



# 8th Grade Mathematics

Class of 2029

2024-2025  
School Year

## Welcome to Mrs. Wadsworth's Class at Monticello Trails Middle School!

### What will we learn?

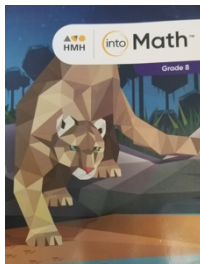
- Unit 1: Solving Equations and Applications
- Unit 2: Angle Relationships
- Unit 3: Functions and Linear Equations
- Unit 4: Statistics and Probability
- Unit 5: Real Numbers and Pythagorean Theorem
- Unit 6: Exponents, Scientific Notation, and Volume

### Kansas Standards:

Our units and textbook align with the Kansas State Math Standards: [Math Standards](#)

### Our Textbook:

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, *Into Math*, 2020  
 Each student will also have an on-line version of this textbook.



There will be daily/weekly work from both the on-line and traditional books.

### Materials:

Charged Macbook Air	Math Binder w/ Dividers	Pencils	Wired Earbuds
Loose Leaf Paper	TI-84 Graphing Calculator – recommended after Spring State Testing Class Set is present but will need own in high school		

### Grading:

Students will be graded on the work performed in class, learning target mastery grades (skill practice), quizzes and tests performed at school, and projects done both in class and/or outside of school. **Each student** is responsible for turning in assignments on time and getting caught up on any work they missed while absent for any reason. Expectations will be strict to assist students in developing successful habits for work completion. Grades will be calculated using total points.

### Teacher Contact Information:

Haley Wadsworth  
 8th Grade Explorers Team

Email:  
 HWadsworth@usd232.org

School Phone:  
 913-422-1100

Please always feel free to email any time you have questions. Phone calls are accepted, understanding I may not be able to return your call until after school or during my planning period.

We share one common goal:  
*Your child's success!*

## Late Work:

Your student may receive up to 20% deduction for work submitted after the intended due date. For each day of excused absence, your student will receive 2 school days to turn in any assignment(s) they missed without penalty. The only exception to this rule is for a previously known project due date; these projects are due immediately upon your student's return to school.

Late work will be accepted until the day of the Module/Unit/Chapter test is taken, then any missing assignments associated with the Module/Unit/Chapter will become zeros and unable to be made up.

## Skyward:

When looking at grades, Skyward is your official grade location. There are grades present in Canvas, but they are not the official grade represented on your student's grade card.

When an asterisk \* is present, this indicates that an assignment is still in process of being entered, it does not mean the assignment is missing. A missing assignment is notated by a 0 entered for the points and NHI (not handed in) as the code associated with the assignment.

## Submitting Work:

Students will submit all work through Canvas or directly on the HMH textbook website. When there are paper assignments, turn in trays are located in my room for your student to turn their work into, but prior to turning it in, generally a photo will be submitted onto Canvas to show that the assignment was submitted/turned in.

## Assessment Retakes:

Students may retake any assessment in which they are not satisfied with the grade they earned up to 2 additional times, with the best score taken as their grade as long as their re-assessment date is 2 days prior to the end of the quarter in which the assessment is within. All practice work must be completed, and corrections of their initial test will be done prior to re-assessing. Once these protocols are confirmed by myself, then I will schedule a time for your student to re-assess. This could take place before or after school, or during WIN as long as the student is comfortable with that setting and shortened period. I have multiple versions of each test so the retake will be a different version of the first test they took, but will cover the same content and concepts each time.

## Cheating/AI:

A note about cheating: **Cheating will not be tolerated.** If you are caught cheating, you will receive a zero for the assignment or test. If you are helping someone to cheat (giving answers, sharing tests, etc.), you will receive a zero on the assignment or test. AI and PhotoMath are amazing resources, but they should guide your thinking, not ultimately "BE" your work. If you use these resources as your work, it will be caught and treated the same as my cheating policy written above.

## Essential Standards of Math 8: What ALL Students will Leave Math 8 Mastering

<b>I CAN:</b>	<b>solve linear equations and inequalities</b>
	<b>construct a linear function</b>
	<b>compare linear functions represented in various forms</b>
	<b>identify, solve for, and graph slope and y-intercept from a table, 2 points, and a graph.</b>
	<b>apply &amp; solve for the unknown side length of a right triangle with Pythagorean Theorem</b>

## English Language Arts

Mrs. Leigh Ann James

2024-2025

Welcome! I am excited to partner with you for a wonderful eighth grade year in ELA. My goal is that every student walks out of MTMS in May ready for high school in the areas of literacy, communication, and citizenship. I will relentlessly pursue these goals all year long. I will challenge students to grow personally which means that critical thinking as well as kindness is expected. I will challenge students to grow academically which means that assignments will be personalized, completion essential, and intervention in the form of another try or an extension will occur. This requires much energy from all of us. To this end, I ask that you help me with the following:

**Students**, your education is your responsibility. If you have any questions about class, I need to hear from you. You may need to arrange a time to meet after school for additional help or see me during WIN time. Email communication should come from you with your parents cc'd. Organize your schoolwork by utilizing your agenda, the e-genda, and Canvas. You are responsible for checking Skyward often to ensure you are keeping pace with the rest of the class and earning the grade you would like. This class is designed to challenge you, so it will at times be difficult. You may struggle with schoolwork, understanding the content, with anxiety, with social pressures, or with other students. If you are struggling, I need to know about it to help you. Lastly, if you are absent, check Canvas to see what you need to catch up on. You will need to make up anything that happened while gone. With each passing year, responsibility increases, but so does the freedom to make your own decisions. When you make the right ones, you will experience the positive outcomes you desire. I can assure you this year will require much effort from you, but the payoffs are more than worth it, and we will have fun in the process.

**Parents and Guardians**, students need to take ownership of their education to ensure high school success. Please help them to take responsibility for class work by having them communicate with me first. I welcome your partnership and want to hear from you whenever you need clarification, but I encourage students to communicate with me by email and to cc you to keep you in the loop. Most eighth grade students need parental guidance to find the organization system that works best for them, whether it be setting alarms on their phones, using the sticky notes app on their MacBooks, or keeping track of responsibilities in their agendas. Most importantly, the practice that will truly improve reading comprehension in all areas is simply to read daily. I assign reading practice as homework. That daily homework is either 20-30 minutes of reading or studying specific content for a test. Again, this will be personalized to each student according to their overall skill level. Students will have a reading record to jot down the central idea of each day's content. Please check to make sure this is completed habitually as it will vastly improve their overall skill level and will be a significant portion of their overall grade.

Grades will be based on total points. In ELA, Letter grades mean the following:

A: The student meets and/or exceeds mastery of Kansas English Language Arts standards.

B: The student shows basic mastery of KS ELA standards.

C: The student sometimes shows basic mastery of KS ELA standards.

D: The student struggles to show basic understanding of KS ELA standards.

F: The student fails to demonstrate basic understanding of KS ELA standards.

Extra credit is awarded for extra reading and at my discretion, for exemplary work that demonstrates that the student has gone above and beyond in their effort and/or quality on individual assignments. This is available every quarter to achieve the letter grade they desire.

Plagiarism of any kind is strictly forbidden. Students are expected to produce work that is entirely their own. Plagiarism can include, but is not limited to, copying another student's work, using artificial intelligence sites/applications to generate wording and pass it off as their own, or using someone else's work without proper citations. Any work found to be plagiarized will receive zero points and may result in a detention and/or office referral.

I guarantee improvement over the course of the year with this partnership and vow to work diligently to meet the improvement goals. Grading happens quickly on reading assignments, but takes a bit more time on written work. Please be patient with me as I carefully assess writing. I am excited to get started this year, to get to know students, to watch them excel, and to work together for the benefit of each one!

## **8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA nuts and bolts**

### **Objectives:**

1. We will analyze and evaluate complex text.
2. We will compose high school level writing by the end of the year.
3. We will confidently speak in front of an audience.
4. We will actively listen to learn information in order to respond appropriately.

### **Materials Needed: (These should be with students every day.)**

\*Pencils, pens, highlighters (3-4 different colors)

\*Agenda

\*ELA folder

\*Earphones with a cord

\*MacBook Air

\*Book Club book

\*Pencil bag or container

### **Class Guidelines:**

1. Respect yourself. You are valuable and worth the effort!
2. Respect your elders. Your parents and educators care about you, your learning, and your future. We work together with you for your benefit.
3. Respect your education. You deserve this, so do your part, and have fun!
4. Respect your peers. Everyone has something to offer. Be nice, help each other, and treat others the way you would like to be treated.
5. Respect your environment. Live gratefully and take care of things.

### **Book Club Requirements:**

I ask each student to read daily and want them to enjoy doing so. They will choose 1-2 novels to read each quarter. Novel choices should be based on interest and appropriate reading level. Books are available from our library, the public library, and my classroom library. Students will submit choices to me for approval and be grouped according to genre for book clubs to share with other students. Additional reading will be rewarded with extra credit.

### **Late or Missing Assignment Policy:**

If something is assigned, completion is expected. If students are using time wisely, most work can be completed during class and will generally be due the next morning by 8:00 am. Much of the work has the opportunity of two chances to get the best grade possible. Assignments and due dates will be listed in the agenda daily. If an assignment is not completed on time, students will devise a plan to complete it, email the plan to parents and to me, and follow through with the plan that evening. If it is still not complete the following morning, I assume assistance is needed and that the student will be staying after school. Please email me back with transportation arrangements. I am available most afternoons until 3:30 or 4:30 on days I tutor in TSP. Late assignments will incur a late fee of 20% at my discretion. All work needs to be completed within the unit to receive credit and will not be accepted after the unit is complete as we will be moving forward with learning goals.

### **Novels that may be used for study:**

Ground Zero by Alan Gratz

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass

The Life of Frederick Douglass by David F. Walker

They Called Us Enemy by George Takei

*Fourth quarter, students will conduct literature circles. Possible choices:*

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli

The Berlin Boxing Club by Robert Sharenow

All But My Life by Gerda Weissmann Klein

Surviving Hitler by Andrea Warren

Refugee by Alan Gratz

Unlikely Warrior by Georg Rauch

The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank



### **Contact Information:**

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me.

Mrs. Leigh Ann James

[ljames@usd232.org](mailto:ljames@usd232.org)

### **Course Description**

This course examines the history of the United States from the American Revolution through Civil War and Reconstruction to America's rise to prominence after 1900. Key people will be examined, along with political, military, scientific, and social developments of each era.

### **Essential Standards**

1. Identify causes and effects of an event.
2. Draw a conclusion based on evidence, making a claim and supporting with evidence
3. Demonstrate the ability to read, interpret and analyze a primary source.

### **Major Units of Study: Topics within the Unit:**

Prologue – Setting the Scene Exploration, Colonization of America. Unit 1 – Establishing America Independence, Articles of Confederation; Constitution. Unit 2 – Regionalism and Expansion Movement West and Removal; Sectionalism; Slavery. Unit 3 – March to War Popular Sovereignty; Expansion of Slavery. Unit 4 – Towards a More Perfect Union The American Civil War; Reconstruction. Unit 5 – The Rise of America Economic Expansion and the Rise of Industry.

**Course Expectations-** All rules and procedures can be covered with these three statements. ● **Be Respectful** of everyone in our class and school through words and actions. ● **Be Responsible** for yourself and your learning, as well as the learning of others in our shared class. ● **Be Safe** in creating a positive, inclusive learning environment that is open to all.

**Materials:** As we navigate through this year we will have to be flexible on how the class will be structured. To help accommodate this students should bring to class every day the following items.

1. Macbook (fully charged)
2. Macbook Charger
3. Plug in earphones (apple earbuds are not allowed in the classroom by building policy)
4. A writing utensil

***Assessment re-takes:*** Students who receive below a 70% on assessments have the option for re-takes. The typical procedure is that the student will stay after school or during W.I.N on an assigned day to reflect and correct any issues. Students can receive 1 point back on any answer they correct for a possible final score of 70%. **All missing work must be turned in before the test corrections can take place.**

***Late work:*** Students are expected to turn in all assignments on time and on the expected day. Generally, work time is built into the day to allow the students to complete the work in class. Points can be deducted for missing or late work (up to 20%). A student can turn in a missing assignment up until the end of the section/concept. Once we have moved on from that section/concept the zero will stay in place.

**AI software:**

All work must be original, and created by the student. (just because you gave the AI program the information you wanted does not make it unique, it's plagiarism.)

Any long form writing assignment will be fed into plagiarism and AI detection software. Failure to follow this expectation will result in consequences.

Please refer to my canvas site to stay up to date on what we are doing in class, to post on message boards, to connect with class content, to access helpful links, and to get information on missing work.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Ross Schaffer

Contact information: Ross

Schaffer

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# 8th Grade Earth and Space Science Course Syllabus



Students will expand their knowledge and understanding of science through the study of Earth and Space. They will learn through a combination of discussions, labs, projects, videos, and lectures. Students will use observation, inquiry and the scientific method to understand how Earth Science relates to their everyday lives.

## Materials Needed

- Either a 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  " or 2" three-ring binder and dividers OR a Spiral notebook and Folder
- Pencils
- Grading Pen (any color besides black)
- Loose leaf paper (for three ring binder, not needed if you use a spiral)
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Wired Ear buds (no AIR PODS)

## Textbooks -

We have a class set of books we use in our classroom. Your child has access 24/7 to an online textbook that can be accessed on their student MacBook, through Canvas. Students do need to pay attention to what book we are currently using as we have 3 different books we use throughout the school year.

- Bring Science Alive! Earth: minerals, rocks, fossil record, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering, soil formation, erosion, deposition.
- Bring Science Alive! Weather and Climate: fresh water, ocean water, atmosphere, weather, climate
- Bring Science Alive! Space: solar system, planets, universe & beyond\_

## Classroom/Building Expectations

All students are expected to come to class ready to learn and participate.

- Come to class on time, prepared for class and ready to learn. This includes bringing the necessary supplies for class: pencil, grading pen, agenda, ear buds (not air pods), homework, etc.
- Be respectful of others and yourself.
- Listen attentively to teacher and peers.
- Respect the opinions of others.
- Keep your hands to yourself and off of other peoples' belongings.
- Be mindful of your workspace and the space of others.
- Keep your area clean and leave it as clean as you found it.



- Follow the Science Safety Rules (reviewed the first week)
- No cellphones in the classroom or hallways. Phones can be kept in lockers and checked during passing period, but you do not walk the hallways with your phone in hand!
- No Air pods - WIRED earbud are required for computer use.

### Late/Absent Work Policy

- Late work is any work not completed when due or when we are ready to grade it in class (trying to finish it while we are grading is late). Writing in answers as we are grading is academic dishonesty and students who choose to do this will not receive credit for completing the assignment.
- Late work must be turned in before the test over the unit to receive credit, and is not accepted after we have finished the chapter/unit. Any work turned in late may have up to a 20% reduction in points.
- If you ever fall behind, it is highly advised that you stay after school. All teachers are available stay after school until 3:30 pm, and there will be at least one teacher each day that will allow you to work in their room after school.
- It is expected that a student turns in all missing work, even if the work is done after the test. I will ask students to stay after school to complete missing work. First quarter my afterschool time may be limited to Friday.
- If you are absent, you will have two make-up days for regular daily assignments for each excused absence. For projects, if you are absent the day the assignment is due or you are scheduled to present, the project or presentation is due immediately upon your return.

### Grading

Students' grades are based on their performance on Labs, Projects, Quizzes and Tests. Homework grades are usually (but not always) completion grades and are not based on the accuracy of the work. Homework is the practice to help them learn the content or master the skill. Students are expected to correct homework assignments to help them with the comprehension of the material taught. I like to think that we learn more from correcting a mistake than by just writing down an answer. I offer extra credit periodically during a unit to add something more meaningful to the concepts being taught. **I do not provide any extra credit at the end of a quarter to improve a grade.**

### SKYWARD vs CANVAS:

#### **SKYWARD:**

Grades are updated regularly in SKYWARD and that is where you will see the class grade for your child. Canvas may show you a grade on an assignment but it is not where you see the complete class grade. An \* in Skyward will be present if I have not yet entered a grade. This is not a missing assignment, but may appear so in Skyward, you need to click on the actual class on your Skyward to see if the asterisk is present. If an assignment is missing you will see a 0 recorded and NHI in the gradebook.

## **CANVAS:**

Canvas is the holder of assignments and the place where electronic work is submitted. The first module in Canvas is a weekly snapshot of our daily assignments. These are organized by week. Each week is then put into a module with all of the assignments for that week. Most classwork can be found in a module for the week.

## **Tests/Projects**

At the end of a unit a test or project will be given to show mastery of the skills students need to learn. Completing assignments, correcting, and reviewing the work completed is expected to be done prior to taking a test. Testing will take place over two class days. Students will know which test questions that got incorrect after the first attempt on day one. They are expected to use this knowledge to prepare for day 2 to earn their best grade. If a student earns below a 70% on a test, they will be required to come in for reteaching on the designated science day and will need to attempt the test again.

## **AI (artificial intelligence)**

Students will not be allowed to turn in written science assignments using an AI generator. AI may be used to generate ideas or grasp science concepts in a different format. Work turned in using AI will need to be redone without AI and receive late credit - a 20% reduction of the grade earned.

## **Other Learning Platforms**

- Ed Puzzle
- Actively Learn
- Newsela
- Flipgrid
- Nearpod
- Google (docs, pages, slides)

## **Essential Standards (what your child needs to know to move on)**

These standards are lumped throughout various units during the school year and are not a 'one and done' format. We work through these standards in almost every unit and build the knowledge to meet the mastery of the concepts.

- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information
- Developing and using models

**Beth Parker**

8th Grade Explorer Team Science

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# Pathways Course Syllabus



## Purpose

- Students will create a realistic plan for high school and beyond based on their interests, talents, skills, and passions.
- Students will use their skills & talents to create relevant, project-based learning products.

## Individual Plans of Study

- Students' Individual Plans of Study (IPS) prepare them for high school and beyond.
- IPS' help students:
  - choose high school courses based on their ideal career path,
  - learn how to market themselves based on their skills & talents
  - send weekly IPS logs to keep parents & other teachers up to date on the student's progress in meeting their plan

## Project Based Learning

- Project Based Learning (PBL) promotes 21st century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, & communication.
- PBL also gives students the opportunity to practice presentation skills in a safe, low risk setting.

Quarter	Focus	Product
1	Filmmaking/Research	Documentaries
2	Self Knowledge and Creative Writing	Memoirs
3	Product Design and Marketing	Print ads & Commercial
4	Career Development	Resumes and Mock Interviews

## Contact Information

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