

Grant K-8 School – Core Curriculum

8th Grade Course Information

At the eighth level, students take on more responsibility by organizing and budgeting time, schoolwork, and activities. Required courses include English/language arts, mathematics, United States history, science, and physical education. Students continue to have the option of selecting an elective which alternates with PE on an A Day/B Day rotation.

Language Arts

The eighth grade English/language arts course consists of instruction in the interrelated study of literature, writing, and oral/listening communication. Word study, which includes spelling, vocabulary, grammar and usage is taught along with comprehension and critical thinking. Literary analysis of narrative and expository text, classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, and online information will be the focus of study. Using appropriate writing strategies, students will write biographies, narratives, research reports, poetry, persuasive compositions, and responses to literature. All students are required to read 25 books or the equivalent.

Algebra

This standards-based class is a college preparatory course in which students learn the fundamentals of algebraic thinking and reasoning. Students will develop an understanding of the symbolic language of mathematics and develop algebraic skills. Students will learn concepts such as solving equations, graphing of linear and non-linear functions, and manipulation of polynomial equations. Students will learn to apply these skills to various problem-solving situations.

Geometry

Students will be placed in this course after successful completion of one year of algebra. Students will develop their ability to construct formal logical arguments and proofs in geometric settings. Problems that are necessary to meet the California State Standards in Geometry. The course satisfies the high school graduation requirement.

History

Students will study United States history and concentrate on the years of the American Revolution through the Progressive Movement. Students will learn about the special characteristics of the West, South, and Northeast. Students will study many reform movements that swept the nation, such as those for the abolition of slavery, women's rights, public education, the Civil War, and the spread of the Industrial Revolution.

Science

This one-year required course presents experimental approaches to the themes and concepts relating to chemistry, physics and space science. The course is designed to expose all grade 8 students to the processes, tools and skills needed to do scientific investigations. Students work in cooperative groups with many hands-on labs and activities which are designed to increase their problem-solving skills. Through challenging, engaging projects, students are required to classify, observe, measure, investigate and draw conclusions based on data which they generate. They communicate this information in a variety of ways. They are expected to achieve at their maximum potential, fully participating in all activities. The program will provide a meaningful science experience for all students.

Physical Education

The physical education program includes physical, cognitive, and social skill development. While each grade level varies in focus and activities, the general goal is for students to meet fitness levels and demonstrate content knowledge, skills, and personal growth for their age group. We provide a program of developmentally appropriate activities, team sports, non-traditional games, and rhythms that are suited to the capacities and limitations of all students. The program's emphasis is on the enjoyment of movement and the development of physical activity as a lifetime pursuit.