



Course Offerings Grade 8

English Language Arts (ELA) 8

Foundational Course #: 908483

Academic Course #: 908486

Honors Course #: 050108

Students in the 8th grade will read and grapple with high-quality nonfiction texts, and great works of literature. Students will analyze and critique both the structure and content of complex texts to evaluate the effectiveness of an author's presentation of ideas and themes, the strength of the arguments and assertions put forth by an author, and the implications of the author's ideas and conclusions for them personally and for society.

In addition, students in grade 8 will be increasingly challenged to refine their ability to speak and write with rhetorical effect. Students will compose arguments of varying lengths, supporting their claims with strong evidence and logical reasoning, while acknowledging and countering opposing claims and contradictory evidence. Also, students will continue to compose refined explanatory essays that synthesize and evaluate information from multiple non-fiction texts, both assigned and self-selected. Finally, students will compose personal narratives that challenge and respond to the ideas and themes encountered in their reading, while making personal connections where appropriate.

Family and Consumer Sciences 8

Course #: 408580

The focus of eighth grade family and consumer sciences focuses is on the individual, family, and society. Special attention is given to financial literacy, managing resources and exploring issues in society which impact individuals and families. Fifteen hours of student service learning credit are earned as a part of the successfully completion of this course. This class is designed for all eighth grade students. Activities include individual and group projects dealing with real life issues and situations.

Fine Arts 8

Art 8

Course #: 608580

Grade eight art gives more in-depth study to drawing and painting and provides many additional activities in the area of three dimensional design. Students strengthen their abilities in graphic arts, sculpture, and ceramics with emphasis placed on technique, fashion, packaging as related to the concepts of illustration and design. In drawing, students refine skills in the areas of portraiture, caricature, still life, and figure design.

Chorus 8

Course #: 658780

Vocal music opportunities are provided to interested students in activity periods or as extracurricular activities. Students are selected based on interest and ability. Offerings vary depending on student interest and teacher availability.

General Music 8

Course #: 658580

Course #: 658980 - Part I

Course #: 659080 – Part II

Eighth grade music places a major focus on styles of music in the Twentieth Century. Styles, from impressionism through jazz, as well as popular music styles are studied. During grades seven and eight, students have laboratory experience in studying piano, recorder, guitar, and in the use of the tape recorder and synthesizer. Students study a unit focusing on careers in the music industry as well as music education.

Instrumental Music 8

Band Course #: 658680

Orchestra Course #: 658880

Instrumental Music is provided on a scheduled basis. Students are scheduled in small group classes based on their ability. Large group activities are provided on the basis of student interest and teacher availability. Some ensembles meet as extracurricular activities. The three year program is sequentially developed to provide opportunities for students to progress in developing their skills.

Health 8

Course #: 308580

The eighth grade Health Curriculum focuses on overall wellness with topics ranging from mental health and suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, consumer health, safety & injury prevention, family life and human development, and disease prevention and control. This course encourages students to develop skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will empower them to make responsible decision that promote healthful behaviors.

NOTE TO PARENTS: A letter will be sent home from your child's health educator explaining the Family Life and Human Development component of the course. This letter will include a permission slip which must be returned to school for your child to participate.

Mathematics 8

Foundational Course #: 208583

Academic Course #: 208586

Students will examine real world problems as they solve equations and systems of equations, and gain a deeper understanding of mathematical functions in preparation for Algebra I. Multiple representations, proportional reasoning, slope, and linear models will be emphasized. Students will use the Pythagorean Theorem to solve real world problems, determine characteristics of similar and congruent figures, and apply transformation rules and formulas to geometric figures.