, make important work-related decisions, and become strong members of the work team. Students will learn and apply basic knowledge of what is expected in the workplace.

Students will have the opportunity to rank the elective courses below in order of preference based on the grade level they are enrolled in.

- **Agriculture: (7th Grade)**

A course designed to enhance the understanding of plant and animal systems, food production, mechanical systems, entrepreneurship, leadership, and environmental sciences.

- **Art: (6th, 7th, & 8th Grade)**

The development of student's creativity and self-expression through a variety of media and techniques including but not limited to painting, drawing, sculpting and design; recognizing and using the elements of art.

- **Applied Music: (7th & 8th Grade)**

Applied Music consists of 7th and 8th grade students... that are currently in the TMS Band... that focus on improving their playing technique and making characteristic sounds.

- **Band: (7th & 8th Grade)**

The Middle School Band consists of 7th and 8th grade students that have completed at least one year of Beginner Band. This band will have several performances and contests throughout the school year.

- **Beginner Band: (6th Grade / First Year Students)**

The Middle School Beginner Band consists of students that are in their first year of band. This band will have two performances during the school year; one at the end of each semester.

- **General Music: (6th, 7th, & 8th Grade)**

General Music introduces students to basic music theory, the history of music, music genres, and musical instruments. (no prerequisites...all students welcome)

- **Theater Arts: (6th, 7th, & 8th Grade)**

A fun and creative process of exploring storybook characters (superheroes, princesses, your favorite personalities) and bringing popular stories to life. All students are welcome...No prerequisites. The class maintains an open and creative environment.

- ***Digital Communications in the 21st Century: (8th Grade)**

The Digital Communications program of study explores the occupations and educational opportunities associated with the production of audio and visual media formats for various purposes, such as TV broadcasts, advertising, video production, or motion pictures. This program of study may also include exploration into operating machines and equipment to record sound and images, such as microphones, sound speakers, video

screens, projectors, video monitors, sound and mixing boards, and related electronic equipment.

- ***Principles of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources: (8th Grade)**
Students will learn about the FFA Organization and opportunities for supervised agriculture work experiences and FFA participation.

**High school credit course*