

Edgar Middle School

Courses of Study

Grade 8

English Language Arts (ELA)

ELA-8

The comprehensive eighth grade English Language Arts program integrates the elements of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and grammar. The expectation is that the students receive direct and differentiated instruction in each of these elements. This standards and research-based curriculum is designed to build upon each student's experiences and skills addressed in the previous school year and facilitate student growth in the areas delineated by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts, which in turn assists each student in becoming critical, lifelong readers and writers.

Mathematics

Plane and Solid Geometry

Plane and Solid Geometry is the second formal secondary mathematics course offered to college prep students. This course requires successful completion of Algebra 1 in seventh grade. Problems involving spatial visualization are stressed and students learn the importance of precision language. Deductive reasoning is used extensively and algebraic skills are strengthened. Principles of plane, space and coordinate geometry are introduced. This course provides students with the tools necessary for success on the PARCC Geometry Assessment.

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 is the first formal secondary mathematics course offered to college prep students. This course requires prior mastery of Pre-Algebra concepts, and continues with an in-depth look at the language, skills, procedures, and concepts of Algebra. It assumes that students who enroll will possess strong fundamental knowledge and competence with numerical operations and have a solid grasp of basic concepts and relations in mathematics. Algebraic representation and simplification are emphasized as students are taught to solve equations and apply their knowledge to problem-solving. Students will be expected to demonstrate mastery in all phases of this subject. This course provides students with the tools necessary for success on the PARCC Algebra I Assessment.

Pre-Algebra Math- 8

Pre-Algebra is a course which helps to prepare students for Algebra I in ninth grade. This program not only focuses on numerical, proportional and algebraic reasoning but it also

reviews the skills needed to be successful in Algebra I. Students will derive practical applications for ratios, proportions, percents, fractions and decimals. The language of algebra is reinforced through the use of variables, expressions, and equations. Students work with algebraic functions, relationships and graphs as well as mathematical topics pertinent to the successful completion of the PARCC 8 assessment.

Math-8

Math 8 is the third year of the Middle School Skills Math Program. It provides students with the necessary foundation for algebra readiness and helps to make the transition from a middle school math program to a high school level math program easy and rewarding. Lessons include skill practice and multi-step problem solving situations. These topics include real number properties, geometric formulas, linear equations and their graphs. The program is currently aligned with the New Jersey Learning Standards for Mathematics providing students with the tools necessary for success on the PARCC 8 assessment.

Social Studies

Social Studies-8

Social Studies 8 is the second year of a two-year program that explores the global changes that occurred as ancient empires gave way to post-classical civilizations. The historical study is chronological as well as global as students examine the cultures and civilizations of ancient Rome, medieval Europe, as well as post-classical Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The curriculum is aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in Social Studies and 21st Century Skills

Science

Science 8

In Science 8 students learn about physical science, focusing on Matter & It's Interactions; Energy, Forces & Motion; and Electricity, Waves & Information Transfer. The emphasis of the course is to further develop students' science inquiry and problem solving skills, to advance deep understanding of science content, concepts and processes, and to provide opportunities for meaningful application of science learning. Students will frequently be actively engaged in hands-on investigations, allowing them to build knowledge based on their observations and experiences in a teacher supported environment. Students will experience both individual and cooperative learning activities, with opportunities to relate learning to the world around them, solve problems with scientific information, and develop engineering designs. Scientific literacy and the ability to communicate about science through reading, writing and speaking is an important part of this course.

World Language

Spanish-8

This academic year of Spanish is an intensive study of the language and cultures of Spanish speaking countries. The students cover the entire *Esprestate 1B* textbook (Holt), which covers four chapters. Building on previous Spanish knowledge the students will continue to experience listening, speaking, reading and writing in the target language. The curriculum is tied closely to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for World Languages.

German-8

This is an introductory course in German presented in a full year format. Students will develop a beginning level of proficiency in the language and explore the cultures of German speaking nations. The four basic language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) will be incorporated into the classes. The text used is *Komm mit! Level 1* (Holt). The curriculum is tied closely to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for World Languages.

French-8

This is an introductory course in the French language in which students will be working in all areas of communicative functions (listening, speaking, reading and writing), grammar, vocabulary and culture. This course is presented in a full year format. The study of French will focus attention on interpersonal communication as well as ways language and culture interacts. The used is *Bien dit! Level 1* (Holt). The curriculum is tied closely to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for World Languages.

Physical Education/Health Education

Physical Education

Physical Education is a co-educational program. Activities in the program are designed for the students to explore various positive physical experiences. These activities are used as a medium for attaining, improving and maintaining physical fitness. The students will be introduced to sports for recreational purposes while developing sportsmanship qualities. Skills will help develop agility, balance, cardio-vascular endurance, flexibility and strength. Individual skills, team play, strategy and playing rules of sports and games are taught. Opportunities for skill development in lifetime sports are also offered for carry-over value later in life.

Health-8

This marking period course is designed as a comprehensive program designed to promote wellness by focusing on the physical, emotional, and social aspects of the adolescent student. It is designed to prepare students to make sound life decisions. It covers social interaction, substance abuse, disease prevention, and intrapersonal relationships in a context to which middle school students can relate.

Cycle Courses

Woods/Design-8

In this program students develop an understanding of basic design and woodworking techniques and develop skills in the proper use of equipment, hand tools, and supplies toward the creation of multiple woodworking projects. Students gain valuable hands-on experience as well as a sense of accomplishment in the completion of ornamental woodworking projects. Appropriate workplace readiness standards will be addressed throughout the program.

Art-8

Students in Grade 8 who choose Art will spend two cycles working in-depth on techniques in various genres, helping the student grow in independence, aesthetic sensitivity, emotional control and cooperative attitude. Students will begin the process of finding their voice artistically as they increase their skills and express their feelings through constructive media.

Guitar-8

Students in Grade 8 who choose Guitar will learn the basics of guitar playing, such as proper handling of the instrument, posture and playing technique, music and tab reading, and playing chords. Students will learn how to play melodies as well as strumming patterns. Chord progressions will be taught as students work on repertoire, either solo or small ensemble playing.

Computer Science-8

Computer Science is an exploratory course designed to introduce students to the field of computer science through engaging and accessible topics. The course will provide students with a sense of what a computer scientist can do by providing content, practice and professional connections. Specifically, students will develop practices in algorithm, problem solving and programming within the context of problems relevant to student's lives. This course teaches the creative, collaborative, interdisciplinary, and problem-solving nature of computing with the instructional materials that feature an inquiry-based approach to learning.

Music Ensembles

7th & 8th Grade Band

The 7th and 8th Grade Bands continue to build on the study and mastery of an instrument, the development of critical listening skills, theoretical skills with regard to reading musical notation and growing an appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of music both as a performer and a listener. The program closely addresses all New Jersey Core Content Standards for the Performing Arts.

7th & 8th Grade Chorus

Chorus in 7th and 8th grade offers students the opportunity to participate in a vocal music program dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Vocal development, basic musicianship, confidence in the singing voice and dealing with the vocal change in middle school singers are addressed. The curriculum will focus on all elements addressed in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for the Performing Arts.

7th & 8th Grade Orchestra

This course is intended for the student who wishes to learn about and enjoy music through performance on a string instrument. Emphasis is placed upon developing the skills, knowledge, teamwork and musical insights necessary for mature performance. The orchestra performs a variety of literature, from arrangements of classical music to contemporary popular music, providing a well-rounded, informed aesthetic education as outlined in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for the Performing Arts.

Gifted and Talented

ROGATE

ROGATE is a course for 8th grade gifted students who are eager to explore and research a topic of their own choosing. Students will study the research process, select a topic, create a hypothesis and work on individual research projects. The end result will be a formal essay and a 12 minute speech, which they will present to a formal audience. *To be eligible for this course, students must complete an application process, demonstrate strength in writing and critical thinking, demonstrate a high level of proficiency in both Social Studies and Language Arts, and receive teacher recommendations. Advanced students must demonstrate an outstanding work ethic. Extensive independent work is required; therefore, students placed in this course must demonstrate diligence, responsibility and perseverance in order to retain eligibility in this course.*

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