



TUSCALOOSA COUNTY  
School System

WHERE STUDENTS LEARN, GROW, AND ACHIEVE

2017-2018

Course Information for Middle Schools  
Grades 6-8

**BROOKWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL..... 205-342-2748**  
Principal..... Mr. Daniel Bray  
Assistant Principal ..... Ms. Susan Gossett  
Counselors ..... Ms. Tonya Mills  
Ms. Lea Lagunes

**COLLINS-RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL ..... 205-342-2680**  
Principal..... Mr. Craig Henson  
Assistant Principal ..... TBD  
Counselors ..... Ms. Marlana Mason  
Ms. Shannon Hamner

**DAVIS-EMERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL..... 205-342-2750**  
Principal..... Mr. Marlon Murray  
Assistant Principal ..... Ms. Karen Durham-Davis  
Counselor ..... Ms. Tonya Westberg

**DUNCANVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL ..... 205-342-2830**  
Principal..... Mr. Darrell Williams  
Assistant Principal ..... Mr. Michael Tilford  
Counselor ..... Ms. Kelley Truelove

**ECHOLS MIDDLE SCHOOL ..... 205-342-2884**  
Principal..... Mr. Jason Stapp  
Assistant Principal ..... Ms. Laurie Copeland  
Counselors ..... Ms. Donora Pinkleton  
Ms. Leigh Ann Henneke

**HILLCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL ..... 205-342-2820**  
Principal..... Mr. C’Kiimba Hobbs  
Assistant Principal ..... Mr. Alan Giles  
Counselor ..... Ms. Lynn Parrish

**NORTHSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL..... 205-342-2740**  
Principal..... Mr. Bobby Beasley  
Assistant Principal ..... Mr. Larry Ash  
Counselor ..... Ms. Julie McGillivray

**SIPSEY VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL..... 205-342-2870**  
Principal..... Mr. Frank Kelly  
Assistant Principal ..... Ms. Lucretia Prince  
Counselor ..... Ms. Parketta Gardner

**MISSION**

Our mission is to educate and empower all students to be college and career ready graduates – prepared to make positive contributions to our global society.

**BELIEFS**

- High expectations are necessary to achieve goals and expand opportunities for all.
- Education is a shared responsibility that positively impacts the quality of life.
- Equity, fairness, accountability, and fiscal responsibility are foundations of our decision-making.
- Safe, well-equipped, student-centered schools support student success.
- Diversity and individual learning needs are respected, included, and valued.

## **CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

Superintendent.....	Dr. Walter Davie
Deputy Superintendent .....	Mr. David Patrick
Senior Director of Human Resources .....	Dr. Allison Mays
Chief Financial Officer.....	Mr. Danny Higdon
Dir. of Curriculum & Instruction – Eastern Region.....	Dr. David Scott
Dir. of Curriculum & Instruction – Northern Region .....	Dr. Amanda Cassity
Dir. of Curriculum & Instruction – Southern Region .....	Mrs. Karla Griffin
Director of Special Education.....	Dr. Gwen Hardnett
Director of Career and Technical Education .....	Mr. Dennis Duncan
Director of Federal Programs.....	Dr. Cheryl Fondren
Director of Student Services .....	Mr. Greg Hurst
Director of Technology .....	Mr. Tom Perrymon
Director of Accountability .....	Mrs. Gwen Harper
Director of Assessment.....	Mrs. Cheryl Wallace
Director of Child Nutrition Program .....	Mrs. Donette Worthy
Director of Transportation .....	Mrs. Donna Christian
Coordinator of Student Services .....	Mr. Antonio Cooper
Coordinator of Elementary Special Education.....	Mrs. Pam Stanley
Coordinator of Secondary Special Education.....	Dr. Patricia Powell

Visit the Tuscaloosa County School System website at [www.tcass.net](http://www.tcass.net) for current information of interest to students and parents or call 205-758-0411. Follow us on Twitter: [@tcass\\_schools](https://twitter.com/tcass_schools)

## **EQUAL EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education that the school system shall place an equal emphasis upon the non-discriminatory provision of education opportunities for students. No student shall be denied the benefits of any education program or activity on the basis of race, color, disability, creed, national origin, age, sex, homeless status, marital status, non-English speaking ability, or migrant status. Programs offered by schools within the school system shall be open to all students in compliance with applicable outside agency guidelines, statutory and judicial requirements, and board policy.

## **INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

It is the belief of the Tuscaloosa County School System that all students learn, grow, and achieve. Each student is valuable and important to our future; therefore, the educational success of each student is the focus of every effort of the Tuscaloosa County School System.

Curriculum offerings in the Tuscaloosa County School System are designed to meet standards and guidelines established by the Alabama State Department of Education. Curriculum planning and student placement decisions reflect policies adopted by the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education. Parents are encouraged to consult the current *Student/Parent Information Guide*, school counselors, administrators, and teachers for additional information needed for course selections.

## **PROMOTION AND RETENTION POLICY (GRADES 6 – 8)**

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 must pass all four (4) courses/subjects (English, mathematics, science, and social studies) and one additional subject.

Students who do not pass the required courses/subjects each year will be retained at their current grade level with the following exceptions:

1. A student who does not meet the established criteria for promotion may be retained one time in grades 6 – 8 if the student has been previously retained in grades K – 5;
2. A student who does not meet the established criteria for promotion may be retained twice in grades 6 – 8 if the student has not been previously retained in grades K – 5;
3. A student should not be retained in middle school if the student will reach his/her sixteenth birthday during the following academic year.

Students will be provided an opportunity to recover up to two courses/subjects during a summer program. Students who do not pass the required core courses/subjects for promotion are strongly encouraged to attend the summer program to pass the required course(s) for promotion. Students may be promoted only at the end of the school year or after summer school. No students will be promoted at midyear.

## **PROMOTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS**

Promotion of any student in a special education program with the exception of gifted students must be based on the student's accomplishments of goals stated in the Individualized Education Program in conjunction with all other regular program requirements. However, a special education student (except gifted) may not be placed at any grade level unless the student has attended school for a commensurate number of years equal to the proposed grade placement; that is, for a special education student to be placed at the sixth-grade level, he/she must have been enrolled in school for at least 5 years (Policy: 5.26).

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

Services for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) are available for students in middle school grades. Teachers and parents participate in IEP meetings to determine appropriate courses and placement for each student.

## GIFTED SERVICES

Intellectually gifted children and youth are those who perform or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. These children and youth require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Children and youth possessing these abilities can be found in all populations across all economic strata and in all areas of human endeavor.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, gifted services for middle school students in the Tuscaloosa County School System will be provided through the Academic Scholars Program for students in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Consultation will be provided by a gifted teacher.

## REQUIRED COURSES

**Core Courses:** All students take academic core courses (English, mathematics, science and social studies) aligned with *The Alabama Course of Study/College and Career Ready Standards*. Students' abilities and interests are considered as teachers, counselors, and administrators make recommendations for placement in appropriate instructional settings.

**Physical Education:** In addition to the academic core courses, students in middle school grades take physical education each year.

## ELECTIVE COURSES

### ARTS EDUCATION

**Art 6, 7, and 8** electives are one-semester courses. Each course emphasizes the development of skills in a variety of art media and processes. Student experiences in these courses may include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, textiles, art criticism, and art history.

Fee: \$25

**Drama** elective is a two-semester course that is introductory for students who are interested in performing in school plays. Students will learn about dramatic structure, the acting process, the collaborative nature of a theatrical production, and the role of the production staff.

Fee: none

**Instrumental Music Levels I, II, and III/ Band** classes are two-semester courses for instrumental music. In Level I, students may be divided into classes for instruction based upon the chosen instrument (woodwinds, brass, or percussion). The advanced courses are for students who demonstrate proficiency in playing an instrument. Uniforms, after-school rehearsals, and performances may be required. Audition and teacher approval are required.

Fee: \$25

**Vocal Music Levels I and II/Choir** classes are two-semester courses that develop choral music skills through the study of music theory, sight reading, rhythm, and choral technique. Uniforms, after-school rehearsals and performances may be required. Audition and teacher approval are required.

Fee: \$25

**Visual Arts Level I** is a one-semester course where students in grades 7-8 create; produce; elements and principals of design; two-and three- dimensional techniques and media; art history; art vocabulary; aesthetics; criticism; solution of art problems to communicate ideas; safety issues with handling and storage of materials. Students must have taken either Art 6 or Art 7 prior to taking Visual Arts Level I.

Fee: \$25

### CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

**Agriscience Explorations** is a one-semester course for Grade 8 students. Topics include career guidance, animal and plant science, natural resource management, and workplace skills. Available at Brookwood and Davis-Emerson Middle Schools.

Fee: \$25

**Career Cluster Technologies I** is a one-semester 7<sup>th</sup> grade course that introduces students to foundational knowledge and processes needed to increase their technological literacy, exposing them to the 16 career clusters and related pathways in transportation, communication, manufacturing and construction.

Fee: \$25

**Career Cluster Technologies II** is a one-semester 8<sup>th</sup> grade course that provides students in Grade 8 with an in-depth study of the knowledge and processes needed to further increase their level of technological literacy.

Fee: \$25

**Computer Science Discoveries** is a full-year introductory computer science survey course for students in Grades 7-8. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. Students are empowered to create authentic artifacts and engage with CS as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

Fee: \$25

**Introduction to Agriscience** is an exploratory one-semester course that provides Grade 7 students with an overview of the agriculture industry. Available at Brookwood and Davis-Emerson Middle Schools.

Fee: \$25

**Introduction to Career Cluster Technologies** is a one-semester 6<sup>th</sup> grade course that introduces students in to the 16 career clusters, related pathways, and the core areas of technology.

Fee: \$25

**GUIDED INSTRUCTION – STRATEGIES ELECTIVES**

Student placement in the following courses is based on several qualifying factors.

**Guided Instruction** is a one-semester course offering academic support and tutorial guidance for students. Retention of information, note taking, test strategies and interpersonal communication skills are addressed. Placement is determined by IEP.

Fee: none

**Learning Strategies** is a one-semester course offering academic support and tutorial guidance for students. Retention of information, note taking, test strategies and interpersonal communication skills are addressed.

Fee: none

**Math Strategies:** Math Strategies is a one-semester required course for some students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Achievement test scores in mathematics are used to determine placement.

Fee: none

**Reading Strategies:** Reading Strategies is a one-semester required course for some students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Achievement test scores in reading and language are used to determine placement.

Fee: none

**ACADEMIC ELECTIVES – EXPLORATORY ELECTIVES – GENERAL ELECTIVES**

**AAS: Community Based Instruction** is a course for students in grades 7-8 with significant cognitive disabilities who are enrolled in a community based instruction working towards the Alabama High School Diploma following the Alternate Achievement Standards Pathway and are assessed using alternate achievement standards (Extended Standards).

Fee: none

**AAS: Elective** is a course for students in grades 7-8 with significant cognitive disabilities who are enrolled in an elective course working towards the Alabama High School Diploma following the Alternate Achievement Standards Pathway and are assessed using alternate achievement standards (Extended Standards).

Fee: none

**AAS: Functional Performance** is a course for students in grades 6-8 with severe cognitive disabilities who are enrolled in a nonacademic course that addresses routine activities of everyday living.

Fee: none

**AAS: Life Skills** is a course for students in grades 7-8 with significant cognitive disabilities who are working towards the Alabama High School Diploma following the Alternate Achievement Standards Pathway and are assessed using alternate achievement standards (Extended Standards).

Fee: none

**AAS: Pre-Vocational** is a course for students in grades 7-8 who are enrolled in a pre-vocational course working towards the Alabama High School Diploma following the Alternate Achievement Standards Pathway and are assessed using alternate achievement standards (Extended Standards).

Fee: none

**AAS: Vocational** is a course for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are enrolled in a vocational course working towards the Alabama High School Diploma following the Alternate Achievement Standards Pathway and are assessed using alternate achievement standards (Extended Standards).

Fee: none

**Chinese I** is a two-semester course that develops listening and speaking skills including understanding and responding to simple directions, expressions of courtesy, and questions related to daily routines; reading and writing skills including words and phrases used in basic situational contexts; beginning understanding of Chinese-speaking cultures. Available at Brookwood.

Fee: none

**Communications 6, 7, and 8** electives are one-semester courses. Students develop and practice skills that enhance oral communication, public speaking, listening, and group discussion.

Fee: none

**Computer Science - Web Design I** enables the student to become a Web Design Intern for a virtual company called Education Designs. The student will use the same computer each day and will have access to storage space on that computer. The student will learn Internet basics, HTML, and the file structure of a well-organized Web site. Visually interesting Web pages will be developed using clear text, complimentary colors, visual assets, and appealing designs. The student will learn how to navigate the Internet to build a Web site with useful and well-researched information. The Web pages developed can be used as information sources for other Internet users. This is a 7th and 8th grade course.

Fee: \$25

**Creative Expressions 6, 7, and 8** are one-semester classes designed to provide students opportunities to write and critique creative, original works of prose, poetry, and drama.

Fee: none

**Creative Writing** is a two-semester course for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This course offers the emerging writer a framework through which he/she can develop his/her literary talents. The course will guide the student through an exploration of different literary genres and offer a plethora of activities that will result in the practice of the craft of writing through the creation of both fiction and non-fiction writing samples. Writing assignments are age appropriate for middle school students.

Fee: none

**Foreign Language Survey** is a one-semester course for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This course provides students with the opportunity to explore languages other than English. Through basic listening, reading, speaking and writing experiences students will develop skills in oral and written communication, master common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a range of grammar patterns. Common vocabulary for study include greetings, classroom surroundings, family contexts, commands, numbers, foods, time, color, weather, seasons, months and days of the week .

Fee: none

**French Survey** is a one-semester course for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This course is an introduction to basic French Communication Skills through a variety of learning experiences. Students will develop skills in oral and written communication, master common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a basic range of grammar patterns, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts.

Fee: none

**Global Studies** is a one-semester course for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This course explores various cultures, customs, cuisines, and languages. Students will develop cultural awareness, an ability to think globally and locally, skills in research, awareness of current affairs and an ability to communicate effectively in a range of situations.

Fee: none

**Intermediate Dance I** is a two-semester class designed for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with no prior formal training. Students are introduced to a variety of dance techniques and genres. Classes will focus on introductory & intermediate movement and continually build upon previously acquired dance concepts. Basic dance vocabulary, performance skills, choreography, improvisation and performance appreciation skills will be explored.

Fee: none

**Intermediate Dance II** is a two-semester class designed for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with some prior formal training. Students are introduced to a variety of dance techniques and genres. Classes will focus on introductory & intermediate movement and continually build upon previously acquired dance concepts. Dance vocabulary, performance skills, choreography, improvisation and performance appreciation skills will be explored.

Fee: none

**Introduction to Careers** will help 8<sup>th</sup> grade students design and select their high school program of study. Students will participate in career exploration activities, interest and abilities identification activities, and work related skills development.

Fee: none

**Introduction to Greenhouse Production** is a one-semester or two-semester course that introduces 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to manipulating the greenhouse environment to grow plants. It also includes identification of specific requirements for growing plants commonly grown in greenhouses.

Fee: \$25

**Introduction to Manufacturing & Welding** is a one-semester class for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students designed to introduce students to welding. Available at Echols Middle School.

Fee: \$25

**Introductory Dance** is a one-semester class designed for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with no formal training in dance. Students are introduced to a variety of dance techniques and genres. This class will focus on introductory movement and continually build upon previously acquired dance concepts. Basic dance vocabulary, performance skills, choreography, improvisation and performance appreciation skills will be explored.

Fee: none

**Publications** is a two-semester elective designed to introduce students to aspects of publishing newspapers, magazines, and/or school yearbooks. A grade of 80 or above in English and teacher approval are required.

Fee: none

**Spanish Survey** is a one-semester course for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is an introduction to basic Spanish Communication Skills. Through a variety of learning experiences, students will develop skills in oral and written communication, master common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a basic range of grammar patterns, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts.

Fee: none

**Spanish or French Exploration** is a two-semester exploratory course for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students which will focus on one area of Foreign Language. Students will continue to develop skills in oral and written communication, master common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a basic range of grammar patterns, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts.

Fee: none

**Technology Education-6** is a one-semester course that teaches students basic concepts and operations; technology problem-solving and decision-making tools; technology research tools; social, ethical and human issues; technology communications tools; technology productivity tools.

Fee: none

**Technology Education-7-8** is a one-semester course teaches students in grades 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> basic troubleshooting strategies; basic features of word processing, spreadsheets, databases; keyboarding techniques; safe uses of social networking; digital file transfer

Fee: \$25

### **SERVICE ELECTIVES – STUDENT AIDES**

#### **Counselor Assistant Office Assistant Library Assistant Teacher Assistant**

Students are selected as assistants based upon skills, academic averages, level of maturity, and ability to assume responsibility. Student assistants perform tasks including filing; sorting and distributing materials; running errands; greeting visitors; taking and delivering messages; and generally assisting with clerical duties under the direction of the professional office staff, teacher, counselor, or library staff. Students do not receive grades for student assistant courses. Eighth grade status is required.

Fee: None

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Fees:** Fees for elective courses must be paid at the time of schedule pick-up. Some schools may allow for pre-payment of fees or the payment of a deposit on fees at the time schedule cards are returned or before school is out for the current year. Contact the school principal to discuss any difficulty with fee payments.

**Schedules and Schedule Changes:** Class scheduling is performed by computer. A fee of \$10 is required for any schedule change initiated by the student. Schedule changes are not made after the fourth class day of a term. Course availability is affected by student demand, school demand, school enrollment, personnel availability, facilities, and funding constraints. Dates for schedule pick-up will be announced in the local media. To obtain a schedule, the student must pay all fees required for courses selected. No schedule may be obtained by a student until all monies owed to the school (lost textbooks, library fines, etc.) have been paid.

**Required Examinations:** Comprehensive assessments for all middle school students are administered at the end of each nine weeks. Written examinations or other assessment techniques that measure student mastery of the nine weeks content may be used. Assessments may include portfolios, products, performances, research papers, or projects. Nine-week assessments should count no more than twenty (20) percent of the nine-week grade. The term grade will be determined from the average of the two nine-weeks' grades.

**Exam Exemptions:** Students may be exempt from a semester exam under the following conditions:

- Possess an A (90–100%) average with three (3) or fewer absences, or
- Possess a B (80–90%) average with two (2) or fewer absences, or
- Possess a C (70-79%) average with one (1) or fewer absences, **AND**
- Have no discipline referrals that result in detention or suspension during the semester.

The course semester grade for students who meet exemption criteria will be determined from the average of the two nine-week grading periods.

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Academic Scholars Program is a rigorous program for high-achieving students at the middle school level.

### **What is the purpose of the Academic Scholars Program?**

As part of our mission to educate and empower all students to be college and career ready graduates, eligible students in middle school can participate in the *Academic Scholars Program*, a strengthened, rigorous program for our high-achieving students. Offered in all four academic classes in all three middle school grades (6 through 8), the program provides intellectual and creative challenges to help students become skilled problem solvers and critical thinkers. In addition, it incorporates project-based activities to give hands-on opportunities for students to learn, fostering the development of skills for communication, understanding, and team building, qualities that are essential for life in the 21st century.

### **What are the basic facts of the program?**

- Provided at the middle school level in grades 6 through 8.
- Offers courses in all four core disciplines: English, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- Eligibility determined by *new criteria for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades for 2017-2018*
- Emphasis on project-based learning and “Science and Technology interpreted through Engineering and the Arts, all based in Mathematical elements” (STEAM).
- Goal of producing students who are problem-solvers and have high critical thinking skills.
- Provision for training and sustaining new, experienced, and expert teachers on providing appropriate, challenging instruction (differentiated) for higher achieving students while still challenging all students to reach and exceed potential for *all* students.

### **How will students qualify?**

In response to feedback from parents, teachers, students, counselors, and administrators, and with guidance from the TCSS Board of Education, the Academic Scholars Program is reviewed annually by a system team composed of middle school administrators, teachers, and parents; elementary administrators, teachers, and parents; counselors; instructional coaches; central office personnel; and a representative from The University of Alabama. The team’s recommendations for 2017-2018 are as follows:

<i>Methods of Initial Qualification for Academic Scholars Classes</i>	
<b><i>Automatic Qualifier</i></b>	Students who have been identified as “gifted and talented” through the Special Education Referral Process will automatically qualify for all Academic Scholars classes.
<b><i>Primary Qualifier</i></b>	Students who score a National Percentile Rank of 90% or higher on the math and reading sections of the ACT Aspire summative assessment will qualify for all Academic Scholars classes. Most recent available results will be used for qualifications.
<b><i>Secondary Qualifier</i></b>	In the event that a school does not reach 20% capacity of students identified for Academic Scholars through automatic or primary methods, the school may choose to identify additional students using a multiple-methods rubric combining ACT Aspire scores in math and/or reading, year-end grade averages for math and/or reading, and the Traits, Attributes, and Behaviors (TABs) Evaluation.

**How will the criteria impact the number of students who might be eligible?**

Using these criteria, it is estimated that a smaller percentage of the class population will qualify for the Academic Scholars Program than is identified using the current criteria, thus creating an authentic cohort of high-ability students, who will be provided rigorous, appropriate, project-based learning and instruction.

**Are there any additional course requirements for Academic Scholars?**

STEAM curriculum will enable collaboration and real-world application of problem-solving skills. Differentiated by levels of activities, discourse, and assessment, program requirements will also include a final student project and portfolio.

**How will students who are currently in the Academic Scholars program continue to qualify?**

- For 2017-2018 6<sup>th</sup> Graders: *Students may continue in Academic Scholars' courses each year by maintaining an 80% yearly average in each core course (English, math, science, and social studies).*
- For 2017-2018 7<sup>th</sup> Graders: *Students may continue in Academic Scholars' courses each year by maintaining an 80% yearly average in each core course (English, math, science, and social studies).*
- For 2017-2018 8<sup>th</sup> Graders: *Students may continue in Academic Scholars' courses for 8th grade by maintaining a 75% yearly average in each core course (English, math, science, and social studies).*

**How will students who are new to the Tuscaloosa County School System qualify?**

Eligibility for students who are new to the Tuscaloosa County School System will be as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will qualify based on the Methods of Initial Qualifications Chart.
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders will qualify under the following criteria:
  - National Percentile Rank (NPR) from previous school year's ACT Aspire Test
  - 80% or higher in core subjects to qualify (1st, 2nd and 3rd nine weeks of current year)

**How will students who are currently in the Academic Scholars program continue to qualify?**

*Students who qualify for gifted services will automatically be eligible for Academic Scholars.*

**What about students who do not meet eligibility for the Academic Scholars Program?**

All students, whether part of the Academic Scholars Program or not, will be taught following the Alabama College and Career Standards and provided with rigorous, appropriate project-based learning and instruction, with differentiation occurring within each classroom to meet the needs of the variety of middle school learners. STEAM curriculum will enable collaboration and real-world application of problem-solving skills for *all* students.

**ALGEBRA I IN THE EIGHTH GRADE**

Algebra I is a formal, in-depth study of algebraic concepts and the real number system. The ALSDE requires the instruction of the Algebra I course in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to include all course content standards from Algebra I and the course content for 8<sup>th</sup> grade math.

This course builds on foundational mathematics content learned by students in Grades K-8 by expanding mathematics understanding to provide students with a strong mathematics education. Content is designed to engage students in a variety of mathematical experiences that include the use of reasoning and problem-solving skills, which may be applied to life situations beyond the classroom setting. This course serves as the cornerstone for all high school mathematics courses; therefore, all subsequent mathematics courses require student mastery of the Algebra I content standards.

***The rubric below identifies the criteria and point system used to determine eligibility for Algebra I in the eighth grade. The minimum required number of points to meet the criteria for Algebra I is five points. One of the five points had to be earned from the OHAPT.***

1	70 – 79%	70 – 79%	80 – 86%
2	80 – 89%	80 – 89%	87 – 93%
3	90 – 99%	90 – 100%	94 – 100%

*\*The Orleans-Hanna Algebra Prognosis Test (OHAPT) provides teachers, counselors, students, and parents with objective results to support decisions about students' readiness for Algebra I course placement. One of the five points earned must be earned from the OHAPT.*

Students who qualify and successfully complete Algebra I in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will earn a mathematics Carnegie Unit toward high school graduation and meet the Algebra I requirement for high school graduation in Alabama.

The final grade earned in this course will be used in calculating cumulative grade point average (GPA) at any high school in the Tuscaloosa County School System.

Students who pass Algebra I in the eighth grade will **not** be allowed to re-take Algebra I at the high school level. The minimum passing grade on the Tuscaloosa County School System's grading scale is 60%.

Students who **fail** Algebra I in the eighth grade may take the eighth grade mathematics course **or** Algebra I in a summer course recovery program. Note: Eighth grade math does not count as a high school math credit.

Students will be advised to take four (4) additional math courses at the high school level.

**TUSCALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOLS  
2017-2018  
SCHOOL CALENDAR**

INSTITUTE.....	AUGUST 2, 2017
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY .....	AUGUST 3, 2017
TEACHER WORK DAYS.....	AUGUST 4 & 7, 2017
SCHOOLS OPEN-FIRST DAY STUDENTS .....	AUGUST 8, 2017
LABOR DAY HOLIDAY .....	SEPTEMBER 4, 2017
FALL BREAK HOLIDAY .....	OCTOBER 9, 2017
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (NO STUDENTS) .....	OCTOBER 10, 2017
VETERANS' DAY HOLIDAY.....	NOVEMBER 10, 2017
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS.....	NOVEMBER 20-24, 2017
HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS.....	DECEMBER 20, 2017
WINTER HOLIDAYS – DECEMBER 21, 2017 – JANUARY 4, 2018	
TEACHERS RETURN – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY .....	JANUARY 4, 2018
TEACHER WORK DAY.....	JANUARY 5, 2018
STUDENTS RETURN .....	JANUARY 8, 2018
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY .....	JANUARY 15, 2018
*PRESIDENT'S DAY (*WEATHER DAY) .....	FEBRUARY 19, 2018
SPRING BREAK .....	MARCH 12-16, 2018
*PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (*BREAK FOR STUDENTS) .....	APRIL 13, 2018
SPRING HOLIDAY .....	APRIL 16, 2018
HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS.....	MAY 23, 2018
HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS/LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS .....	MAY 24, 2018
TEACHER WORK DAY/LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS .....	MAY 25, 2018
MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.....	MAY 28, 2018

\* In the event of inclement weather such that school must be closed, this holiday/break may be used as a make-up day.