



The Taft School

Most new upper middle schoolers' (class of 2020) academic programs should include:

English: EN323 AND EN324

Math: the course in which you believe you should be placed based on your performance in whatever level math you are currently taking (we will make necessary changes after your placement test is assessed)

History: HI320 (unless you've already completed a full-year, high school U.S. History course)

Science: PH120 or PH130 (unless you've already taken full year of high school Physics)

Modern language/Latin: if you have not already completed the third year of a modern language or Latin, you should register for the Spanish, French, Chinese or Latin course in which you believe you should be placed and then take the placement test if it's Spanish, French or Latin.

Arts: a full-year course (such as Intermediate Painting and Drawing or Chamber Ensemble) if you're an experienced artist, or one semester-long course

Department-specific information:

English: The majority of UMs take EN323 and EN324. If you feel you are an unusually strong reader and writer and you are deeply interested in English, you may register for EN821 and EN822, AP Upper Mid English; the English department will review the Taft applications (essays, teacher recommendations, grades and standardized test scores) of the aspirants for AP UM English and you will know if you have been placed in that course when you receive your academic program in July.

Math placement: Please take the Mathematics placement test on PowerSchool. **This test is the most reliable tool we have to place you properly in math at Taft, so take it seriously.** While you may certainly review whatever math you have taken before sitting for the placement test, no one should assist you as you take the test, and you should take it in a quiet, test-friendly atmosphere.

History: If you've already taken a full-year, high school United States History course, you should consider AP U.S. Government, AP Economics, or AP Human Geography. If you are not excited about the prospect of taking more history or social science courses, you may also choose to take an extra course in a different subject area.

Science: Taft's basic Science sequence is Physics, Chemistry, Biology (in that order). If you haven't already completed a full-year, high school course in any of these, you should select the first course in Taft's sequence that you haven't taken yet. If you have completed this sequence, you should consider taking either single-semester electives in Science or -- if you're an interested and capable scientist -- one of the AP offerings.

Modern Language/Latin placement: If you choose to take Spanish, French or Latin at Taft, you should complete the placement exam in that language on PowerSchool but still sign up for the course level you think best suited to your abilities. Chinese takers should sign up for the level they think best suited to their experience.



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Arts: We encourage new upper mids to register for at least one Arts course since they must take at least two semesters of art in order to graduate.

Other information

Credit for past courses: All the courses you took at your previous (secondary) school will count toward Taft graduation requirements except for those in the Arts. Ultimately the courses you took and grades you earned in them will appear on your transcript together with the record of your Taft work.

Placement test completion: **Please complete all placement tests by Saturday, June 2.**

Number of courses: You must take at least four academic (non-Arts) courses each semester; many new upper mids take a fifth academic course when feasible. If you elect five courses and the load seems too heavy, we can always adjust your program in the fall. Arts classes also meet within the class day, so you should register for these as well.

AP/Honors Courses: If you think you are qualified for an AP course or the Honors section of a course, please choose that course when you register. Ultimately, the relevant department head, together with members of the department, will determine which students will be best served by AP/Honors courses. We take these decisions seriously, and if you are not placed in an AP/Honors section this year, you may still be considered for AP/Honors your senior year.

Electives: Many of the courses which are open to you are one-semester electives rather than year-long courses. This gives you some flexibility. For example, you might select a first semester Global Studies and Service elective and a second semester Science elective, rather than taking a full year of courses in either department. Some electives have only one section, so we may not be able to fit everything you choose into your program, but in that case, you will be offered other options. Some courses also require departmental approval; if you are not approved, you may choose an alternative course.

Global Online Academy: This is a consortium of schools that offer some intriguing online course options. Although Taft is part of the consortium, the courses are not listed on our site – but if you are interested in any of those you see listed, please e-mail Mr. Clifford to find out more information.

<http://www.globalonlineacademy.org/student-program/courses/>

Cognitive testing: If you have completed any cognitive testing that was not included with your application, it is important that you send a copy to Jon Willson, Director of the Moorhead Academic Center, so that he can work with you when you arrive, as well as help your teachers better understand your learning style.