

Eighth Grade Course of Study

This is a list of all textbooks on the 8th grade grid for all areas

Language Arts

California Collections by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Close Reader

Performance Assessment

English by Houghton Mifflin

English Workbook Plus

Grammar Assessment Packet

Mathematics

Big Ideas Course 3 by Big Ideas Learning

Worked Out Solutions Manual

Performance Task Packet

Science

Physical Science by Holt

Study Guide B (Workbook)

Social Studies

Discovering Our Past: The American Journey to World War I by Glencoe

Chapter Quizzes and Tests

Maps, Charts, Graphs by Modern Curriculum Press

INTRODUCTION

The eighth grade year is a milestone year for the students. They are mastering their educational skills, learning to work independently, and preparing themselves to begin their high school years. The eighth grade theme, *A Grand Concept ~ The United States of America*, is about the building of this great nation through hard work, perseverance, and compromises. This yearlong plan encompasses the California State Standards for eighth grade, but also leaves room for flexibility in curriculum planning.

READING

The reading is centered around the California Collections anthology by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Students will work out of the textbook as well as the Close Reader. There are many weeks that students will work out of both. Please refer to the Collections Language Arts Instruction: 5 Day Lesson Plan in the grid. They will read from a variety of sources, novel excerpts, informational texts, articles, and blogs just to name a few.

Assessments or analytical activities are available for each selection to promote comprehension and higher order thinking. Teachers' editions are available for the parents, not only to correct

assignments, but also to assist with direct instruction. In addition, you can visit www.my.hrw.com for parent and student online resources. Please contact your resource teacher for access codes.

The Close Reader is designed for students to read and respond to the selection; students are strongly encouraged to write, underline, and/or highlight their responses in the consumable. This type of reading fosters deeper understanding of the selection and helps students prepare for the kind of assignments that will be required in high school.

WRITING

Short writing assignments are included for almost every week. These are from the California Collections textbook and correspond with the story being read. There are also four larger writing activities assigned throughout the year from the Performance Assessment Book. Students will be expected to read and compare different types of texts, then write the assigned essay. Students and parents should initially work together on these assignments to help students gain confidence in their writing.

ENGLISH

This book is an in-depth study of the grammar skills necessary for reading and writing success. It reviews all of the elements of grammar. The exercises reinforce the skills learned; Workbook Plus pages are also included to reinforce grammar skills as needed.

ADDITIONAL READING

In addition to the textbook, we suggest including daily reading with your student's work. We have a selection of titles that may correspond with Social Studies or Science concepts your student is studying, but students are free to choose their own books of interest.

KEYBOARDING

As our society is becoming more and more centered on technology, keyboarding is becoming an important skill for all students to master. We have included speed and accuracy goals for students. Ideally, students should feel comfortable enough on the computer to complete many of their assignments by the time they reach Jr. High.

MATHEMATICS

Our school-wide recommended curriculum for math is Big Ideas Course 3, a curriculum that is closely correlated to the State Standards. This standards-based course will continue to build on your student's math foundation to prepare your student for Algebra 1 in high school. Online resources are available at www.bigideasmath.com for students and parents. Access codes can be obtained from your resource teacher. Parents should spend ample time on instruction and check for understanding prior to students' independent practice.

Mathematical Practices

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Course Domains and Objectives

The Number System

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

Expressions and Equations

- 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 equations.

Functions

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

Geometry

- 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

- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

SCIENCE

Holt Physical Science is the text that we recommend for science. Companion components include Study Guide B and Chapter Tests. This book does an excellent job of covering the state standards for 8th grade science. In addition to the regular reading, it is full of hands-on activities and experiments to reinforce the learning.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Discovering Our Past: The American Journey to World War I This book gives an in-depth look at the beginnings of this country and the building of a great nation. Along with the textbook there is a packet of section quizzes and chapter tests to demonstrate knowledge of content. State Standards require not only a greater review of our history but also an emphasis on our Constitution. This year your student will also be required to pass a test on the Constitution.

Maps, Charts, Graphs This is a great review of geography, map skills, and reading graphs.

ART

While Art is an enrichment subject, it is always a favorite of students. Art ideas are scattered throughout the reading and history anthologies and give both art appreciation lessons as well as creative projects. We do have a collection of seasonal projects if you would like additional activities and numerous books on artists and art appreciation in our library and MESH drawers.

ENRICHMENT

You will want to take advantage of the many field trips that are offered throughout the school year. Trips are planned regularly so watch your newsletter for any excursion that you feel will be appropriate for your child or that peaks your interest.

MULTIMEDIA

Be sure to ask your resource teacher about videos, tapes, CD's and software that may be applicable to your course of study. There is online support for both the Language Arts and Math curriculums; be sure to ask your resource teacher for access codes. In addition, there are numerous websites that offer educational challenges for your child.