



## Eighth Grade Curriculum Guide

**PRIORITY STANDARDS:** District 92 guarantees that each student will know and be able to demonstrate proficiency by the end of the school year. Students who have not mastered the priority standards will be supported to progress toward mastery. Students who have mastered the priority standards will receive enrichment activities/tasks to grow further.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

District 92 utilized a structured literacy approach to literacy instruction based on the science of reading. The science of reading is an evidence-based approach to teaching reading that draws on research from various fields, including psychology, linguistics, cognitive science, and education. It responds to the need for effective reading instruction and is informed by a growing body of scientific research on how the brain learns to read.

The science of reading advocates for systematic, explicit, and sequential instruction based on understanding how language and reading develop in the brain. It highlights the importance of early and effective intervention for struggling readers and promotes evidence-based practices in literacy instruction. Teachers who follow the science of reading approach aim to provide students with a solid foundation in the essential skills needed for proficient reading and comprehension.

The science of reading in eighth grade builds upon the foundational literacy skills developed in earlier grades. It continues to focus on key aspects of reading, including reading fluency, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension. Reading in eighth grade focuses more on research skills, literary analysis, and critical thinking. Teachers continue to build on foundational reading skills and help students become more sophisticated readers. The goal is to equip students with the skills and strategies needed to comprehend and analyze various texts independently and critically.

### MATH

In eighth grade, the focus of mathematics typically builds on the foundational mathematical concepts learned in earlier grades. The curriculum is designed to deepen their understanding of mathematical principles, introduce more advanced topics, and prepare them for higher-level math courses. The emphasis is on developing problem-solving skills, mathematical reasoning, and a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of mathematical ideas.

Here are some key areas of focus in eighth-grade mathematics:

- **Number Systems:** Know that there are numbers that are not rational and approximate them by rational numbers.



- **Expressions and Equations:** 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.
- **Geometry:** Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software. Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving the volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres.
- **Ratio and Proportional Relationships:** Understand the concept of a unit rate and use it to solve problems. Use proportional relationships to solve multi-step ratio and percent problems.
- **Statistics and Probability:** Understanding the concept of probability and calculating probabilities in simple experiments. Analyzing and interpreting statistical data, including measures of central tendency and variability.

Aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, Eighth Grade students will explore the following units of study:

- Unit 1: Equations
- Unit 4: Graphing and Writing Linear Equations
- Unit 7: Functions
- Unit 5: Systems of Linear Equations
- Unit 3: Angles and Triangles
- Unit 9: Real Numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem
- Unit 8: Exponents and Scientific Notation
- Unit 6: Data Analysis and Displays
- Unit 2: Transformations
- Unit 10: Volume and Similar Solids

### SCIENCE

Students at Oak Prairie Jr. High School utilize a program called Lab-Aides. This program allows students to participate in screen-free labs and investigations. Instructional design and unique equipment help bring out student ideas and encourage learning through personal, concrete experiences. This program is aligned with the NGSS and Common Core State Standards, including Disciplinary Core Ideas, Science and Engineering Practices, and Cross-Cutting Concepts. Eighth graders will investigate:

- Body
- Cells - Biology and Disease



- Ecology
- Evolution
- Genetics

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

The Illinois Social Studies Standards for eighth grade are aligned with the College and Career Readiness (CCR) standards and encompass a variety of topics to promote students' understanding of social studies concepts and skills. The standards are organized into four main strands: Civics, Economic and Financial Literacy, Geography, and History. Teachers often use various instructional materials and resources to address these standards, fostering a comprehensive understanding of social studies concepts for eighth-grade students.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The Physical Education (PE) curriculum for grades K-8 promotes physical activity, motor skill development, and overall health and well-being. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the grades, incorporating age-appropriate activities and focusing on developing fundamental movement skills.

### **SPECIALS**

#### **MUSIC**

In eighth-grade music class, students continue to build upon the foundational music concepts introduced in earlier grades while incorporating more advanced topics and skills. The focus is on providing a well-rounded musical education, fostering creativity, and preparing students for more specialized musical studies in high school. The goal is to prepare students for a more advanced understanding of music and foster a lifelong appreciation.

#### **ART**

The junior high art curriculum in District 92 is designed to build on foundational artistic skills while exploring more advanced concepts and techniques. The focus is to foster creativity, self-expression, and a deeper understanding of various art forms. The goal is to develop more advanced techniques, explore diverse media, and encourage students to express themselves creatively through various art forms while building a strong foundation for future artistic endeavors.