

Eighth Grade Core Classes

Algebra I (High School Credit)

The emphasis in this course is placed on algebraic skills and concepts. The content and questions in this book integrate geometry, probability and statistics with algebra. Pure and applied mathematics are also integrated throughout the book. Both reading and writing mathematics are emphasized. Use of scientific calculators is assumed and graphing calculators are introduced. *Prerequisite: Transition Math 7/8*

English 8

English 8 emphasize the connections between reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar. Class novels are still in discussion for next year. Students will also be required to read several independent novels throughout the year. Writing will include poems, position paper, informative essays, literary analysis, weekly journal writes, research paper, letters, and other creative and technical writing pieces. Students will use the writing process when working towards final drafts. A variety of oral presentations and speeches will be given.

Physical Education/Health (High School Credit)

This course is a combination of physical education and health. Students may take this course to fulfill their high school requirement of Health/Physical Education. This course encompasses the Michigan standards for high school. There will be periodic tests and an exam at the end of each semester. Participation points will also be used in the calculation of grades for each student.

Science 8

This is a full year earth science course designed for investigations in geology, astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, and limnology. Students will engage in numerous hands-on activities, lecture and discussion sessions, field explorations, and an individualized research project. Completion of this course will give students a better understanding of: rocks and minerals; earthquakes; volcanoes; Earth's interior; a star's life cycles; universe origin possibilities; major stars and constellations; Earth and moon relationship; weather prediction, maps and instruments; fronts and air masses; ocean currents.

Social Studies 8

In Social Studies 8, students will study American History from the Revolutionary War to the end of the nineteenth century. We will study the nation's past and it's relation to the present and future. Subjects covered will include a review of exploration and colonization, the war for independence, formation of the United States government, foreign policy, Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Transition Math 8

This course completes the Transition Math book as well as the first four chapters of Algebra. There is an emphasis put on computational skills, but also on reading and problem solving. Successful completion of this course will provide students with a solid foundation for Algebra I.

Classes for High School Credit

We have the opportunity for a limited number of 8th grade students to take a high school courses. Please understand the following about these opportunities:

- The students would be expected to take the full year of the course. Any schedule changes will result in a change of other Core Classes.
- The course will be with high school students.
- Students earn high school credit for these courses. These credits will count toward High School Graduation progress and GPA.
- A limited number of slots are available. A lottery may be necessary to select students.

Potential High School Course Options

French I

Prerequisite: *B+ average or better in previous English course.* This is the first year of high school French. No previous knowledge of the language is required. The focus of this course is on mastery of the basic vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and oral skills necessary to communicate in French at the introductory level.

German I

Prerequisite: *B+ average or better in previous English course.* This is the first year of high school German. No previous knowledge of the language is required. The focus of this course is on mastery of the basic vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and oral skills necessary to communicate in German at the introductory level.

Spanish I

Prerequisite: *B+ average or better in previous English course.* This class assumes you have little or no knowledge of Spanish language or culture. It teaches the fundamentals of Spanish. A four skills approach (speaking, listening, reading and writing) with emphasis on communication is utilized. Latin and Spanish culture will be explored as well. Students should leave class with a basic knowledge base that would allow them to have a short conversation in Spanish.

Other 8th Grade Opportunities

Testing-out of the following core classes:

- Algebra I
- English 8
- Math 8
- Science 8
- Social Studies 8
- Physical Education/Health

We have made available some opportunities for students to accelerate in our core curriculum. This can be accomplished by “testing out” of one or more of the above courses. We do believe there is valuable content taught in these courses. Testing out of a course requires many hours spent learning material independently over the summer. There is a very small percentage of disciplined students who are able to accomplish this. Test out registration forms are available in the office.

Test-out dates for the middle school have been set for Tuesday, August 16th and Wednesday, August 17th from 8:00-3:30 on each day. Registration is due no later than Friday, May 27, 2016. Study materials will be available to pick up in the high school office on Wednesday, June 8th. A **\$25.00 deposit per course is required.**