



8th Grade

Welcome to 8th grade. We are looking forward to getting to know you better and as a team we will help you master the material needed in 8th grade.

Math will be an adventure that will take you through the material needed to understand for the Rise test at the end of the year. You will use textbook material, spiral review, and activities to help you understand the material and show your proficiency in the math we are learning. We will also monitor progress using Renaissance Star Tests throughout the year.

Please come prepared for class each day and we will work together to help you learn. Yes, you will have homework, quizzes, and tests. If you need help, I will be available to help you before or after school.

Creative Coding

Students will learn to code games and applications using Python with Pygame. Sample games we will code include Pong, Flappy Bird, Zelda, and a Mario style platform game. Outside of these games, students are encouraged to create their own games and make improvements upon the ones mentioned.

Please be prepared to come to class to work each day with pencil and paper. Most of the work for the class will be in school, hands-on work.

Digital Literacy

Students will learn how to be responsible digital citizens in a world full of technology. This will include building upon their typing skills learned in 7th grade using proper keying, learning the core basics of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and other common programs.



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History:

This is a sequential course, which will continue from where students left off in their 7th year. The course will begin with a look at post-Civil War reconstruction and will survey U.S. History through the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and on to the present. The focus for our study of history will be about learning the important life skills of reading, effective writing, critical thinking, and the development of analytical skills. Students will use research-based models to notice repeated themes, and it is the intent of the program to help students understand cause and effect and change over time in relation to those themes.

Science:

Science is more than just learning vocabulary words and research papers. Science is a way of thinking! This year we'll learn how to think like a scientist by learning to plan and carry out experiments. 8th grade science is FULL of simulations, labs, and hands-on projects all designed to help students become true scientists. This year we'll learn about atoms and molecules, energy, waves, environmental science, and nutrient cycles.

English Language Arts

Students will continue to build on their reading and writing skills. Students will read informational texts and different pieces of literature to help them develop skills in phonics, fluency, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing processes. The goal of junior high ELA is to help students become active readers and clear writers.

Please come to class with your paper and pencil and be prepared to make the most out of each day.