



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

8th Grade



8th Grade Language Arts I

Course Description and Goals

Language Arts I focuses on analyzing the meaning of complex expository and literary text. Students describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of text by using knowledge of structure, organization, and purpose. Additionally, students acquire skills on listening that allow them to access information about various subjects using not only written text, but also various media sources. Students evaluate the content of oral communication for similarities, differences, and points of view. They develop and deliver oral presentations including summaries of articles and original persuasive positions.

8th Grade Language Arts Policy for Redo and Retake

- You may redo any assignment in LA class; however, it must be done on your own time during lunch in the Language Arts classroom, or another location and time assigned by the teacher.
- The teacher reserves the right to substitute the original assignment with another of the same content.
- To retake a test you must study one full lunch hour with the teacher present and then take the test another lunch hour. You may be assigned after school tutorial in lieu of lunch hour.
- The teacher reserves the right to substitute the original test with another of the same content.



8th Grade Language Arts I continued

Content

Reading skills

Literary elements

Short stories

Novel and author study

Poetry

Independent reading

Characteristics of fiction and nonfiction

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Language Arts

Course Length: Year

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade



8th Grade Language Arts III

Course Description and Goals

Language Arts III focuses on the written English language. Time is spent on grammar, sentence structure, parts of speech, or mechanics. Students produce each of the following written pieces: research report, narrative, explanatory, argumentative, and self reflections. Students also learn to evaluate works using the Smarter Balanced Argumentative, Explanatory, and Narrative Writing rubrics. Students use content from the Social Studies material to write many of their essays.

Content

Argumentative Essays
Explanatory Essays
Narrative Essays
Research Reports
Journal Quick Write
Grammar
Sentence Structure
Parts of Speech
Mechanics

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Language Arts

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade



8th Grade Algebra I

Course Description and Goals

The fundamental purpose of 8th Grade Algebra I is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned through the end of 7th Grade. The critical areas, called units, deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend, and students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. In addition, the units will introduce methods for analyzing and quadratic functions, including manipulating expressions for them, and solving quadratic equations. Students understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem and use quadratic functions to model and solve problems.

Unit 1 – Quantities and Modeling

Unit 2 – Understanding Functions

Unit 3 – Linear Functions, Equations, and Inequalities

Unit 4 – Statistical Models

Unit 5 – Linear Systems and Piecewise-Defined Functions

Unit 6 – Exponential Relationships

Unit 7 – Polynomial Operations

Unit 8 – Quadratic Functions

Unit 9 – Quadratic Equations and Modeling

Unit 10 – Inverse Relationships

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Course Length: Year

Class Fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading Policy: Letter Grade



Geometry

Course Description and Goals

The fundamental purpose of the course in Geometry is to formalize and extend students' geometric experiences for the middle grades. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations for geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. Important differences exist between this geometry course and the historical approach taken in Geometry classes. For example, transformations are emphasized early in this course. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that student experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Content: The course follows the Idaho Common Core State Standards Mathematics:

Congruence, Proof, and Constructions

- Experiment with transformations in the plane.
- Understand congruence in terms of rigid motions.
- Prove geometric theorems.
- Make geometric constructions.

Similarity, Proof, and Trigonometry

- Understand similarity in terms of similarity transformations.
- Prove theorems involving similarity.
- Define trigonometric relations and solve problems involving right triangles.
- Apply geometric concepts in modeling situations.
- Apply trigonometry to general triangles.

Extending to Three Dimensions

- Explain volume formulas and use them to solve problems.
- Visualize the relation between two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects.
- Apply geometric concepts in modeling situations.

Connecting Algebra and Geometry through coordinates

- Use coordinates to prove simple geometric theorems algebraically.
- Translate between the geometric descriptions and the equation for a conic section.

Circles With and Without Coordinates

- Understand and apply theorems about circles.



Geometry continued

- Find arc lengths and areas of sectors of circles.
- Translate between the geometric description and the equation for a conic section.
- Use coordinates to prove simple geometric theorem algebraically.
- Apply geometric concepts in modeling situations.

Applications of Probability

- Understand independence and conditional probability and use them to interpret data.
- Use the rules of probability to compute probabilities of compound events in a uniform probability model.
- Use probability to evaluate outcomes of decisions.

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Course Length: Year

Class Fee: No, students will need a scientific calculator with sine, cosine, tangent, and their inverse functions. A compass is also highly recommended.

Teacher Approval:

Required Course: Yes

Grading Policy: Letter Grade



8th Grade Math

Course Description and Goals

Eighth Grade Math focuses on three (3) critical areas: 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.

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 linear equations.

Functions

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



8th Grade Math continued

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.

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Math

Course Length: Year

Class Fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading Policy: Letter Grade



8th Grade Math Lab

Course Description and Goals

Eighth Grade Math Lab focuses on supporting 8th Grade Mathematics. Basic skills are reviewed and strengthened including memorization of multiplication facts. New concepts are pre-taught and/or re-taught to enable struggling students to succeed in 8th Grade Mathematics by providing additional time on task within a smaller group and with more one-on-one instruction.

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Math

Course Length: Year

Class Fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading Policy: Letter Grade



8th Grade Social Studies

Course Description and Goals

This course uses the seven characteristics of civilizations and five themes of geography to learn about the beginning of life in the eastern hemisphere. The content of this course is used in writing essays for Language Arts II.

Content

Hominids
Ancient India
Ancient China
Ancient Egypt
Ancient Greece
Ancient Rome

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Social Studies

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade



8th Grade Health

Course Description and Goals

This course uses curriculum from *The Great Body Shop*. We will study the following topics:

1. What it means to be a life-long learner
2. Body systems
3. The cycle of life
4. Social and emotional health
5. Disease and illness prevention
6. Substance abuse prevention
7. Safety, injury, and violence prevention
8. Consumer, community, and environmental health

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite:

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade



8th Grade Earth Science

Course Description and Goals

The Earth Science program focuses on the sciences relating to earth and include the earth's motions, atmosphere, meteorology, and astronomy. We cover the fields of study such as: geology, hydrology, physical geography, soil science, oceanography, glaciology, planetary geology, and cartography.

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite: Life Science

Course Length: Year

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade



8th Grade Physical Science

Course Description and Goals

This course is for high school credit and is a two-part course. The first semester will be physics with topics on:

- Force
- Motion
- Work
- Simple and compound machines
- Energy transfers
- Electric/magnetic/light waves
- Mirrors and lenses

Second semester will be chemistry with topics on:

- Properties of matter (solid/liquid/gas)
- Atomic structure and the Periodic Table of Elements
- Chemical bonds and reactions
- Solutions acid/base
- Organic compounds

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite:

Course Length: One year

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: No

Grading policy: Letter grade; grades will be assigned to the students reflective of their performance in both their work and in their classroom attitude and behavior.



8th Grade Computers

Course Description and Goals

8th Grade Computers will cover digital citizenship, typing skills, and iPad use. Each of these skills are necessary for their transition from middle school to high school. In Quarter 1 we will learn about digital citizenship and Quarter 2 we will be using the iPad as an instructional tool. Topics covered:

- Digital etiquette and safety
- Typing skills
- iPad cloud usage
- iPad basic operation
- Apps for school
- Apps for time management

Required Supplies

Students will come prepared to class everyday with 2 writing utensils (pens and/or pencils) and a spiral notebook for notes.

Behavior

All I ask of you is to be safe, be respectful, be responsible. Please follow the classroom rules.

Open to: Grade 8

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Computers

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade; this class will follow the middle school standards for grading. Formative assessments will be 15% of your grade, while the remaining 85% of the grade will be Summative tests and projects. Please refer to the handout provided by me.



8th Grade Physical Education

Course Description and Goals

At Payette Lakes Middle School we are dedicated to promoting a productive life for all of our students. We also acknowledge that sports can provide unique lessons for when they enter the “real world”. Therefore, we emphasize participation, physical fitness, and sportsmanship in a variety of sports. The Presidential Fitness testing is used as an important record of student fitness progression with one test at the beginning of the year and one at the end. Appropriate participation and attitude is expected at all levels and is paramount in grading students.

This is a co-ed, semester class. To promote the desire of students to be active and lead healthy productive lives, we use and build on their acquired skills and knowledge with challenging yet fun sports and activities. Students are required to wear P.E. clothes and gym shoes. This class has less time on instruction of rules and skills and more on the play, strategies, and overall conditioning.

Objective

It has been proven that people function better both physically and mentally when they are physically fit and have a regular program of physical activity. In middle school P.E. we not only want to develop fitness now, but promote it as a life long habit. Through a combined program of fitness and sports activities, we hope to create positive experiences in a fun way that will help to enrich the lives of our students. We also believe that through sports, students can learn fundamental concepts such as teamwork, good sportsmanship, self-discipline, how to get along with others, and how to follow rules.

Requirements

Uniform - All students are required to dress for P.E. Dress includes weather appropriate clothing. Clothing which is torn or has buttons or zippers should not be worn. We also ask that each student has two pairs of shoes, one to be worn outside and one pair of clean, non-marking shoes for use in the gym. All clothing should have the student’s name on them.



Physical Education continued

Lockers – All students will be issued a locker and a lock in P.E. It is important that students keep their lockers locked when they are not using them. If they choose to, students may bring their own locks from home, but they must be combination locks and the combination must be given to the teacher before they can be used.

Excuses – Any note from home to excuse a student from P.E. will be honored for 3 days. Each note should include the dates the student is excused for, the nature of the injury or illness, and the parent's signature. Any problem which requires a longer period of time for recovery requires a note from the doctor.

Showers – While showers are recommended, they are not required. Please note that students who wish to shower must supply their own towels.

Open to: Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite:

Course Length: Semester

Class fee: No

Teacher approval: No

Required Course: Yes

Grading policy: Letter grade