

TOMAH MIDDLE SCHOOL



2025 – 2026

8th Grade

Registration and Course Descriptions

The Tomah Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity) or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability (“Protected Classes”) in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities. The Coordinator of the District’s efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is Dr. Paul Skofronick, 1310 Townline Road, Tomah, WI 54660 – phone: (608) 374-7011. Any inquiries regarding the application of the District’s non-discrimination policy may be referred to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

Si necesita Ud. ayuda en la traducción de este documento, por favor llama la especialista de ELL del distrito a 374-7014.

Tomah Middle School Concept

Welcome to Tomah Middle School! We believe middle school students should be exposed to a variety of learning experiences and life skills. These experiences serve as the foundation from which future occupational, recreational and social choices can be made. The National Middle School Association believes that the “middle school is an educational response to the needs and characteristics of youngsters during transience (ages 10-14) and, as such, deals with the full range of intellectual and developmental needs.” Thus, the academic needs of middle school students are affected greatly by their physical, social and emotional needs, which are addressed in our school program.

Tomah Middle School organizes students and teachers into interdisciplinary teams. These teams provide a smooth transition from the elementary school to the high school. One of the positive aspects of the middle school concept is that an individual student has the same four academic teachers all year. Each interdisciplinary team has common planning time so teachers can discuss individual student issues. The teams also develop strategies for dealing with problems, meet with parents and communicate with each other. Parents are encouraged to contact team leaders to set up an appointment to meet with the teachers. Individual and group counseling is available to our middle schoolers in meeting their developmental needs.

TOMAH MIDDLE SCHOOL **OFFICE DIRECTORY 2025- 2026**

TOMAH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT WEB SITE – www.tomah.education

	Phone Number
Principal, Mrs. Amy Langner	374-7883
Assistant Principal, Mrs. Amy King	374-7884
Dean of Students, Mr. Jared Sasada	374-7927
School Counselor, Ms. Amy Whitwam	374-7943
School Counselor, TBD	374-7887
Main Office Secretary, Mrs. Jan Bloom	374-7885
Counseling Office Secretary, Mrs. Sara Breitsprecher	374-7882
Attendance Secretary, Mrs. Taylor Nelson	374-7881
Middle School Fax	374-7303

Eighth Grade Requirements and Electives

Required Classes

Language Arts
Math or Algebra I
Science
Social Studies
Exercise and Sports Science (ESS)

Elective Related Arts Classes

Art or Quest Art	Health – Life Skills
Band	Health - Investigative
Choir	Intro to Horticulture
Part Band/Part Choir	Intro to Small Animals
GTT - Energy and the Environment	Intro to Woodworking
GTT - Magic of Electrons	Leadership Exploration and Development (LEAD)
GTT - Medical Detectives	Spanish I
German I	Teacher Assistant – Miller Elementary
	Wisconsin DNR Certifications

Tomah Middle School Activities

Animation Club	Basketball
Art Club	Cross Country
Best Buddies	Dance
Chess Club	Football
International Club	Golf
Jazz Band	Gymnastics
Musical/Play	Softball
National FFA Organization	Tennis
Science Club	Track and Field
Science Olympiad	Volleyball
Show Choirs (Soundsations and Crescendo)	Wrestling
Student Council	
WEB	
Yearbook	

Students may participate in as many activities as possible as long as they do not conflict.

The Middle School athletic program is designed so all interested students may participate fully. Competitive games are played between TMS teams or between teams from other school districts. Our main focus is on skill development and maintaining an interest in healthy athletic activities that promote physical well-being.

Course Descriptions

Algebra I – *Prerequisite: Eligible students will receive a letter of recommendation.*

This class is a first-year algebra class. The curriculum covered is the same as that covered in the high school algebra class. Students receive high school credit for this class and must maintain a “C” average to remain in the class. (See Board Policy 5460 Graduation Requirements for additional information). Units of study include: positive and negative numbers, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, polynomials, factoring, square roots and rational expressions. Students will be notified if they meet established criteria for enrollment in this class. The enrollment criteria includes teacher recommendation, successful completion of 8th grade common core curriculum, above average grades, and a high level of motivation and interest in math. This class meets every day for the year.

Exercise and Sports Science (ESS)

This course may include instruction in some of the following units: flag football, floor ball, soccer, yard games, volleyball, tennis/ping pong, cooperative learning, weight lifting, spinning, fitness, basketball, games of low organization, softball/whiffleball, and badminton. Emphasis will be on teaching good sportsmanship and life-long skills. Grading is based on cooperation, effort, behavior, skill work, and written tests. Parents and students are reminded that dressing in proper ESS clothing is part of a student’s daily grade, and all absences need to be made up. This class meets every other day for the year.

Language Arts

Prepares students with skills for life-long reading and writing. They will be exposed to a variety of literature, including short stories, novels, non-fiction articles, poetry, drama, and essays. Students will strengthen their vocabulary, explore reliable research sources, analyze literature, develop important life skills, and connect what they read to their own lives. They will write an assortment of pieces, with an emphasis on non-fictional writing. Students will practice proper mechanics and grammar skills through speaking and writing, as well as use figurative language, understand and interpret style, and work with classmates in workshops to strengthen their writing. This class meets every day for the year.

Math

This course is designed to meet the needs of the new national math standards and curriculum. The focus of this course will be guided by the following common core units: Rational and irrational numbers, Pythagorean Theorem, exponents and scientific notation, slope, functional relationships, linear equations, congruence and similarity, and statistics. This class meets every day for the year.

Science

This is a performance-based course that includes activities in life science, earth science, physical science, and scientific reasoning and technology. Emphasis in the class will be on physical science concepts and activities. This class meets every day for the year.

8th Grade Social Studies: U.S. History & Civics

This course explores the foundations of the United States, from colonial America through the Civil War, while also emphasizing the principles of U.S. government and civics. Students will examine the causes and effects of key historical events, including the American Revolution, the formation of the Constitution, westward expansion, and the Civil War. Through engaging discussions, primary source analysis, and interactive activities, students will gain a deeper understanding of how our government was designed, how it functions today, and how citizens can participate in democracy. Key topics include the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the three branches of government, landmark Supreme

Court cases, and the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens. By the end of the course, students will be able to make connections between history and modern society, developing the critical thinking skills necessary to become informed and engaged citizens. This class meets every day for the year.

Elective Options

Band

This course is open to any 8th grade student who has successfully completed the 7th grade band course, or has satisfactorily completed the equivalent of two years of study prior to the start of the school year. Band members need to attend the summer marching band camp in August and are **required** to perform in several concerts and public performances throughout the school year. Students will have semi-private lessons that occur during the school day and will need to play and practice their instrument at home on a regular basis. In addition, all 8th grade band students are eligible to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival in the spring and may apply for various Regional and State Honor Ensembles. This class is required for 8th grade jazz band members. Any 8th grade student interested in joining band for the first time should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss instrument selection. All 8th grade students new to band are required to attend **both** the 6th grade beginning band lessons and the 7th and 8th grade marching band camp. This class meets every day for the year.

Choir

This course is open to all eighth grade students and is intended to provide them with the opportunity to learn to read and perform vocal music through an enjoyable singing experience. Students will be given the opportunity for individual or group vocal lessons and also the chance to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival. All choir students will be **required** to participate in choral concerts. Students will not only experience musical growth but will develop friendships and unity with other members of the choir. This class is **required** for 8th grade show choir members. Students must earn a passing grade to remain in choir. This class meets every day for the year.

Part Band & Choir

While not truly its own course, students who wish to participate in both band and choir will see this course listed on their schedule. These classes meet on alternating days for the year.

Elective Related Arts Classes

Art

This course is based on the theme of learning how to develop ideas. Units are focused on building a broad background in media, technique, and style. Lessons on artistic elements, creative expression, principles of art and design, and art history are included. This is a semester class which fulfills the Tomah High School “Introduction to Art” requirement if the student earns a grade of 75% or better. While this fulfills this requirement, it does not count for a Tomah High School credit. One quarter is centered on two-dimensional art and the other quarter focuses on three-dimensional work. This class meets every other day for the year.

Quest Art – *Prerequisite: Letter of recommendation from 7th grade Art teacher*

This advanced course is designed for art students who are highly skilled and motivated in art. Students must be self-directed and have the ability to work independently. Emphasis is based on developing ideas, skill development, creative problem solving, and art history. Students receive weekly sketchbook assignments which are to be completed outside of class time. The enrollment criteria

include: teacher recommendation, above average grades, a high level of motivation, and a portfolio review. Students must maintain a “B” average throughout the year in order to remain in the class. This is a semester class which fulfills the Tomah High School “Introduction to Art” requirement if the student earns a grade of 75% or better. While this fulfills this requirement, it does not count for a Tomah High School credit. This class meets every other day for the year.

Gateway to Technology - Energy and the Environment

Students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption. This class meets every other day for a semester.

Gateway to Technology - Magic of Electrons

Through hands-on projects, students explore electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. They learn knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and examine the impact of electricity on the world around them. This class meets every other day for a semester.

Gateway to Technology - Medical Detectives

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health. This class meets every other day for a semester.

German I

This course continues the development of language and cultural learning from previous courses through face-to-face instruction. Learning a language should be a fun and interesting experience. Students practice their language skills such as listening, reading, speaking and writing in many different ways. Students will learn through storytelling, skits, songs, simulations, games, children’s books and videos. The rich history and exciting modern-day life of German speaking people around the world will be discovered. Students will learn the basics necessary to speak in German about themselves and their family, celebrations, holidays, food, etc. Daily participation and language practice are expected. Eat German, talk German, experience German! Successful completion of this course with a “C” average will enable students to receive high school elective credit and enroll in German II at the high school. This class gives students the opportunity to take German 5 (honors) in their senior year and is accepted by many colleges. (For additional information, see Board Policy 5460, Graduation Requirement.) This class meets every day for the year.

Health - Investigative

This is a project-based class where students will investigate some of the topics plaguing our teens in today’s society. They will prepare informative presentations with the problems and possible solutions. Topics could include Mental Health, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs, as well as Public Health Awareness and Advocacy. This class meets every other day for a semester.

Health – Life Skills

Students will learn about and research topics such as Nutrition, Communication, Careers, Social Media, Healthy Relationships and more. They will build upon skills, such as decision-making, to learn how to live a healthy life. This class meets every other day for a semester.

Intro to Horticulture

Students will have the opportunity to learn about how plants grow, different types of plants, uses of plants, how to grow with hydroponic systems, and about the Farm 2 School program. We will complete plant-based research projects, work in the lab room with the tower gardens/hydroponic systems, harvest lettuce for the Farm 2 School program (harvest the lettuce grown in the lab room for the TMS lunch program), work outside in the raised garden beds and discover potential careers in the plant science industry. This class meets every other day for the year.

Intro to Small Animals

This course will cover the management and raising of small animals. Other topics covered will be animal rights and animal welfare, animal roles in society, companion animals, careers with small animals and more. **Live animals may be brought into the classroom with teacher approval ahead of time. Successful completion of this course will enable students to receive 0.5 high school elective credits. This class meets every other day for the year.

Intro to Woodworking

FEES: Students will be required to pay a \$30 lab fee for the purchase of materials for student projects. This course is an introduction to the area of woodworking. Students will be required to complete projects chosen by the instructor that provide a broad range of exposure to woodworking procedures, operations, and techniques. Students will cover essential skills such as measurement and layout, print reading, project planning, and problem solving. Safe and effective use of power and hand tools will be covered. Safety will be top priority and will be stressed during the duration of the class. Successful completion of this course will enable students to receive 0.5 high school elective credits. This course is required to take further electives in woods/carpentry/construction field in high school. This class meets every other day for the year.

Leadership Exploration and Development (LEAD)

This course is designed to develop and improve leadership skills each person possesses. Areas from goal setting to team building to personal relations to problem solving will be covered. Learn what leadership is all about by learning about your leadership style, developing goal setting skills, communication skills, decision making skills, teamwork and much more. Students will develop their leadership skills further by studying time and stress management, peer pressure, self-confidence, assertiveness, and a positive attitude. Students will work on a leadership project within the school district and the community. Each student must come to class with an open mind, respect for others, a willingness to participate, and a sense of dedication to the class. This class meets every other day for the year.

Spanish I

Students will embark on a journey through Spanish language and culture. This course concentrates on the four main facets of language learning: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will find joy in communicating in a new language and in being immersed in interactive, face-to-face instruction. A variety of games, songs and other activities are used to teach about the language and the diverse cultures of the Spanish-speaking countries of the world. Learning units and lessons include, but are not limited to, greetings and goodbyes, likes and dislikes, about you, school, family, food, celebrations and holidays, and other useful day-to-day language. Successful completion of this course with a "C" average will enable students to receive high school elective credit and enroll in Spanish II at the high school. This class gives students the opportunity to take Spanish 5 (honors) in their senior year and is accepted by many colleges. (For additional information, see Board Policy 5460, Graduation Requirement.) This class meets every day for the year.

Teacher Assistant – Miller Elementary

Students walk to and from Miller Elementary School to assist a teacher while working with students. Tasks may include organizing games at recess, reading to and with students, assisting with classroom activities, and so much more. Grading for the course is pass/fail based on attendance, and how great of a helper the student is with the tasks given to them. This has a limited capacity of students. Our Principal will select students interested to fill the availability. This class meets every other day for a semester.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Certifications

Students have the opportunity to obtain WDNR Boater Safety, Snowmobile Safety, and ATV Safety certifications. Students will also partner with the WDNR to explore bow and firearm safety, as well as learn other responsible management techniques to preserve our natural resources. Students who choose to obtain the safety certifications through the WDNR will be required to pay a \$10.00 fee per certification. Students who have taken more than one of the certification courses previously should not sign up for this course. This class meets every other day for a semester.