

8th Grade Learning Standards

Language Arts

The Language Arts program develops students into effective communicators through a variety of reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities. Language Arts emphasizes basic conversational skills, sentence structure, paragraph building, and strong literature proficiency. Students will continue to build vocabulary and comprehension skills using interpretive logic, drawing conclusions, and identifying literary genres. The literature section includes an introduction to literature through literary types, terminology, methods, and objectives of the study of literature. Students will explore narrative, functional, persuasive, research, and literary response writing using grammar skills, pre-writing activities, and 6-traits of writing. Persuasive writing will be investigated in-depth at this grade level. Students will continue to develop reading fluency and accuracy at grade level. Comprehension strategies and elements of literature will be explored through narrative, informational, historical, and cultural texts.

Mathematics

Students will review arithmetic operations, measurement, basic geometry, and the metric system. Students who are proven academically prepared will be allowed in the Algebra I course. 8th grade math prepares the students for Algebra, solidifies their fundamental math knowledge base, and concentrates on operations with:

- Square roots
- Scientific notation
- Construct and interpret graphs
- Formulate, compare, and evaluate predictions
- Predict, solve, record, and compare probability experiments
- Linear and nonlinear equations
- 1st degree equations
- Inequalities
- Pythagorean theorem
- Geometric measurement
- Logic problem solving

History

Eighth Grade History Strands emphasize the historical foundations and democratic principles that framed our Constitution and led to our form of democracy. The history of World War II to the contemporary world is also studied. Topics from American History, World History, Government, Geography, and Economics will be explored.

Science

Students are naturally curious about the world and nature. To sustain this curiosity students will be actively engaged in learning to view the world scientifically through hands-on experience and observation. Students will be encouraged to ask questions about nature and seek the answers, collect, count, and measure things, make observations, organize collections, and discuss findings. Students will explore topics from Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth and Space Science and build upon science skills acquired in the seventh grade.