

Tuloso-Midway Middle School

Course Description Guide

2025-2026



Educating every student to be a lifelong learner, a person of integrity, and a positive contributor to society.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Tulo-Midway Independent School District is to educate every student to be a lifelong learner, a person of integrity, and a positive contributor to society.



This TMMS course selection catalog should help to provide you with information about classes and course requirements for your child's middle school education. Our middle school team is dedicated to helping you and your child to plan for their education. Please note that this material is being published early in the preceding school year and is therefore subject to change. Any changes to this catalog will be updated and posted on the Tulo-Midway Middle School website.

TMMS Course Descriptions and the Scheduling Process

In the course description section that follows, you will find a brief description of each course offered at Tuloso-Midway Middle School listed under the appropriate grade level. The course descriptions include which specified courses may be taken and any prerequisites they may require. Elective courses are offered to meet the student's interests.

At the end of the course descriptions for each grade level, you will find a Course Selection form. A copy of this form will be given to each student at TMMS during pre-registration; however, it is recommended for you to look over it to become familiar with the selection process.

Students are urged to plan carefully. Although students will receive specific instructions and assistance from middle school counselors during the pre-registration process, the responsibility for selecting appropriate courses rests with the students and parents. Students will choose specific courses with parent approval and counselors will verify that those choices will help the student prepare for upcoming graduation requirements.

January 2025

Dear Parents and Students:

The teachers, staff and administration of Tuloso-Midway Independent School District believe in educating every student to be a lifelong learner, a person of integrity, and a positive contributor to society. We are so excited to work together with you and your student as we prepare for the next school year. Course selection is extremely important when creating your specific schedule.

Please take a moment to reflect on your personal goals, HS goals, and career goals. This information will guide you to select the proper courses for your specific pathway. This course selection guide is composed of course descriptions specific to your grade level and pathways. It is possible that actions by the local or state school board, TEA or the state legislature, may result in changes to the information in this booklet.

Counselors will be visiting with your student to further guide and assist them in planning for next school year. If you have any questions regarding course selection, please contact the front office at (361) 903-6600 or visit our webpage at <http://www.tmsd.us>

Sincerely,

*Melanie Arias
TMMS Principal*

*Yadira Cortez, Connie Tierney, and Analisa Wood
TMMS Assistant Principals*

*Susan Marquez and Melissa Soto
Counseling Department*

TMMS Course Selection Catalog

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	Content
5	Gifted / Talented
5	Dyslexia
5	ESL
5	Learning Labs
6	Honors Program
7 - 10	6 th Grade Core Course Descriptions
11	6 th Grade Elective Course Descriptions
12	6 th Grade Course Selection Form
13 - 16	7 th Grade Core Course Descriptions
17 - 19	7 th Grade Elective Course Descriptions
20	7 th Grade Course Selection Form
21 - 24	8 th Grade Core Course Descriptions
25 - 27	8 th Grade Elective Course Descriptions
28	8 th Grade Course Selection Form

G
R
A
D
E

6

G
R
A
D
E

7

G
R
A
D
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8

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

GIFTED / TALENTED PROGRAM

To meet the needs of our Gifted / Talented Students, we offer honors classes for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. In addition to this, teachers will be made aware of which of their students have been identified as G/T and take this into consideration when designing their lessons. This awareness provides students the opportunity to be challenged and to receive a quality education. During the fall semester, parents and teachers will have the opportunity to nominate their students to be considered for the program.

DYSLEXIA

A formal assessment must be conducted by Tulo-so-Midway ISD or another school district in order for a student to be identified as having dyslexia. Students who have been identified as having dyslexia and requiring services will either be pulled out of an elective to work with the dyslexia teacher or will be placed in a dyslexia class. This will depend on the recommendation of the dyslexia teacher and either the 504 or A.R.D. committee responsible for deciding which accommodations are appropriate based on the student's progress. The focus of the dyslexia class will be decoding, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, spelling, reading and writing. This year-long course is a supplement to the regular Reading curriculum and takes the place of an elective class.

ESL

Student must qualify for services offered to Emergent Bilingual students based on an assessment administered by Tulo-so-Midway staff or have been identified by another Texas school district and transferred to Tulo-so-Midway ISD with the assessment qualifying the student for ESL services. Students will be monitored in their first and second year of exiting the program. This program will offer academic support in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

LEARNING LABS

Students who do not meet the STAAR testing requirements in Math or Reading will be placed in a Learning Lab class in order to receive the remediation needed. **This will not be optional.**

HONORS PROGRAM

HONORS COURSES

Honors courses are academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments and to complete a substantial amount of work outside of class. In order to maintain honors enrollment status, students must maintain an overall grade of 70 or higher in the honors course.

Honors courses prepare students in middle school for the challenges offered by the honors courses and Dual Enrollment courses in high school. The purpose is to strengthen the transition between secondary school and higher education and provide for greater success in college level courses.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Enrollment in honors courses is open to any student who meets the following criteria:

1) Achieves a rating of “Meets Grade Level” standard on the most recent STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) test.

- STAAR Reading scores are reviewed for admission to Honors RLA and Honors Social Studies classes.
- STAAR Math scores are reviewed for admission to Honors Math and Honors Science classes.

AND

2) Achieves a final average of 90 or above in a general education class or an 85 or above in an honors class for the subject matter from the previous school year.

*Students earning a “Masters Grade Level” on the most recent STAAR test can be automatically admitted into an honors class for that subject matter.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

High school credit courses offered at TMMS are for credit only. Grades will not transfer to high school and will not be reflected on a student’s GPA. All high school credit courses will follow the laws regarding compulsory attendance at the secondary school level. Students must be in attendance 90% of the time to earn credit. A student at any grade level enrolled in a high school course will earn credit for the course only if the final grade is 70 or above. If a student fails to maintain a passing average or has excessive absences, the student will be removed from the high school credit course and credit will not be earned.

GRADE 6 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ELAR 6

Middle School English Language Arts and Reading is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Strategies for listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts are integrated daily to create a literacy-rich classroom which promotes engaging, student-centered learning. Through the communication of ideas, orally and in writing, students continue to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become independent readers, writers, and thinkers. The primary goals of this course are to cultivate independent learning, encourage in-depth inquiry, and exploration of the content, and develop the habits necessary for academic success.

GRADE 6

ELAR 6 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

This course is designed to prepare and motivate middle school students for honors and dual enrollment courses in high school. This is in addition to the grade-level expectations of the Middle School English Language Arts and Reading classroom. Students have multiple opportunities to develop communication and analytical skills in an academically challenging course of study. As a preparation for advanced English courses in high school, this course adds a focus on literary analysis in reading, writing, and speaking. Students enrolled in honors courses should expect a more rigorous class, faster pace, more in-depth classroom discussions, intensified vocabulary, an increased amount of reading and writing assignments, and the need for effective time management.

GRADE 6 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MATH 6

The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation for students to solve problems using number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. The students will utilize process standards in order to weave knowledge and skills together so that they may be successful problem solvers and use mathematics efficiently and effectively in daily life.

MATH 6 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: In accordance with SB2124, a school district or open-enrollment charter school must automatically enroll in an advanced mathematics course each sixth grade student who performed in the top 40 percent on the fifth grade State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) mathematics assessment.

This course is designed to extend the 6th math curriculum into aligned 7th grade TEKS with an emphasis on complex problem solving through the lens of number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. The students will utilize process standards in order to weave knowledge and skills together so that they may be successful problem solvers and use mathematics efficiently and effectively in daily life. This course will build a foundation for the 7th grade honors math course.

GRADE 6 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SCIENCE 6

In 6th grade Science, the content focus is on physical science. Throughout this course, students conduct laboratory and field investigations to analyze data using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students will study a variety of topics that include elements and compounds, evidence of chemical change, physical properties of elements, energy (potential/kinetic, transformations, Law of Conservation of Energy, Earth's resources), forces (unbalanced forces, speed, changes in motion, inclined planes), Earth's structure, rock cycle, geological events, characteristics of organisms, levels and classification of organisms, interactions of organisms within an ecosystem, components of the solar system, and space exploration.

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SCIENCE 6 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

This course is designed to extend the 6th grade science curriculum with focus on the development of higher order thinking skills such as critical thinking, scientific problem-solving, and analysis. The primary goal of honors courses is to cultivate independent learning, encourage in-depth inquiry and exploration of the content, and develop the habits necessary for academic success. Students enrolled in honors courses should expect a more rigorous class, faster pace, more in-depth classroom discussions, intensified vocabulary, an increased amount of reading and writing assignments, and the need for effective time management. Students enrolled in honors courses should expect a more rigorous class, faster pace, more in-depth classroom discussions, intensified vocabulary, an increased amount of reading and writing assignments, and the need for effective time management.

GRADE 6 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

In this course, students will study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. In addition, they will study the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of various societies. Students will learn the different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. They will study the concepts of limited and unlimited government and describe the nature of citizenship in various societies. Students will compare institutions common to all societies such as government, education, and religious institutions. Students will also learn how the level of technology affects the development of various societies.

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SOCIAL STUDIES 6 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

This course is designed to extend the 6th grade social studies curriculum with focus on the development of higher order thinking skills such as critical thinking, scientific problem-solving, and analysis. The primary goal of honors courses is to cultivate independent learning, encourage in-depth inquiry and exploration of the content, and develop the habits necessary for academic success. Students enrolled in honors courses should expect a more rigorous class, faster pace, more in-depth classroom discussions, intensified vocabulary, an increased amount of reading and writing assignments, and the need for effective time management.

GRADE 6 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GRADE 6

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)	The purpose of 6 th grade Physical Education class is to offer an organized and fun atmosphere in which the student will be learning lifelong fitness, group cooperation, and sportsmanship. This will be accomplished through learning skills, safety, mental and physical discipline, and the lifelong benefits of fitness and exercise. Student will be required to wear an approved PE uniform and participate daily.
PRE-ATHLETICS	The purpose of 6th Grade Pre-Athletics is to prepare students for the expectations of 7th Grade Athletics and the fundamental skills for sports offered. Students participating in Pre-Athletics must recognize that the workouts will build up to and then be comparable to the workouts of our 7th and 8th grade student-athletes. The physical demands are greater than Physical Education, and the expectation is to give your best every day. Coaches expect students to work hard, have a positive attitude, and have fun just like you will be doing on a team.
BEGINNER BAND	Beginner level band is designed to teach students how to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. No prior music experience or knowledge is required. Students will learn to read music, produce good tone quality, learn rhythm skills, and perform music. Students can develop skills at their own pace. Band concerts allow students to experience live performance.
CHOIR	This course is designed to teach students how to sing properly. No prior music experience or knowledge is required. Students learn to read music, produce good tone quality, learn rhythm skills, and perform. Students can develop skills at their own pace. Choir concerts allow students to experience live performance.
INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE ARTS	Introduction to Theatre Arts is a beginner theatre arts course designed for the student to experience the basic elements of drama. No previous theatre or drama experience is required. Beginning acting and technical theatre techniques will be explored along with the basic skills needed to create a theatrical performance.
ART	The artist will be exposed to foundational elements and principles of design to develop skills in creative thinking and communication. Students will understand and apply the elements of art, including line, shape, color, texture, form, space, and value, as the fundamentals of art in personal artwork using art vocabulary appropriately.

Tuloso-Midway Middle School
2025-2026
6th Grade Course Selection Form

Name _____ STUDENT ID# _____

REQUIRED COURSES: (SELECT ONE IN EACH CONTENT)

_____ English Language Arts & Reading 6 (6200)

_____ Science 6 (6300)

_____ English Language Arts & Reading 6 Honors (6202)

_____ Science 6 Honors (6302)

_____ Math 6 (6100)

_____ Social Studies 6 (6400)

_____ Math 6 Honors (6102)

_____ Social Studies 6 Honors (6402)

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ELECTIVE: SELECT 1 (REQUIRED)

_____ Physical Education - Boys (PE6B) (6500)

_____ Physical Education - Girls (PE6G) (6502)

_____ Pre-Athletics – Boys (6504)

_____ Pre-Athletics – Girls (6505)

ELECTIVE CHOICES: Indicate 1st, 2nd & 3rd Choice by numbering them “1,” “2,” or “3.”

_____ Beginner Band (6690)

_____ Choir (6640)

_____ Introduction to Theatre Arts (6655)

_____ Art (6631)

REQUIRED ELECTIVES FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT PASS STAAR (FOR FRONT OFFICE USE ONLY):

_____ Learning Lab - Subject(s) Failed:

RLA

MATH

SCIENCE

PARENT’S SIGNATURE

STUDENT’S SIGNATURE

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GRADE 7 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ELAR 7

Middle School English Language Arts and Reading is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Strategies for listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts are integrated daily to create a literacy-rich classroom which promotes engaging, student-centered learning. Through the communication of ideas, orally and in writing, students continue to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become independent readers, writers, and thinkers. The primary goals of this course are to cultivate independent learning, encourage in-depth inquiry, and exploration of the content, and develop the habits necessary for academic success.

ELAR 7 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

This course is designed to prepare and motivate middle school students for honors and dual enrollment courses in high school. This is in addition to the grade-level expectations of the Middle School English Language Arts and Reading classroom. Students have multiple opportunities to develop communication and analytical skills in an academically challenging course of study. As a preparation for advanced courses in high school, this course adds a focus on literary analysis in reading, writing, and speaking. Students enrolled in honors courses should expect a more rigorous class, faster pace, more in-depth classroom discussions, intensified vocabulary, an increased amount of reading and writing assignments, and the need for effective time management.

GRADE 7 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MATH 7

This course builds on student understanding of number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students will utilize process standards in order to weave knowledge and skills together so that they may be successful problem solvers and use mathematics efficiently and effectively in daily life.

MATH 7 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

This course connects components from the 7th grade math TEKS into the 8th grade math curriculum with an emphasis on complex problem solving through the lens of proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. Students will utilize process standards to weave knowledge and skills together so they may be successful problem solvers and use mathematics efficiently and effectively in daily life.

GRADE 7 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SCIENCE 7

In 7th grade Science, the content focus is on organisms and the environment. Throughout this course, students conduct laboratory and field investigations to analyze data using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students will study a variety of topics that include cell theory, structure and function of organelles, human body systems, inherited traits, adaptations, natural selection, stimulus and response, energy transformations, biodiversity and sustainability, the impact of catastrophic events on ecosystems, the impact of weathering, erosion and deposition on the ecoregions of Texas, the effects of human activity on watersheds, and requirements needed for manned space exploration.

SCIENCE 7 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

In 7th grade Science, the content focus is on organisms and the environment. Throughout this course, students conduct laboratory and field investigations to analyze data using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students will study a variety of topics that include cell theory, structure and function of organelles, human body systems, inherited traits, adaptations, natural selection, stimulus and response, energy transformations, biodiversity and sustainability, the impact of catastrophic events on ecosystems, the impact of weathering, erosion and deposition on the ecoregions of Texas, the effects of human activity on watersheds, and requirements needed for manned space exploration. Students enrolled in honors courses should expect a more rigorous class, faster pace, more in-depth classroom discussions, intensified vocabulary, an increased amount of reading and writing assignments, and the need for effective time management.

GRADE 7 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

This course will help students discover and appreciate their rich Texas heritage. Students will learn to analyze issues, make decisions, and realize the relevance of those historical events that contributed to the development of the Texas that we know and love today, and how historical events also contributed to the formation of the United States. The focus of this course will provide students the opportunity to apply critical thinking skills to research, organize, and use information from various sources, including primary, secondary, and electronic sources. Students will show mastery and understanding of historical and geographical information about Texas, including the United States. This course will build upon a foundation in Texas and U.S. history, geography, economics, government, citizenship, culture, science, and technology. This course is designed to provide students with maximum opportunities to work productively and to reach high, but realistic goals in order to help them become independent critical thinkers.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

In 7th grade Texas History, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Students will learn about the regions of Texas and the distribution of population within and among the regions. They will also study the factors that caused Texas to change from an agrarian to an urban society. Students will learn about the structure and functions of municipal, county, and state governments, explain the influence of the U.S. Constitution on the Texas Constitution, and examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens. Students enrolled in honors courses should expect a more rigorous class, faster pace, more in-depth classroom discussions, intensified vocabulary, an increased amount of reading and writing assignments, and the need for effective time management.

GRADE 7 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)	<p>The purpose of 7th grade Physical Education class is to offer an organized and fun atmosphere in which the student will be learning lifelong fitness, group cooperation, and sportsmanship. This will be accomplished through learning skills, safety, mental and physical discipline, and the lifelong benefits of fitness and exercise. Student will be required to wear an approved PE uniform and participate daily.</p>
ATHLETICS	<p>Athletics is for students who are interested in participating in competitive sports. When not in season, students will train in a strength and conditioning off-season program. Students interested in competing in the following sports: football, volleyball, basketball and/or track must sign up for Athletics.</p> <p><i>*A sports participation physical evaluation and Rank One form are required before participation may begin. Students who fail to turn in the required forms will be removed from the class.</i></p>
TENNIS	<p>This course introduces the students to the rules, scoring and fundamental techniques for beginners. The course includes participation by all skill levels for single and doubles play. This course is also designed to develop and improve skill levels in serving, forehand and backhand drives, lobs, and volleys. This is a competitive program designed to advance players from one skill level to the next so that they can compete effectively against opponents. Tryouts are mandatory along with coach approval.</p> <p><i>*A sports participation physical evaluation and Rank One form are required before participation may begin. Students who fail to turn in the required forms will be removed from the class.</i></p>
SWIMMING	<p>Students who already know how to swim and plan to be on the TMMS competitive swim team may sign up for Swimming. Athletes must be able to swim 25 yards unassisted to join the teams. Athletes will be required to attend all practices and Swim/Dive competitions that are held in March and April. Transportation will be provided to and from the pool at the high school.</p> <p><i>*A sports participation physical evaluation and Rank One form are required before participation may begin. Students who fail to turn in the required forms will be removed from the class.</i></p>
ART	<p>The artist will communicate ideas through original artworks using a variety of media with appropriate skills. The student demonstrates an understanding of art history and culture by analyzing artistic styles, historical periods, and a variety of cultures. The student applies technical skills effectively using a variety of materials to produce artworks, including¹² drawings, paintings, prints, and other media.</p>

GRADE 7 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BAND	<p>7th band is designed for students to continue developing music fundamentals on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments introduced in the beginner level class. Students build skills at their own pace. Band literature is more advanced and promotes increased teamwork, kinesthetic development, expression, leadership, and problem-solving skills. Band concerts include music of all styles. Students will be placed in either Concert, Symphonic, or Honors Band by the TMMS band directors based on both formal and informal assessments made the year prior.</p>
MARIACHI BAND	<p><u>Pre-requisites:</u> 1 or 2 years COMPLETED in a band or music program and mastery of reading notes in Treble or Bass Clef and mastery of reading basic rhythms. All students in Mariachi must also be enrolled concurrently in a band class.</p> <p>Mariachi is a course designed to introduce stringed instruments to students already experienced in reading notes and rhythms through the band program. Students will learn these instruments in the style of the mariachi genre, as well as learning singing and chorus and solo in the mariachi style.</p>
CHOIR	<p>Treble Choir: Treble choir students should already have mastered the skills taught in Beginning Choir. In Treble choir the students will learn the next level of theory and musical terms, sight-read in unison and two parts, and be provided performance opportunities. Treble Choir students are expected to participate in the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. Region Choir, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Concert and Sight-Reading Contest and a Festival are optional.</p> <p>Tenor Bass Choir: TB Choir students are 7th - 8th grade male only. These students must have mastered the skills taught in Beginning Choir. TB Choir students will learn the next level of theory, musical terms, and sight-reading. They will also be expected to participate in the following performance opportunities: Fall Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. Region Choir, Pre-UIL Contest, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Concert and Sight-Reading Contest and a Festival are optional.</p>

GRADE 7 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Theatre Arts	Students interpret characters using the voice and body expressively and creates dramatizations. The student applies design, directing, and theatre production concepts and skills. The students is expected to create theatrical elements, define the role of the director, determine specific technical elements, and use technology in theatrical applications.
Career and College Exploration	The goal of this course is to help students build career awareness and engage in deep exploration and study of the Texas CTE career clusters to create a foundation for success in high school, possible post-secondary studies, and careers. Students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment.
HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES	
SPANISH I	Students will understand and use conversational Spanish that will demonstrate knowledge of main ideas in listening and reading; produce learned words, phrases and sentence in speech and writing accurately; and recognize the importance of culture and history of the Americas in the 21st century.

**Tuloso-Midway Middle School
2025-2026
7th Grade Course Selection Form**

Name _____ STUDENT ID# _____

REQUIRED COURSES: (SELECT ONE IN CONTENT)

_____ English Language Arts & Reading 7 (7200)	_____ Science 7 (7300)
_____ English Language Arts & Reading 7 Honors (7202)	_____ Science 7 Honors (7302)
_____ Math 7 (7100)	_____ Social Studies (7400)
_____ Math 7 Honors (7102)	_____ Social Studies 7 Honors (7402)

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ELECTIVE: CIRCLE ONE (REQUIRED)

A Physical is required for the Athletics courses.

_____ Physical Education - Boys (7500) <i>Physical not required for regular P.E.</i>	_____ Physical Education – Girls (7502) <i>Physical not required for regular P.E.</i>
_____ Boy's Athletics (7504)	_____ Girl's Athletics (7505)
_____ Tennis (7510)	_____ Swimming (7520)

REQUIRED ELECTIVE (7th Grade):

 X Career and College Exploration (7992)

ELECTIVE CHOICES: Indicate 1st, 2nd & 3rd Choice by numbering them "1," "2," or "3."

**final course placements are determined by teacher / director*

_____ Band* Concert Band (7694)	Symphonic Band (7692)	Honors Band (7693)
_____ Mariachi Band (7695)*	_____ Theatre Arts (7655)	
_____ Non- Competition Choir (7640)	_____ Varsity Choir (7641)*	
_____ Tenor Bass Choir (7642)	_____ Art (7631)	
_____ Spanish I (7601) (High School Credit)		

REQUIRED ELECTIVES FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT PASS STAAR (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY):

_____ Learning Lab - Subject(s) Failed: RLA MATH

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

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GRADE 8 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ELAR 8

Middle School English Language Arts and Reading is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Strategies for listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts are integrated daily to create a literacy-rich classroom which promotes engaging, student-centered learning. Through the communication of ideas, orally and in writing, students continue to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become independent readers, writers, and thinkers. The primary goals of this course are to cultivate independent learning, encourage in-depth inquiry and exploration of the content, and develop the habits necessary for academic success.

ELAR 8 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

This course is designed to prepare and motivate middle school students for honors and dual-enrollment courses in high school. This is in addition to the grade-level expectations of the Middle School English Language Arts and Reading classroom. Students have multiple opportunities to develop communication and analytical skills in an academically challenging course of study. As a preparation for accelerated courses in high school, this course adds a focus on literary analysis in reading, writing, and speaking. Students enrolled in honors courses should expect a more rigorous class, faster pace, more in-depth classroom discussions, intensified vocabulary, an increased amount of reading and writing assignments, and the need for effective time management.

GRADE 8 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MATH 8

The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation for students to solve problems using proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. The students will utilize process standards in order to weave knowledge and skills together so that they may be successful problem solvers and use mathematics efficiently and effectively in daily life.

MATH 8 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation for students to solve problems using proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. The students will utilize process standards in order to weave knowledge and skills together so that they may be successful problem solvers and use mathematics efficiently and effectively in daily life. Algebra concepts will supplement the regular math 8 curriculum. Students enrolled in honors courses should expect a more rigorous and faster-paced class.

GRADE 8 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SCIENCE 8

In 8th grade Science, the content focus is on Earth and space. Throughout this course, students conduct laboratory and field investigations to analyze data using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students will study a variety of topics that include atomic structure, arrangement of the Periodic Table, chemical reactivity, evidence of chemical reactions, Law of Conservation of Mass, Newton's three laws of motion, seasons, lunar cycle, ocean tides, components of the universe, classification of stars, electromagnetic spectrum, Theory of Plate Tectonics, formation of Earth's crustal features, topographic maps and satellite views, formation of weather systems, weather maps, competition within an ecosystem and human dependence on ocean systems.

SCIENCE 8 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

In 8th grade Science, the content focus is on Earth and space. Throughout this course, students conduct laboratory and field investigations to analyze data using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students will study a variety of topics that include atomic structure, arrangement of the Periodic Table, chemical reactivity, evidence of chemical reactions, Law of Conservation of Mass, Newton's three laws of motion, seasons, lunar cycle, ocean tides, components of the universe, classification of stars, electromagnetic spectrum, Theory of Plate Tectonics, formation of Earth's crustal features, topographic maps and satellite views, formation of weather systems, weather maps, competition within an ecosystem and human dependence on ocean systems. Students enrolled in honors courses should expect a more rigorous class, faster pace, more in-depth classroom discussions, intensified vocabulary, an increased amount of reading and writing assignments, and the need for effective time management.

GRADE 8 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

This course studies U.S. History from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will learn about the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present; analyze economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic; examine American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights; and evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8 HONORS

PREREQUISITE: See honors admission criteria as outlined on page 6.

This course studies U.S. History from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will learn about the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present; analyze economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic; examine American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights; and evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century. Students enrolled in Advanced courses should expect a more rigorous class, faster pace, more in-depth classroom discussions, intensified vocabulary, an increased amount of reading and writing assignments, and the need for effective time management.

GRADE 8 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ATHLETICS	<p>Athletics is for students who are interested in participating in competitive sports. When not in season, students will train in a strength and conditioning off-season program. Students interested in competing in the following sports: football, volleyball, basketball and/or track may sign up for Athletics.</p> <p><i>*A sports participation physical evaluation and Rank One form are required before participation may begin. Students who fail to turn in the required forms will be removed from the class.</i></p>
TENNIS	<p>This course introduces the students to the rules, scoring, and fundamental techniques for beginners. The course includes participation by all skill levels for single and doubles play. This course is also designed to develop and improve skill levels in serving, forehand and backhand drives, lobs, and volleys. Performance strategies for both singles and doubles are drilled. This is a competitive program designed to advance players from one skill level to the next so that they can compete effectively against opponents. Tryouts are mandatory along with coach approval.</p> <p><i>*A sports participation physical evaluation and Rank One form are required before participation may begin. Students who fail to turn in the required forms will be removed from the class.</i></p>
SWIMMING	<p>Students who already know how to swim and plan to be on the TMMS competitive swim team may sign up for Swimming. Athletes must be able to swim 25 yards unassisted to join the teams. Athletes will be required to attend all practices and Swim/Dive competitions that are held in March and April. Transportation will be provided to the pool at the HS and athletes may ride the bus home with HS students or be picked up at the high school campus. During season, athletes will have to be picked up at the HS after practice.</p> <p><i>*A sports participation physical evaluation and Rank One form are required before participation may begin. Students who fail to turn in the required forms will be removed from the class.</i></p>

GRADE 8 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BAND	Band is designed for students to continue developing music fundamentals on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments introduced in the beginner level class. Students build skills at their own pace. Band literature is more advanced and promotes increased teamwork, kinesthetic development, expression, leadership, and problem-solving skills. Band concerts include music of all styles. Students will be placed in either Concert, Symphonic, or Honors Band by the TMMS band directors based on both formal and informal assessments made the year prior.
MARIACHI BAND	Pre-requisites: 1 or 2 years COMPLETED in a band or music program and mastery of reading notes in Treble or Bass Clef and mastery of reading basic rhythms. All students in Mariachi must also be enrolled concurrently in a band class. Mariachi is a course designed to introduce stringed instruments to students already experienced in reading notes and rhythms through the band program. Students will learn these instruments in the style of the mariachi genre, as well as learning singing and chorus and solo in the mariachi style.
CHOIR	Treble Choir: Treble choir students should have mastered the skills taught in Beginning Choir. In Treble choir the students will learn the next level of theory and musical terms, sight-read in unison and two parts, and be provided performance opportunities. Treble Choir students are expected to participate in the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. Region Choir, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Concert and Sight-Reading Contest and a Festival are optional. Tenor Bass Choir: TB Choir students are 7th - 8th grade male only. These students must have mastered the skills taught in Beginning Choir. TB Choir students will learn the next level of theory, musical terms, and sight-reading. They will also be expected to participate in the following performance opportunities: Fall Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. Region Choir, Pre-UIL Contest, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Concert and Sight-Reading Contest and a Festival are optional.
YEARBOOK	Students will learn the basic principles of yearbook production and have the opportunity to create the middle school's yearbook. Students will focus on journalism skills such as interviewing, captioning and headline writing, desktop publishing, and some broadcasting. Due to limited seating, students will be selected through information gathered by an interest form.
CAREER AND COLLEGE EXPLORATION	The goal of this course is to help students build career awareness and engage in deep exploration and study of the Texas CTE career clusters to create a foundation for success in high school, possible post-secondary studies, and careers. Students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment.

GRADE 8 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES

THEATRE ARTS I	Theatre Arts 1 is an introductory class with a focus on performance. The student will develop concepts about self, human relationships, elements of drama and conventions of theatre. Students will be introduced to all types of performance (acting for the stage, improvisation, scenes and vignettes, etc.) Students will also create and perform their own original scenes in various theatrical genres.
SPANISH I	Students will understand and use conversational Spanish that will demonstrate knowledge of main ideas in listening and reading; produce learned words, phrases and sentence in speech and writing accurately; and recognize the importance of culture and history of the Americas in the 21st century.
SPANISH II	Spanish Level II includes the same areas of Spanish Level 1 with emphasis on increased understanding and expanded vocabulary. Grammar will include: learned concepts, past tenses, oral proficiency (novice-intermediate); listening comprehension, writing skills limited to short paragraphs and essays; reading comprehension (short stories, legends); cultural awareness of all Hispanic world. Students MUST have earned Spanish I credit for participation in Spanish II.
ART I	This course provides a broad foundation into the elements and principles of design to develop skills in creative thinking and communication. Students will work hands-on with a variety of media, which may include drawing (pencil, pastels, charcoal, colored pencil), painting (tempera and watercolor), sculpture (clay and paper), printmaking (linoleum), and mixed media. Art appreciation, art history and evaluation through student and teacher critiques expand the student's verbal and visual vocabulary.
PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCES	This course will prepare students for careers in agriculture, food, and natural resources. This course allows students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, personal development, globalization, industry standards, details, practices, and expectations.

**Tuloso-Midway Middle School
2025-2026
8th Grade Course Selection Form**

Name _____ STUDENT ID# _____

REQUIRED COURSES: (SELECT ONE IN EACH CONTENT)

____ English Language Arts & Reading 8 (8200)	____ Science 8 (8300)
____ English Language Arts & Reading 8 Honors (8202)	____ Science 8 Honors (8302)
____ Math 8 (8100)	____ U.S. History 8 (8400)
____ Math 8 Honors (8102)	____ U.S. History 8 Honors (8402)

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ELECTIVE: SELECT ONE (OPTIONAL)

A physical is required for all athletic courses.

____ Girls' Athletics (8505) *Volleyball, Basketball, & Track	____ Boys' Athletics (8504) *Football, Basketball, & Track
____ Tennis (8510)	____ Swimming (8520)

REQUIRED ELECTIVE (If not taken in 7th Grade):

____ Career and College Exploration (8992)

ELECTIVE CHOICES: Indicate 1st, 2nd & 3rd Choice by numbering them "1," "2," or "3."

*final course placements are determined by teacher / director

____ BAND* Concert Band (8694) Symphonic (8692) Honors Band (8693)	
____ Mariachi Band (8695)*	____ HS Theatre Arts (8675) (<i>H.S. Credit</i>)
____ Non-Competition Choir (8640)	____ HS Art (8635) (<i>H.S. Credit</i>)
____ Varsity Choir (8641)*	____ Spanish I (8601) (<i>H.S. Credit</i>)
____ Tenor Bass Choir (8642)	____ Spanish II (8602) (<i>H.S. Credit</i>) Prereq: Spanish I
____ Principles of Agriculture (8615)	____ Yearbook (8106)*

REQUIRED ELECTIVES FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT PASS STAAR (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY):

____ Learning Lab - Subject(s) Failed: RLA MATH

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE



Please be advised that this Course Catalog is contingent on future decisions of the Texas Education Agency, State Board of Education, Texas Legislature and/or Tuloso-Midway Independent School District. If changes occur, the online catalog will be updated.