

Literacy

OVERVIEW

Middle school ELA curriculum focuses on building strong reading, writing, and communication skills. Your child will read a variety of texts, such as novels, short stories, and informational articles, and will learn to analyze and interpret these texts to develop a deeper understanding of the author's purpose and message. They will also develop their writing skills, including learning how to write for a variety of purposes and audiences. In addition, your child will work on their speaking and listening skills through class discussions and presentations.

Benchmarks Learned:

- Reading: Students will learn to analyze literature by identifying and analyzing themes, character development, points of view, conflicts, word meanings, and provide evidence from texts to justify their analysis.
- Writing: Students will learn to acknowledge opposing claims, organize information logically, and use reflection to strengthen their writing.
- Speaking & Listening: Students will learn to logically present ideas and evaluate the purpose of the information presented.
- Grammar & Vocabulary: Students will learn to indicate pauses and omissions as well as how to appropriately include verbs in their writing.

EIGHTH GRADE

Literacy

Helpful Home Tips:

- Encourage your child to read books that interest them, whether it's fiction or nonfiction. Provide a variety of print and digital reading materials, such as books, magazines, and newspapers.
- Encourage your child to write regularly, whether it's in a journal, blog, or creative writing project.
- Encourage your child to express their ideas and opinions, and practice listening actively to others.
- Play word games and puzzles, such as crossword puzzles and Scrabble, to make learning new words fun.

EIGHTH GRADE

Math

OVERVIEW

Eighth-grade math builds upon the concepts learned in seventh grade and prepares students for high-school math. The curriculum covers linear equations and functions, the number system, geometry, statistics, and probability.

Students learn how to write and solve linear equations, analyze and interpret data using linear models, explore two- and three-dimensional shapes and their properties, and use statistical inference to make predictions and draw conclusions from data. Throughout the course, critical thinking skills are emphasized to solve real-world problems, communicate solutions effectively, and interpret and analyze data. By mastering these skills, students will be well-equipped to tackle more advanced math concepts in high school and beyond.

Benchmarks Learned:

- Representing and evaluating mathematical expressions, writing and solving equations and inequalities to solve real-world problems, and using functions to understand relationships
- Using systems of equations to solve real-world problems and performing operations with exponents to represent real-world situations.
- Measuring three-dimensional shapes, analyzing quadratic functions and equations with different methods, and summarizing and interpreting data.

EIGHTH GRADE

Math

Helpful Home Tips:

- Show your child how functions are present in everyday life. Discuss scenarios like the relationship between distance and time for a moving car or the relationship between the number of hours worked and the amount of money earned.
- Present your child with various real-world problems that can be modeled using systems of equations, such as buying tickets for a movie, mixing solutions with different concentrations, or planning a trip with multiple expenses. Help them identify the variables and write equations based on the given information.
- Play estimation games where your child guesses the measurements of objects before measuring them. Practice plotting quadratic functions on a graph to help visualize their shape. Discuss real-life scenarios where quadratic equations are relevant, such as calculating projectile motion or determining the way a business can maximize profit.

EIGHTH GRADE

Social Emotional Learning

OVERVIEW

In 8th Grade, in addition to learning about growth mindset, goal setting, emotional management and healthy relationships, students will learn about dealing with conflict and perspective taking.

Skills:

- Demonstrate the ability to be true to personal values when choosing friends.
- Reflect on possible consequences, both positive and negative, before expressing an emotion.
- Understand and adapt behavior to meet the norms of various settings.
- Create SMART goals, monitor progress, and implement changes to plans if needed.
- Adjust behavior based on how it impacts the emotions of others.
- Independently problem-solve personal conflicts.
- Apply conflict resolution skills to de-escalate, defuse, and resolve conflict.

EIGHTH GRADE

Social Emotional Learning

HELPFUL HOME TIPS:

- Encourage participation in after-school activities.
- Engage in regular conversations about emotions, being careful not to tell them how they feel.
- Encourage when good decisions have been made.
- Set clear expectations and stick to them.
- Talk through problems, logical consequences, and resolutions.

EIGHTH GRADE

Social Studies

OVERVIEW

Social Studies in 8th grade encompasses several units each connected to a broad period in our nation's more modern history. Each unit is designed around an inquiry approach to teaching and learning. This approach connects the practices and concepts used by social scientists to the broad period being focused on in the unit.

Benchmarks Learned:

- United States History Civil War through present day

EIGHTH GRADE

Social Studies

HELPFUL HOME TIPS:

- Watch or read news stories about current events. Ask your child about their opinions and thoughts about the topic.
- Encourage your child to read historical fiction or nonfiction books.
- Take virtual or in-person trips to museums.
- Encourage your child to get involved with local philanthropic organizations.

EIGHTH GRADE

Science

OVERVIEW

8th grade students will be introduced to various topics within the Physical Sciences. 8th grade performance expectations build on K-7 ideas and capabilities to allow learners to explain phenomena central to Physical Science. Students will learn how to construct scientific explanations using a claim, evidence and reasoning format. Also, integrated within each unit, students will engage in science and engineering practices that include: asking questions, collecting data, developing models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing/interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

Benchmarks Learned:

- Matter: Students will learn about atomic composition, synthetic materials and human impact, and the conservation of matter through modeling.
- Forces: Students will plan investigations and construct arguments about Newton's Laws of Motion and Gravity.
- Energy: Through models and graphic displays, students will learn about kinetic and potential energy.
- Waves: Students will show their understanding of wave characteristics, wave interactions, and wave communication through modeling and comparing sources of signals.