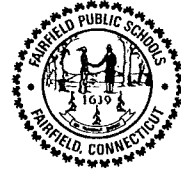


Tomlinson Middle School

200 Unquowa Road
Fairfield, CT 06824-5010
Phone (203) 255-8336
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Sally Bonina, Principal

Amanda Kirik, Assistant Principal

James Bevilacqua, Dean of Students

May 18, 2016

Dear 7th Grade Parents and Guardians,

Infinite Campus is the tool used for grade 7 to 8 articulation. When your child logs on to Infinite Campus and selects "Course Registration 16-17" from the left hand tab, his or her "Required Courses" for 8th grade will be listed. These courses include language arts, social studies, science, math, world language, health, physical education, and music. Additionally, the Reading 8 class may be listed. Using specific criteria developed by the language arts curriculum coordinator, teachers recommend students who are in need of this support. If your child has been recommended for this class, a world language course will not appear. If you have any questions about these courses, please contact your child's current teacher.

Under the section titled "Required Courses," there are two additional sections, "Requested Courses" and "Alternate Courses." This is where your child's preferences for elective classes will be entered. Students attended a unified arts presentation where their teachers explained each elective course. A complete list is also attached to this letter for reference. Please use the step by step directions provided below to ensure your child's 8th grade elective course preferences are noted. Although we do our best to honor requests, we cannot guarantee any specific classes.

Once you have reviewed the "Required Courses" and your child has made his or her preferences for elective courses, **please print the form, sign and date it, and have your child return it to his or her homeroom teacher by Wednesday, May 25th.**

Logging into the Portal

1. From the portal login screen, students log-in using their **Username** and **Password**
2. This will bring students to the main portal page where district and school notices will be listed.
3. Click the **Course Registration 2016-2017** option from the navigation pane on the left of the screen.
4. Any required courses that have been recommended by teachers and inputted by school administrators will be listed in the **Required Courses** list. Students cannot change any required courses listed for them.

Requesting Elective Courses


1. Click the **Course Search** link. A search screen will appear.
2. Under "Search By:" click the "Go" button. The Unified Arts elective options will appear (8).
3. Click on your **first choice elective** and then click "**Request this Course.**"
4. Click on your **second choice elective** and then click "**Request this Course.**"
5. Your first and second choices are the **ONLY CHOICES** that should appear under the box "**Requested Courses.**"
6. For the remaining elective courses, please add each one *in order of preference* using the "**Request as an Alternate**" button. When you are done, there should be six (6) alternate courses listed.

Print and Submit the Request Summary Form

1. When finished requesting courses, click the **Print Request Summary** option to print the final report.
2. Sign and date the form, then submit it to your child's homeroom teacher **by Wednesday, May 25th**.

We are here to help. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers, 7th grade school counselor, Mr. Rhodes or a middle school administrator if you experience any difficulty with the process.

Sincerely,



Sally Bonina

Principal



Amanda Kirik

Assistant Principal



Morgan Rhodes

7th Grade Counselor

Tomlinson Middle School

8th Grade Program

Students will be placed on teams that are comprised of four teachers. Eighth grade teams are heterogeneously mixed.

The Typical Day:

- 1 period of English/Language Arts
 - 1 period of Mathematics
 - 1 period of Science
 - 1 period of Social Studies
 - 1 period of World Language or Reading Strategies
 - 1 period of "Unified Arts" - a quarterly rotation of Health and three additional elective courses
 - 1 period of Music (3x/week) and Physical Education (2x/week) meeting all year.
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MUSIC COURSE INFORMATION

Music Selections

1. Chorus (3x/week)
2. Orchestra (3x/week)
3. Orchestra and Chorus (2x Orch. & 1x Chorus)
4. Band (3x/week)
5. Band and Chorus (2x Band & 1x Chorus)
6. Keyboard Music– Non performing (3x/week)

All students participating in orchestra and band will continue to have weekly small group lessons which meet during the school day. We attempt to schedule lessons on a rotating basis so that no single class is missed more than once per month. Music choices are a full year commitment and cannot be changed after the start of school. Students in performing ensembles are expected to participate in all concerts.

QUARTERLY UNIFIED ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HEALTH This **required health class has been designed to offer eighth grade students the skills and information to better cope with the teenage years. The course will stress personal responsibility for managing their well-being, good decision making abilities and practices that are health enhancing. Eighth graders will study wellness, substance abuse prevention and human sexuality.

88803-FABRIC ART This class offers every student the opportunity and choice to make a variety of projects ranging from quilted pillows to quilts. In addition, you will learn how to use a computerized sewing machine to automatically sew your name and designs on your projects.

88102-FOODS In this class, students will learn various food preparation skills using a “hands-on” approach in the Foods Lab. A variety of small kitchen appliances are utilized. Students will explore a number of recipes to make meals that taste good and are good for you.

88202- DRAWING/PAINTING (2D) This course offers the student an opportunity to develop skills in several of the following areas: design; drawing (pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, pastels); and painting (acrylic on canvas, tempera and watercolor).

88223-CERAMIC/SCULP (3D) (Ceramics and Sculpture Art) This course is the exploration of three-dimensional art using many different materials. Every student will have the opportunity to form ceramic pieces with clay and glazes. In addition, the students will create sculptures from a variety of materials such as paper mache, wire, plaster and metal foil.

88301-MFG/CONSTRUCTION (Manufacturing/Construction) This course gives students the opportunity to design and build different machines or projects to overcome design challenges given by the instructor. The students utilize basic hand tools and shop equipment to create complex machines to complete each task or project. Student input is added into the task when they choose specific criterion for each lab.

88504-TRANS TECH (Transportation Technology) This course is designed to allow students to study the four major modes of transportation: land, marine, air / space, and intermodal. Students will use tools to design, build and test working models of airplanes, rockets, land vehicles and boats. The course may also include studying power sources for each of the vehicles such as internal combustion engines, solar and wind power. Safety is stressed as the number one concern. Each student is taught to observe all safety rules regarding hand and power tools.

88401-COMM TECH (Communication Technology) This course is designed to offer students an exposure to at least three areas of communications technology, typically visual, audio and multisensory input. The course revolves around the creation of a short film. The students write, direct and edit their short film in class. The more common mediums used are stop motion and computer animation, but any basic form of film making can be utilized in this class.

88701-COMPUTERS This course will teach a wide variety of computer applications. Using Photoshop Elements, students will be introduced to topics such as layering, special effects, image transformations and photo adjustments. Using Moviemaker, students will learn how to animate photos and videos as well as enhance footage with visual effects. Using Publisher, students will learn desktop publishing to create flyers to advertise school events, as well as personal business cards. Using Access, students will learn how to create, edit and manipulate information in a database. Using Excel, students will learn more advanced spreadsheet features such as functions, freezing panes and adding data labels and comments. Keyboarding practice is not a part of this course.