



Maple Curriculum At Glance **6th, 7th, 8th Overview**

At Maple School, academics are aligned with best practice in each curricular area and are accomplished in a supportive environment that uses strategies appropriate for this age level.

Science:

The Maple science curriculum is a standards-based, carefully sequenced curriculum. Each academic year includes units in physics, chemistry, and biology, revisiting and building on the learning of the previous year. This “spiral” curriculum ensures that students learn science content and practices across scientific disciplines and build on previous years’ learning.

Scientific practices studied include:

- Writing scientific explanations including:
 - Claim (a testable answer to the question)
 - Evidence (data used to support the claim)
 - Reasoning (explanations that connect evidence to the claim using scientific principles.)
- Using evidence to create models to explain phenomena
- Using evidence to create models to predict phenomena
- Analyzing and organizing data
- Drawing conclusions
- Making inferences
- Communicating ideas and findings
- Uncovering patterns in the phenomena they experience
- Integrating technology as a tool in any area of science

Math:

The Maple mathematics curriculum emphasizes deep mathematical understanding and reasoning with problem solving at the center of math learning. The primary resource used is *Big Ideas Math*, which offers dynamic online resources and STEM integration. The program builds on the following concepts.

- A balanced instructional approach which incorporates conceptual understanding with procedural fluency
- Discovery activities that encourage conceptual understanding, provide students with the opportunity to explore, question, explain, and persevere as they seek to answer essential questions that encourage abstract thought
- Direct instruction, which gives students the opportunity to develop procedural fluency and to use clear, precise, mathematical language
- Opportunities to use class discussion, flexible grouping, and other delivery methods in the classroom
- Real-life applications, which are regularly integrated allowing students to connect classroom lessons to realistic scenarios

**English Language Arts:**

The Maple English Language Arts department is committed to encouraging a love of reading that will help our students become lifelong learners, critical readers, writers, and thinkers who will excel in high school and beyond. Aligned to both the Common Core State Standards as well as best practice and current research, students are encouraged to read both fiction and informational text as part of the workshop approach to reading, which is built on the following practices.

- Reading both student-selected and whole class texts
- Teaching multiple writing genres as delineated in the Common Core Standards including:
 - Argumentative
 - informative/explanatory
 - Narrative
- Incorporating grammar and vocabulary instruction

Social Studies:

Social studies at Maple School empowers students to engage in inquiry, consider multiple perspectives, and make informed decisions for the public good as citizens of a diverse society and interconnected world. Practices and concepts include the following:

- Developing a strong content base in order to understand that the past informs the future
- Teaching local, national, and global perspectives to emphasize interconnectedness among people and events in an effort to understand how to work to address environment concerns and human rights issues
- Building understanding of how to participate in the economic development of the United States/global community and expand the ability to thrive

*** For more detailed information please visit each teacher's individual websites.**