



Curriculum Outline Grade 8

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SOCIAL STUDIES

Students prepare for their role as informed citizens in a democratic society by building an awareness of our nation's history. The textbook series used *America: History of Our Nation – Civil War to the Present*.

Emphasis is on:

- Imperialism
- prelude to war, WWI
- WWII
- Holocaust
- roaring 20s & the Great Depression
- Cold War
- Korean War
- Civil Rights
- Vietnam
- end of the Cold War
- Conflict in the Middle East
- the threat of Terrorism
- a Changing Society

SCIENCE

Students use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. Students identify problems, formulate and test hypotheses and evaluate experimental results. The textbook series used for science instruction is *HMH Science Dimensions*. This series incorporates science and engineering concepts.[STEM]

Emphasis is on:

- Earth and human activity
 - Earth's natural disasters
 - resource in Earth's systems
 - human impacts on Earth systems
- cells and heredity
 - cells
 - organisms as systems
 - reproduction, heredity, and growth
- the diversity of living things
 - the history of life on Earth
 - human influences on inheritance

MATHEMATICS

Students acquire knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills to solve problems.

8th Grade Common Core Math

Emphasis is on:

- real numbers, exponents, & scientific notation
- proportional and nonproportional relationships and functions
- solving equations
- solving systems of equations
- transformational geometry
- measurement geometry: Pythagorean Theorem & volume
- statistics: scatter plots & two-way tables

8th Grade Algebra Accel

Emphasis is on:

- expressions, equations & functions
- properties of real numbers
- solving linear equations
- graphing linear equations & functions
- solving & graphing linear inequalities
- systems of equations & inequalities
- exponential functions & equations
- polynomial expressions & functions
- quadratic equations & functions
- rational equations & functions
- radicals & geometry connection

TECHNOLOGY

Each student in grades 4-8 has the privilege of having a school-owned Chromebook assigned to them for their daily use. Technology skills are taught through content areas and use of the devices complements student learning standards and objectives. Additionally, students follow a curriculum which develops digital citizenship skills. As a G-Suite for Education school, our students become proficient in the use of Google Drive: Docs, Sheets & Slides as well as Google Classroom.

LANGUAGE ARTS/READING

The Language Arts Program includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas. The textbook used for reading is *The Language of Literature*.

READING/LITERATURE

A diverse selection of literature, including To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Night by Elie Wiesel, and The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, will be used to enhance student development of higher levels of comprehension and inferential thinking. Skills will develop and improve as students are presented with the following focus:

- Analyze plot, characterization, setting, point of view and conflict from different genres
- Distinguish among genre
- Extrapolate and use various literary devices apply word analysis and vocabulary skills

WRITING

Students will work through the seven steps of the writing process to develop and publish seven pieces that span eight distinct writing genres, including: personal narratives, how-to articles, letters, descriptions, creative writing, persuasive/argumentative writing, and research reports. The systematic and evolutionary development of each piece sets in motion the goal of producing reflective, creative, critical, and articulate communicators. The text used for grammar & writing instruction is *Voyages in English*.

ART

Students have the opportunity to express themselves through various art forms.

Emphasis on:

- elements & principles of art to convey meaning through various media & technology
- knowledge & skills to create artworks that are realistic, abstract, functional and decorative
- interpretation of artistic products & tools
- using appropriate art vocabulary

MUSIC

Students will have the opportunity to participate in music activities and to develop an appreciation for music.

Emphasis is on:

- Singing alone or in groups
- Involvement in music ministry
- Analyzing music through an understanding of musical elements
- Developing vocal skills, understanding how the voice works, and singing in 4-part harmony
- Research and focus on musical theater

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle.

Emphasis is on:

- Develop Muscle Strength, Cardio-Respiratory Endurance and Flexibility
- Use Rules, Offensive and Defensive Strategies in Cooperative Sports and Activities
- Demonstrate Sportsmanship and Safe Participation in Exercise and Sports
- Apply Leadership Skills in Various Games/Activities

RELIGION

Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in Religion class, but in all learning. Students will learn about the Catholic faith through stories, activities, scripture, prayer, discussion and reflection. The text used for instruction is *Finding God*.

Emphasis is on:

We Pray:

- Active Worship through Liturgy Planning & Participation
- Taking Leadership Roles in School Liturgy & Prayer

We Learn:

- The History of the Church
- Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation
- The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

We Serve:

Active Service based on the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church & Social Justice

Service Theme: Social Justice

On Service Day students go to Helping Hands, Big Shoulders or a Mobile Packing site.

SPANISH

Students will explore basic concepts of Spanish by listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

Emphasis is on:

- Engaging in simple conversations
- Talking about community locations and activities
- Discussing family and relationships
- Describing the personalities of self and others
- Describing and inquiring about school, classes, and schedules
- Modifying sentences for adjective agreement
- Conjugating and using regular and irregular verbs in the present and past tenses
- Connecting to the universality of the liturgy