
Tilden Middle School



Grade 6 Supplement
2017 - 2018

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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.

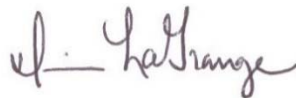
Vision

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 2017-2018 school year.



Irina LaGrange
Principal

Tilden Middle School

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GRADE LEVEL SUPPLEMENT 2017-2018

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. If your child has not received the directions on how to access the electronic registration, please visit the Tilden website. Your job will be to identify the remaining courses your child would like to take. 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
Advanced World Studies 6
Mathematics
Investigations in Science 6
Physical Education/Health
Digital Literacy

7th GRADE

REQUIRED COURSES

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

8th GRADE

REQUIRED COURSES

Advanced English or ESOL
Advanced US History 8
Mathematics
Earth/Space Systems
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 Q = Quarter

World Language Choices
Beginning Wind and Percussion (FY)
Intermediate Band (FY)
Beginning Strings (FY)
General Chorus (FY)
Beginning Theater (S) / Creative Family and Consumer Science (S)
Information and Communications Tech (S) / Art 6 (S)

FULL YEAR (FY)

WORLD LANGUAGES

The world language program at Tilden teaches reading, writing, listening, speaking and cultural awareness. Vocabulary and grammatical structures are taught through a variety of contextual themes. These are challenging high school classes which will appear on a student's high school transcript. High school credit will be given if the student successfully completes the course and passes the high school county final exam. **The final grade for each semester and credit are automatically placed on the students' high school transcript.** Please consult with a representative of the World Language Department for further guidance in this matter if you're unsure of the appropriate selection. The 1 A/B World Language courses are accelerated courses, designed for the student with a high degree of academic self-discipline. *Please note that Walter Johnson offers World Language courses in Spanish, Chinese, 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.

At Tilden we encourage students with experience and/or knowledge in one of the languages we offer to either choose a different language or to continue their language studies in their native or heritage language with a view to biliteracy. However, it is very important to make sure our students are placed in the correct level. Please contact our World Languages Content Specialist, Karen Kulpinski, to schedule a placement assessment. Karen_G_Kulpinski@mcpsmd.org.

Once a student has selected a language and level at registration, it may be very difficult to change that once the school year starts so it is imperative that any student with a background in a language be evaluated prior to registering for a class.

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

These three courses are meant to provide double the time and practice to set a foundation for a new language. Students must pass the full year of 1A, the full year of 1B (usually taken in 7th grade), and the 1B final exam to earn credit.

French 1 A/B (1611, 1621) / Spanish 1 A/B / (1711, 1721) (Full Year)

If you have a student with a high degree of academic self-discipline, and a MAP-R fall score of at least 217, who you feel should be considered for high school paced French or Spanish classes containing a majority of 7th and 8th grade students, please contact Mrs. Karen Kulpinski at Karen_G_Kulpinski@mcpsmd.org for consideration.

MUSIC (Open to 6th, 7th & 8th grades as described)

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 or guitar. ****Incoming 6th Graders: no matter which group you sign up for, you will automatically be placed in 6th Grade Band or Intermediate Orchestra UNLESS you have completed an audition.**

Beginning Wind and Percussion (6815) (Full Year)

This course is offered to all 6th grade 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 ("6th Grade Band") 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.

Intermediate Band (6880) (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.

Beginning Strings (6845) (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. Violin and viola students **must** supply their own instruments. The school can provide cellos and basses on a limited basis to students that need them for **in-school use.** 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.

General Chorus (6690) (Full Year)

Chorus is offered to students in grades 6-8 who want to sing and develop both their individual and ensemble musicianship skills. Emphasis is on refining raw vocal technique; therefore mastery of breath control, vocal production, diction, intonation, tone blending, singing in harmony and sight-singing are important. 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. Chorus is a fun music ensemble where students work together toward a common goal. The Chorus performs at evening concerts, MCPS Music Festival, and WJ Cluster concerts to meet the course objectives and complete the learning process. If numbers permit, Chorus will be divided into sections: a beginning chorus for 6th grade and first-time singers and an advanced chorus for those with experience who look forward to working on a more challenging 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.

OPTION A

Beginning Theater (6907) (Semester)

Drama and the World of Theater, allows for a student's creative/artistic talents to flourish. This course is designed to teach students techniques, behaviors, and other valuable performance skills that will enhance their day to day lives, both now and later. Through speech, interactive classroom activities, dramatic readings, and significant focus on dramatic improvisation, students will become more comfortable with expressing themselves both physically and vocally in a dramatic way, learn how to overcome "stage fright," and develop the skills necessary for successful and rewarding participation in a drama production.

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! Course fee of \$10.00 will apply.

OPTION B

Information and Communication Technology Grade 6 (2913) (Semester)

Students use technology in a rigorous, inquiry and project-based learning environment that promotes relevance and engagement. Students acquire knowledge and skill sets connected to Grade 6 content areas involving the use of application, Web-based, and multimedia tools. Programming concepts will be applied to the development of games, educational Simulations, and robotic products. The application of computer aided drafting and design and graphics software is used to communicate 2-D and 3-D designs. Students acquire website-development skills and digital art concepts and use them to create a portfolio. The completion of this course prepares students to follow middle school pathways (ICT 6, Fundamentals of Visual Art, and Foundations of Art A/B) that lead to high school credit courses in Grade 8. Course outcomes are based on the Maryland Technology Literacy Standards for Grades Pre-K-8 and the Maryland State Department of Education Voluntary State Curriculum for technology education.

Art 6 (6002) (Semester)

Grade 6 art 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. Course fee of \$10.00 will apply.

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, 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 READ 180 intervention program. **If recommended, this course replaces an elective and is considered essential to the future academic success of the student.**

READ 180/READ 180 FLEX (1012) (Full Year)

READ 180 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 90-minute instructional block, students are engaged in whole-group teacher led instruction, followed by 20-minute rotations in instructional software with individualized skills practice, modeled and independent reading and/or writing, and small-group instruction. The program is designed to build background knowledge, vocabulary, spelling, fluency, writing, grammar, and reading comprehension skills about a variety of topics. READ 180 FLEX is a second year of the READ 180 program for those students who need it. Students who are assigned to this course will not have electives. 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.**

Alternative Program (8058) (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 (0005) (Full Year)

This class, taught by a special educator, is designed specifically for special education students who have Individual Education Plan goals. Students are placed in this class solely by a recommendation process. This class takes the place of the elective option in the sixth grade.