

EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The grade eight program includes the classes below. Elective courses that can be added are detailed in our [course catalog](#).

CORE CLASSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Learners use the writing process to enhance their communication skills focusing on content development, organization, and style for various genres or audiences.

Learners take ownership of progress through goal-setting, reflections, independent reading and collaboration with peers. Topics include a poetry study, the Holocaust and human intelligence.

U.S. HISTORY

Learners explore what was happening around the world before our nation formed. They will be able to understand how European and African historical events led to the creation of the United States. Once they uncover how the new nation was formed, learners explore the English settlements, the early republic and the issues the founders encountered along the way. Learners make connections between the forming of the United States and what it has become today.

SCIENCE

Learners explore scientific research and technology, genetic traits and reproduction, forces and motion, and waves and energy. Later in the course, they delve into the solar system, including researching the Earth-sun-moon system. Last, learners complete an engineering unit studying and solving problems for transportation systems, communication systems, cybersecurity and bridge design.

MATH

Math 8 prepares students for high school Algebra. Learners study exponents, roots, rational and irrational numbers, and scientific notation. An introduction to functions, including linear functions and solving linear equations, and systems of equations, is presented. Transformations and the Pythagorean theorem complete the course.

SPECIALS

ART

Developing a unique personal style and creating complex imagery are possible for any artist. Learners in eighth grade art engage in techniques that take their work to a more sophisticated level. Analyzing other artists and their works helps learners find deeper meaning and new interpretations. Learners discover the concepts of watercolor, figure drawing and mixed media.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Learners develop the motor skills for healthy physical development and growth. The course provides learners with the knowledge and skills to live a healthy life by studying body systems, relationships, and safety and injury prevention.

MUSIC

Learners explore how music is used throughout today's society, from ringtones to movie soundtracks. While concentrating on music technology, learners develop their music theory skills by composing and arranging music. They engage in listening, reading, performing, analyzing and describing music from various composers and performers.

CAREER PLANNING

"Inspire" is the theme of Career Planning 8. Learners focus on self-exploration: learning about themselves, their dreams, goals, interests and skills. Various inventories and activities guide learners along the journey of self-exploration, sparking inspiration to lead into career exploration throughout high school.



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