



Curriculum Guide

Middle School
2026-2027



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TMI Mission Statement

TMI provides an exceptional education with values based on the teachings of Jesus Christ that challenge motivated students to develop their full potential in service and leadership.

TMI’s Proven Process

At TMI Episcopal, we believe the best learning and the deepest growth happens in the context of meaningful relationships. That’s why our proven process begins where others often end: not by pushing students first, but by cherishing them. We create a safe, supportive environment where students feel seen, valued, and cared for. Then, we take time to truly know each student—their passions, strengths, learning styles, and goals. Only then do we challenge them: academically, personally, and spiritually. This intentional order of Cherish, Know, and Challenge is what sets TMI apart. It’s our “secret sauce,” and it’s how we develop students who thrive in the classroom, lead with confidence, and grow into the very best versions of themselves.

Middle School Overview

Middle School at TMI Episcopal is a transformative journey marked by growth, self-discovery, and meaningful learning. We are deeply committed to knowing each student as an individual, cherishing their unique strengths, and challenging them to reach their fullest potential. In this community, students are encouraged to explore a wide range of electives, including the arts, world languages, and innovative academic courses. These opportunities allow them to uncover new interests, develop emerging talents, and build a strong foundation for future success.

Middle School Programs

Advisory Program

The Middle School Advisory Program is designed to support students' social, emotional, and organizational development while fostering strong relationships within the school community. Each advisory is a small group of students in the same grade and of the same gender, led by a middle school teacher who serves as the students' advisor and primary point of connection.

Advisory meets every Black Day following chapel for a 40-minute period. During this time, students build meaningful connections with their peers and advisor through guided discussions, social-emotional learning lessons, and intentional support around organization, time management, and goal-setting.

The advisory curriculum is grounded in the CharacterStrong social-emotional learning program for grades 6–8. CharacterStrong focuses on developing character, enhancing student well-being, and strengthening school culture through lessons centered on kindness, personal strength (including focus, resilience, and goal-setting), and wellness (such as emotional regulation and stress management). The program provides research-based, developmentally appropriate resources that promote empathy, self-awareness, leadership skills, and a strong sense of belonging, ensuring a whole-child approach to student success.

Through advisory, students are supported academically, socially, and emotionally as they grow into confident, responsible, and connected members of the school community.

Chapel

The Chapel Program is an important part of formation and growth at TMI. Middle and Upper School divisions meet daily in All Saints' Chapel for an opportunity to reflect, pray, and center ourselves as the TMI Episcopal Community. The service itself is taken from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer with a message from our chaplain, a senior giving their required chapel talk, or other members of the community. The goal of Chapel at TMI is to bring us together in connection, contemplation, and our shared core values. While our daily chapels are required for all students, there is no expectation of a commitment to the Episcopal Tradition or even Christianity. Chapel is a space where all are welcome, to be seen, to be known, and to come together as one community.

Athletics

Athletic or Physical Education Participation Requirement

Each student will be required to participate in at least one season of a sport or a physical education (P.E.) class during the school year. Students are encouraged to participate in all three seasons if they wish!

Team Tryouts and Selections

Students will try out for sport teams. Depending on the sport and the number of teams available, some students may not be placed on a team. Sports with limited availability are volleyball, soccer, basketball, and tennis.

Athletic Offerings

Fall:

- Cross Country
- Football
- Soccer
- Cheerleading
- Volleyball
- Physical Education (P.E.)

Winter:

- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Flag Football
- Soccer
- Swimming

Spring:

- Baseball
- Lacrosse
- Tennis
- Track and Field
- Softball
- Physical Education (P.E.)

Other End-of-Day Options

Students who are not “in season” or not enrolled in P.E. during a given season may either:

- *Be picked up at 2:20 p.m., or*
- *Attend Study Hall until 3:45 p.m.*

Middle School Curriculum Map 2026-2027

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
English	6th Grade English	7th Grade English	8th Grade English 8th Grade English Advanced ¹
Science	Earth Science	Life Science	Physical Science
Math	6th Grade Math 6th Grade Math Advanced ¹ 7th Grade Math Advanced ¹	7th Grade Math 7th Grade Math Advanced ¹ Algebra I Advanced ¹	8th Grade Math Algebra I ¹ Algebra I Advanced ¹ Advanced Topics in Geometry ¹
Social and Religious Studies	Foundations of World Cultures	Texas History* Introduction to the Biblical Story*	U.S. Studies
Arts & Innovation	Rotation (each quarter) of: 6th Grade Art 6th Grade Music 6th Grade Robotics 6th Grade Theater	Rotation (each quarter) of: 7th Grade Art 7th Grade Music 7th Grade Robotics 7th Grade Theater	Choose a year of: 1. Symphonic Band OR choose 2 of the following: 1. Introduction to Innovation & Design* 2. 8th Grade Theater* 3. 8th Grade Art* 4. 8th Grade Music*
World Language		Latin IA Spanish IA Spanish IA Heritage ¹	Latin IB Spanish IB Spanish IB Heritage ¹
Rotation	6th Grade Quarter Rotation of: Exploratory Spanish Exploratory Latin Introduction to Spirituality Literature		
Athletics	Athletic Team or Physical Education	Athletic Team or Physical Education	Athletic Team or Physical Education
Electives	Digital Literacy* Student Leadership*	Choose two of the following: Health & Wellness* Creative Writing* Personal Finance* Content Creators* Speech & Debate* Agriculture in Action* Career Explorations*	Non-Corps students choose two of the following: Health & Wellness* Creative Writing* Personal Finance* Content Creators* Speech & Debate* Agriculture in Action* Career Explorations* All Corps students must choose: 8th grade Corps Class- LET 1

1 = requires departmental approval

* = one semester course

6TH GRADE

English

The sixth-grade English course focuses on developing vocabulary and grammar skills while integrating these foundational skills into a variety of writing purposes, including personal narrative, literary analyses, and research reports. Students learn and apply each stage of the writing process, from generating ideas to revising. Vocabulary instruction focuses on connotation, figurative and literal meanings, context clues, and Greek and Latin roots. Throughout the course, students read and analyze realistic fiction, science fiction, drama, poetry, and informational texts. They also develop their understanding of literary elements through various creative formats such as discussions, essays, presentations, and multimedia projects.

Earth Science

The sixth grade science program serves as an introduction to the fundamental concepts of earth/space and environmental science. With an emphasis on earth /space science, this course also serves as a student's introduction to the many interactions between living organisms and their environment. Emphasis is on developing a firm foundation of scientific problem-solving skills, conceptual understanding of the “big ideas” in earth/space and environmental science, as well as on developing a foundation for critical, creative, and analytical thinking ability.



Math

6th Grade Math

In this course students gain mastery of mathematical operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Students learn about negative numbers and are introduced to ratios and proportional reasoning, algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics.

6th Grade Advanced Math

In this course, students gain mastery of mathematical operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Students learn about negative numbers and are introduced to ratios and proportional reasoning, algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics. Advanced courses are not accelerated but will dive into the curriculum in greater depth. This course is for the motivated mathematician who enjoys critical thinking, problem-solving, and exploring various concepts.

7th Grade Advanced Math

In this course, students gain more experience in computation and problem-solving, reinforcing their understanding of mathematical structure and reasoning. Students will explore solving for unknown values in a myriad of topics. Algebra concepts, particularly linear functions, are investigated and applied, and geometry concepts are woven throughout the course. Advanced courses are not accelerated, but will dive into the curriculum in greater depth. This course is for the motivated mathematician who enjoys critical thinking, problem-solving, and exploring various concepts.



6TH GRADE

Foundations of World Cultures

This year-long sixth-grade course seeks to educate and engage students as global citizens by examining the relationship between ancient history, geography, and religion. Students are introduced to the great early civilizations of the world and discover how these ancient cultures continue to influence the modern world. Honing in on their historical thinking skills, students begin to develop an understanding of the individuals and groups who have shaped significant historical and religious changes in our world. Research and writing skills are emphasized through the analysis of primary sources and the integration of project-based learning.



Rotation Courses in World Language and Spirituality

Introduction to Spirituality

This course is a quarter rotation and will be an introduction to the human spiritual quest and how people across cultures have found meaning and purpose in their lives. This course will address: How different religious people and ideas have helped humans understand spiritual meaning and purpose in life. During this exploration, students will learn about different religions, holidays, and concepts. We will also learn about spiritual practices such as prayer, meditation, and other mindful activities. Students will report on the ways they see religion connecting to their life and explore the three B's of spirituality- Belief, Behavior, and Belonging.

Rotation Courses in World Language and Spirituality (cont.)

Latin

Exploratory Latin (Quarter Rotation) Exposure to Latin for the first time will stress vocabulary, Roman history, culture, and geography. This course will be less grammar-intensive but will serve as a way to excite young students about the wonderful advantages of studying the lingua franca of the classical world and the endless connections to modern English and to Western culture. This is a one-quarter course, which rotates with three other offerings in the sixth grade.

Literature

This sixth-grade one-quarter course provides students the opportunity to refine their reading skills by practicing strategies for comprehension, annotating and analyzing a variety of texts, and developing their vocabulary. Students read both teacher and self-selected narrative and expository texts in order to increase their fluency and understanding of increasingly complex texts.

Spanish

Exploratory Spanish (Quarter Rotation) is a dynamic introduction to the heritage language of the Southwest. Culture, music, vocabulary, and authentic conversation will leave the students wanting more. This is a one-quarter course, which rotates with three other offerings in the sixth grade.



6TH GRADE

Rotation Courses in Arts and Innovation

Art

Sixth-grade art focuses on building appreciation for the fine arts while developing an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. Students use these elements and principles to plan and create artworks that express multiple ideas, encouraging creativity, thoughtful decision-making, and personal expression.

Music

This class functions as an introduction to the Fundamentals of Music, to include note and rhythm reading, as well as the expressive elements that are required to make a piece of music more enjoyable to both listen to and to perform. The class will spend time playing Orff instruments and/or working in the Yamaha Digital Piano Lab, and singing. Another topic is the story of the Broadway Musical, and the exploration of the different aspects that are needed to produce a musical, from its beginning as an idea to opening night.

Theater

Students enrolled in 6th Grade Drama will spend time engaged in improving Voice and Diction skills and working in small groups to create their own commercials (plays) for performance. A performance of their commercials will be presented to members of the 6th-grade class at the end of the quarter. All Middle School students are encouraged to audition for the Fall play.

Robotics

Sixth Grade Robotics is an introductory course in robotics, programming, and mechanical engineering. We will be utilizing LEGO Mindstorm kits, Mindstorm Software, and various LEGO robotics materials. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming, hands-on engineering applications, as well as problem solving strategies using the Innovation and Design Mindset. This course will involve students in the development, building, and programming of a LEGO Mindstorm robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program, and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, and propulsion systems.



Semester Elective Courses

Digital Literacy

In today's world, where technology is always within a student's reach, it is crucial to teach them essential skills, safety practices, and proper digital etiquette. This course is designed to help students understand their digital footprint and navigate the internet, social media, and various computer programs safely and responsibly.

Student Leadership

We are educating servant leaders. This course helps build upon the foundation of servant leadership with all students. This course provides students with opportunities to develop leadership qualities through building capacity for interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships. Students improve communication skills and acquire an understanding of what it means to be a positive and effective leader that embodies our W.I.S.E.R. core values. The content covers group dynamics, problem-solving, team building, motivation, and goal-setting.



7TH GRADE

English

The seventh-grade English course emphasizes building vocabulary and grammar understanding, incorporating both into a variety of writing strategies and purposes, including short works of fiction, research reports, literary analyses, and debate. Students read and discuss works of realistic, historical, and science fiction, as well as Shakespeare, poetry, and Greek mythology. Vocabulary instruction emphasizes connotation, figurative vs. literal meaning, using context, and Greek and Latin roots. Students become increasingly independent in using a variety of creative techniques, including discussion, essays, presentations, and multimedia projects, to showcase their understanding of literary elements.

Life Science

With an emphasis on life science, this course spirals and extends the student's introduction to the many interactions between living organisms and their environment. The seventh-grade science program is a continuation of the Earth/Space and environmental science sequence begun in sixth grade. These concepts will be coordinated with the continuing development of the earth science curriculum started in the 6th grade. Emphasis continues on developing students' scientific problem-solving skills, conceptual understanding of the "big ideas" in science, as well as on developing their critical thinking ability.

Math

7th Grade Math

In this course, students gain more experience in computation and problem-solving, reinforcing their understanding of mathematical structure and reasoning. Students will explore solving for unknown values in a myriad of topics. Algebra concepts, particularly linear functions, are investigated and applied, and geometry concepts are woven throughout the course.

7th Grade Advanced Math

In this course, students gain more experience in computation and problem-solving, reinforcing their understanding of mathematical structure and reasoning. Students will explore solving for unknown values in a myriad of topics. Algebra concepts, particularly linear functions, are investigated and applied, and geometry concepts are woven throughout the course. Advanced courses are not accelerated, but will dive into the curriculum in greater depth. This course is for the motivated mathematician who enjoys critical thinking, problem-solving, and exploring various concepts. departmental approval.

Math (cont.)

Algebra I Advanced

This course guides students in the development of critical thinking and algebraic problem-solving skills, which provide the foundation for real-world problem-solving. Students will explore manipulating and representing linear functions, systems of equations, inequalities, exponential functions, polynomials, quadratic functions, statistics, and probability. Advanced courses are not accelerated, but will dive into the curriculum in greater depth. This course is for the motivated mathematician who enjoys critical thinking, problem-solving, and exploring various concepts.



Social and Religious Studies (cont.)

Introduction to the Biblical Story

Introduction to the Biblical Story is a semester course that broadly overviews the basic stories, people, history, ideas, and values found in the Judeo-Christian Scriptures. It begins with an overview of the Biblical Story before Christ, including creation, the Hebrew patriarchs, the Exodus, and the history of the Jewish Kingdom and people. It continues by looking at the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and how his message was carried forward by the early Christian Church. While this course teaches what is common to all Christian traditions, it also touches on how different Christian traditions emphasize different aspects of our Common Tradition, as well as noting the particular gifts of the Episcopal Church.

7TH GRADE

Social and Religious Studies

Texas History

Texas History is a one-semester basic survey course of early Texas history. Major topics include: native Texans, European exploration of Texas, missionaries, Spanish colonization and settlement, the struggle for independence, Texas as a republic, annexation into the United States, the Mexican War, and the emergence of the Texas cattle industry. Basic research and writing skills are emphasized.

World Language

Latin IA

Step into the world of ancient Rome! In this two-semester journey, students learn to read and understand Latin through hands-on mastery of basic grammar, vocabulary, and translation. Along the way, they explore Roman art, architecture, literature, and mythology, gaining insight into the people who shaped Western civilization. From Latin roots in our language to Roman ideas that still echo today, this course reveals how the ancient world continues to live all around us.

Spanish IA

This course focuses on the introduction and development of interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communication skills in Spanish at a novice mid-level according to the ACTFL standards. The students develop these skills through proficiency-oriented language instruction, which involves providing personalized and comprehensible input through stories, questioning, and readings, so that the brain acquires Spanish more naturally.

Spanish IA Heritage

This course is for seventh-grade students who are Spanish heritage speakers or with a dual-language program immersion and are fluent in the Spanish language. The course focuses on developing their writing skills in Spanish, understanding the grammar in context, and broadening their vocabulary.

Rotation Courses in Arts and Innovation

Art

Seventh-grade art engages students in creative problem-solving while encouraging the synthesis of ideas, techniques, and concepts. Students develop artworks that combine multiple ideas into cohesive visual statements while applying the elements of art and principles of design. The course also emphasizes historical context, helping students understand how art reflects cultural, social, and historical influences across time.

Rotation Courses in Arts and Innovation (cont.)

Music

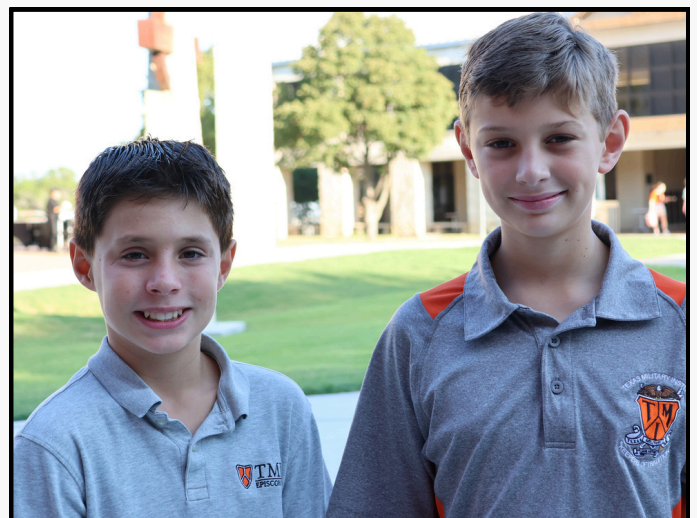
This class uses a project-based curriculum, with assignments drawn from various sources. Projects will include The History of Rock and Roll, An Exploration of The Great Composers, The Instruments of the Orchestra, New Orleans Jazz Music, World Drumming, and Beginning Music Composition. The class will also spend time in the Yamaha Digital Piano Lab as time permits.

Theater

Students in the seventh-grade Drama rotation will continue exercises and recitations to improve their voice and diction skills. The units covered will include theater vocabulary, improvisational acting, playwriting, and group performance. All Middle School students are encouraged to audition for the Fall play.

Robotics

Seventh Grade Robotics is an introductory course in robotics, programming, and mechanical engineering. We will be utilizing Spike Prime Robotics Kits, Spike Prime software, and various LEGO Robotics materials. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming, hands-on engineering applications, as well as problem solving strategies using the Innovation and Design Mindset. This course will involve students in the development, building, and programming of a LEGO Spike Prime robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program, and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, and propulsion systems.



7TH GRADE

Semester Elective Courses

WISER 101 (required once)

Our core values of wisdom, integrity, service, excellence, and reverence are paramount to student life at TMI; therefore, this course helps students to integrate such values into their daily lives, both in and out of the classroom. Students will learn proper digital etiquette and how to navigate the internet safely and responsibly. Additionally, students will build their leadership skills through discussion, goal-setting, and team-building lessons.

Health & Wellness

Students will explore the key elements of physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Topics will include nutrition, exercise, stress management, healthy relationships, and personal safety. Students will also learn about the importance of self-care, mindfulness, and goal-setting for leading a balanced and healthy life. Through hands-on activities, discussions, and group projects, students will develop skills and knowledge that empower them to make informed choices and foster a positive and healthy lifestyle both in and out of school.

Creative Writing

Students complete two major creative writing projects during the semester: a short story and a poem. Using mentor texts, the class studies elements of the author's craft and guides each piece through the full writing process, from brainstorming and drafting to revision and editing. During the publishing phase, students have opportunities to submit their work to the school literary journal, *The Muse*, and to external publications and writing contests such as Scholastic. The course explores the possibility of publishing a class anthology, allowing students to see their work in print and, if available, purchase a copy of the collection.

Content Creators

The Content Creators course is an innovative and hands-on course designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the digital media landscape. This class will empower students to become proficient in various aspects of content creation, including video production, photo editing, and graphic design.

Personal Finance

If you have ever thought, "When will I ever use math in real life?", this course is for you. In personal finance, students will learn the essential skills needed to manage money and make smart financial decisions. Topics include budgeting, saving, investing, understanding credit, and setting financial goals. Through real-life scenarios and interactive activities, students will explore how to make informed choices about spending, saving for the future, and managing financial responsibilities.

Speech and Debate

In this course, students develop critical thinking, public speaking, and debate skills through hands-on practice and friendly competition. They learn how to craft persuasive arguments, deliver speeches with confidence, and engage in respectful debates on a variety of topics. Students explore techniques for effective communication, active listening, and teamwork, while building their ability to think on their feet and express ideas clearly. Students are prepared to participate in debates and deliver speeches with poise and impact.

Career Explorations

Students will learn about themselves and what kinds of careers they might be interested in. This class will use computer-based research skills to explore careers and understand educational requirements and income potential. Students will get to hear from people who work in various careers via in-person presentations or by video chat.

Agriculture in Action

This curriculum introduces middle school students to agriculture through hands-on experiences in gardening and animal husbandry. Students learn about plant and animal systems, sustainability, and the interdependence of living organisms while developing practical skills and responsibility.

8TH GRADE

English

8th Grade English

This course reinforces all seventh-grade English competencies by applying knowledge of sentence grammar and grammatical structures to a variety of writing tasks. Discussions and assignments help students work with literary devices, figures of speech, rhetorical terms, and elements of fiction, poetry, and drama across a multitude of texts. A Mastery 3 student reads with purpose, using their reading skills to lead and participate in literary discussions facilitated by the teacher to uncover a deeper and more personal understanding of the texts. Students develop their writer's voice through a multi-step drafting process, emphasizing revising and editing through the study of model texts.

8th Grade English Advanced

This course reinforces all seventh-grade English competencies by applying knowledge of sentence grammar and grammatical structures to a variety of writing tasks. Advanced discussions and assignments help students work with literary devices, figures of speech, rhetorical terms, and elements of fiction, poetry, and drama across a multitude of texts. Advanced students read with purpose, using their reading skills to lead and participate in literary discussions facilitated by the teacher to uncover a deeper and more personal understanding of the texts. Students develop their writer's voice through a multi-step drafting process, emphasizing revising and editing through the study of model texts. Additionally, students in the Advanced section will be expected to respond to the curriculum on a more critical and rigorous level; thus, they will be expected to read and write significantly outside of the classroom. Advanced students should be passionate readers and writers who have a strong foundational grammar and vocabulary base.

Physical Science

This course is designed to serve as a solid foundation for the study of the physical sciences at the high school level. This inquiry-based, laboratory-focused course will investigate phases of matter, force and motion, work, simple machines, conservation and transformation of heat, waves, sound, light, electricity, and magnetism. Emphasis will be on the development of student inquiry and problem-solving skills within the context of scientific investigation.

Math

8th Grade Math

This course continues to build a bridge between the concrete concepts of arithmetic and the abstract concepts of algebra and geometry. Students learn to express data in table, symbolic, and graph forms, often accompanied by the use of technology. The focus of this class will be to build strong mathematical foundations through concrete modeling and applications.

Algebra I

This course guides students in the development of critical thinking and algebraic problem solving skills, which provide the foundation for real-world problem-solving. Students will explore manipulating and representing linear functions, systems of equations, inequalities, exponential functions, polynomials, quadratic functions, statistics, and probability.

Algebra I Advanced

This course guides students in the development of critical thinking and algebraic problem-solving skills, which provide the foundation for real-world problem-solving. Students will explore manipulating and representing linear functions, systems of equations, inequalities, exponential functions, polynomials, quadratic functions, statistics, and probability. Advanced courses are not accelerated, but will dive into the curriculum in greater depth. This course is for the motivated mathematician who enjoys critical thinking, problem-solving, and exploring various concepts.

Advanced Topics in Geometry

In this course, students learn about logical systems and then use this knowledge to develop classical Euclidean geometry as a logical system. This class will particularly emphasize proof-based mathematical reasoning to study the relationships between various geometric objects. Prerequisite: Algebra I.

8TH GRADE



U.S. Studies

This year-long eighth-grade course is designed to provide the historical foundation essential for an understanding of the political, social, cultural, and geographical forces that shape modern society. The course begins with an examination of the historical origins of community, nation, and government and connects these roots to our modern democracy. A review of units on colonization, revolution, and independence is followed by a more detailed exploration of the founding of our nation, principles of the United States Constitution, western expansion, social reform movements, and the Civil War and Reconstruction. Skills for thinking, inquiry, and participation in a democratic society are emphasized.



Latin IB

Step into the world of ancient Rome! In this two-semester journey, students learn to read and understand Latin through hands-on mastery of basic grammar, vocabulary, and translation. Along the way, they explore Roman art, architecture, literature, and mythology, gaining insight into the people who shaped Western civilization. From Latin roots in our language to Roman ideas that still echo today, this course reveals how the ancient world continues to live all around us.

Spanish IB

This course immerses students in the Spanish language through interactive, story-based learning that builds real-world communication skills. Following ACTFL standards at the novice high level, students strengthen their interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational abilities in Spanish. Using a proficiency-oriented approach, the course provides rich, personalized input through conversations, stories, and readings—helping learners acquire Spanish naturally and confidently.

Spanish IB Heritage

This course is for 8th grade students who are Spanish heritage speakers or with a dual-language program immersion and fluent in the Spanish language. The course focuses on mastering proficiency and developing critical thinking. The students in this course will develop their writing skills in Spanish, understand the grammar in context, and broaden their vocabulary.

Semester Courses in Arts and Innovation

Art

Eighth-grade art challenges students to think critically and work independently as artists while refining skills and creative problem-solving. Students synthesize ideas, materials, and techniques to create meaningful artwork while exploring historical and contemporary art contexts and developing a personal artistic voice.

8TH GRADE

Semester Courses in Arts and Innovation (cont.)

Music

Eighth-grade music offers a unique activity-based approach in which students explore music through hands-on learning while studying the historical context of music. The course emphasizes active participation, collaboration, and creative exploration rather than traditional lecture-based instruction.

Theater

This class is a hands-on workshop. Students will learn the fundamentals of acting technique, technical theater, stage makeup, costume design, and speech performance. Students will combine their knowledge of playmaking, public speaking, writing, collaboration, constructive criticism, costumes, stage makeup, and technical theater to make a short original piece. They may also perform scenes for school productions and events.

Introduction to Innovation and Design

Students deepen their understanding of human-centered problem-solving skills through Design Thinking. Through projects and explorations, they engage in ideating and prototyping solutions for real-world challenges that grow empathy for their users while strengthening project management skills. This interdisciplinary course incorporates elements of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, and contemporary and interdisciplinary learning.



Elective Courses (1 Semester each)

WISER 101 (required once)

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Health & Wellness

Students will explore the key elements of physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Topics will include nutrition, exercise, stress management, healthy relationships, and personal safety. Students will also learn about the importance of self-care, mindfulness, and goal-setting for leading a balanced and healthy life. Through hands-on activities, discussions, and group projects, students will develop skills and knowledge that empower them to make informed choices and foster a positive and healthy lifestyle both in and out of school.

Creative Writing

Students complete two major creative writing projects during the semester: a short story and a poem. Using mentor texts, the class studies elements of the author's craft and guides each piece through the full writing process, from brainstorming and drafting to revision and editing. During the publishing phase, students have opportunities to submit their work to the school literary journal, *The Muse*, and to external publications and writing contests such as Scholastic. The course explores the possibility of publishing a class anthology, allowing students to see their work in print and, if available, purchase a copy of the collection.

Content Creators

The Content Creators course is an innovative and hands-on course designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the digital media landscape. This class will empower students to become proficient in various aspects of content creation, including video production, photo editing, and graphic design.

8TH GRADE

Elective Courses (1 Semester each)

Personal Finance

If you have ever thought, “When will I ever use math in real life?”, this course is for you. In personal finance, students will learn the essential skills needed to manage money and make smart financial decisions. Topics include budgeting, saving, investing, understanding credit, and setting financial goals. Through real-life scenarios and interactive activities, students will explore how to make informed choices about spending, saving for the future, and managing financial responsibilities.

Speech and Debate

In this course, students develop critical thinking, public speaking, and debate skills through hands-on practice and friendly competition. They learn how to craft persuasive arguments, deliver speeches with confidence, and engage in respectful debates on a variety of topics. Students explore techniques for effective communication, active listening, and teamwork, while building their ability to think on their feet and express ideas clearly. Students are prepared to participate in debates and deliver speeches with poise and impact.



Elective Courses (1 Semester each)

Career Explorations

Students will learn about themselves and what kinds of careers they might be interested in. This class will use computer-based research skills to explore careers and understand educational requirements and income potential. Students will get to hear from people who work in various careers via in-person presentations or by video chat.

Agriculture in Action

This curriculum introduces middle school students to agriculture through hands-on experiences in gardening and animal husbandry. Students learn about plant and animal systems, sustainability, and the interdependence of living organisms while developing practical skills and responsibility.

Leadership Education and Training (LET 1)

LET Class is the first step of becoming a future leader within the Corps of Cadets at TMI. This Course is available for all students who are enrolled in the Corps program to begin taking the 9th-grade class early in their 8th-grade year. All four years of LET class would be completed by your junior year, making your senior year as a cadet officer working on plans, executing specific tasks, and becoming assistant instructors to all of the other LET Classes. Why not start your leadership journey in the Corps a year earlier?

