



———— A Family's Guide ————

TO UNDERSTANDING GRADES AND GRADE REPORTING CRITERIA

———— Eighth Grade ————

A Family's Guide to Standards and Report Cards

EIGHTH GRADE

Working Together

To support families in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this document provides an overview of the learning expectations for eighth grade. This guide summarizes specific grade-level standards aligned to grade reporting criteria (GRCs) and indicators used for determining progress within each content area in Adams 12 Five Star Schools. The district provides this information as a tool to help families support each student's learning.

The Purpose of Grade Reporting Criteria and Standards

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure that students are successful in college, careers, and life. The standards define what students will learn in multiple content areas – emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century. In middle school these standards have been aligned to grade reporting criteria (GRCs) which ultimately calculate to form a student's composite grade.

The Purpose of Grades

Adams 12 Five Star Schools' grades provide information about each student's progress toward meeting grade level standards across seven content areas: English Language Arts/Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Grades are available in real time via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Infinite Campus should not serve as the only communication between the school and parents. The Five Star District believes in the importance of maintaining open, ongoing communication with all parents and guardians. Families are strongly encouraged to communicate with teachers throughout the school year to ensure that there is a strong bond and partnership between home and school.

Middle School Grading Rubric			
<i>The rubric below provides a general description of student proficiency with content standards.</i>			
MASTERS - A - 10 points	MEETS - B - 8.5 points	APPROACHING - C - 7.5 points	DOES NOT MEET - D - 6.5 points
The student consistently and independently demonstrates the skills of the standard at or above grade-level or in unfamiliar contexts.	The student consistently demonstrates the skills of the standards at grade-level or in familiar contexts	The student is inconsistent or requires support in applying grade level standards at grade-level or in familiar contexts .	The student demonstrates limited understanding or does not effectively apply grade level standards in familiar contexts .

Social Studies

The bold headings below summarize eighth grade expectations, but do not describe the details of the curriculum. The content standards of history, geography, civics, economics, and personal financial literacy are from the Colorado Academic Standards.



HISTORY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- analyze evidence from multiple sources, including those with conflicting accounts, about specific events in United States history.
- construct and support a written historical argument using historical sources.
- determine and explain the historical context of key people, ideas, and events from the origins of the American Revolution through Reconstruction.
- analyze ideas that are critical to understanding cause and effect, continuity, and change in early United States history.

GEOGRAPHY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- compare relationships between human settlement and environmental factors.
- compare how differing geographic perspectives apply to a historic issue.
- interpret from a geographic perspective the expansion of the United States.

CIVICS

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- describe examples of citizens and groups who have influenced change in United States government and politics.
- examine ways citizens may effectively voice opinions, monitor government, and bring about change nationally.
- explain the role and importance of the Constitution and key amendments.
- discuss the tensions between individual rights and liberties, state law, and national law.

ECONOMICS/PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- examine regional, national, and international differences in resources and the impact on trade.
- describe the factors that lead to comparative and absolute advantage in trade.
- explain why nations often restrict trade by using quotas, tariffs, and non-tariff barriers.
- analyze the impact of taxes on the people of the United States over time.

CONNECTED LITERACY STANDARDS*

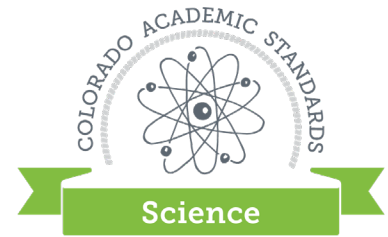
The student demonstrates the following skills in concert with the content standards above:

- cite key details to support analysis in primary and secondary sources.
- identify point of view in primary and secondary sources.
- integrate information from multiple texts on the same topic.
- write arguments focused on discipline specific content.
- conduct short content specific research projects.

**Connected literacy standards are addressed within the context of the appropriate above content standard categories, rather than as their own grading category.*

Science

The bold headings below summarize the three strands that comprise Science Content Standards in eighth grade and the Science Practices necessary for the advancement of science in our society. Skills critical to success in science include observing, collecting, analyzing and interpreting evidence.



PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Using science skills, the student demonstrates the ability to...

- describe the relationships of kinetic energy to the mass of an object and to the speed of an object.
- describe that when the kinetic energy of an object changes, energy is transferred to or from the object.
- describe a simple model for waves that includes how the amplitude of a wave is related to the energy in a wave and the behavior of waves in various materials.
- apply Newton's Laws of motion.
- determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces.
- construct an evidence based argument that gravity is an attractive force dependent on mass and is responsible for motion in orbits

EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE

Using science skills, the student demonstrates the ability to...

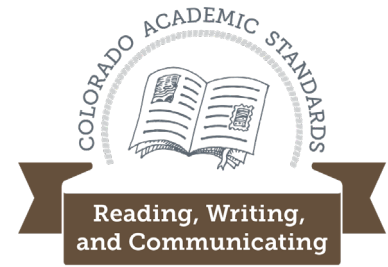
- develop and use a model of the Earth-Sun-Moon system to describe cyclic patterns of natural phenomenon.
- utilize a scale model to demonstrate the relationships, characteristics, and motion of objects in our solar system.
- explain how Earth's features and energy transfer result in Earth's weather and climate.
- develop and use models to predict short term and long term changes in weather and climate.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- analyze and interpret data.
- create and evaluate models.
- ask questions to further their understanding and determine which questions are testable.
- plan and carry out scientific investigations.
- communicate their scientific thinking
 - cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science texts.
 - analyze symbols, key terms, text structure and author's purpose when reading a text.
 - integrate quantitative and technical information using words and visual representations (graphs, diagrams, pictures).
 - write informational explanations and arguments focused on discipline specific content

English Language Arts



The bold headings below summarize broad areas of English Language Arts studied in eighth grade, but do not describe the details of the curriculum.

READING

With grade-level text, the student demonstrates the ability to...

- comprehend and draw evidence from literary and informational texts.
- construct and support accurate analysis of text.
- use context to determine the meaning of words and phrases.
- analyze the impact of an author's choices, including analogies or allusions, on meaning and tone.
- cite the most supportive textual evidence when drawing sound inferences from text.
- show full understanding of text when referring to explicit details and examples.
- evaluate the construction of arguments and the use of non-print mediums

WRITING

While writing narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces, the student demonstrates the ability to...

- develop a claim, topic, and/or narrative elements in a manner appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.
- use reasoning, details, text-based evidence, and/or description.
- produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.
- use transitions to clarify ideas and create cohesion.
- include precise language and vocabulary to convey experiences, clarify ideas and create cohesion.
- draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- establish and maintain an effective style, while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline.
- demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

When engaging in a range of discussions on grade-level topics and texts, the student demonstrates the ability to...

- engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.
- interpret information presented in diverse media and formats.
- delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims.
- use multimedia components to present claims and findings.
- adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks.

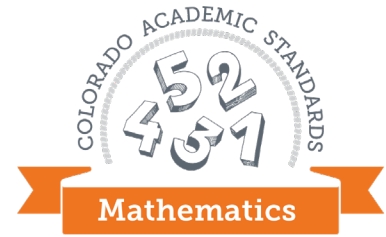
LANGUAGE

When writing and speaking, the student demonstrates...

- command of grade-level conventions of Standard English.
- understanding of multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Mathematics

The bold headings below summarize eighth grade math expectations but do not describe details of the curriculum. The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability summarize the broad areas of Mathematics Content Standards studied in eighth grade Math. The Standards for Mathematical Practice outline the critical thinking processes and approaches students use when engaging with the Mathematics Content Standards.



THE NUMBER SYSTEM

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.

EXPRESSIONS AND EQUATIONS

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- work with radicals and integer exponents.
- understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- analyze and solve linear equations and systems of linear equations.

FUNCTIONS

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- define, evaluate, and compare functions.
- use functions to model relationships between quantities.

GEOMETRY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- 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

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE*

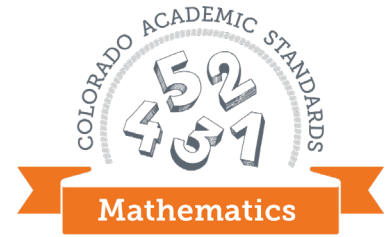
The student demonstrates the following critical thinking processes and approaches when engaging with the content standards above:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

**Standards for Mathematical Practice are addressed within the context of the appropriate Mathematics Content Standards above, rather than as their own grading category.*

Honors Mathematics

The bold headings below summarize eighth grade honors math expectations but do not describe details of the curriculum. The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability summarize the broad areas of Mathematics Content Standards studied in eighth grade honors Math. The Standards for Mathematical Practice outline the critical thinking processes and approaches students use when engaging with the Mathematics Content Standards.



THE NUMBER SYSTEM

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.
- reason quantitatively and use units to solve problems.

ALGEBRA

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- interpret the structure of expressions.
- write expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems.
- create equations that describe numbers or relationships.
- 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

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- understand the concept of a function and use function notation.
- interpret functions that arise in application in terms of the context.
- analyze functions using different representations.
- build a function that models a relationship between two quantities.
- construct and compare linear and exponential models and solve problems.

GEOMETRY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- define geometric vocabulary.
- prove geometric theorems about lines and angles.
- make geometric constructions.
- use coordinates to prove simple geometric theorems algebraically.
- apply geometric concepts in modeling situations.
- understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.

STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

The student demonstrates the ability to...

- 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.

STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE*

The student demonstrates the following critical thinking processes and approaches when engaging with the content standards above:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

**Standards for Mathematical Practice are addressed within the context of the appropriate Mathematics Content Standards above, rather than as their own grading category.*