



**GRADE 8**  
**COURSE HANDBOOK**  
**2023–24**

## CORE CLASSES

### English

In 8th-grade English, students will be working with four concepts related to developing new perspectives. In the first unit, students will focus on different rites of passage, as the students prepare and ready themselves for high school. In the second unit, students will study the Holocaust, which will allow students to study character traits such as resilience, empathy, and courage. The third unit is designed to build an appreciation of what matters to them, why they should stand up for what they believe in, and why it is important. The last unit will help students understand various concepts relating to human intelligence. This work is done primarily through the myPerspectives textbook, which incorporates vocabulary, comprehension, and grammar into a single curriculum. This will be supplemented by various novels, short stories, and articles throughout the year.

### Math

Eighth grade math covers many pre-algebra topics as preparation for high school algebra. Throughout the year, students will review number systems, work with various types of bivariate data in a statistics unit, and solve algebraic equations. Students will also learn about linear functions as they model, analyze and compare equations, tables, and graphs. 8th grade students continue to expand their understanding of concepts in geometry through work with transformations, transversal lines, angle relationships, and volume.

### Algebra 1

This is an advanced mathematics course offered to students who have demonstrated a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and the ability to accurately perform computations. Students are eligible for Algebra 1 based on Math grades, teacher recommendation, and test scores. The course will continue to reinforce many of the concepts that were learned throughout elementary school, sixth and seventh grade. Students study various types of functions, representing and manipulating them in multiple ways. Students also learn to model situations using functions to solve real-world problems.

**Per School Board Article 427: Completion of Algebra 1 with semester grades of B- or higher will allow students continued enrollment on the advanced track for math at the high school.**

### Science

Standards include: Interpretation of Data, Scientific Investigation, and Evaluation of Models, Inferences, and Experimental Results. Science will cover Physical Science and give students an introduction to Physics. This means that throughout the year students will have practice using the scientific method steps: formulating a clear question, making a hypothesis, designing an experiment, recording observations, and forming conclusions. A skill practiced throughout the year incorporates creating and interpreting graphs. Finally, the third standard involves analyzing and evaluating scientists' opinions and results. Content used as a framework includes physics topics of motions, forces, and energy. Students will learn multiple Physical Science concepts and utilize the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning model to cite evidence and support scientific reasoning.

## **U.S. History**

The 8th grade social studies class is intended to provide students with an introduction to U.S. History. Over the course of the year we will cover the following topics: How to study history, U.S. immigration, civil rights, U.S. wars and finally teen culture. Though history will be the central focus we will also integrate government, geography and economics into the class. Students will analyze documents, research key historical events, and look at how the history of our country has shaped the United States today.

## **EIGHTH GRADE SPECIALS CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** Read and select your elective classes carefully.

- ★ NO schedule changes will be allowed.
- ★ If you do not submit your registration form, your classes will be chosen for you.
- ★ Band and Choir courses can **ONLY** be dropped at trimester.

### **AGRISCIENCE**

**Agriculture 8** - 8th grade students will explore many different pathways of Agriculture like Natural Resources, Food Science, Animal Science and Careers. Students will look at Natural Resources and Wildlife around Wisconsin and the Sparta Area. This class also explores Food Science experimenting with how food is made (Chocolate Chip Cookies and Beef Jerky) and how it gets from the farm to our plates. Lastly students will learn about Animals both large and small (raise chickens in the spring). In each of these pathways students have a chance to dive deeper into future careers they might be interested in that fall under each of these pathways.

### **ART**

**Studio Art 8** - 8th Grade students will explore various 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional art topics in this year-long course. Students will work with 2D materials such as drawing pencils, blending stumps, watercolors, acrylic paint, pastels and even explore digital art. Students will have the chance to paint on a canvas board or on a stool for the art room! There will also be an emphasis on clay with an introduction to the Potter's Wheel. Other 3-D materials include plaster cloth, recycled sculpture, fibers (such as yarn and needle felting) and much more. Come ready to create some awesome projects!

### **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**

**Foods 8** - Learn basic cooking techniques, terms and modifications to recipes. Evaluate fast food restaurants and portion sizes. Evaluate restaurant menus and create a menu. Show off your cooking skills and knowledge in the kitchen.

**Sew Much Fun = 1 credit:** Learn the basic parts of a sewing machine and how to use it. You will make three sewing projects including a pillow, locker caddy and a project of your choice. Students will be responsible for purchasing their own sewing materials to make their projects. We will also make a few other crafts without the sewing machine.

## **HEALTH**

**Health and Happiness** - Take a look at what stress is and the effects it has on our bodies. We will practice techniques used to handle stress in our daily lives and advocate for others to use these coping techniques. We will also learn about how we can make a difference in our own health and the health of others.

## **MUSIC**

**Band 8** - This course is open to all students. Students will have an array of different experiences in band; advancing their musicianship, gaining performance experience, creating friendships, learning new musical technologies, and much more. Our curriculum consists of a wide variety of music from classical to contemporary as we prepare for several performances throughout the year. Our performances include Veterans Day Assembly, Winter Concert, Solo/Ensemble, District Music Festival, Spring Concert and Memorial Day/Butterfest Parades. We will also have individual/small group lessons each week to refine skills and further our musical journey.

**Choir 8** - Choir is all about building a community of singers and people through fun and different pieces ranging from Mozart to Katy Perry. We will enjoy fun rehearsals, various performances, Solo and Ensemble and plenty of other opportunities.

Theater Class = 1 credit: This course is for any student with or without a performing background. Curriculum includes: 1) Study of music theater history, 2) Audition technique and preparation, 3) Study of basic acting, dance and singing skills, 4) Learning theater terms and basic concepts, 5) Learning stage directions and body positions, and 6) Development of a variety show in the spring. The culmination of theater class is to prepare, practice and perform a variety show at the end of the year complete with costumes, props, makeup and hair, lights, programs and publicity. NOTE: Some extra rehearsals will be necessary after school before the performance. These extra rehearsals are required.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Phy Ed** - Students are required to take one P.E. course EVERY Trimester: We will do activities that will foster skill and strategic development. This will be done through individual, small group, and large group activities. Fitness activities will be incorporated in daily physical education classes as well as fitness testing on a regular basis. We will be working on setting and tracking your personal fitness data and how it applies to achieving personal fitness goals.

## **TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

**Tech-Ed 8** - Keep it hands on, gain life experience, and help yourself learn skills that focus on both shop and technology skills used in the real world. Classroom activities offer hands-on experience using a Plasma Cutter, Gas Metal Arc (MIG), Oxy-Fuel, and Thermoplastic welding equipment; as well as time spent engineering Balsa Wood Towers for a winner-takes-all competition. This class will also feature individual lab time where students may learn how to utilize a variety of technology, including: 3D Printing, Pneumatic (air powered) components technology, CNC Milling, Computer Aided Drafting, a CRICUT Maker Machine, experimenting with blow molding and pewter casting, learning new Coding Languages, and more. We will spend the year designing, experimenting, and innovating anything and everything, with a big focus on developing the skills to succeed in the future.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

**Spanish 8** - Do you plan to take a language in high school next year? Then this is the class for you. We will learn the basics to get you ready to start a high school language with success! You do not need to have taken 7th grade Spanish to take this exciting trip around the world. The first chapter will be a review and you will learn to start speaking Spanish the first week. In the second unit, we will talk about what foods are eaten in other cultures. Have you tried a tortilla española, gallo pinto or gazpacho? Come learn about these dishes and your favorite food vocabulary. We will learn about animals and be able to describe them using a variety of adjectives. Students will learn to speak in Spanish about fun activities and sports that they like to do. Many interesting cultural highlights from various Spanish speaking countries of Central and South America are introduced. This course will get you prepared for high school language learning, or you can just take it for fun! ¡Vámanos!

**Spanish I - High School** - In Spanish I, students will begin their exciting journey by learning essential vocabulary and basic grammar concepts of the Spanish language. Students will be expected to blend their knowledge of the English language and grammar with Spanish to communicate effectively in the present tense. In Spanish 1 you will be exposed to a wide variety of Spanish speaking cultures throughout the course. As our communities in the United States have become more diverse, knowledge of and appreciation for other cultures is essential! Join us in Spanish 1 as we start building skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish that will set you apart from the crowd! \* This course meets everyday for a full year. Successful completion of this course allows students to move directly to Spanish II as a freshman.

<b>8th Grade Extra and Co-Curricular Activities</b>
Archery (W)
Art Club (Y)
Basketball (W)
Battle of the Books (Y)
Chess Club (S)
Cross Country (F)
FCCLA (Y)
FFA (Y)
Football (F)
Golf (F)
Jazz Band (Y)
Science Olympiad (Y)
Show Choir (Y)
Softball (S)
Stomp (S)
Student Council (Y)
Track & Field (S)
Ultimate Frisbee (S)
Volleyball (F)
Yearbook (Y)
Wrestling (W)

F = Fall W = Winter S = Spring Y = All Year