

# THMS

## COURSE CATALOG



**7th Grade**

**2025-2026**

**Tony Hillerman Middle School**  
8101 Rainbow Blvd. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87114

**Mission Statement**

Prepare students to be compassionate, responsible, contributing members of society who have achieved proficiency in all middle school standards by the time they complete middle school.

**Vision Statement**

All students can succeed.



ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**APS STRONG**

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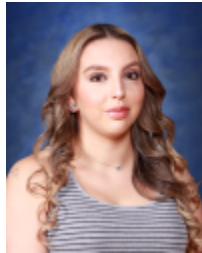
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# Bell Schedule



## Bell Schedule

Tony Hillerman MS 2024 - 2025

### A-LUNCH 8th grade

1st Period 8:05-9:02  
2nd Period 9:06-9:58  
**ADV/WIN** 10:02-10:32  
A LUNCH 10:36-11:06  
3rd Period 11:10-12:02  
4th Period 12:06-12:58  
5th Period 1:02-1:54  
6th Period 1:58-2:50

### B-LUNCH 7th grade

1st Period 8:05-9:02  
2nd Period 9:06-9:58  
**ADV/WIN** 10:02-10:32  
3rd Period 10:36-11:28  
B LUNCH 11:32-12:02  
4th Period 12:06-12:58  
5th Period 1:02-1:54  
6th Period 1:58-2:50

### C-LUNCH 6th grade

1st Period 8:05-9:02  
2nd Period 9:06-9:58  
**ADV/WIN** 10:02-10:32  
3rd Period 10:36-11:28  
4th Period 11:32-12:24  
C LUNCH 12:28-12:58  
5th Period 1:02-1:54  
6th Period 1:58-2:50

## 8th Grade Course List

Instructional Core		
Language Arts 8	Math 8	Social Studies 8
Science 8	Health	
Elective Choices		
Beginning/Concert/Symphonic Orchestra (1 YR)	Beginning/ADV Chorus (1 YR)	Intermediate/Advanced/Symphonic Band (1 YR)
Jazz Band	Leadership	Yearbook (1 YR w/ instructor approval)
Engineering & Design I & II	Gifted Seminar 2 (gifted students only, 1 YR)	Hero's Journey
eSports	Art	Computer Science I & II
AVID 8	Foods I & II	Music Appreciation
Computer Graphics	Video Announcements (1 YR w/ instructor approval)	Rock & Roll Legacy
Student Aide		

### 8th Grade Language Arts

This class emphasizes **reading**, **writing**, and **speaking** skills. Students move from basic concepts in grammar, writing, communication, and literature to higher-level practices. **Essential Standards** form the curriculum and promote critical learning in 4

focus areas: **Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening**, and **Language**. The curriculum promotes **critical thinking** and **reasoning** skills using a multicultural perspective, emotional social learning, AVID literacy practices, the 6 Traits Writing model, and expanded literary themes. Instruction consists of classroom interaction, Google Classroom, online educational apps, readings, activities, creative writing, text assignments, projects, and videos in these areas: **grammar, research, literature, historical events**, and **social issues**.

## **Variations of Language Arts**

**Language Arts/ESL** - This class is aligned with the general education 8th-grade curriculum; however, English Language Learners are supported with WIDA strategies. These strategies will empower the students through differentiated instructional methods.

**ELA 8 Enrichment** - The THMS Gifted/Advanced ELA focuses on broad concept-based learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. The class utilizes a gifted curriculum to address Common Core standards, with differentiation for gifted/advanced learners at a reasonably rigorous level and pace. There are open-ended opportunities to meet the standards through multiple pathways, more complex thinking applications, and real-world problem-solving contexts. Gifted/Advanced learners are assessed through performance-based and portfolio techniques based on higher-level learning outcomes. Most materials and units are two grade levels above the norm and address concept-based learning infused with ELA skill development.

***Selection Process: Teacher Recommendation and Grade Level or Above Assessment Scores***

***Required: Maintain a quarterly percentage of 70% or better. Students with a semester average below C will be transferred out of the enriched class.***

**Gifted Language Arts-** Students with an IEP for gifted may be enrolled in this class.

**Language Arts – Special Education –** Students with an IEP with a goal in Language Arts may be enrolled in this class.

## **8th Grade Mathematics**



In Grade 8, instruction will focus on three critical areas: (1)formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

## **Variations of Mathematics**

**Algebra I-** Students in Algebra 1 will focus on the following areas: (1) One-variable and two-variable statistics including the collection and analysis of quantitative and categorical data. Students will create and interpret visual representations for both one and two-variable statistics. (2) Solve, graph, and model linear equations, inequalities, and systems and explain them in context. (3) Continue to develop their understanding of functions and function notation, including the domain and range of functions. (4) Develop an understanding of exponential and quadratic functions. Students should be able to solve and graph basic exponential and quadratic equations and explain the contexts for each function type. Many students in this class may be skipping 8th-grade math, so some of those topics are also infused into this course.

**Honors Algebra-** The same content and material is covered in the Honors Algebra course. Instruction is paced more quickly with more extensive opportunities for learning extensions and deeper explorations of the topics covered. Most students in this class will have been in Accelerated Math in 6th or 7th grade have shown a strong understanding of the concepts presented and can complete more challenging work and complex tasks.

**Selection Process:** Students will take an Algebra placement exam in the spring of 7th grade. Algebra Placement Exam Score, iReady scores, and IXL Diagnostic levels should show Algebra 1 readiness. Grades in 7th-grade math, attendance, and work completion are also considerations for placement in Algebra 1.

**Required:** Parent permission and current teacher recommendation/signature. Students must maintain a B average throughout the course. Any student below an 80% average

at the end of the 1st 9 weeks may be placed on probation. If a student on probation has below 80% at the close of a semester, he/she may be transferred to a regular math class.

**HS Credit:** Students should maintain an A average for the year to be adequately prepared for the rigor of Honors Geometry in high school. Students not meeting those qualifications will be recommended for Honors Algebra in 9th grade. Algebra is an important foundational skill for all future math and science courses. While the goal is to earn high school Algebra 1 credit, many students are often best served by taking Honors Algebra 1 in 9th grade. Middle School Algebra 1 is not the exact same course as high school Algebra 1 since 8th-grade math skills topics must also be integrated into some units.

## **8th Grade Social Studies**

Students will explore and study the history of the United States beginning with the first Native American inhabitants to the late 19th century. In this course, the student examines the pre-history, politics, geography, economics, society, and cultures of the United States. The 8th Grade Performance Standards (History, Geography, Civics and Government, and Economics) should be included in this course. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and research skills are integrated throughout the course.

## **8th Grade Science**

Welcome to 8th Grade Science! In this course, we will explore various science topics.

**Earth/Space Science:** Discover the Earth, the sun, the moon, and the Solar System. Learn about galaxies, noncontact forces, and how objects move and collide.

**Physical Science:** Explore concepts like potential and kinetic energy, electric and magnetic forces, and Newton's laws of motion.

**Life Science:** Dive into the amazing world of living things! We will study the evolution, and reproduction of plants and animals. Students will also learn about genes, mutations, and how humans impact the environment. This class focuses on mastery of the New Mexico Next Generation Science Standards with an emphasis on building critical thinking skills and scientific writing. The goal of this course is to prepare your students

for the New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness, NM-ASR, as well as prepare them for the rigor of high school science.

## **8th Grade Health**

In this required course, the student learns about all aspects of health and wellness through learning experiences that emphasize an increased awareness of health behaviors and their positive and negative consequences. Areas of study include, but are not limited to health promotion, acquisition of health information, health behaviors, health factors, interpersonal communication skills, goal setting, and health advocacy. Literacy skills of reading, writing, speaking, viewing, and researching are integrated throughout the course. Skills and knowledge acquired in this course can be applied to the Health Science and Human Services Career Clusters and their respective pathways.

## **7th Grade PE (1-Semester)**

This course will cover numerous courses of study related to health, physical fitness, and nutrition. Students will be engaged in a wide variety of sports and activities that may include: Fitness Testing, Cooperative Games, Circuit Training, Racquet Games, Ball Games, etc. While playing these games students will learn key concepts, collect data, set goals, display sportsmanship, and demonstrate an understanding of why physical fitness is important.

## **Electives**

***Hero's Journey 51101*** : This course is designed to introduce students to the topic of the Hero's Journey. They will learn the basics of this literary analysis theory. After learning about Hero's Journey, students will analyze how this monomyth theory works in each of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) movies of Phases 1-3: The Infinity Saga. Students will learn about and use Focused Note-Taking (Cornell method) during the films. Course Objective: Students will view, discuss, debate, explore, and evaluate the Infinity Saga films through the lens of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey theory.

***AVID 7 55507***: This course is designed to introduce students to the topic of AVID. AVID is an acronym that stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It is a program that emphasizes college and career readiness. This class is designed to equip students with the tools necessary to perform successfully in all of their classes. The skill development focus for the content of the class is W.I.C.O.R. = Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading.

**Engineering and Design I 5050s:** This course is designed to introduce students to the Engineering Design Process (EDP) through collaboration and hands-on problem-solving.

**Art 70901:** This course is designed to provide students with the foundations of artistic expression! Students will explore the *process* of creating art (to include “Perfect Practice” and Art Criticism) and will survey a variety of media to communicate their ideas creatively! The course consists of introductions to 2D techniques like Drawing, Collage, and Printmaking; and 3D/Fiber Art techniques, including Paper Mache Clay and Sewing. Students are encouraged to respectfully discuss their thoughts and ideas with their peers about their art and art.

**Computer Science I 65903:** This course is an introductory class in programming and computing. Students do not need any previous coding experience. Students will learn the basics of creating an app, programming an interactive game, and how to find and debug code. Emphasis on how CS is used in many different career paths. Various coding languages will be used with an emphasis on the Python and Java languages.

**Computer Graphics 80102:** This semester-long elective course will introduce students to the exciting digital design world using industry-standard software like Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. Students will learn basic design principles, layout, and image editing while exploring the creative process. Students design and create such projects as posters, advertisements, stickers, notepads, business cards, etc. All projects are composed of images and text that work together to communicate a message.

**Foods I 82904:** Foods I is a basic course that develops skills in food. Safety and sanitation, use of equipment, basic food preparation skills, nutrition, meal patterns, and careers in food service areas are emphasized. Basic skills are demonstrated during laboratory experiences. Teamwork, application of literacy skills, and curriculum integration are an integral part of the course. **(There is a lab fee that covers the cost of grocery items. The amount is determined at the beginning of the semester. No student is turned away for a lack of fee.)**

**Music Appreciation 72603 :** Have you ever wondered how musical instruments work? Or what the music of other countries sounds like? Maybe you’ve wondered what types of jobs you can get in the music industry. This class is focused on answering these questions through the exploration and study of world music. There will also be hands-on music-making activities with real instruments while we explore the musical era timeline, basic music reading and writing, various musical careers, the study of world instruments, and the study of musical genres and world music.

**Leadership I 51200 :** MSLP engages cadets in the practices of leadership, citizenship, physical fitness, self-discipline, and activities such as Science, Technology, Engineering,

and Math (STEM) - including rocketry, drones, and remote control aircraft. Cadets also participate in ceremonial drill and color guard. MSLP's goals are to achieve life skills such as first aid, CPR, physical fitness, archery, and community service projects.

**Video Announcements (7th & 8th ONLY) 53181** : This course produces daily announcements for the staff and students. We use ipads, Canva, Adobe, and our creativity in putting the announcements together each day. Students are expected to be self-starters in this class, must be familiar with and use Canva, Adobe, Google Drive, and slides, as well as be able to meet strict deadlines.

**Selection Process-** The selection process is by application and interview. The application requires that you demonstrate your skills with the computer programs we use, being able to speak on camera and follow directions. Students accepted will receive a letter of notification that is copied to the administration for scheduling for the following school year.

**Yearbook (8th ONLY) Full Year Class 24908:** Do you like to work with other students? Do you want to create a lasting reminder of the current school year? Do you like to take photos and create stories? Have you ever wondered how we get all of those photos in that book? Are you a take-charge person? Are you awesome with deadlines and responsibilities? Then, The Yearbook Staff is looking for someone just like you to help us out.

**Selection Process-** Application process only, cannot sign up in Synergy. Applications with a writing sample will be required. Reach out to Mrs. Mitchell for the application and deadline information.

**eSports 501s:** This course is designed to have fun and to learn. You will study the beginning of eSports and video games, whether or not eSports is a real sport, video game design, gaming safety, and how to market and sell a video game. Students will need to develop an objective perspective on what makes a video game good, how to price a video game, how to present a new video game to the public, etc.

**Rock & Roll Legacy 21901:** Students in this class will be encouraged to look at Rock & Roll, and music in general, in a new way. We will explore different genres, lyrics, performers, and the history and evolution of Rock and Roll. This class will explore how Rock and Roll music has affected American music as a means of expression. The class will promote an appreciation of Rock and Roll through music, art, videos, movies, articles, research, and online projects. We will explore the legacy of Rock & Roll music.

## **Beginning Band (1-Year, 6th & 7th ONLY)**

This course is for students with no previous band experience. You do not need to own an instrument. Students will learn to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion). The focus will be on gaining individual proficiency in their

instrument as well as group performance skills. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year. Students will have the opportunity to attend multiple field trips throughout the year as well as work with specialist teachers on their instruments during the school day.

**(There is a lab fee of \$40 which covers the cost of sheet music and some supplies, guest clinicians, and a t-shirt.** Fundraising and scholarship opportunities are available, no student is turned away for a lack of fee.)

### **Intermediate Band (1-Year, For students who have completed one year of band in 5th grade)**

This course is for students with at least one year of band experience either through a 5th-grade band program or one year of beginning band. In this course, students will refine skills learned in their beginning band class and work towards performing more as a full band. Students will focus on original music for the concert band, and aim to perform at the district VII music festival in the spring semester. Students will have the opportunity to attend multiple field trips throughout the year as well as work with specialist teachers on their instruments during the school day.

**(There is a lab fee of \$40 which covers the cost of sheet music, Clinicians, and a t-shirt.** Fundraising and scholarship opportunities are available, no student is turned away for a lack of fee.)

### **Advanced Band (1-Year, instructor approval and audition required.)**

This is an auditioned course for students who have completed one year of band at THMS. In this course, students will further refine their ensemble skills and grow a deeper understanding of musical concepts to grow as musicians. The purpose of this class is to prepare students for either the top level Symphonic Band, as well as band in High School. Students will perform off-campus at the District VII music festival for adjudication. Students will work with many guest teachers and clinicians throughout the school year as well.

### **Symphonic Band (1-Year, instructor approval and audition required.)**

This is an auditioned course for students who have completed at least one year of band at THMS. This is the top performing ensemble at THMS, as such it is a rigorous course with the aim at mastery of musical concepts and instrumental skills. This course will prepare students for intermediate to advanced high school level playing. Students will

perform off-campus at the District VII music festival for adjudication and compete in the NMAA State Band Contest. An end-of-year overnight field trip is available for students as a reward for all the hard work, dedication, and practice that students have put into this course.

**(There is a lab fee of \$40 which covers the cost of sheet music, Clinicians, and a t-shirt.** Fundraising and scholarship opportunities are available, no student is turned away for a lack of fee.)

## **Jazz Band I (1-Year, zero-hour class. Instructor approval and audition required. )**

This is an auditioned course for students who have completed at least one year of band at THMS. This is the top performing jazz ensemble at THMS with a focus on improvisation and swing, rock, funk, and Latin style playing. Students will perform off-campus at the ABQ/UNM Jazz Festival for adjudication as well as taking an overnight trip to perform at potential out-of-state competitions. **Students must also be enrolled in a concert band class** (Intermediate, Advanced, or Symphonic Bands).

## **Beginning Orchestra (1-Year)**

This introductory course is for students with little to no prior experience playing the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Through hands-on instruction, students will learn the fundamentals of musicianship, including basic music theory, rhythm, and instrumental technique. Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of repertoire and will perform in evening concerts, assemblies, and festivals as part of the course requirements. There is a small course fee (\$15) to cover the cost of festival registration fees. **Eighth-grade students may enroll for this class only with instructor approval.**

## **Concert Orchestra (1-Year)**

This course is designed for students who have completed the introductory orchestra class or have equivalent experience playing the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Building on foundational skills, students will deepen their understanding of music theory, develop more advanced instrumental techniques, and explore a wider variety of repertoire. Emphasis will be placed on ensemble playing, musical expression, and preparing for performances. Students will participate in evening concerts, assemblies, and festivals as part of the course requirements. A course fee of \$30 covers festival registration fees and travel expenses.

## **Symphonic Orchestra (1-Year, audition required)**

This *audition-based* course is designed for students with 1-2 years of experience playing the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will refine advanced techniques, develop a deeper understanding of music theory, and tackle challenging repertoire spanning a variety of styles and genres. A strong emphasis will be placed on ensemble performance, musical interpretation, and leadership within the orchestra. As part of the course requirements, students will perform in evening concerts, assemblies, and festivals, and may have opportunities to participate in honor ensembles or competitions. A course fee of \$30 covers festival registration fees and travel expenses.

## **Beginning Chorus (1-Year)**

Students will learn basic vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production, and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk, and pop traditions. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered an extension of the instructional process and are required.

## **Advanced Chorus (1-Year)**

This course is for students who have previously participated in choir for one year and have gone through introductory methods of singing (i.e. matching pitch, and understanding of basic rhythm). In this course, students will continue to discover their vocal potential by developing their vocal technique through exercises and music literature. Students will sing in a variety of musical styles from classical to pop music. Students will learn about being a part of a community and build relationships with each other through team building and music making. This is a performance-based course and performances are required. There are also field trips taken to supplement the music-learning and making process.

## **Gifted Seminar 2 (1-Year - 7th and 8th only)**

In this hands-on course, students work on real-world projects that foster teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving. Through research and collaboration, they tackle challenges across subjects in social studies, language arts, and fine arts. Students will then apply their research to projects involving technology editing software to get some hands-on experience. Students will build essential skills in communication, critical thinking, and project management while creating a portfolio of their work. Get ready to dive in, learn by doing, and make an impact!

*\*Students with an IEP for gifted may be enrolled in this class.*