

EXPLORER MIDDLE SCHOOL ~ 2006 - 2007 ~ ACADEMIC CLASSES ~ EIGHTH GRADE

All students are required and automatically assigned English, Literature, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

ENGLISH

English (Yr/1.0)

Eighth grade English covers the state standards of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will complete novel studies, read poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, and drama. Additionally, Accelerated Reading is used as an independent reading program. Vocabulary development and the writing process, including grammar, usage, and six traits will be continuous and woven throughout instruction. Students will continue to develop expository and multi-paragraph essays, as well as writing for a variety of purposes. Students will complete a research paper and projects involving written and oral presentation.

Honors English (Yr/1.0)

Eighth grade honors English covers the state standards of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will complete novel studies, read poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, and drama with a focus on critical analysis. Additionally, Accelerated Reading is used as an independent reading program. Advanced vocabulary development and the writing process, including grammar, usage, and six traits will be continuous and woven throughout instruction. Students will continue to develop expository, and multi-paragraph essays, as well as writing for a variety of purposes. Students will complete a research paper and projects involving written and oral presentation.

Successful honors English students possess the following skills: 1) Excellent writing—good thought processes and organizational skills, stylistic maturity; 2) Excellent reading ability—ability and willingness to read lengthy assignments, desire to read independently, ability and willingness to read from the classics; 3) Excellent study habits—ability to pace themselves on long term assignments, willingness to go “above and beyond” on assignments and projects, self motivation; 4) Excellent class participation—ability to analyze and discuss literature, good oral communication skills. **Students must maintain a grade of “B” or higher to remain in honors English.**

Literature (Semester/5)

Eighth grade literature is a continuation of the seventh grade curriculum. This class is standards based and required of all eighth grade students, regardless of their reading level or ability. Students will apply reading strategies to various genres. Curriculum will include fiction and non-fiction selections, reading comprehension, note taking, literary response, and vocabulary development using Latin and Greek stems. Students will complete most assignments and projects in class.

MATH

Intro. to Algebra (Yr/1.0)

This course is designed to help students strengthen their foundational skills in math and introduce them to algebraic reasoning. The primary goals of the course are aligned with the Arizona State standards. Topics include; relationships among numbers and different number systems, solving word problems using appropriate operations and numbers, using appropriate terminology, discrete mathematics, functions and relationships, algebraic representations, geometric properties, and others. Students are placed according to teacher recommendations and results of placement testing.

Algebra (Yr/1.0)

This course is designed for the student who has shown mastery of pre-algebra skills and the 8th grade Arizona State standards. This is a rigorous course for the most capable and dedicated student. The primary goals of the course are aligned with the Arizona State standards for Algebra. This course includes a study of sets of real numbers, solution of first and second-degree equations, graphing on the coordinate plane, applications of algebra to data analysis and probability, patterns and functions and their applications and basic mathematical structures. Students are placed according to teacher recommendation and results of placement testing. Students must maintain a C in the class. Students who successfully complete this course **and** meet specified requirements would begin the study of Geometry in 9th grade.

Geometry (Yr/1.0)

This course is designed for the student who has shown mastery of Algebra and the 8th grade Arizona State standards. This is a rigorous course for the most capable and dedicated student. The primary goals of the course are aligned with the Arizona State standards. This course includes the study of formal geometric proofs, polygons, circles, coordinate geometry, solution of right triangle trigonometry problems, Euclidean transformations, and mathematical structure and logic. This course will also use technology as a tool in problem solving. Students are placed according to teacher recommendation and results of placement testing. Students must have a B average in the class.

SCIENCE

Science (Yr/1.0)

Arizona State content standards at the eighth grade level include the areas of physics, chemistry, and life science. Science process and skill standards promote the inquiry process, the history and nature of science, and understanding the impact of science and technology. Student’s instruction will include lecture, hands-on activities, formal lab reports, cooperative learning groups, and WEB based research.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies (Yr/1.0)

Eighth grade social studies covers the Arizona state standards based on the themes of American History, World History, Government, Geography, and Economics. These five themes are incorporated throughout a curriculum emphasizing the historical foundations and democratic principles that framed our Constitution and led to our form of democracy. The history from WWII to the contemporary world is also studied.