

Toll Middle School Course Catalog 2022-2023

6th Grade Pathways

Band & Strings

Grade 6

These courses offer an opportunity for students to begin the study of an instrument. No previous musical experience is necessary. Training is available on woodwind, brass, string, and percussion instruments. Students will commit to daily practice at home and will be expected to participate in concert performances.

Choir

Grade 6

This elective class is for students who like music and who enjoy singing. Students will learn to read music as well as work to develop their voice in preparation for music in high school. Willingness to rehearse is a must. No singing experience needed. Students will learn how to sing and improve skills in music reading and writing, listening, and teamwork. This is a performance-based class. All participating students must be willing to rehearse and perform outside of class time.

Concert Band & Orchestra

Grade 6

These classes are open to all experienced wind, percussion and string players. Musicians should be familiar with techniques for good tone production, rhythm and know a scale or two. Percussion students should know how to play in basic time signatures. Playing mallets is a plus. Students are expected to participate in concert performances and at music festivals. Opportunities to perform in small chamber music ensembles are made available through this class.

Design Craft 6

Grade 6

This semester long class includes a marking period of cooking and a marking period of crafting and sewing. In the cooking part of the class, students learn the basics of cooking through lessons and lab experiences. In the crafting and sewing part of the class, students create projects that they are able to take home with them. Main areas of study include kitchen safety, food safety, measuring, cutting, following recipes, nutrition, hand sewing, machine sewing, circuit machines and other crafts.

Korean FLAG Language & Literature

Grade 6

This elective class is for students who have been in the Korean FLAG Program and will continue their language journey. Student can test into this elective option by showing the appropriate levels of speaking, reading, writing, and listening in Korean.

Study Skills

Grade 6

Students will develop organizational skills, time management skills, and also strategies for developing their leadership skills.

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Exploratory Wheel - Quarterly courses

Grade 6

This year-long elective rotates students through various topics of interest and allows 6th graders to explore different pathways. Students randomly move through a different course each 10-week quarter. Topics may include: Music Appreciation, Justice for All, Intro to Art, Intro to Culinary Arts, Intro to Technology, and Building Resiliency/Go Zen!

Art: Students will be introduced to traditional art and concepts including: drawing, composition, design, lettering, the elements & principles of design, color theory, critical thinking skills, and Art History.

College Pathways 6: Students will develop and practice skills that will help them have success in Middle School. Students will be introduced to organizational skills such as how to keep a calendar of their daily classwork and homework. An introduction to Philosophical Chairs where students will cite evidence from texts to support their claims. Class discussions will be generated through selective readings from Sean Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.

Drama: In Intro to Drama, students will engage with the basics of theatrical production, including acting, set design, lighting, costumes, and more. Students will gain foundational skills in public speaking, collaboration, and artistic expression. Previous experience is not necessary, but all students will be expected to participate in performance-based activities

Exploratory Music: Exploratory Music is a class that provides a variety of musical experiences and offers students a chance to develop music literacy as well as their overall appreciation of music. Students will discover the different forms of music, learn musicianship skills of reading, writing, and performing music, as well as explore the history of music and performance skills.

Go Zen: This class will teach you how to transform stress, anxiety, worry, anger, perfectionism, negativity, and social worry into power. You will watch short powerful videos and complete activities to help you through the process of transformation.

Justice for All: Students will learn about the importance of civil engagement and participation. The class will examine and define concepts such as democracy, republicanism and checks and balances and the separation of powers. Next, we will discuss the role of the individual and the rights and responsibilities of the individual in a democracy. We will use educational games/simulations from iCivics to re-enforce these concepts. Additionally, we will read and discuss one current event issue per week. Ultimately, students will understand how our democracy can only work with an informed citizenry.

7th & 8th Grade Pathways

Leadership Academy (Yearlong)

Junior Assistant

Grade 8 – Year

Prerequisite: Application. Teacher recommendation, satisfactory GPA & citizenship.

Junior Assistant is a position of trust requiring responsibility and maturity on the part of the student. Students who sign up for the Junior Assistant course may work in the classroom with a specific teacher or in the office with various staff members. Both environments provide the students with an opportunity to use basic business skills such as filing, alphabetizing, and professional inter-personal skills. These positions help the students to develop personal responsibility, organization and communication skills. Students must have excellent attendance,

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grades and citizenship marks to be considered for this class. *Qualified students will receive an application.* After receiving the application, students wishing to work for a teacher, must get approval using the application form.

Student Government (ASB)

Grades 7, 8 – Year

Prerequisite: Application, a teacher recommendation, good grades, and satisfactory citizenship.

This class is for students who are interested in being an active participant in school activities, and who like planning and organizing dances and school wide competitions. This class gives students the opportunity to develop their initiative and skills in cooperation, responsibility and citizenship.

Yearbook

Grades 7, 8 – Year

Prerequisite: Application, a teacher recommendation, good grades, and satisfactory citizenship.

This class is for students who are very responsible and want to help create Toll’s annual yearbook! Students will help with the production of the yearbook by taking photos, designing pages, and writing about the events represented in the photos.

Biliteracy Academy (Yearlong)

FLAG Armenian 1-2

Grade 7 – Year

Prerequisite: Participation in the FLAG Armenian Program at the elementary level.

Other fluent bilingual and bi-literate students may also be admitted upon assessment and recommendation made by teacher or program specialist.

FLAG Armenian Heritage Language Arts 1-2 A/B is a course for students with Intermediate High/Advanced Low proficiency in Armenian as described by the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines (2012). This course builds upon and applies the students’ existing Armenian language skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. This course emphasizes readings and discussions of stories, folk tales, biographies, and informational texts. Language conventions are also stressed. Students maintain and develop their cultural heritage through various experiences, such as cultural portfolios and research presentations. Students’ projects also include formal essay writing and digital media projects in the target language. Upon successful completion of FLAG Armenian Heritage Language Arts course for 7th grade, students achieve the Advanced Medium level of proficiency pursuant to the ACTFL guidelines.

FLAG Armenian 3-4

Grades 8 – Year

Prerequisite: Participation in the FLAG Armenian Program at the elementary level and 7th grade at the secondary level.

FLAG Armenian Language Arts 8-A/B is a course for students with medium advanced proficiency in Armenian as described by the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines (2012). This course builds upon and applies the students’ existing Armenian language skills in listening speaking, reading and writing. This course emphasizes readings and discussions of historical text, informational texts and biographies. Formal aspects of the language, such as more complex syntax, are also stressed.

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Students maintain and develop their cultural heritage through various experiences, such as cultural portfolios and research presentations. Students' projects also include formal essay writing and digital media projects in the target language. Upon successful completion of FLAG Armenian Language Arts course for 8th grade, students achieve the High Advanced level of proficiency pursuant of the ACTFL guidelines.

FLAG Italian 1-2

Grade 7 – Year

Prerequisite: Grade of A or B in English course.

Italian Language and Culture 1-2 is an introductory course meant to provide a foundation for novice-level reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The three modes of communication standards (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) outlined by the World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages will be addressed to build knowledge and purpose for effective communication at the novice proficiency level. Thematic units that draw from Italian literature, history, culture and the arts will also be interwoven into language study. The students will develop an understanding of the features of the target culture community including its geography and societal practices. Units of study will highlight Italian food, traditional arts, music, holidays, and customs. Students will learn to comprehend and express themselves in spoken and written Italian. Students will be encouraged to converse in Italian in class and will read selected passages from Italian texts. Assessments: Various formative and summative assessments will be conducted throughout the course.

FLAG Italian 3-4

Grade 8 – Year

Prerequisite: Italian Language and Culture 1-2 or equivalent.

Italian Language and Culture 3-4 is a second-year course meant to build upon the foundations of learning the language in Italian Language and Culture 1-2. The three modes of communication standards (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) outlined by the World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages will be addressed to build knowledge and purpose for effective communication at the novice-high or intermediate proficiency levels. Thematic units that draw from Italian literature, history, culture and the arts will also be interwoven into language study. The students will develop an understanding of the features of the target culture community including its geography and societal practices. Units of study will highlight Italian food, health and wellness, family life, and travel. Students will comprehend and express themselves in spoken and written Italian. Students will be encouraged to converse in Italian in class and will read selected passages from Italian texts.

FLAG Korean 1-2

Grade 7 – Year

Prerequisite: Completion of FLAG Elementary Program. Other fluent bilingual and bi-literate students may also be admitted upon assessment and recommendation made by teacher.

This course is designed as a continuation of FLAG Korean Language 1-2. The emphasis of FLAG Korean 3-4 is the continued improvement of skills in all four areas of communication: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students will further develop their spelling and writing skills. Upon graduation from middle school, students will achieve the Intermediate Mid Level of proficiency in Korean, a benchmark established by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines.

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FLAG Korean 3-4

Grade 8 – Year

Prerequisite: FLAG Korean Language 1-2. Other fluent bilingual and bi-literate students may also be admitted upon assessment and recommendation made by teacher.

FLAG Korean 3-4 is an intermediate course that will build upon and apply the students' existing Korean language skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. This course emphasizes extensive readings and discussions of essays, poetry and idioms from Korean literature. Formal aspects of the language will be stressed including spelling and punctuation. Student projects will include formal essay writing, presentations in Korean, service activities and cultural portfolios. Upon successful completion of FLAG Korean Language 5-6 course, students will achieve the Intermediate Mid Level of proficiency pursuant to the ACTFL Guidelines.

FLAG Spanish 1-2

Grade 7 – Year

Prerequisite: FLAG Spanish Elementary Dual Immersion Program (K-6). Other fluent bilingual and bi-literate students may also be admitted upon assessment and recommendation made by teacher.

This course is designed as a continuation of the K-6th elementary school Spanish dual immersion program (FLAG). The emphasis of FLAG Spanish 1-2 is the continued improvement of skills in all four areas of communication: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students will further develop their spelling and writing skills. Upon graduation from middle school, students will achieve the Intermediate Level of proficiency in Spanish, a benchmark established by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines.

FLAG Spanish 3-4

Grade 8– Year

Prerequisite: FLAG Spanish Language & Literature 1-2 and FLAG Spanish Elementary Dual Immersion Program (K-6).

FLAG Spanish 3-4 is an intermediate course that will build upon and apply the students' existing Spanish language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This course emphasizes extensive readings and discussions of novels, plays, essays, and poetry from Spanish literature. Formal aspects of the language will be stressed including spelling, punctuation, and accentuation. Student projects will include formal essay writing, presentations in the target language, service activities, and cultural portfolios. Upon successful completion of the FLAG 8th grade course, students will achieve the Intermediate level of proficiency pursuant to the ACTFL Guidelines.

Introduction to Armenian

Grades 7, 8 – Year

Introduction to Armenian Language and Culture is an introductory course meant to provide a foundation for novice-level students teaching basic reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The emphasis of the course will be an introduction to the Armenian language and culture, throughout practicing listening and speaking of the Eastern Armenian dialect of the Armenian language. The goal for the students is also to get familiar with the 39 letters and phonemes of the Armenian Alphabet. Units of study will highlight an introduction to the geography

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of Armenia and the Armenian history throughout centuries, Armenian language, culture, traditional arts, music, food, holidays, everyday life in the republic of Armenia and the life and structure of Armenian communities in Diaspora.

Exploring French (Blocked with Exploring Spanish)

Grade 7, 8 – Semester

Exploring French is a semester long class. Students will be exposed to beginner's language: vocabulary, basic communication, reading and writing, and strong exposure to the cultures of the target language. The emphasis will be on enjoying learning a new language and setting a foundation for future language classes.

Exploring Spanish (Blocked with Exploring French)

Grade 7, 8 – Semester

Exploring Spanish is a semester long beginner Spanish class. Students look into the very basic fundamentals of Spanish language, vocabulary and the culture of the various countries of the Spanish speaking world.

French 1-2

Grade 8 – Year

Prerequisite: C in English or instructor/counselor recommendation.

This course provides the introduction to French-speaking world through the study of language and culture. Students develop oral and written proficiency through dialogues, movies in French, learning games, and computer lab assignments. French 1-2 is a stepping-stone to continued study at the high school level. This course is part of the A-G college entrance requirements.

Italian 1-2

Grade 8 – Year

Prerequisite: C in English or instructor/counselor recommendation.

This course offers an introduction to the Italian language through the study of language and culture. Students develop beginning proficiency in both spoken and written Italian. Italian 1-2 is a stepping stone to continued study at the high school level and this course meets the A-G college admission requirements.

Korean 1-2

Grade 8 – Year

This course offers an introduction to the Korean language through the study of language and culture. Students develop beginning proficiency in both spoken and written Korean. Korean 1-2 is a stepping stone to continued study at the high school level and this course meets the A-G college admission requirements.

Spanish 1-2

Grade 8 – Year

Prerequisite: C in English or instructor/counselor recommendation.

The study of Spanish is a practical and rewarding elective that builds a strong foundation for oral and written fluency by the year's end. You will work hard, but the academic pacing is sprinkled with games and interactive experiences. Special features include an annual field trip and a C-D Rom tutorial which the whole family can enjoy! This course is part of the A-G college entrance requirements.

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CTE Academy (Yearlong)

Intro to Applied Technology

Grade 8 – Year

Students in Advanced Tech will undergo training to become Student Tech Leaders (STLs). As STLs, they will learn digital technology skills using the GenYES curriculum. STLs will stay informed of technology-related news while advancing their understanding of previously acquired digital skills. Topics and skills covered in Advanced Tech include advanced touch-typing, information literacy, digital citizenship, Google Workspace, content creation & publishing, and hardware & software IT support. STLs will also collaborate directly with teachers and staff to help them learn new technology and assist them in creating school-related content. STLs will also troubleshoot technology-related hardware and software on campus while providing tech support to teachers and students in their classrooms. Students who are considering this elective should have an enthusiastic attitude towards digital technology, possess above-average computer skills, and have satisfactory or outstanding citizenship marks in their current classes. In addition, students should possess strong communication, presentation, and leadership skills. They must also be open to new ideas while also contributing new ideas to solve tech-related issues.

Culinary 1-2

Grade 8 – Year

Culinary 1-2 is the introductory course in the Food Service and Hospitality Pathway. This one-year course offers students a hands-on education in kitchen safety and sanitation, food preparation, and basic nutrition. Cooking skills and techniques are emphasized with a focus on industry standards. Students will have embedded lessons on kitchen math, (measuring & converting), kitchen terminology, and etiquette. Cultural foods and traditions are explored in the second semester. Finally, students will identify pre-professional associations and careers in the food and nutrition industries.

Intro to Media & Digital Art 1-2

Grade 8 – Year

This course will introduce the student to Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Students will be producing artistic pieces in the areas of digital art, design, color, painting, stenciling, and printmaking. Motivation will be provided by the use of universal themes, historical and cultural examples, and creative expression. Evaluation will be based on technique, use of perceptual tools, craftsmanship, and personal involvement.

Intro to Digital Studio & Stage Audio

Grade 7, 8 – Year

This course fosters an interest in the technical aspects of digital music design, recording and editing. It also covers the skills necessary for setting up a home studio, running live stage-based sound reinforcement, and managing the audio portion of live studio broadcasts. It is a pathway course for students interested in taking either stage technology or music technology in high school.

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Exploring Family Consumer Science

Grade 7, 8 – Year

This semester-long exploratory class equips students with essential skills for living. It focuses on teaching students' skills for managing personal, family, and work responsibilities. This course includes lessons and hands-on experiences in content areas such as consumer education, individual and family health, fashion (sewing) and interior design, food and nutrition (cooking).

***Exploring Art (Blocked with Intro to Culinary)**

Grade 7- Semester

Explore a spectrum of color, design, and drawing. Acquire an enhanced understanding of cultural heritage and historical differences. Learn the practical use of materials, tools, basic concepts, techniques and the artistic process that can bring your imagination to reality. You will also learn basic vector and photo editing software, study great artists, their works, and their individual styles. You will come in close contact with your own creative talents!

***Introduction to Culinary (Blocked with Exploring Art)**

Grade 7 – Semester

Introduces students to the world of cooking through lessons and lab experiences where they get to eat the food they make. They will work in collaborative teams to create a variety of food items in a fully equipped kitchen lab setting. Main areas of study include kitchen safety and sanitation, measuring, cutting, following recipes, nutrition and menu planning.

***Exploring Music Tech (Blocked with Intro to Digital Literacy)**

Grade 7 – Semester

Do you enjoy movies, television, and listening to the radio? Ever considered making your own podcast? If so, then you are in luck! This class will teach you about the tools and equipment used to record sound for all these types of media with an emphasis on learning how to use sound editing software.

***Intro to Digital Literacy (Blocked with Exploring Music Tech)**

Grade 7 – Semester

This elective, **Introduction to Digital Literacy (IDL)** class provides students with structured inquiry and standards-based lessons that integrate the basic principles of Digital Literacy. Through the course, students will have an increased awareness of the academic requirements to use technological applications to enhance their learning. The student will be familiarized with online office tools (Google workspace), audio and video editing (wevideo), and group work (google sites) to create collaborative projects focusing on Technology. This might help students in exploring technological occupations and related careers in their futures as well as to improve their learning skills. Hands-on, project-oriented activities will introduce the students to a variety of skills needed to be successful in our modern world.

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Life Management

Grade 8 – Year

This yearlong course equips students with essential skills for living. They will gain life management skills through leadership and career development activities in the areas of child development and guidance, consumer education, family and human development, fashion, textiles, apparel, food and nutrition, housing and furnishings, and individual and family health. This class includes lessons and hands-on experiences with cooking, sewing, and interior design.

Pathway to College 8

Grade 8 – Semester

Students will be introduced to skills that will help them succeed in Middle School and beyond. Students will keep an organized calendar of their class and homework to reference to complete assignments. Students will practice class establish norms for class discussions and group interactions. Various practical topics will be introduced so students can practice discussion protocols and experience that many subjects in school support one another beyond the school setting.

Small Engines & Basic Automotive Electrical/Electric Motors

Grade 8 – Year

This course introduces middle school students to internal combustion gasoline engine technology. This class gives students an understanding and working knowledge of all engine systems. Academic work in the classroom will be applied in a “hands on” engine lab. Live-running single cylinder engines will expose students to practical real world activities related to engine service and repair. The second semester focuses on basic electricity concepts in automotive technology.

Skills for Success – Wheel 2

Grades 7, 8 - Year

The Skills for Success course is a semester-long course that focuses on social-emotional learning and introduces students to a variety of academic and life skills through collaborative, constructivist, and experiential lessons and activities. These skills include, but are not limited to the following:

Communication and Social Interaction. Organization, Planning, and Time Management. Studying, Note-taking, and Test-taking. Behavior Management and Self-Discipline. Growth Mindset.

(*7th Grade students will have two semester electives. They come in a block; selecting one course from the block indicates both courses as the two together make up a yearlong course. The order in which the electives are taken will not be the same for all students; you will get both choices. The computer will randomly place students to balance classes.)

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VAPA Academy (Yearlong)

Drama

Grade 7, 8 – Year

A performance-based class that gives students an opportunity to develop their talents. Previous experience is not necessary, only a willingness to participate and perform is needed. The course will introduce the students to basic methods of theatrical performance and production by offering an opportunity to explore ideas and activities, discover abilities and interests and evaluate the work of both self and others from an artistic point of view, while developing self-expression, perception, and evaluation criteria for the art and the artist.

Beginning Band/Beginning Strings

Grades 7, 8 – Year

This course offers an opportunity for students to begin learning how to play an instrument and read music. No previous musical experience is necessary. Training is available on woodwind, brass, and string instruments. This class meets daily and will have the opportunity to perform at various school concerts. You are not required to own an instrument to be part of this class. The only thing you need is a love of music.

Choir

Grades 7, 8 – Year

This elective class is for students who like music and who enjoy singing. Students will learn to read music as well as work to develop their voice in preparation for music in high school. Willingness to rehearse is a must. No singing experience needed. Students will learn how to sing and improve skills in music reading and writing, listening, and teamwork. This is a performance-based class. All participating students must be willing to rehearse and perform outside of class time.

Concert Band

Grades 7, 8 – Year

Open to wind and percussion students with at least 2-3 years of prior playing experience and who have at least some ability to read music. Wind players should be familiar with techniques for good tone production and should have some experience with major scales. Percussion students should have some prior knowledge of basic snare drum rudiments. Students will participate in concerts, play at music festivals, and march in a couple of parades. Ownership of an instrument is recommended but not required.

Orchestra

Grades 7, 8 – Year

Open to violin, viola, cello, and double bass students with at least 2-3 years of prior playing experience and who have at least some ability to read music. Students should have some experience with major scales and be comfortable playing in 1st position on all 4 strings. Students will participate in concerts, and play at music festivals. Ownership of an instrument is recommended but not required.

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Toll Notes (Advanced) Choir

Grades 7, 8 - Year

Audition Required. Elective class open to all students who enjoy singing and have a passion for music. Students will develop their singing voice, and improve skills in music reading and writing, listening, and teamwork. Experience in singing is recommended, but not required. This is a performance-based class. All participating students must be willing to rehearse and perform outside of class time. Director approval needed.

Intervention Courses (Yearlong)

Math Intervention 7

Grade 7 - Year

Math Intervention7 is designed to give students the fundamental skills necessary to succeed in Algebra during their next one or two years of study. Students will explore arithmetic operations, number systems and properties, and an introduction to algebraic thinking and concepts. Math Intervention7 is a class devoted to helping students who have been unsuccessful (typically on standardized tests) by providing additional time and resources.

Math Intervention 8

Grade 8 – Year

This class will provide adequate and targeted math support to 8th grade students throughout the year. It will engage students in solving and discussing tasks that promote mathematical reasoning and problem solving. This class will also build procedural fluency on a foundation of conceptual understanding, meaning students will begin to master mathematical skills after fully understanding the mathematical concepts underpinning those procedures. Students will also familiarize with the enduring math standards and concepts that will support their learning in high school. Finally, this class will help students boost their math confidence and accelerate their learning.

Teen4Success 7

Grades 7- Year

The guiding question for this class is, "What is it like to be you?" We will learn about how to identify and manage our feelings. We will explore procrastination, negative/positive thoughts, and mindfulness. The goal is to become inspired and determined to enjoy successful experiences now and later on in our lives.

Teen4Success 8

Grades 8- Year

This class is designed to help students enhance their skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. The class builds on skills students have learned in previous years. Students will increase their skills in English Language Arts and be better prepared for high school.