

8th Grade Honors Course Descriptions

Social Studies

Grade 8 Honors Social Studies is designed for those students who show strong academic potential and enjoy history. We will be covering early **American History from the years 1607-1877**. In honors we will emphasize using primary sources to evaluate historical events. These texts require very strong reading comprehension and above grade-level vocabulary. We will participate in debates, simulations, and project-based learning experiences that allow honors students to go in depth into the historical analysis process. These experiences are purposefully above grade-level. This course requires outside reading, research, and inquiry. Students will need strong academic writing skills, as well as the ability to actively and effectively engage in discussions and public speaking.

English Language Arts

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and viewing. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The focus of writing will be on narrative, informational, and argumentative. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students. The 8th grade ELA honors course is meant to be more rigorous and challenging for students. Learning is the focus, but the expectations and the responsibility of the student are important. Students should expect to be challenged in traditional and new ways. This course will include extra reading and writing throughout the year. Participation in class discussions is imperative.

Science

8th grade honors science will be ideal for self-motivated students with an enthusiasm for science. Fields of discussion will include genetics, geologic processes, and motion. Emphasis will be placed on discussion and lab setting. Students will be working extensively both independently and in groups. Successful honors level science students need strong math skills and writing skills. Students will need to be able to employ abstract thinking and accurately complete lab reports.