

## Grade 8

### Description of Eight Grade Courses

- Computer Education
- Library Skills
- Art
- Communication Arts and Reading
- Health and Physical Education
- Home and Career Skills
- Mathematics
- Science
- Foreign Languages
- Social Studies
- Technology Education

### Computer Education

- uses word processing and desktop publishing programs to develop language and writing skills
- creates and works with a file using a simple database program
- uses a basic program to develop typing skills

## Library Skills

- makes comparisons between contemporary and classical uses of space and structure and relates these uses to the needs of various cultures
- produces spatial designs to demonstrate that space can be defined
  - demonstrates knowledge of color theory
- observes and produces visual patterns having distinct rhythms/speeds
- recognizes and identifies the contributions of artists from diverse cultures

## Art

- makes comparisons between contemporary and classical uses of space and structure and relates these uses to the needs of various cultures
- produces spatial designs to demonstrate that space can be defined
  - demonstrates knowledge of color theory
- observes and produces visual patterns having distinct rhythms/speeds
- recognizes and identifies the contributions of artists from diverse cultures

## Communication Arts and Reading

- participates in debates, dramas, video presentations, interviews, and other oral language activities
- appreciates literature written by authors from various cultures, and describes cultural differences and similarities in the works
- interprets figurative speech in poetry and other literature (e.g. simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification)
- evaluates own written work for clarity of ideas, correctness and variety of language and sentence structure, appropriateness of form, and accuracy of information

## Health and Physical Education

- relates fitness, endurance, muscular strength to efficiency in daily tasks
- participates in culminating activities and team tournaments, including noncompetitive and competitive play
- appreciates and understands the importance of mental health and family living including sex education, drug and substance abuse, alcohol, smoking, disease prevention and control, consumer health, safety and first aid, and environmental and community health

## and Career Skills

(60 classes in 1/2 year or 120 classes in full year is required in either seventh or eighth grade)

- develops skills that lead to effective decisions, problem solving, and management in the home, school, community, and workplace
- studies personal development and relationships to others
- learns about responsible management of personal and family money, nutrition, clothing, personal environment, and consumer choices
- plans for high school, examines careers, and is introduced to world of work

## Mathematics

- uses Pythagorean theorem to measure distances involving perpendicular lines
- develops and use formulas for volume
- explains "rational" and "irrational" numbers
- writes simple computer programs

## Science

- studies underwater topography and the natural resources of the oceans

- learns the elements of weather: temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, air pressure, solar radiation, cloudiness, precipitation, air masses, and fronts
- understands the observable effects of the Earth's motions, such as: day and night, phases of the moon, seasons, tides, eclipses, and Coriolis effect
- studies the Solar System
- learns about space programs, their benefits, spin-offs, and burdens

## Second/Foreign Languages

(Second language study usually begins at the sixth or seventh grade and continues into high school through various checkpoints in the way to fluency)

### - Checkpoint One

- understands simple statements and questions
- holds a conversation using questions and answers
- understands simple short, general messages
- writes a paragraph or short composition about himself or herself
- becomes aware of and better understands other cultures

### - Checkpoint Two

- understands short conversation about everyday situations
- begins to carry out a conversation using limited vocabulary
- reads and understands simple stories
- writes simple notes, letters, and short reports
- continues to increase awareness of, begins to appreciate, and develops greater understanding of other cultures

### - Checkpoint Three

- understands the important points of discussion of familiar topics
- initiates and holds a conversation in which more complex ideas are expressed
- reads and understands more sophisticated stories
- writes short letters and notes that native speakers of the second language are able to understand
- respects, appreciates, and becomes more knowledgeable about other cultures

## Social Studies

- understands the development of the countries of Canada and Mexico and their impact upon the development of the U.S., including the Spanish-American War, World War I, The Great Depression, World War II
- explains the causes and results of World Wars I and II and their impact on the U.S. and its diverse population
- understands the causes of the Great Depression and its impact on diverse groups of Americans
- traces the Cold War and implications for the U.S.
- discusses the Civil Rights Movement and the Women's Liberation Movement and how they affected all Americans

## Technology Education

- learns to plan ahead and design solutions to problems,

using the 7 resources of daily life: humans, information, materials, tools and machines, energy, capital, and time

- applies math, science, and other academic skills to problem solving