

Turlock Junior High School

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2017  *2018*

COURSE DIRECTORY

Turlock Junior High School
2017-2018
Course Directory
Table of Contents

Introduction..... 1

Promotion Requirements..... 2

Special Programs

Honors/GATE and Pre-AP..... 3

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Pathway..... 3

Required Courses—Grades 7 and 8

Language Arts..... 3-4

Mathematics..... 4

Science..... 5

History..... 5

Physical Education..... 5-6

English Language Development (ELD) (Available to English Language Learners only).. 6

Special Education (For students with an IEP)..... 6

Elective Courses

Introduction..... 6

Grade 7 Electives:

STEM 7 6-7

Art 7 7

Foods and Nutrition 7..... 7

Grade 8 Electives:

STEM 8 7

Computers 8 7

Advanced Computers..... 7

Shop 8 7

Office Aide 8..... 7

Student Aide 8..... 8

Grade 7/8 Electives:

Chamber Orchestra..... 8

Concert Band..... 8

Concert Choir..... 8

Concert Orchestra..... 8

Jazz Ensemble..... 8

Spanish..... 9

Study Skills..... 9

Symphonic Band..... 9

Yearbook..... 9



Turlock Unified School District

Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow

Turlock Unified School District STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Turlock Unified School District, a premier progressive educational system, is to ensure all students graduate as self-motivated, responsible citizens equipped to compete successfully in an ever-changing global society by delivering effective instruction that engages all students to reach their individual potential and highest achievements within a safe and caring student-centered environment in partnership with our families and diverse community.

BELIEFS:

- ◆ Every person is unique and has equal worth.
- ◆ Every person can be a successful learner.
- ◆ People are responsible for their actions.
- ◆ The family experience has a profound impact on the development of the individual.
- ◆ Honesty and integrity build trust in all relationships.
- ◆ Motivation, hard work, and persistence are necessary to achieve full potential.
- ◆ High expectations yield greater levels of performance. A quality education enriches lives by creating and expanding opportunities.
- ◆ The positive actions of role models inspire people to excel.
- ◆ Service to others is vital in building a thriving community.

OBJECTIVES:

- ◆ All students will demonstrate proficiency in all core academic subjects.
- ◆ Each student will set and achieve challenging personal goals tailored to his/her aspirations for post-secondary education and careers.
- ◆ All students will develop and consistently demonstrate character traits necessary to be self-motivated and responsible citizens in our community.
- ◆ By 2014, all students leaving high school will earn a diploma or successfully complete their Individualized Educational Plan (I.E.P.).



Turlock Unified School District

Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow

Turlock Junior High School SITE STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Turlock Junior High School, a comprehensive educational setting, is to ensure all students develop the academic skills, positive character, and personal vision to succeed in high school and beyond by delivering effective differentiated instruction in a safe and caring environment, through partnerships with family and community, that inspires life-long learning.

TACTICS:

We will...

1. Develop a consistent system for analyzing assessment data, using it to ensure effective and differentiated instruction, in order to improve student achievement and intervene when necessary.
2. Teach, model, and reinforce the TUSD identified character traits, as well as, develop common discipline procedures which will be implemented effectively throughout the school.
3. Implement a formalized process to help students set and achieve rigorous personal goals related to academics, character, and potential future careers.
4. Forge educational partnerships with families and community in order to instill student enthusiasm for learning.

OBJECTIVES:

- All students will demonstrate proficiency in Language Arts, Math (including Algebra), History and Science.
- Each student will take responsibility for his or her education by setting and achieving personal goals relating to academics, character, and future potential careers.
- All students will develop the understanding and discipline necessary to consistently demonstrate TUSD character traits while at school and in our community.

Turlock Junior High School 2017-2018 Course Directory

This directory is provided to assist students as they prepare to understand the content of required and elective courses at Turlock Junior High School.

TJHS counselors are available to answer questions regarding courses. They can be contacted by phone at 667-0881. Counselors are assigned alphabetically by last name.

Note: Adjustments to counselor assignment may occur depending on student enrollment.

A—Gh.....Mr. Tom Long

Gi—O... Mrs. Sandra Ortega-Ramos

P—Z.....Mr. Pat Villapudua

Turlock Junior High School 2017-2018 Promotion Requirements

Seventh Grade Courses	Credits*
Language Arts (2 periods)	40
Mathematics	20
Science	20
History	20
Physical Education	20
Elective	20
	<u>140</u> credits possible
Eighth Grade Courses	Credits
Language Arts (2 periods)	40
Mathematics	20
Science	20
History	20
Physical Education	20
Elective	20
	<u>140</u> credits possible
TOTAL CREDITS* POSSIBLE	280

**Credits are earned for passing grades at the end of each of the four (4) quarters. A minimum of two hundred fifty-five (255) credits are required in order to participate in the promotion ceremony.*

Special Programs

Honors/GATE and Pre-AP

Turlock Junior High School is proud to offer Honors/GATE and Pre-AP courses to students who meet TUSD and Turlock Junior High established criteria. Honors/GATE and Pre-AP courses are designed to prepare students for the rigors of Honors and AP courses at the high school level. Our expectation is that students in these courses maintain above average grades and satisfactory behavior that does not impede teaching and/or learning. Failure to comply with these expectations may result in removal of the student from one or all of these courses.

STEM Pathway (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

Turlock Junior High School is proud to offer a 7th and 8th grade STEM Pathway. The goal of the STEM Pathway is to provide students an opportunity to work interactively with the teacher and classmates to learn more about science, technology, engineering and math. Courses include STEM Language Arts, STEM History, STEM Science, and STEM Mathematics. All STEM courses are rigorous and students must meet specific entrance criteria, including, but not limited to: high test scores, an appreciation for math, science, and language arts, and teacher recommendation. Interested students will be required to complete an application that will be reviewed and approved by TJHS staff. A lottery will be used to determine initial entrance and waitlist for qualified applicants.

Required Courses

All students will be required to complete a full year of coursework under each of the core subject areas.

English Language Arts

Language Arts 7

In this two-period course, students gain knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, with the goal of becoming independent learners and skillful communicators. A standards-based literature anthology containing short stories, plays, trade literature and poetry is used. Grammar, vocabulary and spelling are taught in the context of the reading and writing process in conjunction with the standards-based curriculum. Students learn to write for different purposes in support of the Common Core ELA Standards. Writing genres include but are not limited to narrative, informative, explanatory and argumentative compositions. A variety of instructional strategies are used to teach editing, as well as the use of a dictionary, thesaurus and other resources. Students engage in a variety of speaking and listening activities requiring interaction with partners, small groups and the whole class.

Textbook: Springboard.

Language Arts 7 – Honors/GATE

Student participation in the GATE program is contingent upon meeting TUSD established criteria. If additional space is available, TJHS staff will identify other highly motivated students who have demonstrated academic success through a variety of assessments, class grades and teacher recommendation. The two-period course devotes greater complexity and depth to the existing curriculum implemented in 7th grade language arts classes. In addition to the use of technology, students are expected to perform oral presentations and produce written compositions that demonstrate a higher level of literary analysis.

Textbook: Springboard.

Language Arts 8

The goal of this course is the same as that of Language Arts 7: students become independent learners and skillful communicators as they increase their ability to read, write, listen and speak. In Language Arts 8, students read and respond to more advanced literature. In addition to the writing genres introduced in seventh grade, students learn to write for the purposes of speculation about cause and effect and evaluation. They also learn to add new elements to their short stories. Students extend their skills in researching information.

Textbook: Springboard.

Language Arts 8 - Honors/GATE

Student participation in the GATE program is contingent upon meeting TUSD established criteria. If additional space is available, TJHS staff will identify other highly motivated students who have demonstrated academic success through a variety of assessments, class grades and teacher recommendations. The program augments the existing Language Arts 8 curriculum with greater depth and complexity to further challenge students participating in this two-period course. Extended thematic reading based upon the core curriculum is utilized. Advanced levels of written and oral expression are an area of focus, coupled with the use of technology. Preparation for advanced classes at the high school level is a priority as well.

Textbook: Springboard.

Read 180 7, 8

Read 180 is an intensive English-Language Arts intervention. Students are recommended for Read 180 based on a variety of information, including, but not limited to, assessment data and teacher recommendation. As an intervention, the goal of Read 180 is to address students' reading needs so they can move into and be successful in a mainstream English-Language Arts class. Teachers in Read 180 use a variety of strategies and resources, including computer programs and group and individual work.

Mathematics

Common Core Math 7

This course focuses on four critical areas, including the Standards for Mathematical Practice: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Adopted curriculum: Eureka Math.

Common Core Math 8

This course focuses on three critical areas, including the Standards for Mathematical Practice: (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. Adopted curriculum: Eureka Math.

CC Math 7e, 8e and STEM Math 7,8:

Common Core Math e and STEM math classes are designed to enrich and extend the content standards covered in the Eureka math curriculum in preparation for Honors/Advanced Placement math classes at the high school. Eligible students demonstrate academic success through a variety of assessments, grades and teacher recommendations.

Science

Science classes will begin transition and implementation of The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) during the 2017-2018 school year. Students will be using the adopted core curriculum, but will be provided supplementary materials to assist with the transition throughout the course of the school year.

Life Science: Students explore the characteristics, growth, evolution, function and interaction of living organisms and compare the structure and function of plants and animal. The students will be made aware of AIDS and the behaviors that may endanger their lives. Students will learn about genetic characteristics and the role of inheritance.

Earth Science: Students learn about the changing earth, plate tectonics, rock formation and classification and the geological time line.

Physical Science: Students will investigate properties of light and study the use of levers and other simple machines. Scientific progress is made by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations. Textbook: Prentice Hall- Life Science.

Science 8

Physical Science: Students study the interaction of matter and energy by discovering how chemical structure determines the physical properties of solids, liquids and gases; the periodic table; atoms and molecules; and the forms of energy and energy generation. Simple machines are used to study the forces of motion and energy from a mathematical viewpoint. Students will learn the latest cosmological theories governing the earth's place in the universe. Experimentation and investigation skills will be used to demonstrate each concept. Textbook: Prentice Hall - Physical Science.

Pre-AP Science 7, 8

Pre-AP (Advanced Placement) Science is the science placement for GATE-qualified students and, *if additional seats are available*, other highly-motivated students who have demonstrated academic success through a variety of assessments, class grades, and teacher recommendations. Pre-AP courses are designed to enrich and extend the science curriculum and content and to preview Advanced Placement rigor that students will face if they choose to enroll in AP science courses in high school. Pre-AP Science 7 and 8 both use the same Prentice Hall book as Science 7 and 8.

History 7

Students investigate world history from A.D. 500 to the late 1700's focusing on events in the Eastern Hemisphere and Latin America. Specific areas of study include the fall of Rome, the Islamic Empires, feudal Europe and Japan, the African kingdoms, the Renaissance and the civilizations of the Americas. Students read, write, create projects, work in groups and learn to use a variety of sources to gain information. Textbook: Holt, Rhinehart and Winston - World History: Medieval To Early Modern Times.

History 8

This eighth grade course begins with a review of the major ideas, issues and events preceding the founding of the nation. Students demonstrate understanding of the critical events of the period from the framing of the Constitution to the turn of the 20th Century. Textbook: Holt, Rhinehart and Winston - United States History: Independence to 1914.

Honors/GATE History 7, 8

Honors/GATE History is the history placement for GATE-qualified students and, *if additional seats are available*, other highly-motivated students who have demonstrated academic success through a variety of assessments, class grades and teacher recommendations. These courses are designed to enrich and extend the history curriculum and content and demonstrate the rigor of Honors/Advanced Placement classes in which students may enroll in high school. These courses use the same Holt textbook as History 7 and History 8.

Physical Education 7, 8

Students learn the proper techniques and skills for a variety of recreational games, team and life-

time sports. Rules, safety procedures, strategies and good sportsmanship are emphasized. Students wear P.E. uniforms to encourage good personal hygiene and active participation. Participation develops an interest in good health and individual physical fitness levels. A monthly fitness log is a required assignment at home. Students participate in fitness activities throughout the year in preparation for the 7th grade state and 8th grade school physical fitness tests administered in the spring. Students will be required to participate in all PE activities, including the mile jog, unless a doctor's note limits participation. Please refer to the TJHS Student Handbook for more specifics.

English Language Development Courses

English Language Development 1, 2

English Language Development (ELD) is offered to students designated as English Language Learners on one of two levels. Each of the classes utilizes leveled curriculum intended to increase students' decoding, fluency and comprehension in reading. Students also access computer-based programs that provide them increased access to vocabulary and appropriate use of phrases and expressions in a variety of assessments. Students learn to apply their vocabulary in speaking and writing exercises. The classes follow the same two-period block schedule of other English Language Arts classes at Turlock Junior High School. Textbook: Inside Levels A and C.

ELD Mathematics, History and Science

These courses are offered at both the 7th and 8th grade level to students who are also participating in the English Language Development program. Each of these mathematics, history and science classes use Specifically Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) strategies to not only expose students to grade level standards, but also use specific strategies intended to help students new to the English language understand concepts more easily.

Special Education

Turlock Junior High School offers a range of services for students with exceptional needs as specified in their Individual Education Plan (IEP). IEP teams meet to determine specific student needs and how to best address them at TJHS, or in another setting if necessary. Parents of students with IEPs are encouraged to contact TJHS with any questions regarding special education services.

Elective Courses

Introduction

Turlock Junior High is proud to offer a wide range of elective options for students. Listed below are general outlines for the courses that are offered. *Course offerings, arrangements, curriculum and scheduling are subject to change.*

Grade 7 Electives:

STEM 7 (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

The goal of this course is to provide students the opportunity to work interactively with the teacher and classmates to learn more about STEM fields of study and careers. They will participate in discussions, projects, research and practical applications. Students will learn to use AutoDesk Inventor and RobotC, as they move through PLTW's "Design and Modeling" and "Automation and Robotics" modules.

Students enrolled in the course must meet specific criteria, including, but not limited to: high test scores, an appreciation for math, science, and language arts, and teacher recommendation. Interested students will be required to complete an application that will be reviewed and approved by TJHS staff. A lottery will be used for qualified applicants to determine entrance and wait list.

Art 7

This course is designed to allow students to explore the basic elements of art through projects in color, value graduations, and drawings. Emphasis is placed on the creation of art through the student's own involvement in quality art experiences. Art history will be studied. This is a semester-long course.

Foods and Nutrition 7

Students will learn about basic food preparation through both written and lab assignments. Critical concepts include: nutrition, food and kitchen safety, table manners and setting, kitchen tool use, measuring ingredients, and reading recipes. Applying what we have learned, a variety of recipes will be prepared using the stove, oven, and microwave oven. This is a semester-long course.

Grade 8 Electives:

Art and Foods will only be offered as 8th grade electives depending on the master schedule

STEM 8 (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

The goal of this course is to provide students the opportunity to work interactively with the teacher and classmates to learn more about STEM fields of study and careers. They will participate in discussions, projects, research and practical applications. Students will study PLTW's "Magic of Electrons," "Flight and Space," and "Medical Detectives" modules. Enrollment in this course is reserved for students who were enrolled in STEM 7.

Advanced Computers 8

Students enrolled in this year-long class will learn the computer basics covered in the semester-long Computers 8 course, but will also do an in-depth study of blogging, video production, image manipulation with PhotoShop, animation, and computer programming.

Computers 8

Students enrolled in this eighteen-week course sharpen their skills in the use of word processing, draw/paint, database, spreadsheet and presentation software on Microsoft Office and other PC-compatible platforms. In addition, they develop skill in online searching techniques and use information from online resources to produce a variety of projects. This is a semester-long course.

Shop 8

This course will explore the use of wood and metal in construction. Students learn basic construction techniques which include drafting, tool identification, proper tool use, measuring and shop safety. Students create, read and follow project plans in their various project constructions. Skill competency in the areas of safety, proper tool use, drafting and measuring will be tested. This is a semester-long class.

Office Aide 8

To qualify as a student aide, a student must be identified by a TJHS staff member as responsible, dependable, and maintain high academic and behavior standards. Students are graded on a pass/fail basis. *Principal's Secretary signature required.* This is a semester-long course.

Student Aide 8

To qualify as a student aide, a student must be identified by a TJHS staff member as responsible, dependable, reliable and should maintain high academic and behavior standards. Students are graded on a pass/fail basis. *Teacher signature required.* This is a semester-long course.

Grade 7/8 Electives:

Chamber Orchestra 7, 8

This is a performing orchestra comprised of musicians who demonstrate exceptional skills and are selected by staff through auditions on a violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students are required to take their music home for study. Some school instruments are available for school use. Since this is a performance class, attendance at all performances is mandatory. *Teacher signature required.*

Concert Band 7, 8

This performance ensemble is comprised of woodwinds, brass and percussion. The group performs traditional concert band literature and various styles of popular music. Students are expected to participate in a winter concert, spring concert, pops concert and District Music Festival. This group is open to all grade levels with an emphasis in equipping students with the necessary musical and technical skills to audition for Symphonic Band by year's end. Instructor approval is not necessary.

Concert Choir 7, 8

This performing class is for beginning and intermediate singers, no musical background is required. Since this is a performance class, daily participation and attendance at all performances are required. This course is designed to introduce students to the joy of singing. Students will learn basic music notations and will sing music in many styles including festival, classic, spiritual, and pop. The concert choir will participate in concerts and festivals.

Concert Orchestra 7, 8

This performing class is for students who want to begin instruction on a string instrument and for other students who are preparing for the advanced orchestra. No musical background is required. Since this is a performance class, attendance at all performances is required. Students are required to take their music home for study. It is possible for student to progress quickly into Chamber Orchestra. Some school instruments are available for student use. Instructor approval is not necessary.

Jazz Ensemble 7, 8

This is an advanced performance group emphasizing jazz and big band literature. Related musical styles such as rock, Latin-rock and pop are performed as well. The group is comprised of saxophones, trombones, trumpets, piano, bass and drum set. This highly visible ensemble performs several times during the year at concerts and community events. Traveling to jazz festivals outside of the immediate area and touring schools to perform are common with this group. Enrollment in the Symphonic Band or Concert Band is a prerequisite. **Auditions for the ensemble are held at the beginning of the fall semester** and *entrance into this course is by instructor approval only.* This is a zero period class.

Spanish 7, 8

This course provides an introduction to Spanish including written and oral expression, as well as cultural enrichment. The course content is the same as that presented in Spanish 1 at the high schools. Successful completion (defined as a grade of “B” or better) of two years of a foreign language at the junior high school will qualify students for recommendation to take Spanish 2 in the ninth grade. Students considering taking these courses need to demonstrate highly developed study skills and the ability to work independently as well as in groups. If enrollment is insufficient to justify a class, the students will be enrolled in another elective.

Spanish 7: (7th grade only, dependent upon demand)

This course is open to motivated seventh graders who want to learn a new language. New vocabulary is memorized and spoken as students use and apply it in class and as they take part in cultural activities. Students speak, write and listen to the language so all learning modalities may be addressed. Written and oral tests are part of the curriculum. *Teacher signature required.*

Spanish 8: (8th grade only, dependent upon demand)

This course is open to motivated eighth graders who have received a “B” average in Spanish 7. Students must also receive a recommendation from their seventh grade Spanish teacher to be considered for placement. Students will expand on skills learned in their seventh grade experience and become more proficient speakers while learning new vocabulary. Written and oral tests are a part of the curriculum. Students successfully completing this course will be recommended for enrollment in Spanish 2 at Turlock or Pitman High School. *Teacher signature required.*

Study Skills 7, 8

This course is offered to students who are struggling in either Math or Language Arts. Placement is determined by TJHS Staff using a variety of assessment data, class grades and teacher recommendation.

Symphonic Band 7, 8

This is an advanced performance ensemble comprised of woodwinds, brass and percussion. The group performs traditional concert band literature and various styles of popular music. Several concerts are given throughout the year and there are opportunities for the band to perform at recognized music festivals within the region. Participation in all performances is required. In recent years, the band has been fortunate to go on overnight trips and perform outside of the immediate area; this is a tradition the program hopes to continue. The instructor determines minimum playing standards for participation. Entrance into this performance group is by audition or instructor approval.

Teacher signature required.

Yearbook 7, 8

This course is offered to students who enjoy writing and want to take part in producing the school yearbook, *Tiger Tracks*. To be successful in this class, students need to be highly motivated, creative and hard working. Students must have computer skills. Students are frequently expected to work after school. Participation in the class is contingent upon teacher permission. This course is open to both 7th and 8th graders.

TJHS 2017-2018 Course Directory



**Turlock Unified School District
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