# Tequesta Trace
# Elective Course Descriptions

| Course Description | Course Information |
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| **Art Appreciation – Studio Art** | Grades 6/7/8 |
| The beginning art class at Tequesta Trace Middle School offers students an opportunity to explore different types of media and learn intermediate artistic principles. The class focuses on the divergent disciplines of drawing, painting, and collage. Students will develop their artistic vocabulary, critiquing skills, and personal style. The main goals of the class are to introduce students to visual arts through activities that reflect various artistic styles and techniques. Students will apply the elements and principles of art using a wide variety of media, styles, and techniques. The course is designed to help students understand the scope of visual arts and is based on a studio project approach to the study of art. | |
| **Advanced Studio Art** | Grades 7/8 *requires approval |
| Tequesta Trace Middle School Advance Visual Arts classes empower students to explore various media and learn intermediate/advanced artistic principles. Students continue to investigate the divergent disciplines of drawing, painting, Collage, pen ink, and Textile art started during their beginning art courses. While studio project concepts, subject matter, and techniques advance in complexity, students are encouraged to continue finding their personal artistic voice. | |
| **Beginning Band** | Grades 6/7 |
| This course is for students with little or no previous music experience. Students will learn to play an instrument while making friends and learning the language of music. In Beginning Band, students will learn to assemble and hold an instrument correctly, create and control the sound of an instrument, learn to count and read basic rhythms, and notes, and play songs on an instrument. As the course progresses students will have the opportunity to play music from some of their favorite movies, video games, memes, and songs as well as traditional musical works. Students who take beginning band will be eligible to attend a variety of excellent after-school music enrichment courses at TTMS if they choose to for additional music opportunities. Students in this course will also have performance opportunities at school functions, attend field trips, and participate in community events and Florida Bandmasters Association Events. Instruments for this course may be rented or purchased by the student or, if available, provided through the school | |
| **Band Intermediate – Adv. Concert Band** | Grades 7/8 *requires approval |
| (Approval required) This course is for students who have a minimum of a year of experience and have been approved by the director for more advanced musical study. Students in advanced band will play and perform music in class and have numerous performing opportunities. In Advanced Concert Band students will emphasize playing as part of an ensemble and teamwork. Students will learn more advanced rehearsal techniques and develop musical style and musical interpretation skills while improving and building confidence in counting and reading music. Advanced band students will play and perform music from some | |

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| of their favorite movies, video games, memes, and songs as well as traditional musical works. Students who take Advanced Band will be eligible to attend a variety of excellent after-school music enrichment courses at TTMS if they would like additional music opportunities. Students in Advanced Band may also be permitted, with the Band Director's approval, to register. Students in this course will have several performance opportunities at school functions, attend field trip performances, community events, and be eligible to audition for All County and All State Bands and Florida Bandmasters Association Events. Instruments for this course may be rented or purchased by a student or, if available, provided through the school. | |
| **Band Advanced – Symphonic Band** | Grades 7/8 *requires approval |
| (Approval required) This Course may be taken for High School Credit* Qualifying 8th Grade Students who wish to get high school credits must register for music theory that meets at the same time and location. This is the most advanced concert band at Tequesta Trace and requires teacher approval and may require an audition for students new to the Tequesta Trace Band program. Students in this group must have demonstrated in previous band classes exceptional rehearsal decorum, discipline and commitment to achieving the highest level of music rehearsal and performance individually and with performing groups. This elite group will have numerous performing opportunities both in and out of town. Symphonic band Students will emphasis musicianship, teamwork, mastering technique, musical style and interpretation while performing in concerts and competitions. and building confidence in counting and reading music. Students in this course will have several performance opportunities at school functions, attend field trip performances, community events, be able to audition for All County and All State Band and other Florida Bandmasters Association Events. Instruments for this course may be rented or purchased by a student or, if available, provided through the school. | |
| **Broadcasting** | Grades 7/8 *requires approval |
| This course consists of the daily production of the TTMS morning announcements, Roar with the Cougars. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of roles that include both on camera and behind the scenes, such as: news anchors, camera/lighting/sound, editing and green screen production, and content creators. | |
| **Chess I** | Grade 6 |
| Knowing the rules of chess and how the pieces move does not mean one has become a chess player. This is a beginner's chess course designed to introduce the game and hopefully create lifelong chess players. This full year course will start with the history and rules of the game. It will then go into game strategy and tactics. Students will play chess at least 60 minutes on average during class and will be part of a class ranking system. Students will have a lot of fun meeting new friends while enjoying the game of chess. | |
| **Chorus** | Grades 6/7/8 *requires approval |
| This is an audition-only vocal music course for students who want to learn, sing and perform music. The goal of this course is to expand vocal, technical, musical, and ensemble skills through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality choral literature. Students will also learn basic music theory and proper vocal technique. All students will be expected to attend all required concerts for their chorus class. | |
| **Creative Media** | Grade 6 |
| Creative media is a fun and interactive course that covers and goes beyond the basics of computer programs like PowerPoint and Microsoft Word. In this course, students will learn new and exciting skills related to media and technology. Through hands-on activities and | |

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| projects, students will unleash their creativity and discover their potential in the world of media. Whether it's creating a digital story or designing print material, students will have a blast while learning valuable skills. Join us for an amazing journey into the world of Creative Media. | |
| **Coding Fundamentals** | Grade 6 |
| In this course, students are introduced to the basics of computer science and technology. Students will learn the core concepts of computer programming. Students will have the chance to earn the IC3 Sparks Digital Tool. This course is for beginners and all levels of experience in coding. | |
| **Debate Honors** | Grade 8 |
| This course's objective is to provide instruction in a variety of speaking skills and techniques, from the basic to the complex. The content may include, but not be limited to, speeches presented in competitions such as Congress, Extemporaneous, Impromptu, Original Oratory, Mock Trial, Prose/Poetry, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, and the Lincoln Douglas Debate. Students are also responsible for the research involved with each facet of the course.<br>*STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND COMPETITIVE SPEECH/DEBATE TOURNAMENTS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR IN ORDER TO RECEIVE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT | |
| **Drama I** | Grades 6/7/8 |
| The Introduction to Theatre Arts elective will allow students to explore themselves and the world around them through performance and acting skills, scene studies, and playwriting. Students will be challenged to take risks, move outside of their current comfort zones, and use their imaginations to devise new pieces of theatre. Students will have the chance to choose a role, whether on stage or behind the scenes, that is just right for them and will work with peers to complete creative projects. | |
| **Advanced Drama** | Grades 7/8 *requires approval |
| This audition-only class is for serious performers that want to take their theatre skills to the next level. The main purpose of the class is to engage students in performance opportunities. Students will continue to learn about different styles of acting and methods of training in musical theatre. Students will be recording their performances to be played for their peers and self-evaluation. Students will be required to attend the District Thespian Festival and to participate in the yearly musical production. The competitions and performances will be held outside of school hours. They may also be required to attend rehearsals outside of school hours. | |
| **Engineering & Robotics I** | Grades 6/7 |
| This course is designed to spark interest in and introduce students to engineering and robotics through Science, Math, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Students work together in groups while using the Engineering Design Process to accomplish various projects. Each project is geared towards developing different skills and concepts in engineering. | |
| **Entrepreneurship** | Grades 6/7/8 |
| Have you ever thought of starting your own business one day? Do you have ideas for an innovation to improve the lives of others? If so, this class is for you! This Entrepreneurship Course is all about becoming a business owner. I will work with you on developing and refining your ideas. Additionally, you will learn how to market the ideas you developed. We | |

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| will work on ways to introduce your ideas to others in a fun and exciting way. I will work with each of you to help develop your own business plan. The concept is similar to the show Shark Tank. You will develop a business idea and then a sales pitch to attract investment. This class will involve heavy use of technology and learning to work on project-based learning. You will also have the opportunity to present your ideas at competitions against various schools. | |
| **Film I** | Grades 6/7/8 |
| To understand how films are made, we delve into the creative choices of the director, cinematographer, editor, and others involved in the process. By examining the factors that distinguish a bad film from a good one, and what elevates a film to greatness, we gain insight into the art of filmmaking. We also explore how technological advancements have shaped the evolution of movies, fostering a deeper appreciation for the collaborative nature of moviemaking. Through the lens of technical, literary, and aesthetic analysis, we learn to critically analyze films as a unique narrative art form. Additionally, we uncover the rich history of cinema, exploring major film movements of the twentieth century. By understanding the concept of the film genre, we can better appreciate the diverse storytelling styles found in movies. Furthermore, we develop skills in writing critically and analytically about films, as well as in public speaking and presentation. Join us on this cinematic journey as we unlock the magic of the silver screen. | |
| **Forensics** | Grade 7 |
| This course is an exciting hands-on introduction to the world of forensic science. Our focus will include the history of forensics, fingerprinting, handwriting, fiber analysis, ballistics, evidence analysis, and careers in forensics. The primary emphasis in this course will be for students to deepen their understanding of the sciences by applying scientific concepts and to develop/extend their scientific skills in the areas of crime scene investigations. | |
| **Foundations of Web Design** | Grade 7 |
| This course is designed to provide a basic overview of the Internet, Intranets, and the Wide World Web. The course content will include operating systems, HTML page editors, basic HTML commands, navigation of the Internet, and web page design. Students will work toward the Intro to Programming using HTNL/CSS Industry Certification. | |
| **Introduction to Peer Counseling** | Grade 6 *requires approval |
| This course aims to equip students with the necessary skills to mentor and support students. The core of the program addresses skill-building in communication, problem-solving, and decision-making. It also addresses social individual, school, and family concerns. Students will also get the opportunity to work alongside Peer Counseling 1 and 2. Intro to Peer Counseling will allow students to flourish socially under the care and support of older more experienced peer counselors. | |
| **Jazz Band** | Grades 7/8 *requires approval |
| Approval Required<br>Corequisite - Band 1,2,3 or Jazz Band (piano and guitar players may exempt this requirement with directors' approval)<br>This Course may be taken for High School Credit* Qualifying 7th & 8th Grade Students who wish to get high school credits must register for music theory that meets at the same time and location. Known as the " ROCK'IN JAZZ CATZ" this class is Available to 7th & 8th Graders who have advanced musical experience on Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet, Bass Guitar, Guitar, Drums and Drum Set and Piano and have past performance experience. The Tequesta | |

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| Trace "Rock'in Jazz Catz" practice and learn Jazz, Rock, Salsa and other contemporary styles of music. There is a strong emphasis in learning chords, feeling and playing swing, and Improvisation with a strong emphasis on the components and characteristics of good soloing. Students will be expected to work independently in small combos and sections. Students will have performance opportunities at school functions, field trip performances, and community events, and will be qualified to audition for All County and All State Jazz Bands and other Florida Bandmasters Association Events. Students must also be enrolled in a traditional band course order to take this course unless they only play an approved rhythm instrument such as Bass and Guitar. Students must be approved or audition to take this course. | |
| **Latinos in Action I** | Grades 6/7 |
| Students will complete individual and small group projects that relate to the four LIA pillars: leveraging personal and cultural assets, excelling in education, serving the community, and developing leadership skills. Students also serve as Peer Tutors/Mentors for our school. | |
| **Latinos in Action II** | Grade 8 |
| Students will complete individual and small group projects that relate to the four LIA pillars: leveraging personal and cultural assets, excelling in education, serving the community, and developing leadership skills. Students also serve as Peer Tutors/Mentors for our school. This course includes tutoring in school and at a local elementary school at least twice a month (October-April). | |
| **Marine Science** | Grade 6 |
| Do you love the ocean? Are you an avid boater, fisherman, or scuba diver? If not, that's completely okay. This course is designed for learners with all levels of knowledge and experience regarding the ocean. In the Marine Science course, students will explore the watery depths of our own planet and understand just how vital the ocean is to our existence. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to marine animals and see how they interact with each other and their environment. Students will also learn the importance of conserving this natural resource and how they can play a role in doing so. As an extra bonus, Marine Science students have opportunities throughout the year to participate in a variety of water related field trips with the highlight being a trip to Key Largo to snorkel among a protected coral reef. | |
| **Newspaper** | Grades 7/8 *requires approval |
| This course consists of the student production of the official TTMS Newspaper – The Paw Print. Students will oversee the design, creation, and production of the DIGITAL school newspaper. In this course, students will brainstorm article topics/ideas, research topics, interview students/staff, conduct student surveys, take photographs for articles, write articles, and revise/edit their work. The newspaper course supports ELA classes by focusing on research and writing skills. | |
| **Novel Studies in Spanish (Dual Language)** | Grade 6 |
| Embark on an exciting literary journey where language comes alive, and stories unfold in two vibrant tongues! Our Middle School Dual Language Novel Studies course invites you to discover the magic of literature while honing your language skills in a dynamic bilingual setting. In this engaging and culturally rich course, you will explore a diverse selection of short stories and novels while collaborating with interactive multimedia projects. Through the lens of compelling narratives, you will delve into the worlds of mystery, adventure, fantasy, and more, all while developing a deep appreciation for the beauty of two languages. | |

| **Novel Studies II in Spanish (Dual Language)** | Grade 7 |
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| Welcome back to the next chapter of our literary adventure! In Dual Language Novel Studies 2, you will continue your exploration of captivating short stories and novels, further enriching your linguistic proficiency and cultural understanding through collaborative multimedia projects. Building upon the foundation laid in the first course, this sequel promises even more excitement, deeper insights, and a continued celebration of two languages. | |
| **Novel Talk** | Grade 6 |
| The course is a collaborative book studies class that allows students a way of building experiences of the world, helping students to see and understand things that have never happened to them firsthand, building on their experiences to increase their knowledge of the unknown, enabling is to witness and attempt to understand things from new vantage points. | |
| **Peer Counseling I** | Grades 7/8 *requires approval |
| The main objective of this course is to empower students by fostering self-awareness and promoting understanding among their peers. We will focus on equipping peer counselors with essential skills for strategic planning, facilitating group activities, communicating effectively, and making informed decisions. Together, we will cultivate a vibrant school culture and community through exciting initiatives like organizing spirit weeks, creating unique student merchandise, fundraising efforts, recycling, and MUCH more. As a peer counselor, our role extends beyond these activities as we support students and staff members. | |
| **Peer Counseling II** | Grade 8 *requires approval |
| The purpose of this course is to enable students to further develop awareness of self and others. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of intermediate-level skills for thoughtful planning, peer facilitation, effective communication, and making healthy choices. Together, we will cultivate a vibrant school culture and community through exciting initiatives like organizing spirit weeks, creating unique student merchandise, fundraising efforts, recycling, and MUCH more. As a peer counselor, our role extends beyond these activities as we support students and staff members. | |
| **Physical Education** | Grades 6/7/8 |
| The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the development of a physically active lifestyle. The course content provides exposure to a variety of movement opportunities and experiences which includes but is not limited to: fitness activities, team sports, and class tournaments aligned with the curriculum for each quarter. The integration of fitness concepts throughout the content is critical to student success in this course and in the development of a healthy and physically active lifestyle. | |
| **Spanish for Spanish Speakers – Intro (Dual Language)** | Grade 6 |
| The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in their heritage language by reinforcing and acquiring skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, including the fundamentals of Spanish grammar. Language Arts Standards are also included in this course to enable students to become literate in the Spanish language and gain a better understanding of the nature of their own language as well as other languages to be acquired. The course content will reflect the cultural values of Spanish language and societies. Students are engaged with animated video tutorials of grammar and vocabulary. There is also a storytelling section that students enjoy a lot! | |

| **Spanish Speakers I** | Grade 7 |
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| The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish, to develop, maintain and enhance proficiency in their heritage language by reinforcing and acquiring skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Including the fundamental of Spanish grammar. Students are exposed to a variety of Spanish literary genres and authors. Language Arts Standards are also included in this course to enable students to become literate in the Spanish language and gain a better understanding of the nature of their own language as well as other languages to be acquired. The course content will reflect the cultural values of Spanish Language and societies.<br><br>THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE. | |
| **Spanish Speakers II** | Grade 8 |
| The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in their heritage language by reinforcing and expanding skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as Spanish grammar skills acquired in Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1. Students are exposed to a variety of Spanish literary genres and authors. Language Arts Standards are also included in this course to enable students to become literate in Spanish and gain a better understanding of the nature of their own language as well as other languages to be acquired. The course content will reflect the cultural values of Spanish Language and societies.<br><br>THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE. | |
| **Spanish I** | Grades 7/8 |
| Spanish 1 is a high school credit introductory course that introduces students to the target language and culture. During this course, students will develop speaking, writing, reading, and listening skills in Spanish around topics related to the everyday life of a student. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in Spanish. The course has 6 lessons with 4 sections each:<br>Contextos is all about vocabulary used in everyday life.<br>Fotonovela is about soap operas that relate te everyday common life situations.<br>Estructura is all about grammar concepts and how to conjugate verbs.<br>Adelante is all about culture around the Spanish World.<br>Students are engaged in the course with animated grammar tutorials, soap operas, videos of culture of Latin-American Countries, advertisements of Spanish Ads/ commercials and so much more. | |
| **Spanish II** *pre-requisite: successful completion of Spanish I | Grade 8 |
| Spanish 2 reinforces the fundamental skills acquired by the students in Spanish 1. The course develops increased listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as cultural awareness. Specific content to be covered is a continuation of listening and oral skills acquired in Spanish 1. Reading and writing receive more emphasis, while oral communication remains the primary objective. The cultural survey of the target language-speaking people is continued. | |
| **Speech** | Grade 7 |
| This course's purpose is to develop students' beginning awareness, understanding, and application of language arts as it applies to oral communication concepts and strategies in a variety of settings. Also, students will learn various speaking skills and techniques for competition speech events. *STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND COMPETITIVE | |

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| SPEECH/DEBATE TOURNAMENTS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR IN ORDER TO RECEIVE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT. | |
| **Speech and Debate** | Grade 6 |
| This course is focused on developing the use of correct and effective language and organizational skills in preparing, delivering, and evaluating different types of oral presentations and debate. Students will critique speeches, paying attention to content, organization, language, and delivery style, and produce and present well-structured, developed speeches. | |
| **Start Up Technology** | Grade 6 |
| This course is all about apps. You will learn the basics of computer coding. It is an entry level class and you do not need any prior coding knowledge. In this elective we will create several different apps, some of which are simple games. If done correctly these apps can run on your phone as well. During the second semester you will focus on creating your own app and designing it for a business you could create. We are on the laptops virtually every minute in this course. | |
| **Study Skills** | Grade 8 |
| Study Hall offers a dedicated block of time where students can study in one assigned classroom with all the technology to conduct research. By using this time to study or complete their work, students can learn in an environment that meets their academic needs and allows them to stay focused and become more confident. | |
| **Yearbook** | Grades 7/8 *requires approval |
| Dive into the thrilling world of yearbook design, the ultimate project-based learning course that transforms 192 blank pages into a vibrant chronicle of the school year. This isn't just a class, it's a journey where you'll learn about photography, graphic design, journalistic writing, interviewing, and even fundraising. You'll be part of a dynamic team, working hard and celebrating victories together. Imagine the thrill of seeing your work in the hands of hundreds, treasured and revisited for years to come. This isn't just a class, it's your chance to etch your mark in the records of your school's history. Join us, be a part of the dream team, and create a yearbook that captures the spirit of our student body. | |