
Tilden Middle School



Grade 6 Supplement
2020-2021

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Dear Tilden Students and Parents/Guardians:

At Tilden Middle School we view the education of our students, your children, as a partnership between the school and the community. We strive to ensure a well-rounded and rigorous education for everyone. Critical thinking skills are emphasized and developed over all three years of middle school in order to begin to prepare students for the demands of high school and beyond. Additionally, we help facilitate the development of adolescent organizational and social skills.

Our school vision and mission, which were developed jointly with parents, staff and students, speak directly to the importance of providing every child with as many opportunities to explore their unique gifts as possible.

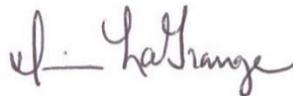
Vision

We envision a **happy, safe,** and **caring** educational culture in which our community is committed to the ongoing **success** of all students.

Mission

By providing our students with a rigorous and engaging education that builds their confidence and meets their social-emotional needs, the Tilden community will prepare students to become successful, responsible, and respectful global citizens.

The course offerings in this booklet vary widely to provide multiple opportunities for students to be challenged at all levels. Your child's counselor offers valuable guidance and assistance for both students and their parents/guardians. We wish all Tilden students an excellent 2020-2021 school year.



Irina LaGrange
Principal

Tilden Middle School

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GRADE LEVEL SUPPLEMENT 2020-2021

INTRODUCTION

Tilden Middle School is committed to providing a positive transition from elementary to secondary education for your child. The emphasis of the sixth grade program is on academic achievement and includes considerable emotional and social support to help students adjust to middle school. We are committed to providing the best possible instruction for your child. As you read this Grade Level Supplement, please keep in mind that the course descriptions provide only a brief summary of the various courses offered at Tilden Middle School. When school begins in the fall, students will receive the specific objectives for each course. Not all elective courses will be offered; what is offered depends on student interest. If you need assistance please contact the counseling department at (301) 230-5940.

REGISTRATION

Students and parents are encouraged to read the course descriptions very carefully. All students will be scheduled for seven courses; required courses are listed under each grade below.

6th GRADE

REQUIRED COURSES

Advanced English or ESOL
Historical Inquiry in World Studies
Mathematics
Investigations in Science 6
Physical Education/Health
Reading by recommendation only
STEAM/World Language (see page 6)

7th GRADE

REQUIRED COURSES

Advanced English or ESOL
Historical Inquiry in World Studies
Mathematics
Investigations in Science 7
Physical Education/Health
Reading by recommendation only

8th GRADE

REQUIRED COURSES

Advanced English or ESOL
Historical Inquiry US History
Mathematics
Investigations in Science 8
Physical Education/Health
Reading by recommendation only

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

All MCPS high schools offer a variety of instructional program models to meet the needs of their students. As a middle school student, it is important to become aware of special program options that may be available to you in high school so that you can make the best choices based on your academic talents, interests, needs, and career goals.

Early investigation of these programs is important so that you can be sure you are selecting courses while in middle school that meet any academic eligibility requirements. For more information about the programs, please contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services at (301) 592-2040 or visit the website, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice, for detailed information on high school special programs, such as those for International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, Advanced Placement (AP) course, Career and Technology Education (CTE) career pathway programs, or special internships.

ELECTIVES

When choosing an elective class, please be aware that this decision might not be able to be changed at a later date. It is essential that students and parents read the descriptions carefully and make a choice that reflects a **final decision**. Course offerings will be determined by student interest and staffing allocations/certification. FY = Full Year S = Semester

World Language Choices (FY)
Band (FY)
Orchestra (FY)
Chorus (FY)
MS Theater 1 (S) / Creative Family and Consumer Science (S)
MS Studio Art 1 (S) / Technology & Design (S)
Coding and Robotic Design (S) / Digital Art and Photography 1 (S)

FULL YEAR (FY)

WORLD LANGUAGES

The goal of the MCPS world languages program is to prepare students to be linguistically and culturally competent in languages other than English. The world language program at Tilden teaches language through reading, writing, listening, speaking and cultural awareness. Courses are taught communicatively and vocabulary and grammatical structures are taught through a variety of contextual themes. The prerequisite for all courses, except 1A, is either successful completion of the preceding course or a placement test.

World Language courses are high school courses. The final grade and credit earned for high school courses successfully completed while in middle school will be reported on the high school transcript, **but will not be calculated into the cumulative GPA, unless requested**. More information regarding opting-in grades from high school credit courses taken in Middle School will be provided once the student is in high school. Also available in high school is the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy, a diploma endorsement, authorized by Maryland law for students who demonstrate literacy in two or more languages per the state of Maryland requirements.

*Please note that Walter Johnson offers World Language courses in Spanish, Chinese, Latin, Italian and French. If your child is planning on attending a magnet high school program, or another high school altogether, please check with that high school to ensure alignment with the proper language.

MS FY Chinese 1A (1869) / MS FY French 1A (1600) / MS FY Spanish 1A (1700)

These three courses are meant to provide extended time and practice to set a foundation for a new language. Students must pass the class to earn .5 credit.

Spanish 1 A/B (1711, 1721)

This is a high school paced class usually for 7th and 8th graders. However, the classes may be appropriate for 6th graders with a high interest in learning a language AND a high level of academic discipline. These courses may also be appropriate for students with some background in a particular language who also have a high level of academic discipline. This course is not listed on the registration form. In order to register for this course, please contact Tilden's Content Specialist for World Language: Caroline Olan ([Caroline M Olan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Caroline_M_Olan@mcpsmd.org), 301-230-5930.)

MUSIC

Students who have never played an instrument before are welcome to join the program. Please contact Mr. Patrie at Timothy_S_Patrie@mcpsmd.org before signing up for band or orchestra. Please contact Mr. Shaw at Tory_C_Shaw@mcpsmd.org if you have any questions about chorus. ****Incoming 6th Graders electing to take band or orchestra will automatically be placed in Band 1 or Orchestra 1 UNLESS you have completed an audition.**

Band 1 (6880) (Full Year)

This course is offered to all students and is designed to give young musicians a strong technical foundation and to improve tone production, note and rhythm reading, and performance of music in a variety of styles. **Students who have never played an instrument before are encouraged to join the band by selecting this course with the understanding that they must meet with the director**

during MAP and/or after school at least once per week until they are proficient enough to be incorporated into the full ensemble. Students may have the opportunity to explore “color” instruments (tuba, French horn, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor and baritone saxophones) in order to achieve a balanced instrumentation. The goal for each student in this class is to, qualify for advancement into the intermediate band the next year by the end of the spring semester, **a minimum of 30 minutes of DAILY at-home practice is required.** Some larger instruments (such as French horn, tuba, bassoon, and percussion) are available through the school on a first-come, first-served basis. All students will perform at evening school concerts in the winter and spring. Other performance opportunities may arise throughout the year. Honors county groups are available to promising students in this class.

Band 2 (6830) (Full Year)

This course is offered to students who demonstrate intermediate skill on their instrument. **Admission is by audition with the director.** The course continues development of a strong technical foundation, with emphasis on improving personal tone production, note and rhythm reading, and performance skills. Students have an opportunity to explore “color” instruments in this group (tuba, French horn, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor & baritone saxophones) in order to achieve a more balanced instrumentation. The goal for each student in this class is to qualify for advancement into the advanced band the next year by the end of the spring semester, **a minimum of 30 minutes of DAILY at-home practice is required.** All students will perform at evening school concerts in the winter and spring. Other performance opportunities may arise throughout the year. Honors county groups are available to promising students in this class. **Again, admission is by audition with the director.** Please email Mr. Patrie, Timothy_S_Patrie@mcpsmd.org, to arrange an audition.

Orchestra 1 (6800) (Full Year)

This course is offered to all violin, viola, cello, and string bass students and is designed to give students a strong foundation in proper string techniques, and to improve bowing, tone production, note and rhythm reading, and performance of music in a variety of styles. **A minimum of 30 minutes of DAILY at-home practice is required.** All students will perform at evening school concerts in the winter and spring. Other performance opportunities may arise throughout the year. Honors county groups are available to promising students in this class. **Beginners may sign up for this course with the understanding that they must meet with the director during MAP and/or after school at least once a week until they are proficient enough to be incorporated into the full ensemble; this normally takes 6-8 weeks.** The school can provide cellos and basses on a limited basis to students that need them for **in-school use.** A limited number of violins and violas will be available for students to borrow on a first come, first served or needs-based basis. Before purchasing an instrument, renting is suggested for beginners for at least the first semester. Please email Mr. Patrie, Timothy_S_Patrie@mcpsmd.org, to arrange an audition for a more advanced course.

Chorus 1 (6690) (Full Year)

Chorus is a fun performance-based music ensemble where students who want to sing and develop their individual and ensemble musicianship skills. Emphasis is on refining performance technique including mastery of breath control, vocal production, diction, intonation, tone blending, singing in harmony and sight-singing. Special emphasis on ENSEMBLE performance skills, as well as MUSIC APPRECIATION and dramatic technique WITHIN performances. Individual voices are carefully monitored for the natural development of a healthy vocal sound. While rehearsing and presenting chosen literature, students learn about musical styles, historical periods, and the cultures from which the music originated. As a result, students are introduced to many new genres and styles of music. The Chorus performs at evening concerts, MCPS Music Festival, local amusement park festivals, and WJ Cluster concerts to meet the course objectives and complete the learning process. Students that continue in Chorus throughout middle school can look forward to working on a more challenging repertoire. 7th and 8th grades students are also able to participate in Show Choir – an extension of the regular Chorus class where students perform 2-3 songs in addition to their regular concert chorus repertoire.

SEMESTER ELECTIVES (S)

Electives will consist of two courses paired together, with each course offered on a semester basis. When selecting semester electives, you must select both courses paired below the particular option.

Theater/Creative Family & Consumer Science (paired semesters)

Theater (6907) (Semester)

Drama and the world of theatre, allows for a student's creative/artistic talents to flourish. MS Theatre 1 is a course designed to teach students about the techniques and performance skills that will introduce them to the basic elements of the theatre experience. The skills learned in this class will enhance their day to day lives in and out of the classroom. Through speech, interactive classroom activities, dramatic readings, and significant focus on dramatic improvisation, students will become more comfortable with expressing themselves physically and vocally in a dramatic way. They will learn how to overcome "stage fright," and develop the skills necessary for successful and rewarding participation in a drama production. There is significant focus on developing self-expression and confidence-building skills, as well as working as a contributing member of an ensemble/team.

Creative Family and Consumer Science (4560) (Semester)

The sixth grade program is designed to give students a broad range of learning experiences which are carefully selected to meet the developmental needs of young adolescents. Group cooking experiences combined with individual projects help students learn problem solving, teamwork and responsibility. Skills in following directions and organization aimed at project completion prepare students for success in their academic subjects. The course is designed to develop an awareness of healthy eating habits as students learn food preparation techniques. Safety and teamwork are stressed as nutritious foods are prepared in the kitchens. Students make several home-made recipes. By doing so, they develop improved self-images and confidence in their ability to think creatively and above all have fun!

STEAM ROTATION ELECTIVES

STEAM rotation electives are open to all 6th grade students. **Students who have two open periods for electives and who have not chosen to do a world language are required to take one of the two STEAM Rotations.**

STEAM Rotation #1 (paired semesters)

Coding and Robotic Design (7906) (Semester)

Students use technology in a rigorous, inquiry, and project-based learning environment that promotes relevance and engagement. Students will work on game development, design and modeling, robotics design and Engineering.

Digital Art and Photography 1 (6122) (Semester)

Students will build skills in utilizing vector and raster-based software techniques to create works of digital art and design. Students use the computer as a tool to create portraits, illustrations, commercial/advertising, 3D modeling, and animations. Students will develop their understanding of technology and its application in creating original works of art.

STEAM Rotation #2 (paired semesters)

Technology and Design (7898) (Semester)

Students explore and develop an understanding of the scope, characteristics, and core concepts of technology. They recognize the relationships and the connections between technology and other fields of study, while working to understand the attributes of design, and apply the design process through a series of hands-on activities. Students develop skills in the areas of assessing the impacts of products and systems, researching, problem-solving, and developing an attitude of safety, while working collaboratively with others.

MS Studio Art 1 (6002) (Semester)

MS Studio Art 1 introduces students to art materials, creative processes, and vocabulary. Creativity, critical thinking, and communication are strengthened throughout the course. Students review fundamental skills needed for design, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and ceramics. Paintings are personalized with a specific view point and color scheme. Design and craft units allow students to experiment with fabric, drawing materials, and the elements of shape and color. Printmaking and sculpture units reference global culture and integrate personal symbols. A ceramics unit teaches students basic hand-building techniques to create a freestanding form.

COURSES BY RECOMMENDATION ONLY

Developmental Reading (1008) (Full Year)

Developmental Reading is designed for students who are currently reading two or more years below grade level and need additional instruction and practice in word identification skills, fluency, decoding, vocabulary development, reading comprehension strategies, and written responses to text. This course is intended for those students reading books below a 350 Lexile level who are not yet eligible for the Basic Reading intervention program. **If recommended, this course replaces an elective and is considered essential to the future academic success of the student.**

Basic Reading (1009) (Full Year)

Basic Reading is an intensive reading intervention program designed to help students who are reading more than one year below grade level, make measurable gains in reading achievement. The program directly addresses individual needs through instructional software, high-interest fiction and nonfiction, and direct instruction in reading and writing skills. Within the 45-minute instructional block, students are engaged in whole-group teacher-led instruction, rotations in instructional software with individualized skills practice, modeled and independent reading and/or writing, and small-group instruction. Students who are assigned to this course will not have an elective. Student placement is based on a variety of assessments, including MAP-R, MSA, and teacher recommendations. **If recommended, this course replaces an elective and is considered essential to the future academic success of the student.**

Academic Literacy (1063) (Full Year)

Academic Literacy is an intensive, research-based reading intervention program for students who are reading one year below the proficient level and struggle primarily with fluency and comprehension. This program utilizes leveled non-fiction passages, repeated readings, vocabulary building skills, and comprehension strategies to accelerate student reading achievement. **If recommended, this course replaces an elective and is considered essential to the future academic success of the student.**

Alternative Program (0710) (Full Year)

Time management, organizational skills, effective study techniques, and essential elements of note taking are a few of the skills taught and put into action in this class; daily homework and class work assignments are used to reinforce these skills. Through constant communication, teachers, parents, and students will work TOGETHER to improve the overall outcome of the student's efforts. Related Studies takes the place of one elective; students are assigned to this class by the recommendation process.

Resource (7967) (Full Year)

This class, taught by a special educator, is designed specifically for special education students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students are placed in this class based on an IEP team decision. This class takes the place of an elective.