

## **Eighth Grade General Studies Curriculum Overview**

This simple description shares the large core objectives for each subject. Detailed learning concepts for each of the core elements may be obtained by contacting the General Studies Principal.

### **Language Arts**

- Use a variety of strategies to expand reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills.
- Understand the meaning of texts using a variety of comprehension strategies.
- Read and respond to a variety of reading materials and genre.
- Compose various pieces of writing with correct structure and grammar.
- Understand and communicate effectively through listening and speaking.
- Read and analyze specific books, themes or characters.

### **Writer's Workshop**

- Use a combination of writing strategies to produce and publish writing while avoiding plagiarism and identifying sources.
- Understand, analyze and use different types of print, digital and multimodal media.
- Demonstrate a command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking.
- Integrate and transfer speaking, writing and research skills to other academic areas.
- Write arguments focused on discipline specific content.
- Write informative and explanatory texts including narration, scientific procedures, descriptions as related to all discipline areas.

### **Library Sciences**

- Identify and locate various book and magazine collections.
- Evaluate materials for personal use and study materials.
- Identify and research various authors, illustrators and literary awards.
- Identify and research using computer skills.

### **Math – Algebra 1 (Geometry offered to select advance placement students)**

- Identify rational and non rational numbers.
- Work with radicals and integer exponents.
- Understand connections between proportional relationships, lines and linear equations.
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions.
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities.
- 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.
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

### **Physical Education**

- Demonstrate listening skills and proper behavior.
- Participate in warm-up and cool-down activities.
- Master fundamental motor skills.
- Master basic manipulative activities.
- Learn the importance of physical fitness.
- Demonstrate proper behavior and hygiene.

- Learn specific rules for individual, dual, and team activities.

### **Science (STEM concepts)**

- Science and engineering operate in the context of society and both influence and are influenced by this content.
- All organisms pass down hereditary information.
- Earth's structures and processes.
- Understand that the Earth is the third planet from the sun in a system that includes the moon, sun, seven other planets and their moons and smaller objects.
- In order to maintain and improve their existence, humans interact with and influence the Earth's systems.
- The idea that matter is made up of atoms and molecules provides the basis for understanding the properties of matter.
- Understand that pure substances can be identified by properties which are independent of the sample of the substance and the properties can be explained by a model of matter that is composed of small particles.

### **Social Studies – American History – Major events, uprisings, wars, political and economic impact**

- Acquire geographical knowledge of places, people and environments.
- Examine changing forms of cross-cultural contact, conflict and cooperation that resulted in the interconnections between Eurasia, Africa and the Americas.
- Evaluate the social, political, and economic impact of the wars, revolutions, and major events and contrast them to today's current political and economic systems.
- Research a topic and present information.
- Demonstrate knowledge of causes, major events and people of various wars and historical events.
- Analyze the transformation of the American economy and changing social and political conditions in response to the Industrial Revolution.
- Demonstrate knowledge of Minnesota's history and its impact on our states growth.
- Conduct research in a topic related to American History.

### **Technology**

- Utilize a word processing program.
- Use multimedia authoring and presentation tools.
- Create and manipulate a spreadsheet and database.
- Access and utilize the Internet.
- Create a variety of quality projects using technology.
- Conducts research and creates multimedia projects.