

ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR EIGHTH GRADE

Language Arts

Reading Standards for Literature

Key Ideas and Details

- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

Craft and Structure

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
- Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

Knowledge and Ideas

- Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.
- Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new.

Text Complexity

- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

Craft and Structure

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
- Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

Knowledge and Ideas

- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
- Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.

Text Complexity

- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at the high end of the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

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Writing

Text Types and Purposes

- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- Write informative/explanatory texts, including career development documents (e.g., simple business letters and job applications), to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
- Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Range of Writing

- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.
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Language

Conventions of Standard English

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Knowledge of Language

- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 8 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

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Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 8 topics, texts, and issues*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.
- Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

Knowledge and Ideas

- Present claims and findings (e.g., argument, narrative, response to literature presentations), emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.
 - Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.
 - Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
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Mathematics

The 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 connection 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.

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.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR EIGHTH GRADE

Science

Key Ideas and Details

- Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.
- Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.

Craft and Structure

- Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to *grades 6–8 texts and topics*.
- Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to an understanding of the topic.
- Analyze the author’s purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text.

Knowledge and Ideas

- Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).
- Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on research findings, and speculation in a text.
- Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.

Text Complexity

- By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend science/technical texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Force and Motion

- Students will understand that unbalanced forces cause changes in velocity.
- Students will be able to recognize that the velocity of an object is the rate of change of its position and calculate an object’s velocity.

Chemistry

- Structure of Matter – Students understand that elements have distinctive properties and atomic structure.
- Periodic Table – Students understand and apply the information from the table. Students will classify elements by their properties.
- Chemical Reactions – Students understand the concept of conservation of matter, the role of reactants and products in a chemical reaction and can balance chemical equations.
- Carbon Chemistry – Students understand the chemical composition of living organisms.

Density and Buoyancy

- Students know how to predict whether a substance will float or sink based on the calculation of density.
- Students know how to calculate the density of a substance.

Structure and Composition of the Universe

- Students understand the composition of stars and galaxies.
- Students understand that stars are the source of light for all bodies in the universe and that all other objects reflect starlight.
- Students know the appearance, general composition, relative position and size and motion of objects in the solar system.

Investigation and Experimentation

- Students develop questions, perform investigations, and display and analyze data.

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Social Science

Key Ideas and Details

- Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- Identify key steps in a text's description of a process related to history/social studies (e.g., how a bill becomes law, how interest rates are raised or lowered).

Text Complexity

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
- Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).
- Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).

Knowledge and Ideas

- Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
- Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text.
- Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.

Craft and Structure

- By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.
- Students will understand the role of geography in the expansion of America from the American Revolution through Reconstruction.
- Students will examine the formation of political, economic and social institutions from 1760 to 1900.
- Students will analyze conflicts in American history both domestic and foreign.
- Students will interpret historical information through the application of essential skills.

Physical Education

- Demonstrate motor skills and movement patterns in team activities.
- Demonstrate knowledge of movement concepts, principles and strategies of team activities.
- Demonstrate and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness to perform team activities.
- Demonstrate knowledge of fitness concepts, principles and strategies to perform team activities.
- Demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior during team activities.

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Exploratory Wheel

Students are enrolled in an exploratory wheel or an elective for one period of the day. Students enrolled in the exploratory wheel, participate in a new class each trimester. These classes are visual and performing arts, life skills, and technology/communications. Students may participate in AVID or an intervention class in-lieu of one or more of the three exploratory wheel classes. Examples of intervention classes include Shadow Math and Reading Resource.

In **Visual Arts**, students learn and apply art skills, study artists and art periods, and learn art vocabulary. **Performing Arts** include pantomime, history of theater, Reader's Theater, radio drama and a production. In **Music**, students learn musical rhythms, about types of music, and basic keyboarding skills.

In **Life Skills**, students begin to study physical, intellectual, emotional and social health. Students learn problem solving and decision-making skills, group dynamics and bullying prevention.

In **Technology and Communications**, students use hardware and software for communication, learn technology tools, and improve keyboarding skills.

AVID

The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program is offered at selected grade levels. The program supports students in developing the skills needed to go to college. Through AVID, students receive tutoring and learn study skills and habits for success. Students must interview and show a commitment to work hard to be accepted into the class. Students enrolled in AVID are encouraged to continue in AVID through high school.

SHADOW MATH

Shadow math is a second math class which gives students more time to master grade level math standards. In shadow math students practice prior math skills to ensure a strong base of understanding, are pre-taught new concepts that will be taught in regular math class. Shadow math helps students to be prepared and successful in math.

BAND

In band, students learn music theory and technique. Students rehearse pieces and perform throughout the year. Students compete in several festivals and are encouraged to audition for the Capitol Section Honor Band. Beginning Band is offered in 6th grade, Concert and Jazz Band is offered in 7th and 8th grades. Students can learn to play an instrument.

Artistic Perception

- Read and Notate Beginning Band Music

Creative Expression

- Apply Instrumental Skills

Aesthetic Valuing

- Evaluate Individual and Group Performances

Extracurricular Opportunities

Students are offered many extra-curricular activities at each middle school. For more information contact your child's school office (Antelope Crossing Middle School at 745-2100, Creekview Ranch School at 770-8845 and Silverado Middle School at 780-2620). These activities include drama, yearbook, athletics, and clubs.

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Honors Pathway Courses

Students who qualify for the Honors Pathway learn the state approved grade level standards. However, the pace, depth and rigor is noticeably increased so that students can achieve at their level of skill and understanding. Honors courses are offered in Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.

Specifically in the Mathematics courses, grade level content is compacted for acceleration as follows.

- **6th grade** – All 6th grade math content and a portion of 7th grade
- **7th grade** – The remaining 7th grade content and all of 8th grade
- **8th grade** – Integrated Math I equivalent to the 9th grade high school course

8th Grade Mathematics

The 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 connection 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.

Geometry

- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
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Statistics and Probability

- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

Integrated Math I

Number and Quantity

Quantities

- Reason quantitatively and use units to solve problems.

Algebra

Seeing Structure in Expressions

- Interpret the structure of expressions.

Creating Equations

- Create equations that describe numbers or relationships.

Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities

- Understand solving equations as a process of reasoning and explain the reasoning.
- Solve equations and inequalities in one variable.
- Solve systems of equations.
- Represent and solve equations and inequalities graphically.

Functions

Interpreting Functions

- Understand the concept of a function and use function notation.
- Interpret functions that arise in applications in terms of the context.
- Analyze functions using different representations.

Building Functions

- Build a function that models a relationship between two quantities.

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- Build new functions from existing functions.

Linear, Quadratic, and Exponential Models

- Construct and compare linear, quadratic, and exponential models and solve problems.
- Interpret expressions for functions in terms of the situation they model.

Geometry

Congruence

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

Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations

- Use coordinates to prove simple geometric theorems algebraically.

Statistics and Probability

Interpreting Categorical and Quantitative Data

- Summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable.
- Summarize, represent, and interpret data on two categorical and quantitative variables.
- Interpret linear models

Superintendent: Brad Tooker

Board of Education:

Diane Howe

Scott Otsuka

Tracy Pittman

Jeff Randall

Bill Schuetz

Resources:

Additional District Information: www.drycreek.k12.ca.us

By working together, schools and parents create the maximum opportunity for student success.