



TORTOLITA MIDDLE SCHOOL

4101 W. Hardy Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85741
520-579-4600
Principal- Shelly Vroegh



MUSD 2023 School Profile

Vision Statement:

Inspiring students to learn today and lead tomorrow

Mission Statement:

Tortolita Middle School, in partnership with students, parents, and community members, will create a safe and supportive learning environment in which students will meet academic and life challenges.

Principal Message:

Greetings Cougars!

On behalf of every member of Tortolita's dedicated, hardworking staff, I welcome you to Tortolita Middle School, where each child is valued and encouraged. Part of the Marana Unified School District, we are a 7-8 middle school offering the highest quality, inspiring, and enriching education in a safe, nurturing, and award-winning learning environment.

Home of the Cougars, our school provides a diverse educational experience for the 21st century by engaging students in comprehensive, relevant and rigorous instruction while incorporating student Chromebooks and collaborative, configurable furniture. We believe that children need many avenues for learning and those outside of the classroom are equally important. These are some significant aspects of our school culture:

- **Academic Rigor:** *We offer honors-level classes in English, math, science and social studies and a challenging elective course for GEM (Gifted Education in Marana) students. 8th graders can earn high school credits in math and Spanish.*
- **Athletics:** *Our sports program is comprehensive and provides students the opportunity to participate in several sports each season. We organize as many teams as needed to accommodate all students who want to play any sport.*
- **Technology:** *Every student at our school receives a Chromebook and our teachers are trained to use these devices to enhance learning.*

- ***Fine Arts:*** *Our school offers art, band, ceramics, drama, guitar and orchestra. We also have advanced classes in art, ceramics and drama for 8th graders. Students have opportunities to perform on campus and in the community.*
- ***Middle School Philosophy and Practices:*** *The academic, behavioral, emotional and social needs of middle school students require us to ensure that our approaches and supports are tailored to meet those needs. Teachers are organized into interdisciplinary teams so that they can work collaboratively on behalf of the students they serve.*

There is so much more to share about our wonderful school! We invite you to stop by and take a tour to familiarize yourself with our outstanding school.

Shelly Vroegh

Principal, Tortolita Middle School

School Highlights- Points of Pride

- **Tortolita was rated a “B” by the Department of Education**
 - We have earned a "B" letter grade from the AZ State Board of Education. In four short years and despite Covid, Tortolita was able to raise our achievement scores every single year. Some highlights are below based on 2019 school year to the 2023:
 - Total points increased from 55 to 75 points overall
 - Points awarded by the state for student growth increased by 60%
- **Our English Language Learner transformed percent growth is 84% compared to the state average of 54%**
 - We are so proud of how hard our English Language Learners work at TMS!
- **Last year 86% of our Cougar students earned a ticket to our EPIC celebration!**
 - At Tortolita Middle School our motto is “Choose Excellence”. Each year we challenge our students to work hard and do their best on all of their classwork, homework, and assessments. “Choose Excellence” and do their best to attend our EPIC celebration at the end of the school year!
- **Tortolita has a competitive athletics program with 12 different sports to choose from: Boys tackle football, flag football, cross country, volleyball, soccer, wrestling, basketball, baseball, softball, and track and field.**

Tortolita Middle School Student Programs

Academic Offerings: Last year high school credits were earned in Math and Spanish at Tortolita Middle School.

- Gifted Education in Marana (GEM) courses
- Enriched Courses
- High School Algebra and Geometry
- High School Spanish
- Co-taught classes for Math and ELA to support students with special needs
- Exceptional Student Services Programming
- English Learner Programming
- Class for Academic Excellence

Elective Courses: 100% of Tortolita Middle School students participate in Visual and/or Performing Arts, Physical Education, or STEM electives daily!

- Art, Ceramics, Creative Writing
- Drama, Advanced Drama
- GEM Elective, STEM Coding
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Multimedia Technology, TV Productions
- Band, Jazz Band
- Choir, Orchestra, Guitar
- American Sign Language, Spanish, High School Spanish
- Student Council, Yearbook

Athletics Programs: Last year, **188** Tortolita Middle School students participated in at least one athletic program.

- Tackle Football
- Flag Football
- Softball
- Boy's and Girl's Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Boy's and Girl's Soccer
- Boy's and Girl's Basketball
- Wrestling
- Track and Field
- Baseball

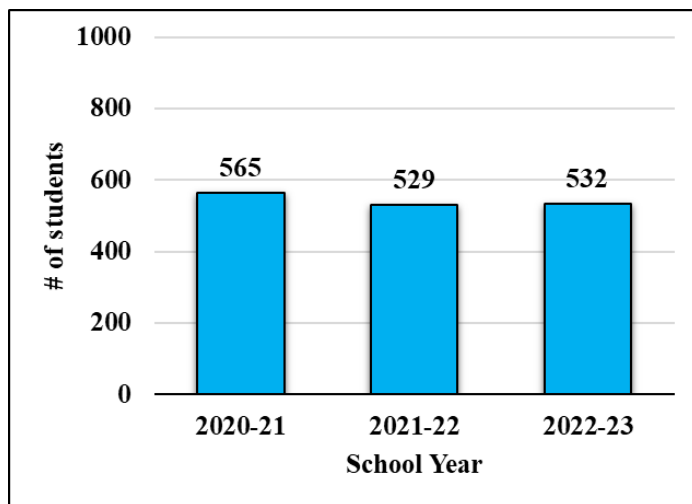
Clubs: At least **80%** of Tortolita Middle School students participate in at least one extracurricular activity (club, sport, youth group, etc.).

- NJHS
- Student Council
- Family and Consumer Science Club
- Drama Club
- Interact Club
- Builder's Club
- Healthy Cougar Club

Our Students

Our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds that enhance our diverse community. They care about each other and our school. We are so grateful to be able to serve such a diverse and caring student body.

Student Enrollment: Last year, **532 students** attended Tortolita Middle School.



Student Mobility Rate: 20%
Free and Reduced Lunch: 46.05%

2022-2023 Student Demographics: The Tortolita Middle School student body is diverse.

Race/Ethnicity	% of TMS students
White	46.1%
Hispanic	43.2%
Multi-Racial	5.8%
Asian	1.9%
Black	1.9%
American Indian	1.1%

Students with Special Needs: 21.62%
Students Identified as Gifted: 12.59%

Our Staff

Our staff truly cares about the success of each student both academically and emotionally. Even during the pandemic, our teachers were involved in virtual professional development to prioritize standards, refine our curriculum and build assessments. This year, our teachers focused on building "I can" statements so students would know what they are going to learn. In addition, we have focused our instructional efforts to refine the "First 5" minutes and the "Last 5" minutes of class time to maximize student engagement during each instructional class period.

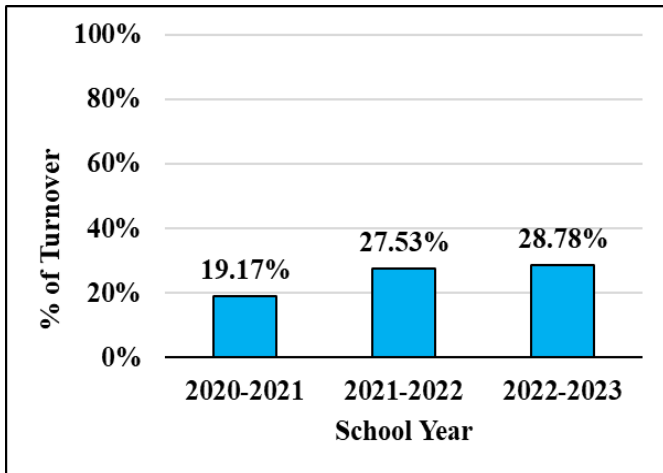
Tortolita Middle School Staff Profile: We have 57 staff members who work at our school.

- 21 Support Staff
- 33 Certified Staff

Staff Demographics and Experience: We have an experienced and diverse staff supporting our students at Tortolita Middle School.

- Average Years of Experience:

- 97% Appropriately Certified
- 3 Administrative Staff



TMS teachers participated in 1213.5 hours of professional learning during the 2022-2023 school year!

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- Staff Members with an Advanced Degree: 16

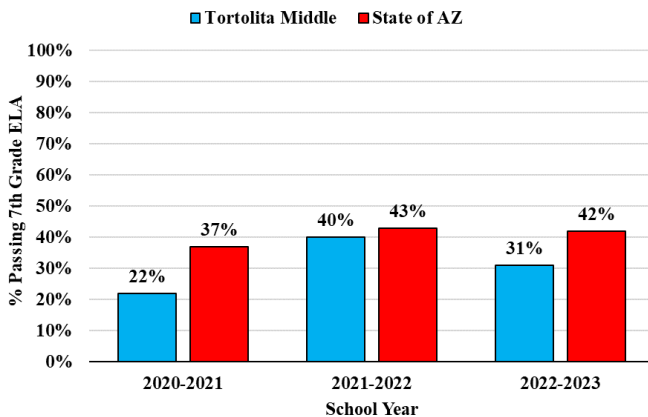
Race/Ethnicity	% of TMS staff
White	75.6%
Hispanic	22.8%
Asian	1.6%

Gender	% of TMS staff
Female	70.2%
Male	29.8%

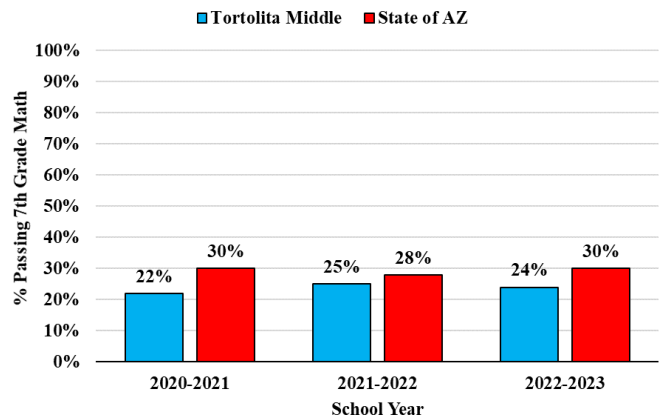
Student Academics

State Assessments: AzM2 / Arizona Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) /AzSCI

Standardized Testing Performance 7th Grade ELA:

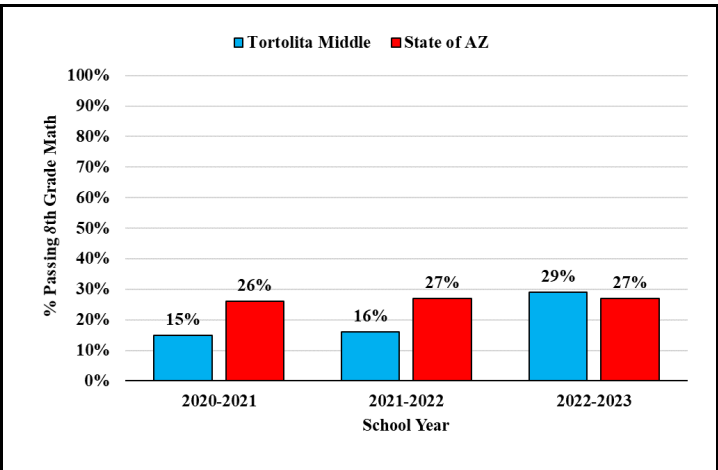
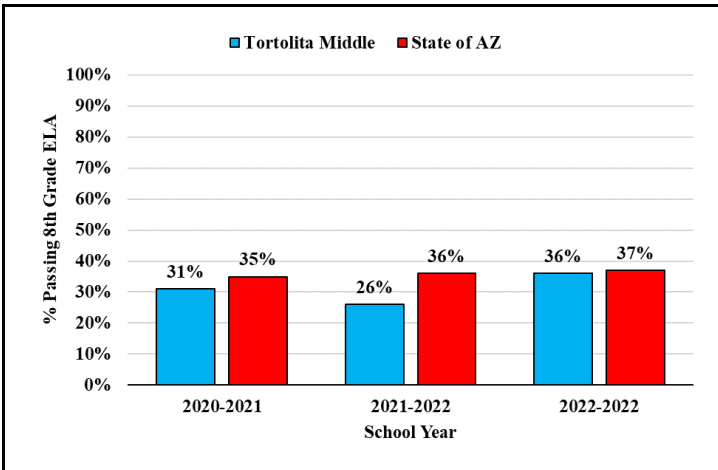


Standardized Testing Performance 7th Grade Math:



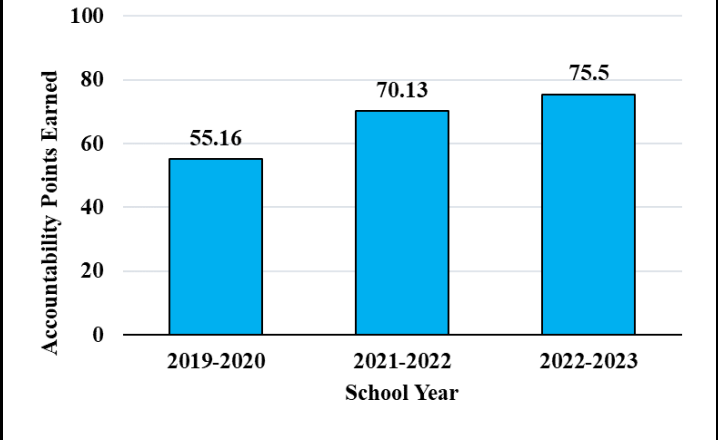
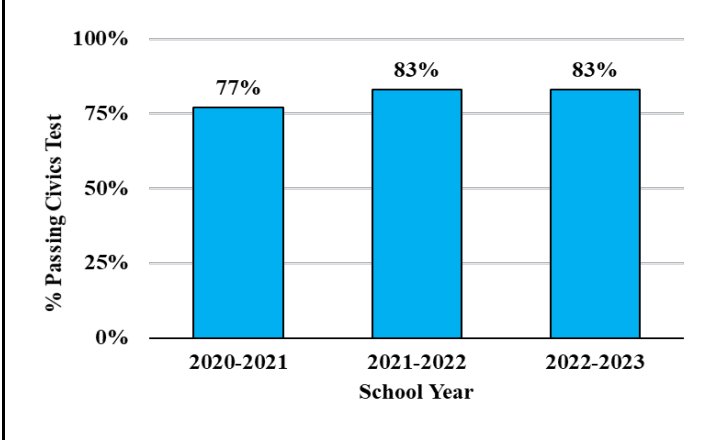
Standardized Testing Performance 8th Grade ELA:

Standardized Testing Performance 8th Grade Math:



Civics Test Performance: We had 265 8th Grade students pass the Civics test and complete this high school graduation requirement while in middle school!

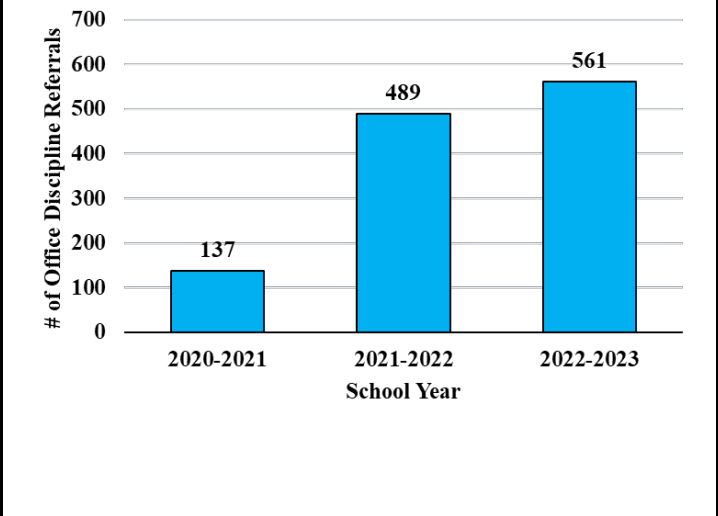
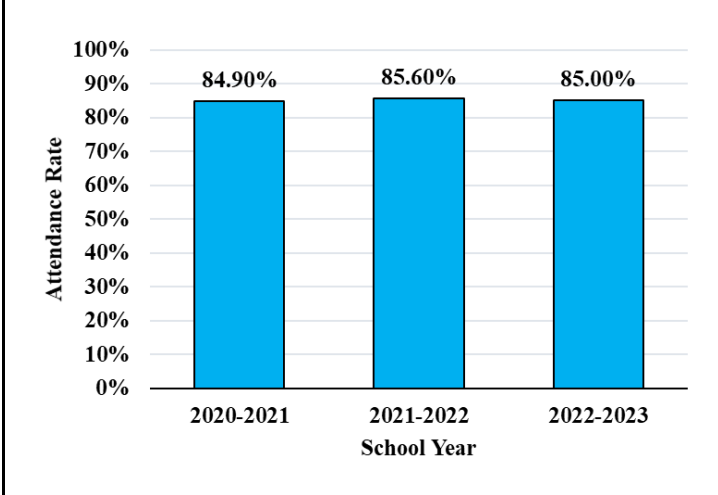
State of Arizona Letter Grade: Tortolita Middle School currently has a B letter grade from the Arizona Department of Education.



On Track Indicators

Attendance Rate: 308 of our students had fewer than 15 absences last school year!

Discipline Data:



High Reliability Schools

We are excited to announce that Tortolita Middle School is OFFICIALLY CERTIFIED in Level One of the High Reliability Schools Framework established by the Marzano Research Group. The focus of this level is “Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative Culture”. We are so proud of our school community for coming together to earn this certification.

This year we are focused on Level Two: “Effective Teaching in Every Classroom”. We are excited to share action steps we are taking to make sure every student in our school experiences effective instruction every single day.

ACTION STEPS TO SUSTAIN LEVEL ONE

- Continue to focus on student celebrations. “Breakfast with the Stars” will celebrate student academic excellence. We will also have “Fun Fridays” to celebrate students with no D’s or F’s.
- Tortolita will continue to reach out with surveys for parents, students and staff. We want to continue to make “Customer Service” our highest priority.

ACTION STEPS TOWARD LEVEL TWO CERTIFICATION

- Administrators will increase walkthroughs and observations in classrooms to help support teachers in their instructional goals
- Teachers will be identifying a professional growth goal (stretch goal) to help increase their instructional practice.