



GRADE 8

COURSE HANDBOOK

2021-22

CORE CLASSES

English - In 8th grade English students will be working with four concepts related to developing new perspectives. In the first quarter, students will focus on ideas of invention, and how humans build something out of nothing. Second quarter is designed to build an appreciation of what matters to them and why it is important. During the third quarter, we will begin to understand various concepts relating to human intelligence. Fourth quarter will focus on different rites of passage, as the students prepare and ready themselves for high school. 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, poems, and articles throughout the year.

Math - Eighth grade math covers many pre-algebra topics as preparation for high school algebra. Students begin the year reviewing number systems before solving one and two-step algebraic equations. Linear functions are analyzed and compared as equations, tables, and graphs to finish out the semester. During the second semester, students explore geometry concepts such as transformations, transversal lines, angle relationships, and volume. The year ends with a study of statistics and probability.

Algebra 1 - This is an advanced mathematics course recommended for students who have demonstrated a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and the ability to accurately perform computation. 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. 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. 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.

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: Topics may include anything from our 9 career clusters (agribusiness, animal science, biotechnology, food science, environmental science, natural resource management, plant science and power structural and technical systems).

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 may also have the opportunity to paint a mural for the school and work on a canvas board. There will also be an emphasis on clay with an introduction to the Potter's Wheel. Other 3-D materials include paper, plaster cloth, recycled materials, fibers (such as yarn) plus more. Come ready to create!

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: 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 a plethora 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, but are not limited to: 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: 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 (1 semester every other day) = ½ **credit**: 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!

German I: Are you interested in taking a world language? Do you want to expand your horizons, set yourself apart from your peers and investigate the realm of German speaking countries like Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg? Then this is the course for you! In German I, you will be exposed to cultural, historical and geographical tidbits from these countries, as well as enormous and useful vocabulary that you would need to “get by” overseas. You will not be bored as you learn to effectively communicate in German using written and verbal language skills. * **This course meets everyday for a full year. Successful completion of this course allows students to move directly to German II as a freshman.**

Spanish I: 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 I 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.**

8th Grade Extra and Co-Curricular Activities

Archery (W)

Art Club (Y)

Basketball (W)

Battle of the Books (Y)

Best Buddies (Y)

Chess Club (S)

Cross Country (F)

FCCLA (Y)

FFA (Y)

Football (F)

Golf (F)

Jazz Band (Y)

Math Team (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

