

Turlock Junior High School
3951 N. Walnut Avenue, Turlock CA
95382
(209) 667-0881



2021-2022

Course Directory



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.
- All students leaving high school will earn a diploma or successfully complete their Individualized Educational Plan (I.E.P.).



Turlock Junior High School Site Strategic Plan

MISSION STATEMENT/VISION

Turlock Junior High School is about increasing student achievement and preparing students academically and socially in a safe environment through teacher collaboration and effectiveness.

CORE VALUES

We believe...

- **That all students can learn and realize their potential (academic growth)**
- **That student achievement is enriched by a variety of learning experiences**
- **In building shared knowledge through the collaboration process to improve student learning**
- **Fostering a positive and safe environment for learning**
- **That character counts**
- **That literacy across the curriculum is crucial**
- **That to Achieve our goals, all stakeholders have to be learners.**

Turlock Junior High School

2021-2022 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.

First Letter of Last Name	Counselor
A-E	Mr. Tom Long
F-H	Ms. Aldama
I-Q	Mrs. Ortega-Ramos
R-Z	Mr. Pat Villapudua

Monitoring Student Fees, Donations, and Fundraising Guidelines Compliance

Section 5 of Article IX of the State of California Constitution guarantees students a “free public education.”

The State Supreme Court concluded in the 1984 case of *Hartzell v. Connell* (35 Cal.3d.899(1984)), “that all educational activities carried on by public school districts, extra-curricular as well as curricular, must be without cost to the students who participate in such activities.” This same ruling found that “mandatory fees for participating in such extra-curricular activities as drama, music, and athletic competition were illegal under the State Constitution.” Furthermore, they also rejected the argument that “fees could be charged so long as the district waived fees for students who were financially unable to pay.”

Turlock Junior High School

2021-2022 Promotion Requirements

Seventh Grade Courses	Credits *
Language Arts	40
Mathematics	20
Science	20
History	20
Physical Education	20
Elective	20

140 Credits Possible

Eighth Grade Courses	Credits *
Language Arts	40
Mathematics	20
Science	20
History	20
Physical Education	20
Elective	20

140 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

Turlock Junior High School is proud to offer Honors/GATE ELA courses to students who meet TUSD and Turlock Junior High established criteria. Honors/GATE ELA courses are designed to prepare students for the rigors of Honors 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 the removal of the student from the 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. Students in the Pathway take PE, STEM Pathway Elective, 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 grades. Interested students will be required to complete an application that will be reviewed and approved by TJHS staff. A drawing will be used to determine initial entrance and waitlist for qualified applicants. All students are expected to maintain above average grades and behavior.

REQUIRED COURSES:

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

English Language Arts, 7th grade:

Language Arts 7

In this two-period course, students gain knowledge and skill 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 is used to teach

editing, as well as the use of dictionaries, 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 and class grades. 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.

English Language Arts, 8th grade:

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 abilities 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 and discerning whether or not the research is credible. Students are expected to effectively use computer applications in order to produce both written and oral presentations for a specific audience.

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 (AP) who have demonstrated academic success through the various assessments and class grade. 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 .

Mathematics-

Math 7 (7th Grade)

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. Textbook: : Eureka Math.

Math 8 (8th Grade)

Eighth grade math instruction will focus on the three critical areas of the eighth grade math standards which are: linear equations, number systems and transformations. Some topics of study include formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, grasping the concepts of a function, and analyzing two- and three- dimensional space and figures. Students will be challenged to explore and experiment, ask appropriate questions, and use their knowledge and skills to respond to new or perplexing situations. Textbook : Eureka Math.

Math, 7e, 8e , STEM Math 7,8 and Integrated Math 1 Honors:

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/math classes at the high school. Eligible students demonstrate academic success through a variety of assessments and grades.

Textbook: Eureka Math and/or MVP

Integrated Science:

Science classes will continue in 2021-2022 embedded with three dimensional learning through the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and adopted California curriculum. Students will also be provided with supplementary material, such as science-related magazine and journal articles, multimedia and web-based resources.

Integrated 7th Grade Science:

Students engage in sophisticated and engineering practices while also considering human impact. Students will study chemistry with a focus on structures and properties of matter as well as chemical reactions. This will lead to an understanding of photosynthesis in terms of energy in chemical processes and everyday phenomena. Students will investigate a unit on ecosystems and Earth 's systems that includes exploration on the cycle of matter and energy transfer as well as plate tectonics and large-scale systems interactions. Students will learn the effects of human activities on Earth which includes natural resources and hazard as well as human reproduction.

Integrated 8th Grade Science:

Students will study astronomy which includes the solar system, stars and the universe. They will explore the geological time scale and how it relates to living things including common ancestry, natural selection and adaptation. This will lead to learning about inheritance of traits and variations. Students will also learn about motion and stability of forces with various types of interactions. There will be a unit on mechanical and light wave characteristics while learning about the relationship of energy and forces. Throughout these units students will learn about the human impact on various Earth Systems and how to apply engineering design techniques for real life implementation.

History:

History 7 (7th Grade)

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: National Geographic : Medieval and Early Modern Times.

History 8 (8th Grade)

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 typically the 20th Century. Textbook: National Geographic: US History Beginnings to World War I.

Physical Education

Physical Education 7, 8

Students learn the proper techniques and skills for a variety of recreational games, team and lifetime 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 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 an ELA course offered to students designated as English Language Learners in the beginning levels of their language development. 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: Springboard.

SDAIE 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 courses. 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's Special Education Department ensures that appropriate programs and services are available for all students identified with disabilities under the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004). The Special Education Department supports every student's right to an individualized educational program that is reasonably calculated to provide meaningful education benefit based on the student's identified and unique needs. Our school is committed to delivering quality and effective services to our students, families and community.

Elective Courses

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

Students that are in the STEM Pathway will participate in this required elective. 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.

See STEM Pathway Information on Page 3. This is a two year long course.

STEM 7 Computers

In this course, students will learn to program devices for the virtual world as well as the physical world. In "Computer Science for Innovators and Makers," students learn how to control input and output devices to solve real world promises. In "App Creators" students learn to create and program an app to be run on a smartphone or tablet. This is a semester-long PLTW course. Students will take STEM Shop 7 the other half of the year.

STEM Shop 7

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 Project Lead the Way course. This is a semester-long class. Students will take STEM Computers 7 the other half of the year.

Art 7

This course is an introduction to various art mediums (materials) and techniques, which will allow for students to explore the elements of art and principles of design. These fundamental teachings build a strong basis that will enable students to create a variety of subject matter. Additionally, students will learn art history with each lesson, which will develop a greater appreciation for each artwork they create. Students will explore the use of various materials, such as pencil, watercolors, colored pencils, etc. This is a semester-long course. Students will have Foods and Nutrition 7 the other semester.

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. Students will have Art 7 the other semester.

Grade 8 Electives:

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

This is a two year long course (started in 7th grade) that is required for students in the STEM Pathway. 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 class will learn the computer basics covered in this year long Computers 8 course, but will also do an in-depth study of blogging, video production, image manipulation with PhotoShop, animation, and computer programming. This is a year long course.

STEM Computers 8

Students enrolled in this 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 create a variety of projects. This is a semester long course. Students will take STEM Shop 8 the other half of the year.

STEM 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 Project Lead the Way course. This is a semester-long class. Students will take STEM Computers 8 the other half of the year.

Art 8

This course is an advanced introduction to various art mediums (materials) and techniques, which will allow for students to explore the elements of art and principles of design. These fundamental teachings build a strong basis that will enable students to create a variety of subject matter. Additionally, students will learn art history with each lesson, which will develop a greater appreciation for each artwork they create. Students will explore the use of various materials, such as pencil, watercolors, colored pencils, etc. This is a semester long course. Students will have Foods and Nutrition 8 the other semester.

Foods and Nutrition 8

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. Students will have Art 8 the other semester.

Grade 7/8 Electives:

STEM HYBRID 7, 8

The goal of this two year elective 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. In 7th grade, they will work through the PLTW units of Design and Modeling, and Green Architecture. In 8th grade, students will work through the units of Magic of Electrons and Medical Detectives.

PLTW Gateway unit engages students in activities that build knowledge and skills in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science and empower students to develop essential skills such as problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance.

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.* This is a year long course.

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. This is a year long course.

Concert Choir (Tiger Choir) 7th & 8th

This performing arts class is for beginning and intermediate singers. 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 and camaraderie. Students will learn basic music notations and sing choral music in many styles and genres including festival, classical, spiritual, pop, and gospel. The Concert Choir will perform in many concerts and festivals throughout the school year. This is a year long course.

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. Elementary orchestra experience is preferred, but not required. Since this is a performance class, attendance at all performances is required. Students are required to take their music home for study. Some school instruments are available for student use. Instructor approval is not necessary. This is a year long course.

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. This is a year long course.

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 and a year long course.

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.* This is a year long course.

Tutorial 7, 8

This course is offered to students who need extra support in either Math or Language Arts who have a current IEP.

Study Skills 7, 8

This course is offered to students who need extra support in either Math or Language Arts. This is based on administration/teacher recommendations and grades.

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. Student's 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. This is a year long course. *Teacher signature required.*

Spanish 7, 8

These courses provide an introduction to a foreign language 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. This is a year long course.

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 to qualify. Students must receive a recommendation from their seventh grade Spanish teacher to be considered for placement in Spanish 8. 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 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*

Portuguese 7, 8

This course provides an introduction to a foreign language including written and oral expression, as well as cultural enrichment. 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 Portuguese 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. This is a year long course.

Portuguese 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.

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

This course is open to motivated eighth graders who have received a B average in Portuguese 7 to qualify. Students must receive a recommendation from their seventh grade Portuguese teacher to be considered for placement in Portuguese 8. 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 part of the curriculum. Students successfully completing this course will be recommended for enrollment in Portuguese 2 at Turlock High or Pitman High School. *Teacher signature required*

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districts, extra-curricular as well as curricular, must be without cost to the students who participate in such activities.” This same ruling found that “mandatory fees for participating in such extra-curricular activities as drama, music, and athletic competition were illegal under the State Constitution.” Furthermore, they also rejected the argument that “fees could be charged so long as the district waived fees for students who were financially unable to pay.”