

Eighth Grade General Studies Curriculum Overview

This simple description shares the large core objectives for each subject. Detailed learning concepts for each of the core elements may be obtained by contacting the General Studies Principal.

Language Arts

- Use a variety of strategies to expand reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills.
- Understand the meaning of texts using a variety of comprehension strategies.
- Read and respond to a variety of reading materials and genre.
- Compose various pieces of writing with correct structure and grammar.
- Understand and communicate effectively through listening and speaking.
- Read and analyze specific books, themes or characters.

Writer's Workshop

- Use a combination of writing strategies to produce and publish writing while avoiding plagiarism and identifying sources.
- Understand, analyze and use different types of print, digital and multimodal media.
- Demonstrate a command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking.
- Integrate and transfer speaking, writing and research skills to other academic areas.
- Write arguments focused on discipline specific content.
- Write informative and explanatory texts including narration, scientific procedures, descriptions as related to all discipline areas.

Library Sciences

- Identify and locate various book and magazine collections.
- Evaluate materials for personal use and study materials.
- Identify and research various authors, illustrators and literary awards.
- Identify and research using computer skills.

Math – Algebra 1 (Geometry offered to select advance placement students)

- Identify rational and non rational numbers.
- Work with radicals and integer exponents.
- Understand connections between proportional relationships, lines and linear equations.
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions.
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities.
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies or geometry software.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
- Solve real world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres.
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

Physical Education

- Demonstrate listening skills and proper behavior.
- Participate in warm-up and cool-down activities.
- Master fundamental motor skills.
- Master basic manipulative activities.
- Learn the importance of physical fitness.
- Demonstrate proper behavior and hygiene.

- Learn specific rules for individual, dual, and team activities.

Science (STEM concepts)

- Science and engineering operate in the context of society and both influence and are influenced by this content.
- All organisms pass down hereditary information.
- Earth's structures and processes.
- Understand that the Earth is the third planet from the sun in a system that includes the moon, sun, seven other planets and their moons and smaller objects.
- In order to maintain and improve their existence, humans interact with and influence the Earth's systems.
- The idea that matter is made up of atoms and molecules provides the basis for understanding the properties of matter.
- Understand that pure substances can be identified by properties which are independent of the sample of the substance and the properties can be explained by a model of matter that is composed of small particles.

Social Studies – American History – Major events, uprisings, wars, political and economic impact

- Acquire geographical knowledge of places, people and environments.
- Examine changing forms of cross-cultural contact, conflict and cooperation that resulted in the interconnections between Eurasia, Africa and the Americas.
- Evaluate the social, political, and economic impact of the wars, revolutions, and major events and contrast them to today's current political and economic systems.
- Research a topic and present information.
- Demonstrate knowledge of causes, major events and people of various wars and historical events.
- Analyze the transformation of the American economy and changing social and political conditions in response to the Industrial Revolution.
- Demonstrate knowledge of Minnesota's history and its impact on our states growth.
- Conduct research in a topic related to American History.

Technology

- Utilize a word processing program.
- Use multimedia authoring and presentation tools.
- Create and manipulate a spreadsheet and database.
- Access and utilize the Internet.
- Create a variety of quality projects using technology.
- Conducts research and creates multimedia projects.