

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS-Through the reading and analysis of quality literature and informational texts, students will develop skills in comprehension, vocabulary, critical thinking, writing, and public speaking. Students will be required to read independently and to develop a comprehensive appreciation for the written word. Writing will be taught as a process, incorporating pre-writing, drafting, responding, revising, editing and publishing. Students may also receive additional opportunities to incorporate computer skills within the curriculum, including the use of multi-media based programs and researching techniques.

Intervention English Language Arts-This course is designed to cover the essential content standards in English Language Arts. Students will read a variety of texts and practice the skills of effective and strategic readers. The writing instruction will be explicit and is designed to increase student writing proficiency. Students will study grade level literature, develop vocabulary, and respond to various creative and expository prompts throughout the course. Emphasis will be on comprehension, vocabulary development, critical thinking skills, and writing expression. Students will receive targeted instruction tailored to students' needs and academic goals.

SOCIAL SCIENCE U.S. History- This course focuses on American History and Government. By utilizing a variety of instructional materials and technologies, students will examine causes of the American Revolution, explore the rise of the new nation and the challenges faced, analyze growing regional differences between the North and South, and study the Civil War and its impact, past and present. Students will develop the skills necessary for active participation in our democratic society as responsible citizens. By linking the past to the present, students will explore the many facets of our diverse American society and the forces that have shaped it.

SCIENCE- The 8th grade integrated science program's units of study include: Motion, Forces, Structure of Matter, Reactions, Periodic Table, Density and Buoyancy (Physical Sciences); Earth and the Solar System (Earth Sciences); Chemistry of living Systems (Life Sciences). Students will explore these areas of science through investigation and experimentation. . (Department is exploring implementation of new cutting edge science curriculum that aligns with the new Next Generation Science Standards that may affect topics covered.)

MATHEMATICS Math 8-This course focuses on three critical areas, as well as an introduction to computer programming. The critical areas are: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Algebra 1-Students will learn and understand symbolic reasoning and calculations with symbols. Algebraic skills and concepts will be developed and applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations. Aligning with Vanden's course guidelines, moving to Geometry the following year is based on maintaining a B- or better and teacher recommendation.

Intervention Math 8- This course will cover the essential skills related to each content standard in Mathematics. Grade 8 will further their work with expressions and equations, linear functions and relationships, transformational geometry, and statistics. The focus will be on targeted instruction, tailoring the course materials to build students' skills and habits in helping them achieve academic goals at grade level

PHYSICAL EDUCATION- Physical education classes are based on the premise that a student's life is enhanced through participation in a comprehensive program that promotes physical fitness as well as mental, emotional, and social well-being. The program is designed to develop physically educated individuals to encourage the pursuit of lifelong activity and health. Emphasis is on fitness throughout each unit. Units may include physical fitness, individual and dual sports, team sports, health education, dance, and non-traditional games. All students are required to "dress out" and participate in physical education. Individual lockers and locks are provided and may not be shared with any other students.

SPECIAL EDUCATION--Specialized Academic Instruction for individual students will be in line with their IEP.

Resource Specialist Program (RSP)-Students in the Resource Program will receive instruction or assistance from a specialist in a resource classroom. When possible, assistance from a specialist or an instructional assistant is provided in their general education classes. The needs of both individuals and/or small groups are accommodated as necessary. The primary goal of the Resource Specialist Program is to prepare and assist students in becoming mainstreamed and to offer support in their efforts to meet with continual success in the common core standards and general education classroom environment.

Special Day Class (SDC)-Students whose needs cannot adequately be met in regular classes or the Resource Specialist Program receive the majority of their instruction in the Special Day Class. Students will participate in the regular program for subjects such as Physical Education and electives. This program provides each student with instruction tailored to his/her academic and social needs. The primary goal of the Special Day Class is to provide a setting in which each student is assisted in developing his/her skills and abilities to the fullest.