



Grade 8 Curriculum 2023-2024

8 English Language Arts

The Language Arts program focuses on the study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The components of the program emphasize the development of skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

Literature

A diverse selection of literature will be used to enhance student development of higher levels of comprehension and inferential thinking.

The textbook used for literature is *Holt McDougal Literature*. In addition, students will read several novels including *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton.

Emphasis is on:

- citing textual evidence to support inferences
- determining theme of texts
- creating unbiased summaries of texts
- analyzing dialogue
- applying word analysis and vocabulary skills including analyzing figurative and connotative word meanings
- analyzing setting & the development of plot & characters
- describing author's point of view & purpose in various literary forms
- comparing texts of different mediums, genres, & eras
- evaluating if evidence used to support claims is relevant in informational texts

Writing

The textbook used for writing and grammar is *Voyages in English* from *Loyola Press*.

Students will work through the steps of the writing process to develop and publish several pieces that span several writing genres including personal narratives, how-to articles, letters, descriptions, creative writing, argumentative essays, and research reports in MLA format. The development of each piece sets in motion the goal of producing reflective, creative, critical, and articulate communicators. Students will apply grammar skills taught into their writing in all content areas. Furthermore, students will study the meanings of Greek and Latin affixes and roots using *Prestwick House: Greek & Latin Roots Level 8*.



8 Mathematics

Students acquire knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills to solve problems. The textbook series used is *Reveal Algebra I*.



Emphasis is on:

- Operations with rational & irrational numbers
- Rational Exponents
- Expressions
- Polynomial & Rational Expressions
- One Variable & Two Variable Equations and Functions
- Systems of Equations & Inequalities
- Defining & Interpreting Functions
- Nonlinear Functions
- Building Functions that Model Relationships
- Building Functions from other Functions
- Comparing Linear, Quadratic, & Exponential Models
- Geometry - The Pythagorean Theorem
- Statistics and Probability
- Statistics: Bivariate Data

8 Science

Students use concrete and hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. Students will identify problems, ask questions, gather information to provide evidence, analyze and interpret data, develop models, formulate and test hypotheses, and evaluate experimental results.

The primary textbook series used is *HMH Science Dimensions* which aligns with the *Next Generation Science Standards*. This series incorporates science & engineering (STEM) concepts.

Students will explore the following topics:

- Cells & Heredity
 - cells
 - organisms as systems
 - reproduction, heredity & growth
- The Diversity of Living Things
 - the history of life on Earth
 - human influences on inheritance
- Energy & Energy Transfer
 - types of energy



8 Social Studies

Students prepare for their role as informed citizens by practicing social science skills that include developing questions, planning inquiries, evaluating primary and secondary sources, using evidence, communicating conclusions, and taking informed action.

Students will apply these skills by studying civics, history, economics, and geography of the pre-WWI era to the end of the 20th century in the United States. The textbook series used is *Prentice Hall America: History of Our Nation-Civil War to the Present*.



8 Religion

Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in Religion class, but in all learning. Students will learn about the Catholic faith through stories, activities, scripture, prayer, discussion, and reflection. The text used for instruction is *Finding God* from *Loyola Press*.



Service Theme: Social Justice

On Service Day, the 8th-grade students promote social justice by going to either Helping Hands, Big Shoulders or a Mobile Packing site.

Emphasis is on:

- Interpreting Sacred Scripture and Tradition
- Participating in liturgical ministry
- Describing the experiences of early Christian communities
- Identifying the geography and main cities of the Holy Land in Biblical Roman society
- Studying Mary and other saints & viewing them as models to exemplify
- Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation & receiving the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Providing service to others
- Studying morality and religious diversity

*Family Life & the importance of family is also studied using *RCL Benziger's Family Life* program.



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6-8 Art

Students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms.



Emphasis is on:

- identifying the elements of value, perspective, and color schemes, as well as the principles of contrast, emphasis, and unity
- expressing ideas and conveying meaning through a variety of media
- analyzing the tools and processes used to create specific art effects
- creating two and three dimensional artworks that are realistic, abstract, functional, and decorative
- identifying careers among the arts as well as how the arts function in ceremony, technology, communication, and entertainment
- comparing pieces of artwork that share similar themes
- using art vocabulary appropriately
- describing how artists and their works shape culture and increase understanding of societies past and present

8 Music

Students will have the opportunity to participate in music activities and to develop an appreciation for music.

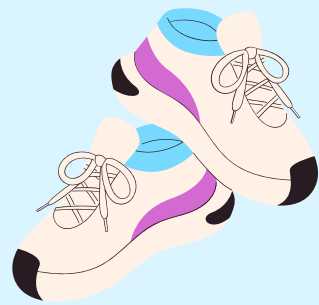


Emphasis is on:

- singing in groups & performance opportunities (Spring Performance)
- involvement in music ministry
- introduction to playing the keyboard; learning the notes from C to G in the bass and treble clefs and perform a solo or duet keyboard piece
- introduction to the percussion instruments of Asia and composing and performing their own Taiko drumming piece
- listening, analyzing, and describing the musical styles of jazz, rock, & hip-hop
- Finale project: a group performance of one, two, or four measure ostinatos played together in a giant jam piece
- learning & reviewing the ukulele
- writing a composition; choosing a style (Jazz, Classical, Hip Hop, & Rock)
- studying the composer of the month

6-8 Physical Education

Students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle.

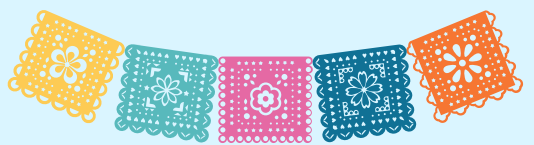


Emphasis is on:

- muscle strength, cardio-respiratory endurance & flexibility
- rules & offensive and defensive strategies in cooperative sports and activities
- sportsmanship & participation in exercise activities
- leadership skills in various games and activities

6-8 Spanish

Students will continue to explore basic concepts of the Spanish language by listening, reading, writing, and speaking.



Emphasis is on:

- learning everyday Spanish words
- repeating words though simple yes and no questions
- responding appropriately to simple commands and questions
- engaging in simple conversations on familiar topics
- imitating pronunciation, intonation, and inflection
- recognizing basic language patterns
- inferring the meaning of cognates from context and implementing them
- recognizing important figures from the Spanish-speaking world
- identifying the geography and culture of Spanish-speaking countries
- reciting prayers in Spanish

4-8 Technology

Each student in grades 4-8 has the privilege of having a school-owned Chromebook assigned to them for their daily use. Technology skills are taught through content areas, and the use of the devices complements the content area learning standards and lesson objectives.



Additionally, students follow a curriculum which develops appropriate digital citizenship skills. As a Google Workspace School, our students become proficient in the use of Google Drive which includes the use of Docs, Slides, & Forms as well as Google Classroom. Students practice typing skills using [typing.com](https://www.typing.com) and take typing test each trimester to assess their progress.