

Clintondale Middle School Core Classes

7th Grade English Language Arts students will partake in challenging assignments that will begin to transition them from elementary to middle school expectations and prepare them for high school. They will get the chance to learn new things through individual studies and collaborative work with peers through investigations and discussions using Narrative Essays, Short Stories, Mystery, Autobiography/Biography, Greek Mythology, Grammar, Poetry, Drama, Persuasive Essays, and Research.

7th Grade ELA Objectives

Students will:

- learn about the writing process.
- practice their reading skills by reading aloud and silently.
- be able to compare and contrast stories and poems.
- learn note-taking strategies to improve reading comprehension.
- be able to write personal responses about their reading.
- engage in group work and oral presentations.
- learn to effectively correct their own writing and peers' writing.
- learn grammatical concepts to improve their writing skills.

7th Grade Mathematics is intended for all students to develop the skills and potential to participate fully both in school and within in the community. A central theme if the course is for students to explore, reason logically, and use a variety of mathematical methods to effectively solve problems using:

- Shapes and Properties
- Similarity
- Ratio, Proportion, and Percent
- Positive and Negative Numbers
- Linear Relationships
- Probability and Expected Value
- Variability, Comparing, and Grouping

7th Grade Science is driven by the State's Grade Level Content Expectations. The main topics and benchmarks will be covered in order to assist our students in mastering the NGSS expectations. The topics that will be covered this year will include the following:

Scientific Inquiry, Reflection and Social Implications
(Metric Measurement, Scientific Method)

Physical Science

- Electricity and Magnetism
- Energy (Kinetic, Potential, and Thermal)
- Properties of Matter (Physical, Chemical, Elements, Compounds)
- States of Matter

Life Science

- Reproduction in plants and animals
- Cells (Function, Photosynthesis)
- Heredity (Genetics)

Earth Science

- Rocks and Minerals
- Earthquakes, volcanoes
- Seafloor spreading
- Fossils

7th Grade Social Studies focuses on Ancient History. Students study informational text, utilize maps, and other forms of media to learn about ancient civilizations and cultures. Early civilizations will begin our study of civilizations. We will focus on early civilizations and empires and the contributions they have made. Characteristics of ancient civilizations and empires will be studied. We will discuss the role of geography in the development of these civilizations and discuss how their legacies impact our lives in the present day. Throughout the class we will use primary and secondary sources to study the past.

8th Grade English Language Arts encompasses how people communicate and what they communicate. Processes focused on in this course include the skills and strategies used in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and viewing. Instructional strategies used in 8th grade language arts class include: lecture, modeled writing, modeled reading, cooperative group learning, guided writing, guided reading, literature groups, video instruction, web-based instruction, educational games, and dramatization. The 8th grade ELA curriculum focuses on the following:

- Word Recognition and Word Study
- Narrative and Informational Text: short narrative, novels, expository text, poetry, student-produced work
- Comprehension and Fluency
- Writing Genre and Process: personal narrative, narrative poetry, persuasive essay, literary essay, comparative essay, research report
- Grammar, Usage and Spelling
- Speaking Conventions

Eighth Grade Mathematics is intended for all students to develop the skills and power to participate fully as a citizen and worker in our contemporary world. A central theme of the course is for all students to explore, reason logically and to use a variety of mathematical methods effectively to solve problems using:

- Rational and irrational number concepts
- Radical and integer exponents
- Proportional relationships, lines and linear equations
- Solve linear equations
- Solve pairs of simultaneous linear equations
- Functions
- Pythagorean Theorem
- Congruence and similarity

Algebra 1 is for Clintondale High School Credit and is intended for all students to develop the skills and power to participate fully as a citizen and worker in our contemporary world. A central theme of the course is for all students to explore, reason logically and to use a variety of mathematical methods effectively to solve problems using:

- Exploring Expressions, Equations and Functions
- Solving Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Graphing Relations and Functions
- Analyzing Linear Equations
- Solving Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Exploring Polynomials
- Using Factoring
- Exploring Quadratic and Exponential Functions
- Exploring Rational Expressions and Equations

8th Grade Science curriculum is driven by benchmarks outlined by the Michigan Department of Education. This year we will be integrating national science standards - the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) with the state's High School Content Expectations. Areas of study will include the following:

- Genetics & Natural Selection
- History of Life on Earth
- Sound & Light Waves
- Solar System
- Weather & Climate

- Natural Hazards
- Human Activities & Climate Change

8th Grade Social Studies introduces students to the history of the United States from the Articles of Confederation to the end of the 19th century. Using primary and secondary sources, they explore time and place in nineteenth century America. Beginning with the political and intellectual transformations that preceded the Articles of Confederation, students review the ideas and principles that form the basis of our constitutional republic. Students further their understanding of American government from an in-depth study of the United States Constitution and the evolution of the government created during its first century. Students explore the challenges faced by the new nation and the role of political and social leaders in meeting these challenges. Students also analyze the nature and effect of territorial, demographic, and economic growth in the 19th century. They analyze and evaluate early attempts to abolish or contain slavery and to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence for all. In studying the Civil War and Reconstruction, students evaluate multiple causes, key events, and complex consequences of the war and its aftermath. Students are introduced to some of the major changes in American society in the last part of the 19th century as they explore large-scale changes over time in the development of the United States. As students examine contemporary public issues during the course, they explore connections to issues of the past. Throughout the course, students learn to use historical evidence to both support historical arguments and to construct historical narratives.