



**Twin Cities Academy Middle School
Course Guide
2018-2019**

TCA COURSE GUIDE 2018-2019

Course Registration Process

Course Registration Presentations led by the school counselor will happen in advisory during the month of March to explain course requirements and options. Students will fill out a course registration form and will turn it into the school counselor. Course registration forms will be sent home to get a signature from a parent/guardian.

Definition Course Terms

Grades: Grade level at which the course is being offered.

Semester: Semester in which the elective course is being offered.

Elective Schedule Change Procedure

Students are allowed to change elective courses during the *first week* of a new semester if they follow the elective schedule change procedure. English, Math, Social Studies or Science classes are not electives and will not change. To change an elective class, students need to see the school counselor. Schedule changes will not be made after the first week of a new semester.

TCA TYPICAL COURSE SCHEDULE BY GRADE

6th Grade

English 6

Minnesota Studies 6

Math 6, Pre-Algebra 6, Algebra 6/7

Physical Science 6

World Language (or English Extensions)

Physical Education (either fall or spring semester, elective the other semester)

Electives (or Math Extensions)

7th Grade

English 7

United States Studies 6

Pre-Algebra, Algebra 6/7, Intermediate Algebra

Life Science 7

World Language (or English Extensions)

Art 7 (either fall or spring semester, elective the other semester)

Electives (or Math Extensions)

8th Grade

English 8

Global Studies 8

Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, Geometry

Earth Science 8

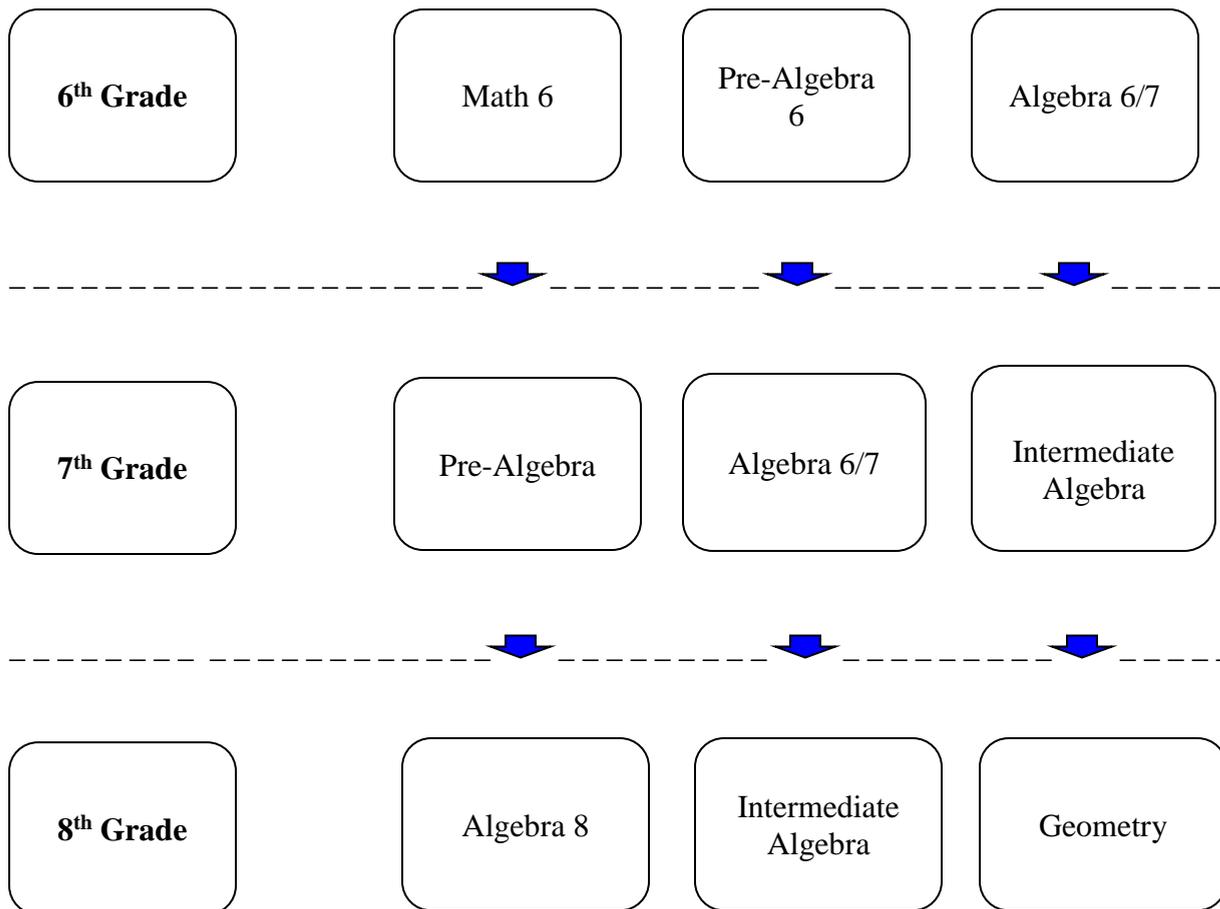
World Language (or English Extensions)

Literacy Elective (either fall or spring semester, elective the other semester)

Electives (or Math Extensions)

TCA Math Scope and Sequence

Grade level



TCA World Language Descriptions

Spanish

Spanish IA: is a fun and interactive beginning level course suitable for students with little to no Spanish experience. Students learn to understand basic written and spoken Spanish by focusing on frequently used structures and grammar patterns in the target language. Students build confidence and fluency through a variety of activities including storytelling, songs, and cultural readings.

Prerequisites: none

Spanish IB: is designed to build upon and reinforce vocabulary and grammar structures learned in 1A. Students continue to develop their proficiency in the target language through a variety of communicative activities. Students are expected to employ strategies learned in 1A in order to comprehend written and spoken Spanish with increasing independence.

Prerequisites: Spanish IA or equivalent proficiency as demonstrated by language assessment

Spanish II: is designed to build upon and reinforce vocabulary and grammar structures learned in Spanish 1A and 1B. Students continue to develop their proficiency in the target language through a variety of communicative activities – while the focus on the class is still comprehension of language, more output (speaking and writing) is introduced in Spanish II. Students should be comfortable communicating in present tense, and will become more comfortable understanding past tense language.

Prerequisites: Spanish IA & IB or equivalent proficiency as demonstrated by language assessment

Spanish Immersion: is a rigorous and fun class open to students who have demonstrated fluency in the language. Students will focus on culture, current events, writing and reading through various activities, assignments and books. The class will revolve around group conversations and discussion so participation is a key component to student success. Students can expect a mix of projects, assignments and tests to be paired with fun and engaging classroom assignments. This class is taught solely in Spanish and all written work is expected to be completed in Spanish.

Prerequisites: Spanish 2 or equivalent proficiency as demonstrated by language assessment.

French

French IA: is an entry level French course designed to help students practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing in French, with the understanding that they are likely to be able to understand more than they are able to produce. By the end of the course, students will be able to read/listen at or above the Novice High level and speak/write at or above the Novice Mid level. Themes include introducing yourself, school, friends, family, and weather and geography.

Prerequisites: None

French IB: is designed to help students practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing in French, with the understanding that they are likely to be able to understand more than they are able to produce. By the end of the course, students will be able to read/listen at or above the Intermediate Low level and speak/write at or above the Novice High level. Themes include daily routines, clothing, food, and stories.

Prerequisites: French 1A

French II: is designed to practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing in French, with the understanding that they are likely to be able to understand more than they are able to produce. By the end of the course, students are able to read/listen at or above the Intermediate mid-level and speak/write at or above the Intermediate Low level. Themes include holidays, childhood, health and wellness, and the city.

Prerequisites: French IA and IB.

French Immersion: is designed for students who have attended a French Immersion school. Students will work on the four components of learning a language: listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, as well as communicating effectively through speaking and writing, the students will build on their grammatical skills. Students will study diverse units and themes. Speaking in French will be an important component of these courses.

Prerequisites: French Immersion education at a French Immersion school.

Extensions Programing Information

Grades: 6-8

The Math and English Extensions courses are support classes that help students who struggle with math and reading. The Math Extensions course uses MATH 180 and the English Extension course uses Read 180. The 180 programs are an innovative intervention program by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

The Extensions courses meet daily and provide an additional 50 minute period of targeted math or reading intervention for students who are one to two grade levels below their current grade level. Students that are in 6th grade may have both math and reading extension courses, while students in the other grade levels will be scheduled for only math or reading, not both courses.

TCA's data team reviews all student data, including: national and statewide assessments, course grades and credits, attendance, behavior and overall school wide performance. This data team works closely with the teachers to identify students who are in need of more support; after careful consideration, students may be selected to participate in the program to support their instructional needs.

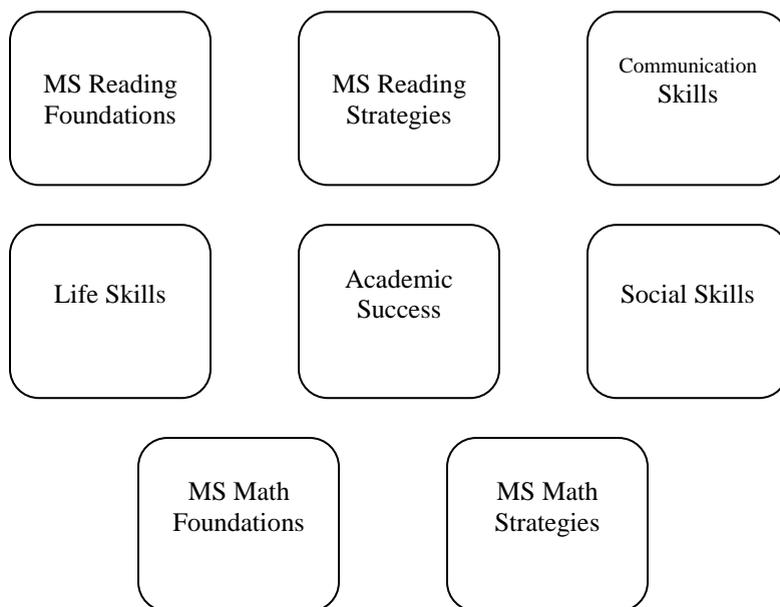
MATH 180 and READ 180 are research-based programs with proven results in raising student math and reading achievement. In addition, the 180 programs use cutting-edge technology to deliver individualized math and reading instruction, provide valuable skills practice, and motivate students to develop confidence and fluency in math and reading. These courses will:

- Build essential math and/or reading skills for college and career readiness.
- Bring students' math and/or reading proficiency up to grade level.
- Develop mathematical practices and/or reading practices and habits of mind.
- Apply math and reading skills to solve real-world problems.
- Show students that they can attain academic success in math and English.

MATH 180 and READ 180 challenge students to work hard, offer encouragement and provide support at home by encouraging students to practice math and reading skills.

Special Education Courses and Information

Middle School Special Education Courses



Course Area Descriptions

Foundations: Foundations is designed to create a solid foundation of basic skills in Reading or Math for students who are significantly behind grade level. Students receive individualized instruction based on learning needs outlined in their Individualized Education Plan. Foundations is a Pass/Fail course. Students receive credits toward English or Math when passing the course.

Strategies: Strategies is designed to develop, strengthen, and improve strategies used in the academic areas of Reading and Math. The course is designed for students who are slightly behind in grade level instruction and need support to be successful in current grade level Math and English. The class helps build on skills and provide strategies to strengthen knowledge in either Reading or Math. Strategies courses are graded courses and students receive credits if they pass this course.

Skills: Skills is designed to build, develop and strengthen skills in applicable areas to help students be successful in and beyond middle or high school. Students receive individualized instruction based on their learning needs outlined in their Individualized Education Plan goals. Skills courses are graded courses and students receive elective credits if passed.

Academic Success: Academic Success is designed to develop, strengthen, and improve skills for positive academic performance and achievement based on the learning needs of the student outlined in their Individualized Education Plan. Academic Success is a Pass/Fail course and students receive elective credits if they pass the course.

ART 7 962/963

Grades: 7

Semester: Fall or Spring

Art 7 is designed to teach creative problem- solving, art appreciation, collaboration with peers, and art techniques using a variety of media. A combination of 2-D and 3-D art projects will be created. A sketchbook is required for this class. 7th grade students will take this required semester long class in the fall or spring.

ART 8 965

Grades: 8

Semester: Fall

Art 8 is designed to teach creative problem- solving, art appreciation, collaboration with peers, and art techniques using a variety of media. A combination of 2-D and 3-D art projects will be created. A sketchbook is required for this class. This is a semester long class and is only offered in the fall semester.

ACTING FOR THE STAGE 952

Grades: 6-8

Semester: Fall

This is an introductory course on acting theory and practice. Students learn how to use their bodies, voices, and imaginations to become a strong, multifaceted character. Students act individually, in pairs, and in groups.

THEATRE ARTS (MS PLAY) 953

Grades: 6-8

Semester: Spring

Students are cast in and act on stage in the MS annual spring play. Learn about production, design and bringing a character to life as you work as an ensemble to put up a show!

PE 6 970/971

Grades: 6

Semester: Fall or Spring

PE 6 is an introduction to PE classes at TCA. Students develop daily routine for stretching and getting their bodies and minds ready to work and play. Due to space and safety constraints, we stick to classic indoors games, such as soccer, ultimate football, floor hockey, basketball, kickball, speedball and forms of dodgeball. Students are expected to change into PE clothes every day. Students get one take-home research health assignment per month. Every 6th grader takes this class for one semester in either spring or fall semester and have a large combined class with Mr. Klein and Mr. Lindholm.

PE 7/8 972/973

Grades: 7-8

Semester: Fall or Spring

Students continue to develop daily routines for stretching and getting their bodies and minds ready to work and play. Due to space and safety constraints, we stick to classic indoors games, such as soccer, ultimate football, floor hockey, basketball, kickball, speedball and forms of dodgeball. Students will be expected to change into PE clothes every day. Students get one take-home research health assignment per month. This is an elective class for our 7th and 8th to select for one semester and it is a large combined class with Mr. Klein and Mr. Lindholm. Some students may be able to have schedules that allow for a full year of PE if they choose.

STEM FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGINEERING 930/931

Grades: 6

Semester: Fall or Spring

If students like to solve problems, be creative and build things, then they want to sign up for Fundamentals of Engineering! In this semester long class, students are engineers and get the opportunity to design and build unique structures and solve interesting problems. If students are interested in taking other STEM classes in middle school students need to take this class first.

STEM ENERGY 932/933

Grades: 6-8

Semester: Fall or Spring

In STEM energy students investigate the many forms that energy can take and how humans manipulate it to fit our needs. Major projects include an energy debate, headphones, sound proof boxes, wind turbines, solar ovens (weather and time permitting), and more!

STEM FORENSICS 934

Grades: 8

Semester: Fall

In this course students become a crime scene investigator and test your observation and inferencing skills. We focus on making evidence based conclusions and explore what it takes to solve crimes. There are many small activities, several formal and informal papers and a final crime scene investigation.

STEM FORCES OF FLIGHT 935

Grades: 8

Semester: Spring

In STEM Forces of Flight students investigate how things fly both conceptually and mathematically. Major projects include paper airplanes, parachutes, catapults and water rockets.

INTRO TO TECHNOLOGY 940/941

Grades: 6-8

Semester: Fall or Spring

This course is designed to introduce students to basic tech skills. Students begin by gaining proficiency in key boarding and word processing, learn about careers in the tech industry, create projects using google docs, sheets, forms, and slides, study internet ethics and safety, and learn some basic coding skills. Intro to Technology is project and presentation based and students often work in groups. If students want to take Technology and Design, they must complete this intro course first.

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN 942/943

Grades: 6-8

Semester: Fall or Spring

Prerequisites: Intro to Tech

Students develop skills in typing, coding, following written direction and research. Students build on basic technology skills to design and develop projects. Technology skills will be developed and used in a variety of creative avenues. In order to register for this class students must have already completed Intro to Technology.

CULTURAL STUDIES 950/951

Grades: 6-8

Semester: Fall or Spring

In this class we do a deep dive into what culture is and what contributes to a culture. At first we focus on the broad overview and look at specific ancient cultures from the past. Then we look at some key concepts in American culture such as race, poverty, gender, and environment. As a class we look at the history of each, focusing specifically on America, and how that has resulted in what culture we have today. The last part of this course is identity. Students put together all they have learned and try to navigate where they think their identity lies within American culture.

MEDIA STUDIES 920/921

Grades: 6-7

Semester: Fall or Spring

This elective is designed to introduce and develop media literacy. Media literacy is the ability to question, understand, interpret, analyze, and evaluate the content, intent, strategies, and effects of the mass media. Being media literate means that you control the interpretation of the media instead of it controlling you. Students become aware of principles, myths, and techniques in advertising, social media, news sources, magazines, television, movies and video games.

FILM STUDIES 922

Grades: 8

Semester: Fall

This course is designed to introduce students to classic and contemporary films. The primary focus of Film Studies is to provide students the basic tools to understand, appreciate, and analyze film and to understand how these different elements come together to create meaning through storytelling. Although this class focuses on film, we will also read, write and engage in discussion to deepen our understanding of films and what they represent.

PERSONAL IDENTITIES 925

Grades: 8

Semester: Spring

This class explores the nonfiction writing people create in order to define who they are, express their perceptions, and record their presence in this world. We will be reading and writing in the genres of autobiography, memoir, diaries, letters, oral tradition, and social media. We will evaluate similarities and differences of these mediums and students will compose each of these specific structures. We will explore the many facets that comprise each person's individual identity. Through reading nonfiction personal narratives, we can end up empathizing with, realizing we have shared experiences, thoughts and feelings with, and feeling connected with, people from times and places we have never been.

AVID TUTORIAL 400/401

Grades: 6-8

Semester: Fall or Spring

This class is purely for students who want time during the day to work on their homework. It is an individually-led, silent period that allow for full concentration and focus.
