

# **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE CORE COURSES**

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

The Language Arts curriculum, which is aligned with the Common Core State Standards, is composed of units that focus upon themes such as *Insights* and *The Human Spirit*. These units will include instruction on reading comprehension using an assortment of literary genres (narrative and informational texts, poetry, and novels). The 6-Traits of Writing will be used to enhance writing skills that are derived from a variety of learning-based activities.

## **ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

The Advanced Language Arts curriculum, which is aligned with the Common Core State Standards, will be composed of grade level academic content that requires higher-level critical and analytical thinking skills. These skills will be utilized while engaging with complex text that embraces a variety of literary genres, integrated writing activities, and independent projects.

## **MATH 8**

Math 8 includes the following:

### **The Number System (NS)**

- Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.

### **Expressions and Equations (EE)**

- Work with radicals and integer exponents.
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.

### **Functions (F)**

- Define, evaluate, and compare functions.
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities.

### **Geometry (G)**

- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.

- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres.

### **Statistics and Probability (SP)**

- Investigate patterns of association in bi-variate data.

## **ALGEBRA 1 (A and B)**

Algebra 1 is a two semester course that will build on the key algebraic topics that have been developed in middle school. This course will emphasize algebraic language, structure, concepts and skills. Major topics include algebraic properties of the real number system, solving equations and inequalities, linear functions and their graphs, linear regression and modeling, systems of linear equations, operations with polynomials, factoring, quadratic functions, and exponential functions. Students will also be exposed to real world applications of these algebraic concepts. A student must pass Algebra 1A to move on to Algebra 1B.

## **SCIENCE 8**

8th Grade Science covers the following topics:

- Adaptations and Traits
- Life Changes over Time (Evolution)
- The Fossil Record
- Earths' in Space
- Our Solar System
- Space Exploration
- Forms of Energy
- Energy Transformations
- Heat and Temperature
- Natural Resources and Energy
- Alternative Energy
- Human Impact on Climate

## **U.S. HISTORY**

This course provides a one year survey of U.S. history post-Revolution through Reconstruction. Students will use textbooks, primary documents, and secondary sources to learn about the various political, social, religious, and economic developments that have shaped and continue to shape the United States.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade History covers the following elements:

- Development of the Constitution
- The Civil War
- Reconstruction
- Westward Expansion
- Industrial Revolution
- Jacksonian Democracy
- Reform Movements

## **SPANISH 1A**

Students will develop basic skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing using the Spanish language. They will also learn about culture of the Spanish-speaking world, including an introduction to the various countries in which Spanish is spoken. Since the goal of this course is for students to communicate in Spanish, student participation is essential. By the end of the course students will be expected to take part in basic conversations in Spanish, read basic Spanish language texts on topics familiar to them, and write simple messages or letters in Spanish. Students who receive a passing grade will receive .5 high school credit.

## **SPANISH 1B**

Students will develop basic skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing using the Spanish language. They will also learn about culture of the Spanish-speaking world including an introduction to the various countries in which Spanish is spoken. Because the goal of this course is for students to communicate in Spanish, student participation is essential. By the end of the course students will be expected to take part in basic conversations in Spanish, read basic Spanish language texts on topics familiar to them, and write simple messages or letters in Spanish.

## **LIFE SKILLS**

The Life Skills course uses a variety of resources, such as media, literature, and curricula, that are used in the implementation and teaching of following topics: personal finance and budgeting, college readiness, healthy eating, and physical activities.

## **MULTI-PURPOSE PERIOD (MP<sup>2</sup>)**

The multi-purpose period is a year-long 30-minute class for all students. This class includes a variety of lessons focused on our school's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) plan, Character Education, as well as enhancements for Math and Reading. Participation is required for this class and it is graded as Pass/Fail.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **BAND**

8<sup>th</sup> grade band provides students who choose band as an elective the opportunity to study at the second full year level. Individual and ensemble musical skills at the second year level will be taught in preparation for entering the Annapolis High School Band ensembles. Students are expected to practice outside of class. Attendance at performances outside of the regular school day is a requirement for taking this class.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

This course builds upon the 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum providing each student with the opportunity to learn about sports, health, and physical fitness. It is a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities. Health and nutrition topics are discussed on a regular basis before and after physical activity. This course prepares students for high school by promoting cooperation, leadership, and a positive attitude.

## **ART**

During their time in Art, students will use a variety of media. They will work in graphite pencil, colored pencil, clay, scratchboard, watercolor, and other materials. 8th Grade Art is an opportunity for students to both build on what they have learned in previous years, and to also work with new mediums. Students are evaluated not only on the end product, but also on their effort and ability to attempt new things.

## **ADVANCED ART**

Advanced Art is a hand-selected class for students who have excelled in art during the previous two years. The art instructor chooses students who have demonstrated exceptional artistic skills, are self-motivated, very well-behaved, and are intrinsically motivated to push themselves and improve as artists. The Advanced Art class takes place alongside “regular” 8th grade Art, but for a full semester as opposed to a single quarter. During the first quarter of the semester, students in Advanced Art will learn the same material and work on the same projects as students in “regular” art. Then during the second quarter of the semester, Advanced Art students will work independently on their advanced projects. Students in Advanced Art gain additional experience in various mediums and also have the opportunity to select projects and mediums that they are interested in learning more about.

## **MEDIA LITERACY**

Students will learn how to approach and analyze media sources, including news information, advertisements, websites, and social media. Students will explore ways to use and create media to become more thoughtful and engaged citizens.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THEATER**

Introduction to Theater introduces the students to the art of physical movement and vocal expression through acting, improvisation, and scene study. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. Students will further explore jobs in theater, basic stage knowledge, reader's theater, and ensemble performance.

## **BRAIN GAMES**

This course allows students to play games while improving their mathematical and critical thinking skills. Students learn gaming strategies in a fun, competitive, and friendly environment.

## **VIDEO PRODUCTION**

This course addresses the multifaceted needs of beginning photography, film-making and video editing. This is a hands-on, student led course designed to introduce students to all phases of video and media production. Students will work on a variety of media projects both independently and as part of a group.

This course covers standards related to basic photography, video production, script writing, media crew assignments and computer-based photo and video editing. Classroom lessons and activities are closely related to the real world of reporting, and meeting deadlines.

## **ADVANCED VIDEO PRODUCTION**

Advanced Video Production is a hand selected class of students who have excelled in Computer Technology and Video production classes. The instructor will choose students who have demonstrated exceptional computer technology skills, who are self-motivated, well-behaved, and who are strong, independent leaders. The Advanced Video Production class takes place alongside the regular Video Production course, but the students in this class will act as leaders and facilitate what the students in the regular class are learning. Advanced Video Production students will gain additional experience in various mediums of Video Production and will work collaboratively with the Video Production students on weekly newscasts and their assigned projects.