

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Reading

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- Understand the most important points in the history of English language and use common word origins to determine the historical influences on English word meanings.
- Use word meanings within the appropriate context and show ability to verify those meanings by definition, restatement, example, comparison, or contrast.

Reading Comprehension

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose. The selections in *Recommended Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve* illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students. In addition, students read one million words annually on their own, including a good representation of narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information).

- Compare and contrast the features and elements of consumer materials to gain meaning from documents (e.g., warranties, contracts, product information, instruction manuals).
- Analyze text that uses proposition and support patterns.
- Find similarities and differences between texts in the treatment, scope, or organization of ideas.
- Compare the original text to a summary to determine whether the summary accurately captures the main ideas, includes critical details, and conveys the underlying meaning.
- Understand and explain the use of a complex mechanical device by following technical directions. Evaluate the unity, coherence, logic, internal consistency, and structural patterns of text.

Writing

Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits students' awareness of audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.

- Create compositions that establish a controlling impression, have a coherent thesis, and end with a clear and well-supported conclusion.
- Establish coherence within and among paragraphs through effective transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques.
- Support theses or conclusions with analogies, paraphrases, quotations, opinions from authorities, comparisons, and similar devices.
- Revise writing for word choice; appropriate organization; consistent point of view; and transitions between paragraphs, passages, and ideas.

Writing Applications

Students write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive essays of at least 500 to 700 words in each genre. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the research, organizational, and drafting strategies outlined by teacher.

Written English Language Conventions

Students will:

- Use correct and varied sentence types and sentence openings to present a lively and effective personal style.
- Identify and use parallelism, including similar grammatical forms, in all written discourse to present items in a series and items juxtaposed for emphasis.
- Use subordination, coordination, apposition, and other devices to indicate clearly the relationship between ideas.
- Edit written manuscripts to ensure that correct grammar is used.
- Use correct punctuation and capitalization.
- Use correct spelling conventions.

8th Grade Mathematics

All students in the 8th Grade Combo class will cover Algebra 1.