

English

Course Focus

The focus of study for the 8th grade English class is based on the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations. Students begin the year reviewing the five steps of the writing process, 6 Traits of Writing, basic rules of grammar, capitalization and punctuation, and story elements. Students will engage themselves in several short stories to identify theme, plot and characterization. These practices will help in meeting our goal of preparing the students to perform successfully on the MEAP tests in October.

Writing

Several major pieces of writing will be completed this year following the steps of the writing process. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- personal narrative
- poetry
- science fiction
- biographies
- mystery/horror
- compare/contrast
- persuasive essay with research
- numerous journal entries

Spelling

During first semester, students will receive weekly spelling lessons and assignments, designed to reinforce word study, word recognition, word fluency and vocabulary. Selected word lists are comprised of root words, base words, prefixes and suffixes, and many are taken from the 8th grade National Spelling Bee list. Other selected words may include frequently misspelled or high-frequency words.

Reading

The 8th grade English classes will be reading



pieces of literature from various genres. Numerous short stories, as well as several major novels are studied throughout the year. Along with the assigned readings, the students visit the Media Center on a weekly basis to choose novels for independent reading. There will be several projects based on these novels.

Mathematics

This course is designed to prepare students for successful completion of higher-level high school mathematics courses. The main focus of study throughout the 8th grade year is based on the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations. Students will begin by spending time reviewing basic algebraic concepts such as the order of operations, integers and solving basic equations.

The course of study increases in difficulty as students pursue learning about more in-depth algebra concepts such as inequalities, systems of equations, functions, and polynomials.

Students are also exposed to introductory geometry concepts focusing on the Pythagorean Theorem, area of simple and complex figures, and volume of three dimensional shapes.

An introduction into probability and statistics is also a main focus of study this year.

Algebra

This is a high school course taught at the middle school and will follow the high school curriculum and standards. The 8th grade curriculum WILL NOT be followed in this class, and thus, students may have to put more effort into the course to gain a firm understanding of newly learned material.

Students who successfully meet the requirements may receive high school credit. Students who do not successfully meet the requirements in 8th grade will have the opportunity to repeat the course next year in high school with no penalty to their high school record.

History

Curriculum Focus

This course is also based upon the Michigan Grade Level 8 Content Expectations and is a guided study of United States History from the Revolutionary War through the Depression Era. Students will receive integrating instruction on historic, geographic, civic and economic perspectives, as well as public discourse, decision making, and citizenship.

Utilizing the History Alive program, students will be exposed to in-class simulations and hands-on activities to engage in problem-solving dilemmas and to bring the past to the present. Together, students will explore primary and secondary documents, photographs, artifacts, maps, charts, graphs and political cartoons to enhance their understanding of each time period. Each unit will provide an opportunity to work both independently and cooperatively. Students will also learn a variety of study skills, including the use of flashcards, graphic organizers, outline notes and mock tests.

Course Topics

The following topics will be included in our study of United States History: The Revolutionary War, Establishing a New Nation, The Core Democratic Values, The Branches of Government, Westward Expansion, The Civil War, Civil War Reconstruction, The Age of Industrialization and The Depression Era.

Science

In 8th grade science, students are exposed to a wide range of scientific topics and build upon past knowledge in many areas. Students are expected to participate in lab activities and reading and writing assignments designed to strengthen skills in observation, data collection and analysis as well as informational reading/writing. The 8th grade science curriculum is designed to prepare students for the high school science courses.

The following areas of study are included in 8th grade science:

- Biology: Cells and Cell Function, Populations, Classification, Survival and Extinction of Species
- Chemistry: Energy Transfer and Conservation of Energy, Kinetic Molecular Theory, Elements, Mixtures and Compounds, Chemical Reactions
- Earth Science: Landforms and Soils, Rocks and Minerals, Plate Tectonics, Atmosphere
- Physics: Magnetic Force

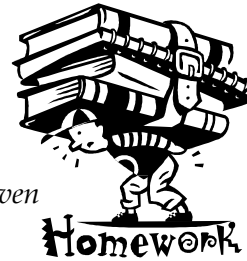


Homework Policy

The eighth-grade team has adopted a “No Late Work Policy” that will hold high standards and expectations for the students. Our purpose

for this policy is to develop strong working skills in our students to prepare them for success in the real world.

Per the eighth grade homework policy, assignments not completed on time will receive a zero. Four late homework passes will be given out during each marking period for students to use on assignments with no penalty to their grade if the assignment is turned in the following day.



Students who need extra tutoring assistance on assignments or on completing assignments on time have a variety of options open to help them. Our Choose Success program has homework help/tutoring time available 3 days a week after school and 4 days a week before school. Also available is the lunch time Extended Learning Program during which students may eat and work.

Students who have been absent will be given an amount of time equal to the length of the absence to make up the assignments missed (per the Student Handbook).

To help encourage students to complete assignments on time and to display appropriate behaviors in school, we plan a monthly reward activity for all 8th grade students to earn towards the end of each month. To be eligible for this activity, students must meet the following requirements: No more than 2 zeros in any core class since the last activity; no behavior referrals 1 week prior to the activity; and keeping an updated planner.

8th Grade

Mancelona Middle School

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The 8th Grade Team

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