Elwood Middle School

Parent Curriculum Guide



ELWOOD elevate

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Welcome!

Dear Elwood Middle School Families,

We are excited to share a valuable new resource with you: A Family Guide to Middle School Curriculum. Developed through the Office of Curriculum and Instruction in collaboration with our school administration and teachers, this guide is a tool to help you understand your child's learning journey and partner with us effectively.

What's Inside the Guide?

This resource is designed to give you a clear overview of:

- The New York State (NYS) Learning Standards.
- How the specific curriculum programs used in the Elwood Schools meet these standards.
- Helpful tips for supporting your child's learning at home.

A Special Thank You

This guide was a true labor of love, and we want to extend a special thank you to Elle Chan, Valentina Fucella, Jenine Harris, Alexandra Kapuscinski, Scott Mikelbank, and Danielle Whitcomb. Additional thanks go to Christina Moran, Erica Cuomo, and the entire faculty for their essential feedback. Our heartfelt gratitude is also extended to the Office of Curriculum and Instruction assistants, Courtney Meis & Angela Shanerman. We encourage you to review the guide and use it throughout the year. Please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Amy Meyer, Ph.D. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Pamela Fine, Director of Humanities
Christopher Onorato, Director of Technology

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ELWOOD elevate

Elwood UFSD Mission Statement

The Elwood Public Schools serve a diverse community and value the unique skills and qualities of all our students from kindergarten through senior year. Our mission is to provide an excellent educational experience that empowers and inspires each student to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally in an evolving global society. We invite the entire Elwood community to join us on this journey.

Welcome to Elwood Middle School





Dr. Christinal Moran, Principal
Ms. Erica Cuomo, Assistant Principal

Dear Elwood Middle School Families,

We're thrilled to welcome you and your child to our vibrant middle school community! This Curriculum Guide is an essential resource, offering a detailed breakdown of the courses and academic pathways awaiting your child. The middle years are a pivotal time in adolescent development, marked by significant intellectual, social, and emotional growth. We understand the importance of navigating this stage and are committed to supporting every student's journey.

To foster a strong sense of community and provide tailored support, we utilize the Teaming Model. This means that a small group of teachers shares the same students and works together closely to coordinate lessons, monitor progress, and address individual needs. This structure strengthens both relationships and the student experience. Our school's foundation is built upon our core values: Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships. These three pillars guide everything we do, promoting a positive and accountable learning environment.

We firmly believe that a student's success is a direct result of a strong school-to-home partnership. We look forward to collaborating with your family throughout this exciting journey. By working together, we can ensure your child is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and character traits needed to thrive now and in the future. Please use this guide to explore the exciting opportunities ahead, and don't hesitate to connect with us!

Sincerely,
Dr. Moran and Mrs. Cuomo

Innovate

Integrate

Inspire

Curriculum Guiding Principles

Standards-based Instruction

NYS Learning Standards guide Elwood School District education by aligning all curriculum to their defined content and skills for each grade. This ensures a consistent, rigorous, and vertically articulated education, fully preparing students for their futures.

Research-based Practices

We strive to align our instructional practices with the most current in the educational field. The professional staff participates in frequent and ongoing professional learning to support their practices.

Personalization

We recognize that each child brings his/her unique skills and needs to the classroom community and make every effort to differentiate instruction to meet the diverse needs of our students.

Engagement

We understand that engagement is crucial in elementary instruction because it drives active learning, deepens understanding and makes education relevant for young students. Engaged students participate more, ask questions , and connect new ideas to existing knowledge.

EMS Student Supports

Our Teaming Model divides each grade into two smaller learning communities, ensuring every student is well-known by their teachers. This structure allows for personalized attention and consistent expectations, creating a supportive, streamlined experience for both students and families.

We use Restorative Practices to teach students the connection between their actions and their impact on the community. Through Shared Agreements, staff-led Affective Statements, and the support of Restorative Liaisons, we focus on repairing harm and building empathy. While our priority is restorative growth, these practices work alongside traditional consequences to maintain a safe and orderly environment.

To ensure every student feels connected, our KORT program brings 6th, 7th, and 8th graders together monthly to build relationships and school spirit. For those needing extra guidance, our Teacher-Student Mentoring program provides personalized staff support to help students navigate their middle school experience.

Level Up offers targeted instruction for students struggling with organization or work completion. Meeting three times per cycle, a certified teacher helps students build essential academic and emotional skills. Participation is based on teacher and IST recommendations, ensuring a coordinated effort between the student's core team and guidance counselor.

Elwood Middle School

Grade 6





ELWOOD elevate

English 6

In sixth grade, our English Language Arts curriculum focuses on the transition from basic reading to deep analytical thinking. Aligned with the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards, our lessons challenge students to master complex texts, develop evidence-based writing, and expand their academic vocabulary. Our goal is to ensure students can confidently analyze an author's purpose while building their own strong, clear voices as writers.

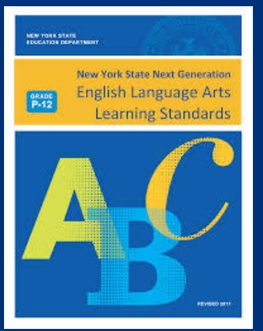
To provide the best possible support, our instruction is grounded in the Science of Reading research. This research shows that strong readers need a balance of word recognition and deep language understanding. This year, our sixth-grade students are participating in a reading pilot program using Magnetic Literacy. This resource is specifically designed to align our teaching with how the brain learns best, helping students build the knowledge and language skills they need for middle school success.

The following links are general resources for supporting Middle-Grades literacy and ELA skills:

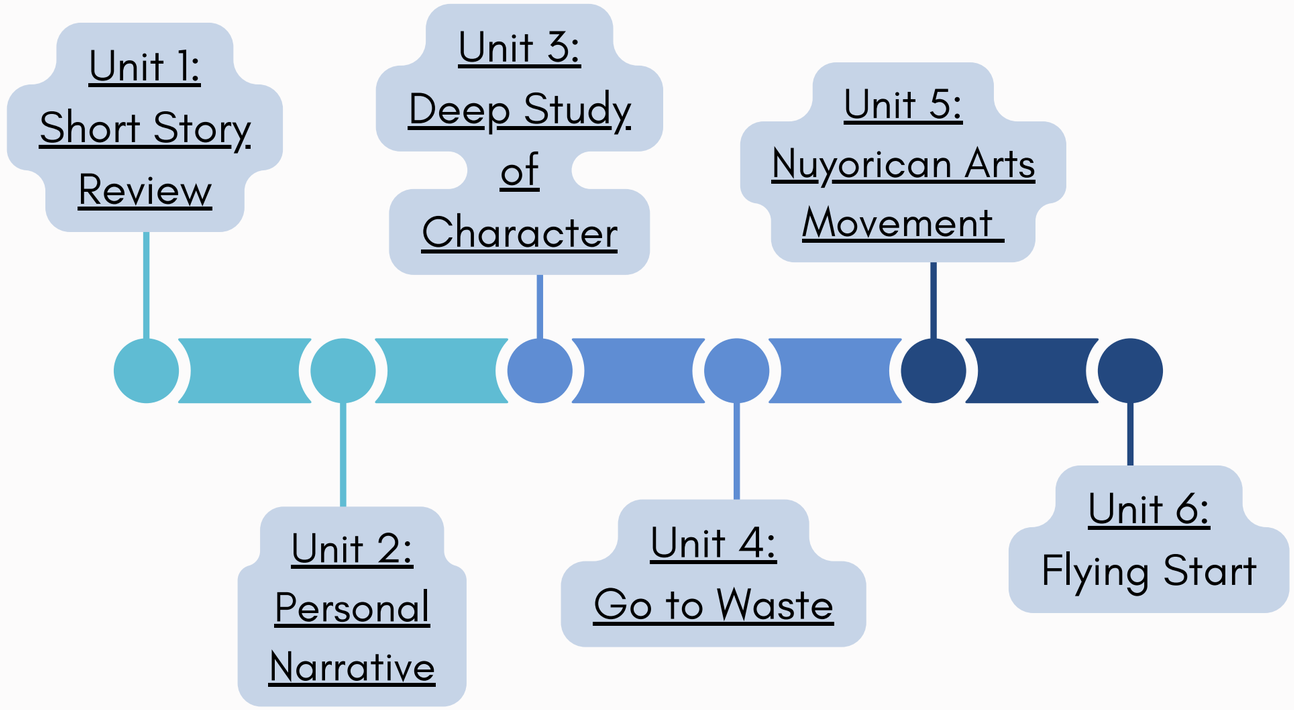
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EMS Library

ACCESS THE NYS ELA NEXT GENERATION LEARNING STANDARDS HERE



6th Grade English



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Math 6

In 6th grade math, your child will strengthen their understanding of key mathematical concepts and begin to think more deeply about how math connects to everyday life. The focus is on building a strong number sense and preparing for more advanced topics in middle school. This year, students will:

- Work with Ratios and Rates: Learn how to use ratios to compare quantities and solve problems using unit rates.
- Understand Division of Fractions: Master dividing fractions and applying this knowledge to real-world problems.
- Develop Fluency with Decimals: Solve problems involving multi-digit decimals, including all four operations (add, subtract, multiply, divide).
- Explore Negative Numbers: Understand and work with positive and negative numbers on number lines and in real-world contexts, such as temperatures or finances.
- Write and Solve Equations: Begin working with variables to write and solve simple equations and expressions.
- Apply Geometry Skills: Find area, surface area, and volume of shapes using formulas.
- Analyze Data: Learn to collect, represent, and interpret data using graphs and statistical measures such as mean, median, and range.

Students will also focus on explaining their thinking, using math vocabulary, and solving real-world problems with confidence and precision.

Click the link or access the QR Code to review the NYS Learning Standards for Math

ACCESS THE NYS MATHEMATICS NEXT GENERATION LEARNING STANDARDS HERE

enVision Math

Math 6

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- Use reasoning about multiplication and division to solve ratio and rate problems about quantities;
- Connect understanding of multiplication and division with ratios and rates by viewing equivalent ratios and rates as deriving from, and extending, pairs of rows (or columns) in the multiplication table, and by analyzing simple drawings that indicate the relative size of quantities
- Expand the scope of problems for which they can use multiplication and division to solve problems, and they connect ratios and fractions

Number System

- Use the meaning of fractions and relationships between multiplication and division to understand and explain why the procedures for dividing fractions make sense
- Extend their previous understandings of number and the ordering of numbers to the full system of rational numbers, which includes negative rational numbers, particularly negative integers
- Reason about the order and absolute value of rational numbers and about the location of points on a coordinate plane.

Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities

- Write expressions and equations that correspond to given situations, using variables to represent an unknown and describe relationships between quantities
- Understand that expressions in different forms can be equivalent, and use the properties of operations to rewrite and evaluate expressions in equivalent forms
- Use properties of operations and the idea of maintaining the equality of both sides of an equation to solve simple one-step equations

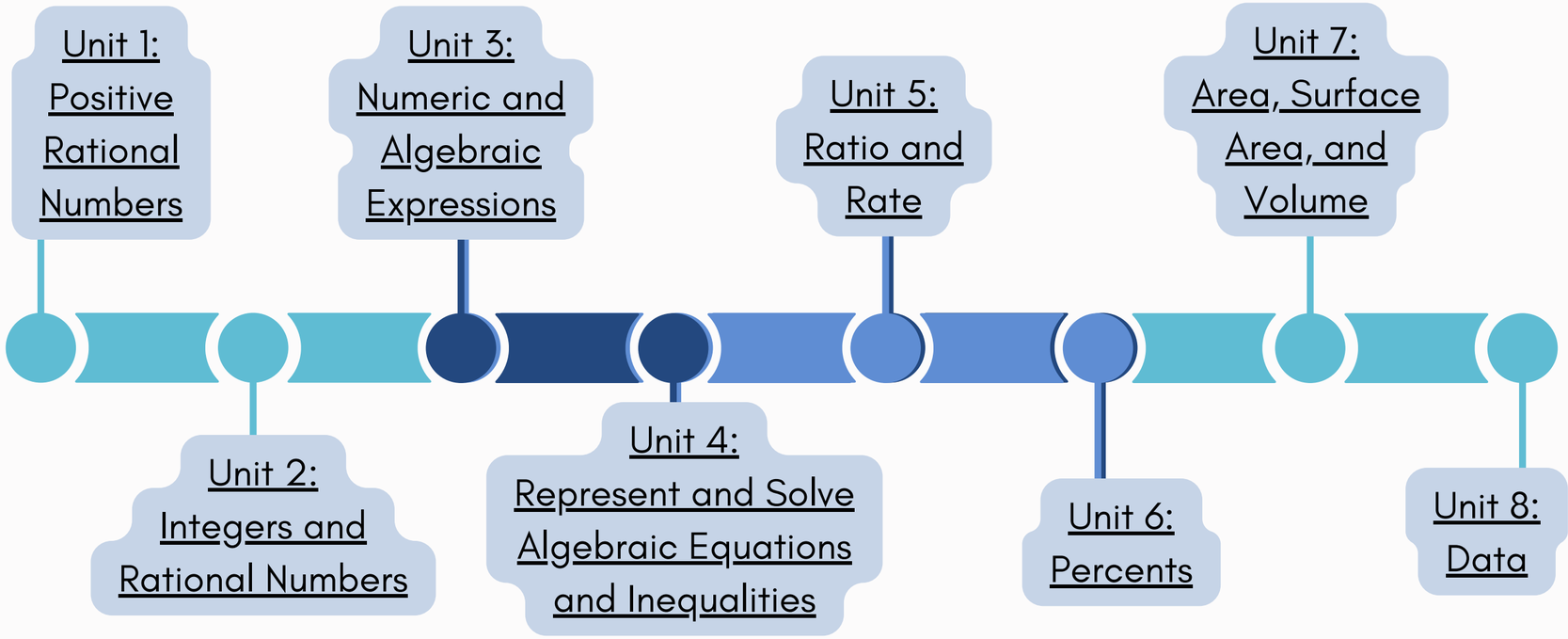
Geometry

- Find areas of polygons, surface areas of prisms, and use area models to understand perfect squares
- Extend formulas for the volume of a right rectangular prism to fractional side lengths and use volume models to understand perfect cubes.

Statistics and Probability

- Learn to describe and summarize numerical data sets, identifying clusters, peaks, gaps, and symmetry, considering the context in which the data were collected
- Understand the probability of a chance event and develop probability models for simple events.

Math 6 Unit Timeline



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Math 6 Unit Tutorials

Unit 1: Positive Rational Numbers

Unit 2: Integers and Rational Numbers

Unit 3: Numeric and Algebraic Expressions

Unit 4: Represent and Solve Algebraic Equations and Inequalities

Unit 5: Ratio and Rate

Unit 6: Percents

Unit 7: Area, Surface Area, and Volume

Unit 8: Data

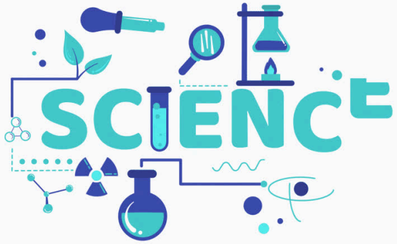
Click on each unit above to go to the enVision Mathematics Lesson Support page.

Science 6

This is a course designed to introduce students to the scientific field through the study of physical science. A high-quality science education means that students will develop an in-depth understanding of content and develop key skills—communication, collaboration, inquiry, problem solving, and flexibility—that will serve them throughout their educational and professional lives. Within the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), there are three distinct and equally important dimensions to learning science. These dimensions are combined to form each standard —or performance expectation—and each dimension works with the other two to help students build a cohesive understanding of science over time.

The curriculum broadly covers the big ideas of the physical world, primarily integrating principles of physics and chemistry. A strong emphasis is placed on hands-on experiences, with both physical and virtual labs to help students apply scientific knowledge to real-world problems.

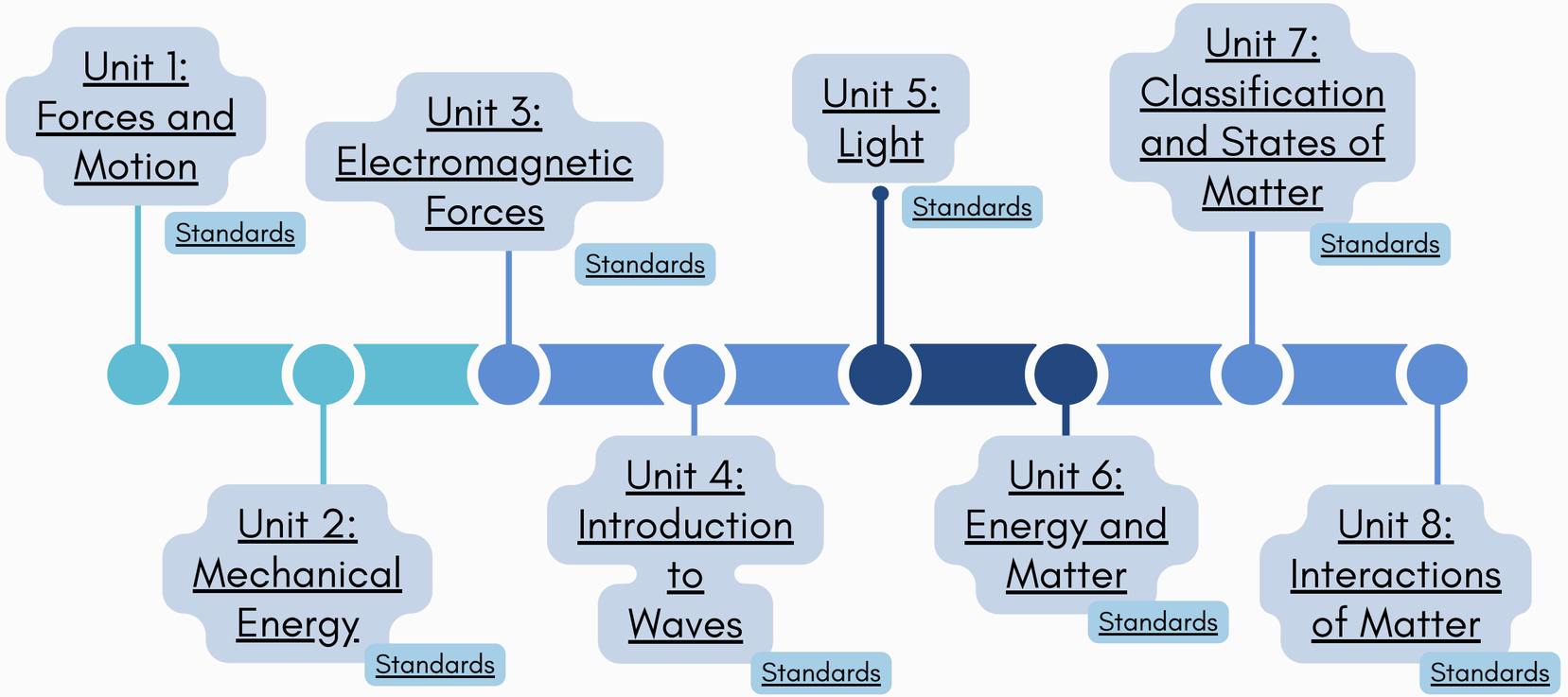
Inspire Science



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Science 6-Unit Timeline



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Social Studies 6

This year, your child will take an exciting trip through the history of the Eastern Hemisphere! We will follow the story of humankind from the very first people all the way through the Middle Ages.

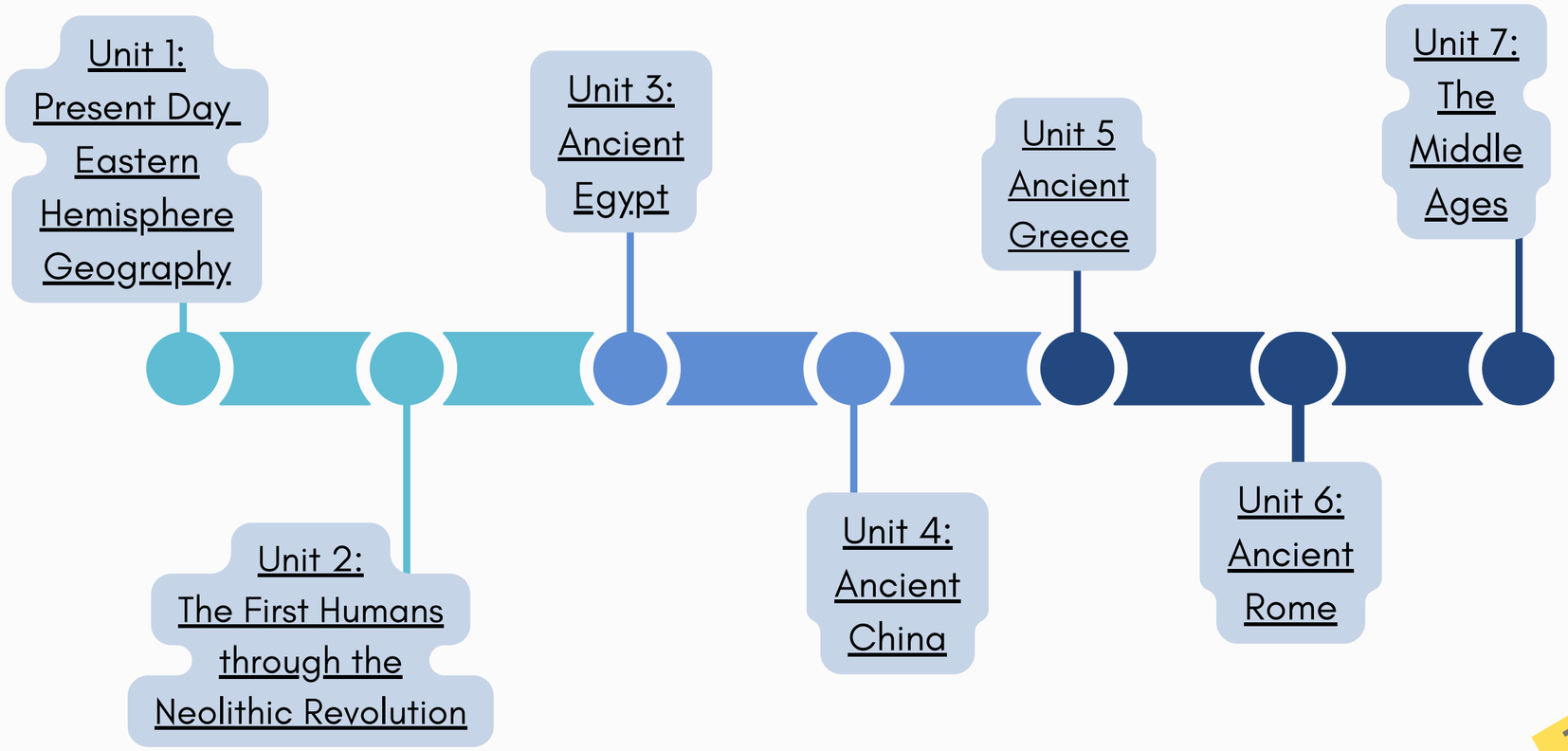
Our goal is not just to memorize names and dates. We want students to become strong thinkers by exploring the big ideas that have always shaped human life. Students will learn how geography (the land, climate, and water) affects where and how people live, what makes a complex civilization (like Ancient Egypt or Rome), and how different cultures shared ideas and technologies.

As we study each major civilization, we will ask the same important questions to connect the entire course:

- People and the Land: How did people use and change their environment (the land, rivers, and climate) to survive and build their homes?
- What Makes a Civilization? What key features (like government, religion, social classes, and technology) do all complex societies share, and what makes each one (like China or Greece) special?
- Power and Social Order: How did governments and social classes (like the wealthy and the poor) change over time, and how did they decide who had power and wealth?
- Sharing Ideas: What were the greatest achievements (like inventions, art, or ways of thinking) of each culture, and how did those ideas, religions, and technologies spread to other parts of the world?

ACCESS THE NYS NEW FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

6th Grade Social Studies



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

World Language

At the middle school, the World Language department works together to create robust and meaningful language acquisition opportunities for all students.

6th grade students sit for a language selection presentation led by the World Language teachers. During this presentation, students get a glimpse of what they can expect every day in the language classroom, regardless of what language they choose. Students then make their language selection between Spanish and Italian via eSchool.

Students embark on their language learning journey in 7th grade as they begin Spanish 1 or Italian 1. Students successfully complete Spanish 1 and Italian 1 at the end of 8th grade upon passing the FLACS Checkpoint A exam. Additionally, students earn 1 high school language credit towards high school graduation when students earn a passing FLACS Checkpoint A exam grade.

CLICK HERE FOR THE EMS LANGUAGE SELECTION PRESENTATION

ACCESS TO NYS WORLD LANGUAGE STANDARDS INFORMATION

Elwood Middle School

Grade 7





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elevate

English 7

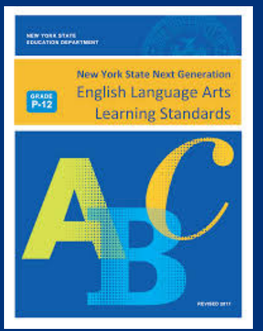
English 7 revolves around units that originated from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, but have been adapted by the teachers in order to best suit the specific needs of our Seventh Grade learners. The lessons aim to have students read, write, listen, and speak with each other daily in order to build all their English competencies. Students alternate between reading and writing focused units that encourage their creativity and the development of their ability to articulate their thoughts and analyze texts.

The following links are general resources for supporting Middle-Grades literacy and ELA skills:

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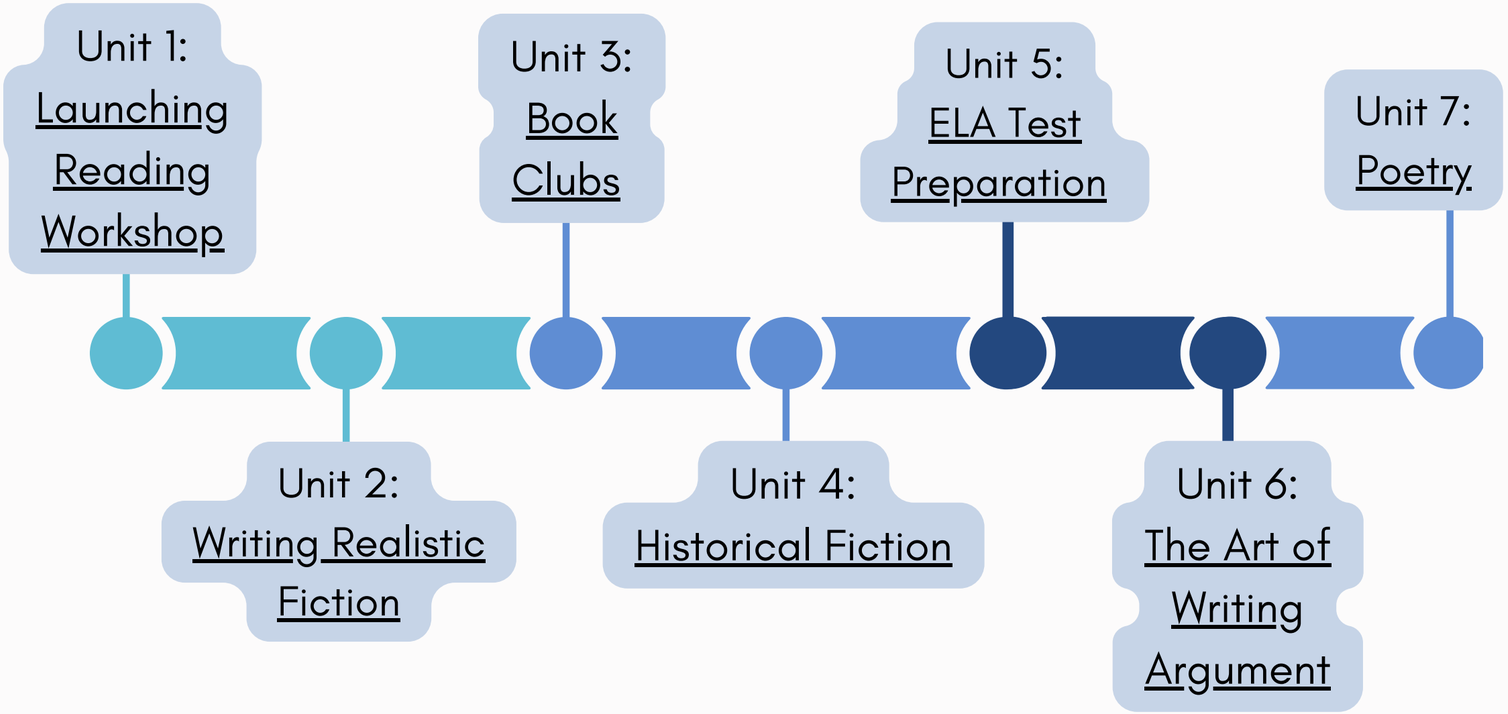
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English 7 Scope and Sequence



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Math 7

This year in 7th grade math, your child will build a strong foundation in key mathematical concepts that are essential for success in higher-level math and real-world problem solving. Students will deepen their understanding of numbers, algebra, geometry, and statistics. Key areas of focus include:

- Proportional Reasoning: Understanding and applying ratios, rates, and proportions in real-life situations.
- Rational Numbers: Working confidently with positive and negative numbers, including adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with decimals and fractions.
- Expressions and Equations: Writing and solving algebraic expressions and equations, including multi-step problems and inequalities.
- Percent Applications: Solving problems involving discounts, tax, tips, and percent increase/decrease.
- Geometry: Learning about scale drawings, angles, and area of geometric figures.
- Statistics and Probability: Analyzing data, making predictions, and understanding measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode).

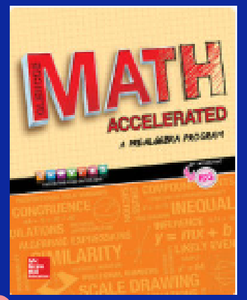
Throughout the year, students will also focus on improving their problem-solving and reasoning skills, learning how to explain their thinking and apply math to real-world contexts.

Click the link or access the QR Code to review the NYS Learning Standards for Math

ACCESS THE NYS MATHEMATICS NEXT GENERATION LEARNING STANDARDS HERE

Glencoe McGraw Hill

Math Accelerated



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Math 7

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- Extend their understanding of ratios and develop understanding of proportionality to solve single- and multi-step problems;
- Use their understanding of ratios and proportionality to solve a wide variety of percent problems
- Solve problems about scale drawings by relating corresponding lengths between the objects or by using the fact that relationships of lengths within an object are preserved in similar objects
- Graph proportional relationships and understand the unit rate informally as a measure of the steepness of the related line
- Distinguish proportional relationships from other relationships

Number System , Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities, and Geometry

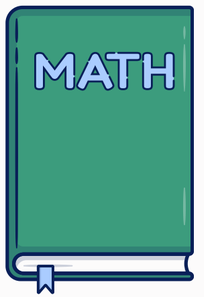
- Develop a unified understanding of number, recognizing fractions, decimals (that have a finite or a repeating decimal representation), and percents as different representations of rational numbers
- Extend addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to all rational numbers, maintaining the properties of operations and the relationships between addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division
- Explain and interpret the rules for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with negative numbers by applying properties of operations, and view negative numbers in terms of everyday contexts
- Use the arithmetic of rational numbers as they formulate expressions and equations in one variable and use these equations to solve problems
- Apply algebraic expressions to solve problems involving geometric figures

Statistics and Probability

- Build on their previous work with single data distributions to compare two data distributions and address questions about differences between populations
- Begin informal work with random sampling to generate data sets and learn about the importance of representative samples for drawing inferences
- Extend previous understandings of simple probabilities in grade 6 to calculate probabilities of compound events

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Math 7 Unit Timeline



Click the book for the Math 7 Resource Book

- Unit 1: Rational Numbers
- Unit 2: Expressions
- Unit 3: Equations
- Unit 4: Inequalities
- Unit 5: Proportions
- Unit 6: Percents
- Unit 7: Geometry
- Unit 8: Probability
- Unit 9: Statistics
- Unit 10: Linear Equations
- Unit 11: Pythagorean Theorem

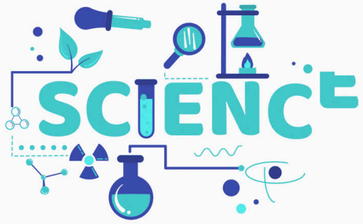
Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Science 7

This is a course designed to introduce students to the scientific field through the study of life science. Particular emphasis will be placed on the scientific method and how students can properly use equipment and technology to support scientific investigations. A high-quality science education means that students will develop an in-depth understanding of content and develop key skills—communication, collaboration, inquiry, problem solving, and flexibility—that will serve them throughout their educational and professional lives. Within the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), there are three distinct and equally important dimensions to learning science. These dimensions are combined to form each standard—or performance expectation—and each dimension works with the other two to help students build a cohesive understanding of science over time

Students begin their investigation of life science by exploring ecology, the theory of evolution and the characteristics of living things. Students then gain an understanding of the cell and of the levels of organization in living organisms. They are then asked to delve deeper into the cell and explore the concepts of heredity before moving on to each organ system.

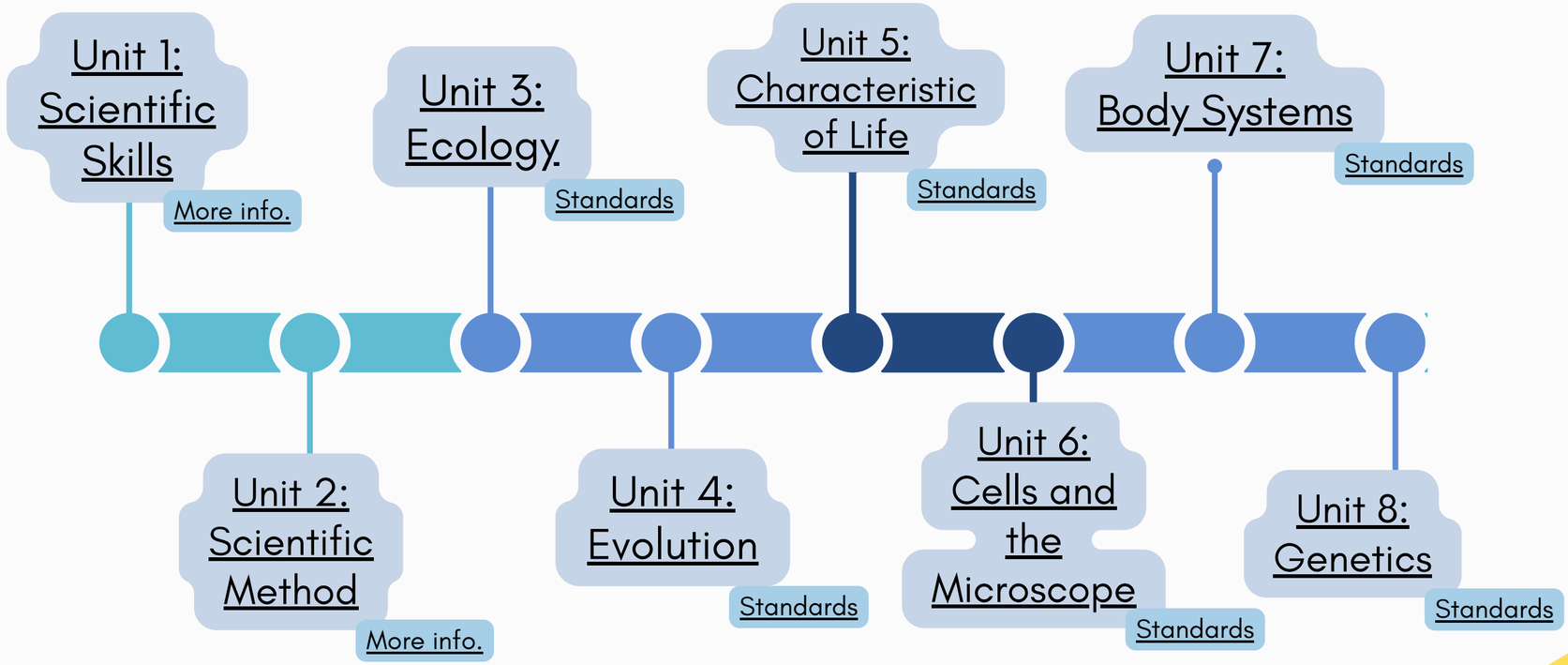
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Science 7-Unit Timeline



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Social Studies 7

In seventh grade, students explore the history of the United States and New York State, tracing our nation's journey from pre-colonial Native American cultures through the Civil War. Aligned with the NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework, this course focuses on the major political, social, and economic turning points that shaped early America.

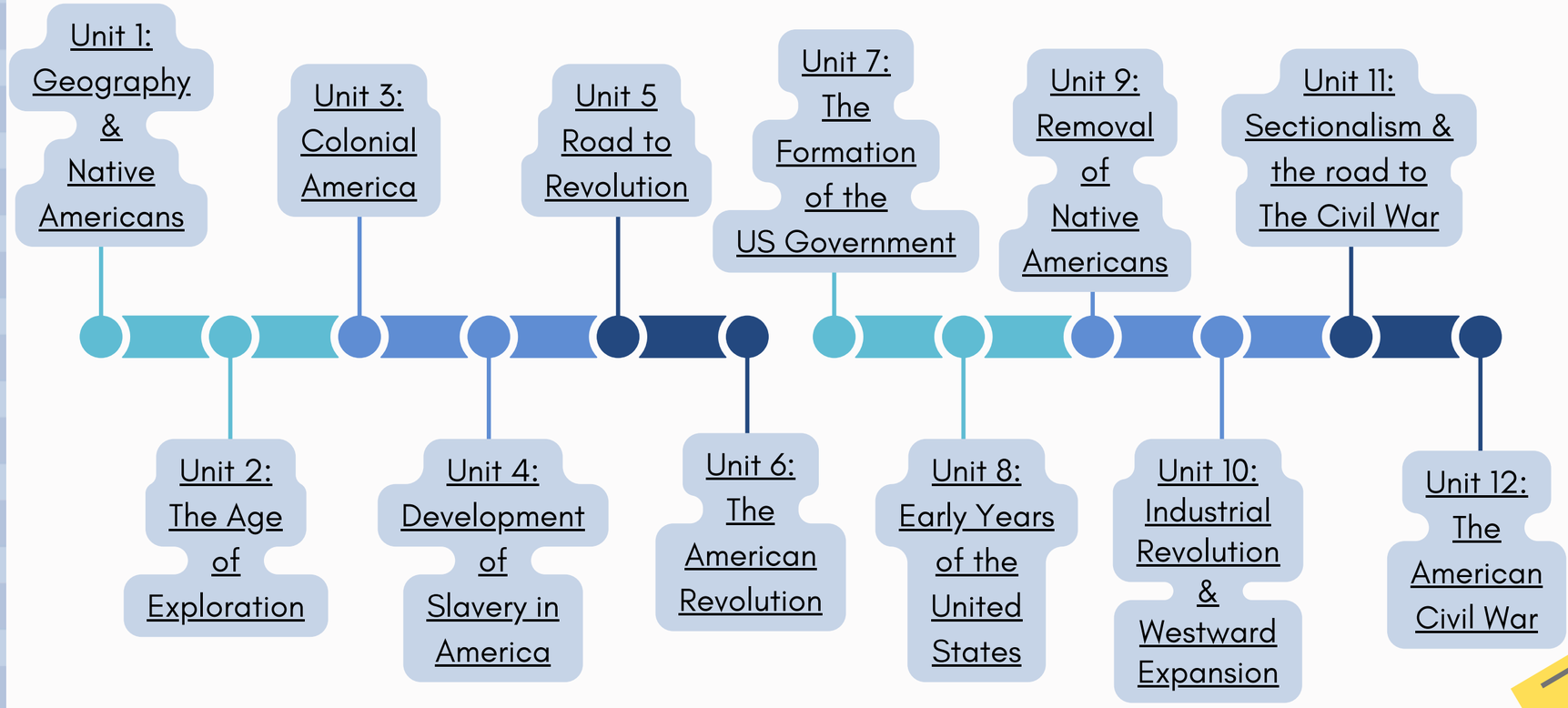
Instruction is centered on Inquiry-Based Learning, where students act as historians by analyzing primary sources and interpreting different perspectives. Rather than just memorizing facts, students develop critical skills in chronological reasoning and evidence-based writing to understand how the past influences our world today.

Key topics include the foundations of American democracy, the U.S. Constitution, and the impact of New York State on social reform movements like abolition and women's suffrage. By investigating these foundational events, students gain a deeper appreciation for the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

ACCESS THE NYS NEW FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

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Social Studies 7 Units



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

World Language, Grade 7

Unit 1:
Introduction

Unit 2:
Who Am I?

Unit 3:
My Home

Unit 4:
My Day at EMS

CLICK HERE TO SEE MORE DETAILS, INCLUDING LEARNING TARGETS, KEY RESOURCES, AND RELEVANT NYS LEARNING STANDARDS.

Elwood Middle School

Grade 8





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English 8

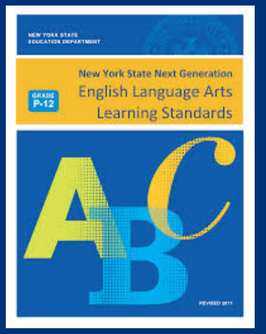
English 8 revolves around reading and writing units which have been adapted by the teachers in order to best suit the specific needs of our Eighth Grade learners. There is deliberate overlap and integration with the Grade 8 Social Studies curriculum, including a shared project that helps students gain credit towards the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness. Students will write a memoir, thematic essay, and research-based argumentative essay. They will also read several novels as a class, in groups, and individually, and build their public speaking skills through presentations and a mock trial.

The following links are general resources for supporting Middle-Grades literacy and ELA skills:

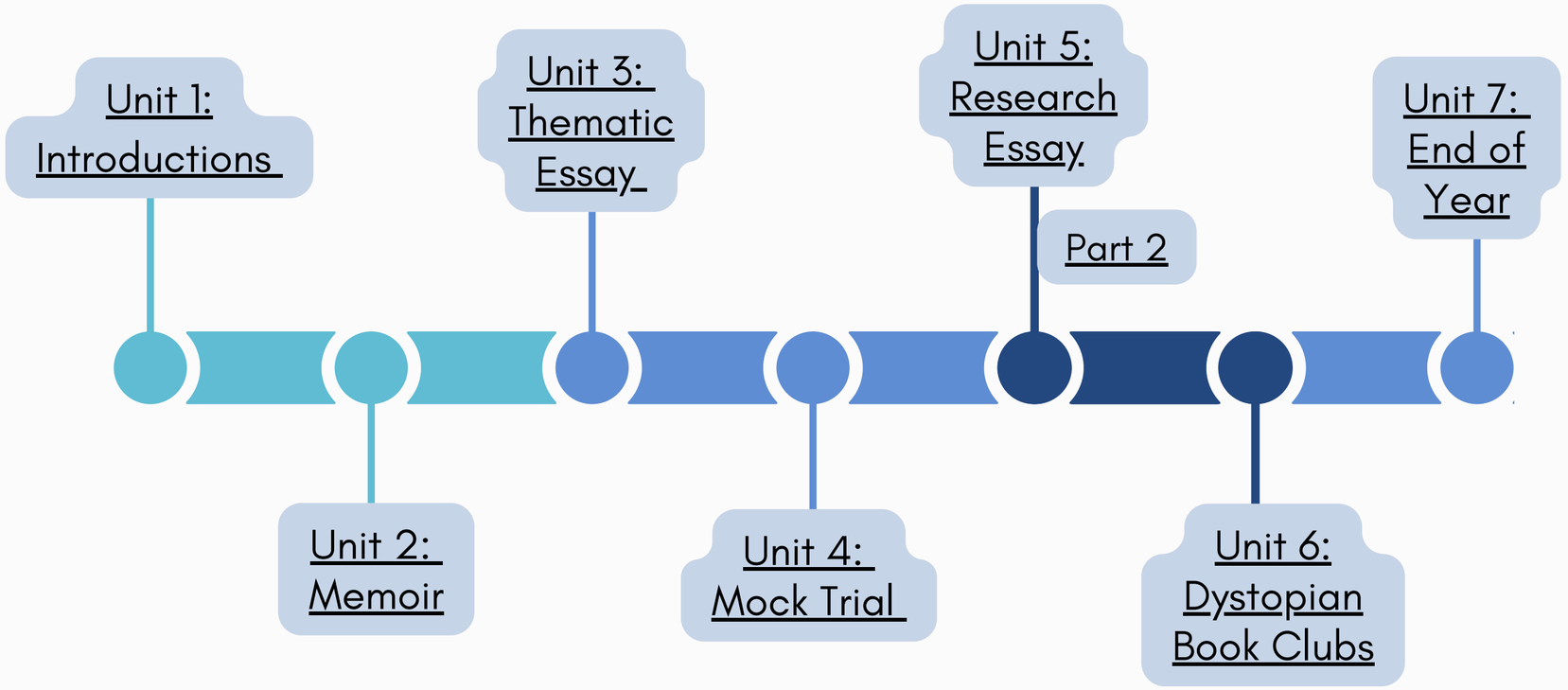
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English 8 Unit Timeline



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Math 8

In 8th grade math, your child will build on their previous knowledge and tackle more complex concepts that prepare them for high school math. This year's focus is on deepening algebraic thinking, exploring geometry, and understanding functions. Key areas include:

- Linear Equations and Functions: Writing, solving, and graphing linear equations and inequalities, and understanding the concept of functions.
- Systems of Equations: Solving systems of two linear equations and interpreting their solutions.
- Exponents and Scientific Notation: Working with integer exponents and expressing very large or very small numbers using scientific notation.
- The Pythagorean Theorem: Using the theorem to solve real-world problems involving right triangles.
- Transformations and Congruence: Understanding and applying translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations to geometric figures.
- Data Analysis and Scatter Plots: Analyzing patterns in bivariate data and interpreting scatter plots to understand relationships between variables.

Throughout the year, students will also develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, explain their reasoning clearly, and apply math concepts to everyday situations and future academic work.

Click the link or access the QR Code to review the NYS Learning Standards for Math

ACCESS THE NYS MATHEMATICS NEXT GENERATION LEARNING STANDARDS HERE

Math 8

<u>Number System, Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities, and Probability and Statistics</u>

- Recognize equations for proportions ($y/x = m$ or $y = mx$) as special linear equations ($y = mx + b$), understanding that the constant of proportionality (m) is the slope, and the graphs are lines through the origin
- Understand that the slope (m) of a line is a constant rate of change, as well as how the input and output change as a result of the constant rate of change
- Interpret a model in the context of the data by expressing a linear relationship between the two quantities in question and interpret components of the relationship (such as slope and y-intercept) in terms of the situation
- Solve systems of two linear equations in two variables and relate the systems to pairs of lines in the plane; these intersect, are parallel, or are the same line
- Use linear equations, systems of linear equations, linear functions, and their understanding of slope of a line to represent, analyze, and solve a variety of problems

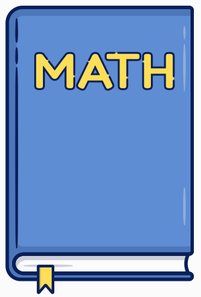
<u>Functions and Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities</u>

- Grasp the concept of a function as a rule that assigns to each input exactly one output
- Understand that functions describe situations where one quantity determines another;
- Translate among representations and partial representations of functions (noting that tabular and graphical representations may be partial representations of the function), and describe how aspects of the function are reflected in the different representations.

<u>Geometry</u>

- Use ideas about distance and angles, how they behave under translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations, and ideas about congruence and similarity to describe and analyze two-dimensional figures and to solve problems
- Show that the sum of the angles in a triangle is the angle formed by a straight line, and that various configurations of lines give rise to similar triangles because of the angles created when a transversal cuts parallel lines
- Understand the statement of the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse, and why the Pythagorean Theorem holds
- Apply the Pythagorean Theorem to find distances between points on the coordinate plane, to find lengths, and to analyze polygons.

Math 8 Unit Timeline



Click the book for the Math 8 Resource Book

- Unit 1: Equations
- Unit 2: Triangles
- Unit 3: Parallel Lines
- Unit 4: Integer Exponents
- Unit 5: Transformations
- Unit 6: Scientific Notation
- Unit 7: Geometry
- Unit 8: Linear Equations with 2 Variables
- Unit 9: Systems of Equations
- Unit 10: Statistics
- Unit 11: Irrational Numbers

Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Algebra

This year in Algebra I, your child will build a strong foundation in algebraic thinking and problem-solving. The course is designed to help students make sense of math in real-world contexts while deepening their understanding of key concepts. Throughout the year, students will:

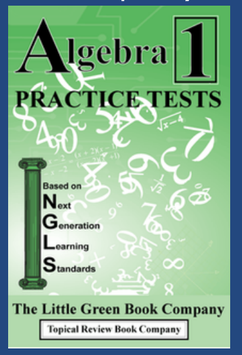
- Learn how to interpret, write, and solve different types of equations and inequalities, such as linear, quadratic, and exponential functions.
- Explore patterns and relationships between quantities using graphs, tables, and equations.
- Analyze and compare different types of functions to understand how they model real-world situations.
- Develop skills in reasoning and using algebra to justify their thinking.
- Use technology, visuals, and multiple strategies to solve problems.
- Practice making connections between math concepts to build confidence and fluency.

By the end of the year, your child will be able to use algebra as a powerful tool for solving problems and explaining their thinking—preparing them for success in future math courses and everyday situations.

Click the link or access the QR Code to review the NYS Learning Standards for Math

ACCESS THE NYS MATHEMATICS NEXT GENERATION LEARNING STANDARDS HERE

Topical Review Book Company



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Algebra

Functions

- Understand the concept of a function.
- Identify and work with linear, quadratic, and exponential functions.
- Use function notation, domain, and range appropriately.

Linear Equations and Inequalities

- Solve linear equations in one variable.
- Analyze and solve systems of linear equations in two variables graphically and algebraically.
- Translate between different forms of linear equations and inequalities.
- Create equations in two variables to represent relationships.
- Interpret units and contextual meaning of linear relationships.

Exponential Functions & Equations

- Build on knowledge of exponents to understand exponential functions.
- Create and solve simple exponential equations.
- Compare exponential and linear functions in terms of structure and change (additive vs. multiplicative).
- Explore geometric sequences as examples of exponential functions.

Quadratic Functions & Equations

- Understand different forms of quadratic expressions (standard, vertex, factored).
- Compare quadratic functions to linear and exponential functions.
- Solve quadratic equations and identify real solutions as zeros of functions.
- Represent solutions in simplest radical form.
- Predict the shape of a quadratic graph from its algebraic structure.

Polynomial Expressions & Operations

- Learn and use proper terminology for polynomials.
- Understand that polynomials form a system analogous to integers.
- Strengthen skills in creating and manipulating polynomial expressions, including quadratic and cubic expressions.
- Interpret parts of an expression in context and rewrite expressions in equivalent forms.

Function Representations & Modeling

- Interpret functions presented graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally.
- Translate between different representations of functions.
- Understand limitations of each representation.
- Use various types of functions (linear, exponential, quadratic, absolute value, step, piecewise-defined) to model real-world phenomena.

Continued on next page

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Algebra

Sequences as Functions

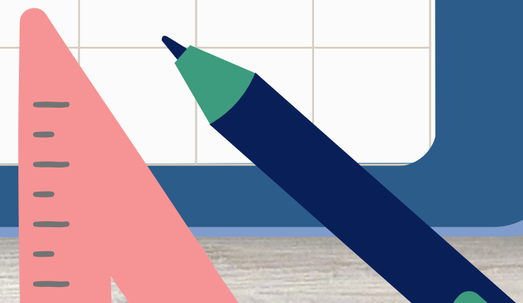
- Recognize and interpret arithmetic sequences as linear functions.
- Recognize and interpret geometric sequences as exponential functions.
- Write explicit formulas for sequences using subscript notation.

Systems of Equations and Inequalities

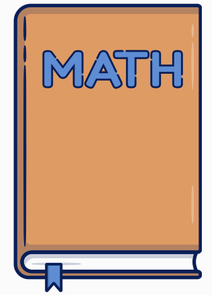
- Explore and solve systems involving linear and quadratic equations.
- Solve and interpret systems of linear inequalities.
- Understand graphical and algebraic methods for finding solutions.

Data Analysis and Regression

- Display and interpret graphical representations of data.
- Use regression techniques (linear) when appropriate.
- Justify the choice of models based on context.
- Compute and interpret correlation coefficients.
- Distinguish between correlation and causation.



Algebra Scope & Sequence



Click the book for the Math 8 Resource Book

Unit 1: Transformations

Unit 2: Geometry

Unit 3: Monomials

Unit 4: Equations and Inequalities

Unit 5: Sequences

Unit 6: Statistics

Unit 7: Factoring

Unit 8: Systems of Equations and Inequalities

Unit 9: Functions

Unit 10: Graphing

Unit 11: Irrational Numbers

Unit 12: Advanced Equations

Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Science 8

This is a course designed to introduce students to the scientific field through the study of earth and space science. A high-quality science education means that students will develop an in-depth understanding of content and develop key skills—communication, collaboration, inquiry, problem solving, and flexibility—that will serve them throughout their educational and professional lives.

In this class, our students will move beyond memorizing facts and explore the world around them through the lens of a working scientist. We will use a curriculum built on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) framework, focusing on how different Earth systems interact and how our planet fits within the vastness of the universe. Students will constantly be asked to use the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning (CER) framework to support their ideas, moving them from just asking "what happened?" to "how do we know it happened, and why does it matter?"

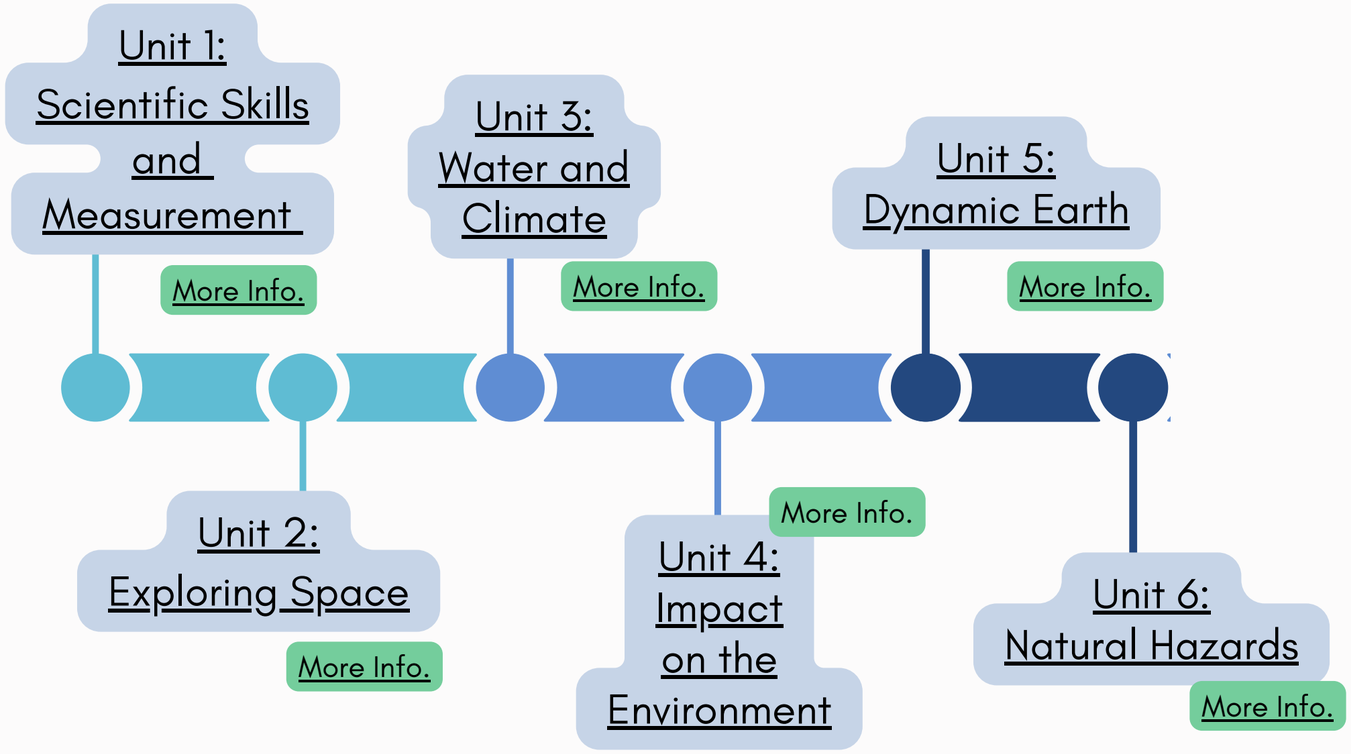
Inspire Science



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Science 8-Unit Timeline



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Earth and Space Sciences

This is a course designed to introduce students to the scientific field through the study of earth science. Within the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), there are three distinct and equally important dimensions to learning science. These dimensions are combined to form each standard—or performance expectation—and each dimension works with the other two to help students build a cohesive understanding of science over time.

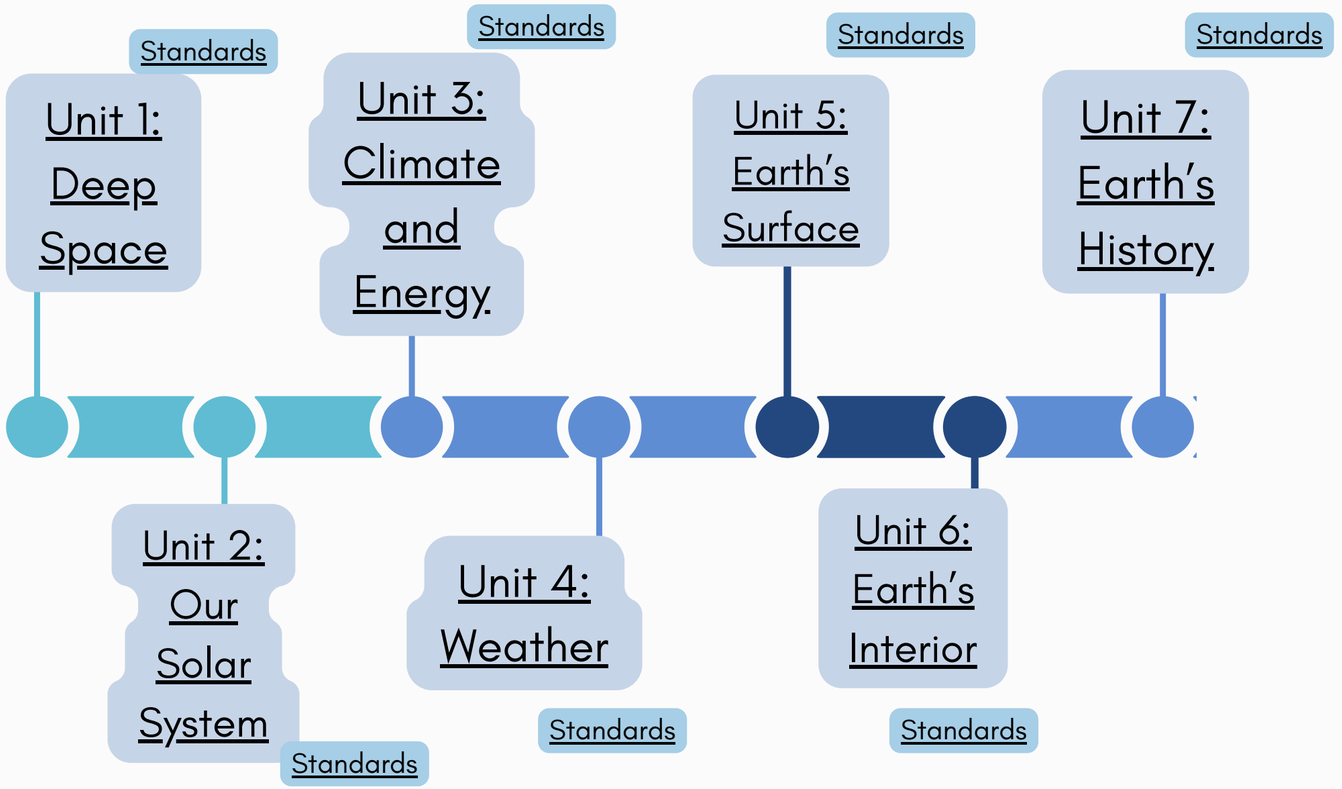
Students explore the origins of the universe through the Big Bang and stellar evolution, move into the dynamic Earth by analyzing plate tectonics and the geologic record, and investigate the complexities of weather and climate through the lens of energy transfer and atmospheric circulation. Throughout these units, a heavy emphasis is placed on human sustainability, requiring students to analyze data regarding climate change, natural hazards, and resource management to design solutions for a changing planet. Rather than simple recall, the curriculum demands that students apply the 2024 Reference Tables to interpret real-world phenomena and explain the "how and why" behind Earth's past, present, and future.

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Earth and Space Sciences Units



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

Social Studies 8

In eighth grade, students continue their study of the United States and New York State, picking up after the Civil War and moving through the present day. Aligned with the NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework, the course examines our nation's transformation into a modern global leader, covering key eras like the Industrial Revolution, the World Wars, and the Civil Rights Movement.

Using Inquiry-Based Learning, students act as social scientists by analyzing primary sources and debating complex historical perspectives. This approach shifts the focus from simple memorization to critical thinking, helping students understand how modern policy and culture have been shaped by the events of the last 150 years.

The NYS Seal of Civic Readiness

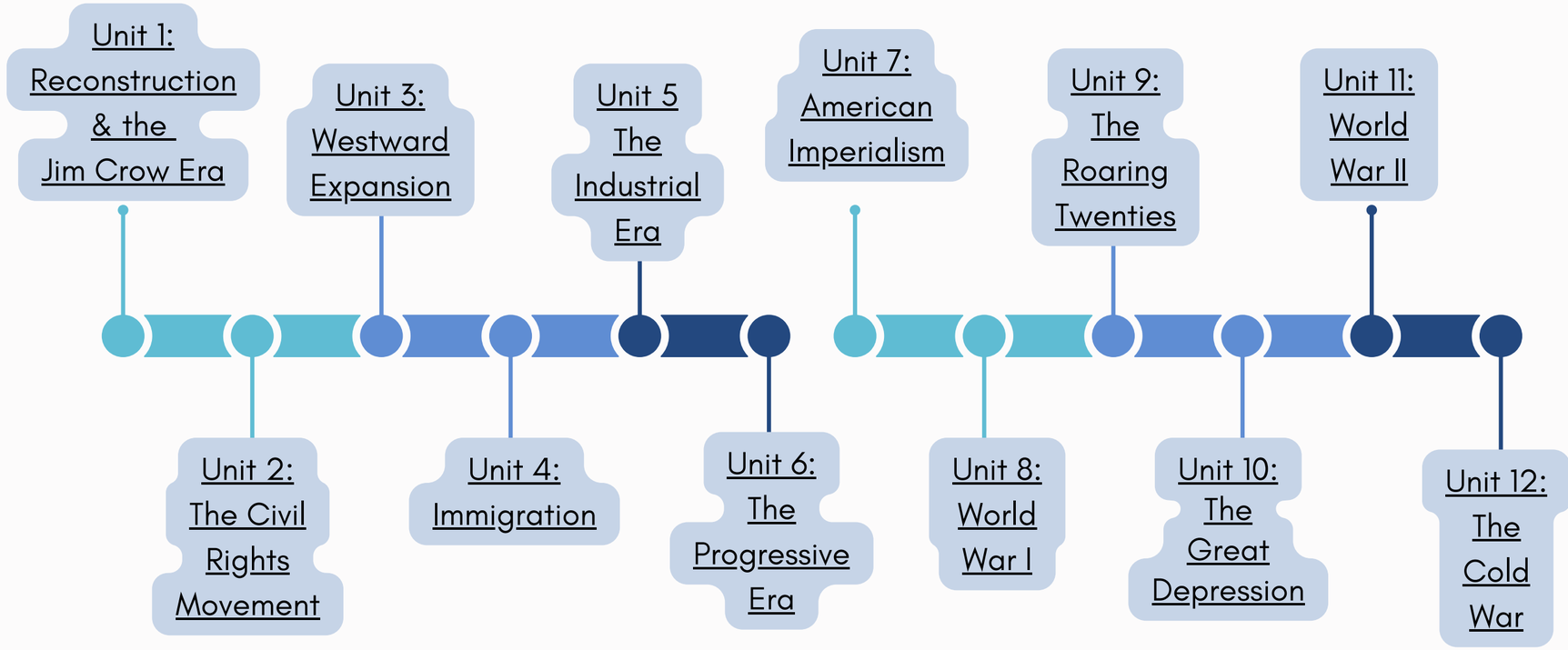
Students in the Social Studies Core Extension class will complete a specialized civic project. This project allows them to earn a point toward the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness, a prestigious distinction awarded upon high school graduation that recognizes excellence in civic knowledge and community engagement.

ACCESS THE NYS NEW FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

Click the seal

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Social Studies 8 Units



Click on each unit in the timeline above to see more details, including learning targets, key resources, and relevant NYS learning standards.

World Language, Grade 8

Unit 5:
My Hobbies + Interests

Unit 6:
My Trip

Unit 7:
My Community

Unit 8:
My Health + Well Being

Unit 9:
My Social Life

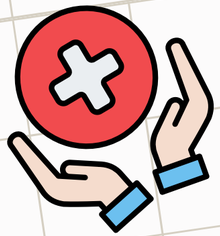
Unit 10:
My Environment

CLICK HERE TO SEE MORE DETAILS, INCLUDING LEARNING TARGETS, KEY RESOURCES, AND RELEVANT NYS LEARNING STANDARDS.





Additional Studies





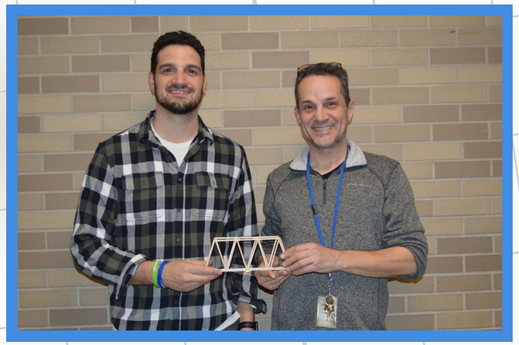
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Art



6th and 8th: In art, students explore their creativity while building foundational skills in a variety of artistic techniques. This course introduces students to drawing, painting, collage and sculpture through hands on projects that encourage imagination and problem-solving.

Studio in art: This advanced level art course is designed for middle school students with a strong interest and foundational skills in visual arts. Studio in Art is a foundation course in which the student explores a variety of media in the areas of drawing, painting, printmaking, design and an introduction to digital art.

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Music Band Orchestra Chorus

Goal of Ensembles: To have students enjoy making music together and make both group progress and individual progress!

Rehearsals: During school day. The goal is for the group to learn how to play together and prepare for concerts.

Lessons: Students miss class on a rotating basis. Only will miss each period 1-2 times a quarter. Minimum requirement is 4-5 lessons a quarter, so there is allowance for tests/quizzes. The goal is for individual progress and individual instruction.

NYS Music Education Standards



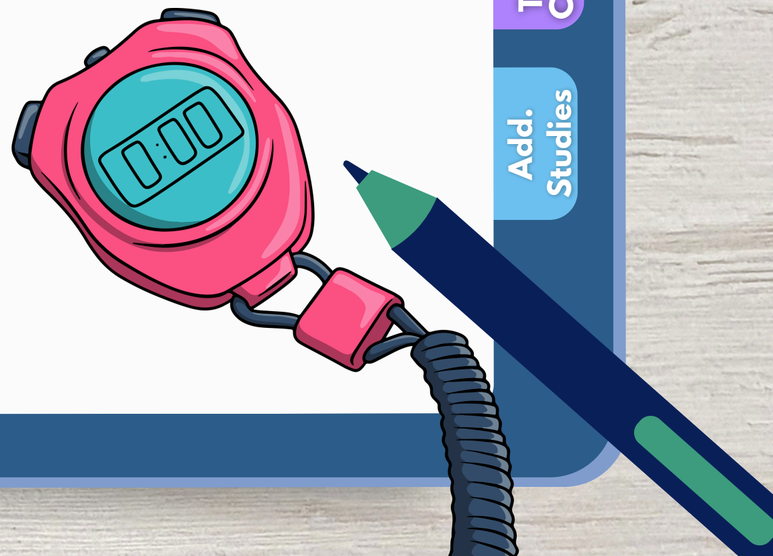
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Physical Education



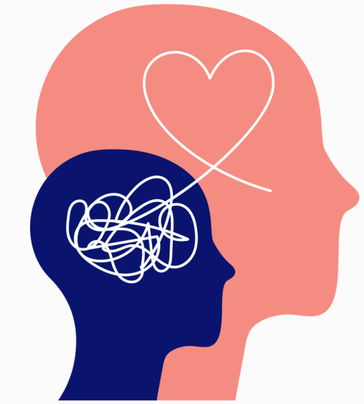
The Elwood Middle School Physical Education program provides a co-educational, sequential curriculum that develops movement skills, promotes physical fitness, and fosters lifelong healthy habits. Through a variety of individual and team activities, the Elwood Middle School Physical Education Program teaches students the value of a healthy body and empower students to make positive choices for overall wellness.

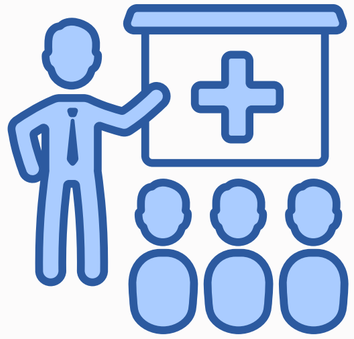
In addition to physical development, our program emphasizes character, sportsmanship, and social emotional growth. We strive to create a supportive environment where students of all ability levels feel encouraged to challenge themselves and embrace the value of perseverance. Our commitment remains focused on meeting each student where they are, ensuring that the lessons learned in our gymnasium translate into confidence and resilience in their everyday lives.



Health

The Elwood Middle School Health program is a comprehensive half-year course designed to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of adolescence. During this pivotal developmental stage, students transition from childhood to young adulthood, facing new social, emotional, and physical challenges. Our curriculum utilizes a skills based approach, focusing not just on factual information but on the practical application of decision making, goal setting, and effective communication. By dedicating a full semester to these topics, we ensure students have the time to engage in meaningful dialogue and develop personal skills necessary for maintaining a healthy lifestyle in a rapidly changing world.





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Family and Consumer Science (FACS)



Goals: To acquire skills and knowledge to meet present and future responsibilities as a productive member of society. The goal is to educate students to think constructively, make sound decisions, solve problems, and manage resources. To teach life skills that relate directly to the real world

FACS 6 has four units of study including Personal Development that includes interpersonal relationships, Communication skills, values, goals and decision-making. Learning basic sewing skills using hand sewing stitches. News Literacy which covers the function of news, how media can be manipulated and how to discern credible news sources. Cooking covers safety, sanitation practices, cooking tools, kitchen equipment, measuring, reading recipes, and use different cooking methods.



FACS 8 has three units of study including Career exploration during which we cover various topics including college research, interview skills, and career research. Cooking reviews food safety and sanitation practices, following a recipe and participation in food labs. Babysitting/Child Care covers stages of development, babysitting tips, responsibility, and scenarios.

Reading AIS/English Intervention

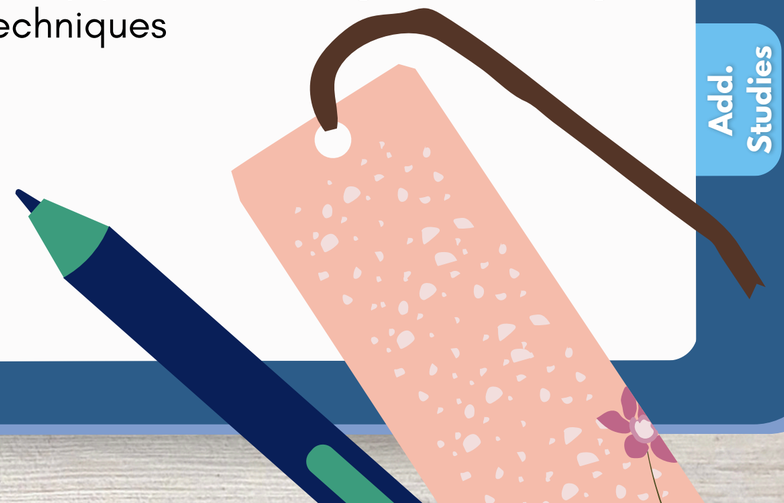
Academic Intervention Services (AIS) are services that are required for students that have not achieved NYS Standards and/or who are at risk of not achieving the NYS Standards. Students with the greatest academic need are identified and targeted to receive additional support.

Multiple measures are used to determine if your child needs AIS:

- Assessment scores - NYS State ELA and/or Math Exam
- i-Ready
- Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment
- Classroom performance
- Teacher and/or Guidance Counselor recommendations

The goals of the program are:

- Foster oral reading fluency
- To develop decoding strategies
- To develop comprehension strategies
- To broaden vocabulary
- To increase writing skills
- To help your child progress towards reading on grade level
- To solidify basic understanding of mathematical concepts and operations
- To develop problem solving skills, strategies and techniques

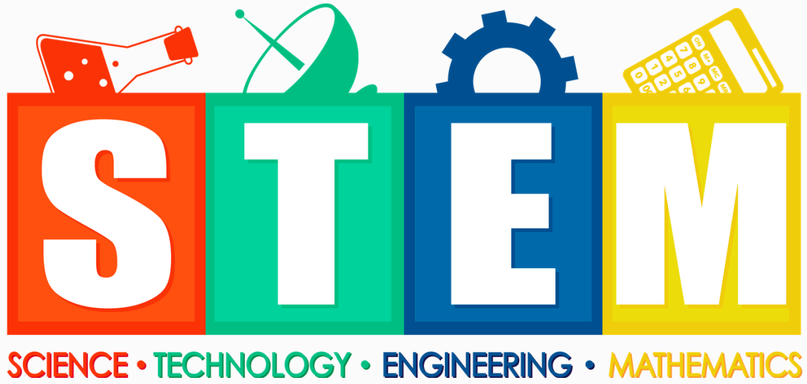


6th Grade Technology

In our 6th grade Technology class, students explore engineering, design, and manufacturing through hands-on projects that encourage creativity, problem-solving, and safe tool use. These lessons are designed to build foundational skills that support future learning in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) while also strengthening collaboration, organization, and confidence. This course helps students become better problem-solvers who can think critically, work collaboratively, and safely use tools and technology. By combining creativity with real-world skills, students gain a strong foundation for future STEM learning while developing responsibility, persistence, and pride in their work.

See the Projects here

technology



7th Grade Technology

In 7th grade Technology, students build on the foundational skills learned in earlier courses and move toward more advanced engineering, drafting, manufacturing, and digital design concepts. Projects emphasize accuracy, planning, collaboration, and real-world applications of math and science while continuing to reinforce safe tool use and responsible decision-making. The 7th grade Technology course prepares students to think like engineers and designers. By combining drafting, physics, digital tools, and manufacturing processes, students develop strong problem-solving skills, attention to detail, and confidence working with both technology and tools. These experiences support future STEM learning while reinforcing collaboration, responsibility, and pride in high-quality work.

See the Projects here





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8th Grade Technology STEAM

Science Buddies STEM Challenges

The Science Buddies Engineering Challenge lets students use their problem-solving skills to design, build, and test contraptions. The challenges use simple materials such as paper and tape to solve the given challenge. Here is a list of the challenges we did this year.

See the Challenges here

Coding using code.org

Students are engaged with the Hour of AI. This replaced the Hour of Code. Whether creating a dance to your own remix or braving a night in Minecraft to teach AI a lesson, the Hour of AI activities open the door for every student to understand, question, and create with the technology shaping our world.
After introduction of AI through the Mix and Move lesson, students challenge themselves and their coding ability by learning computer science. By trying the lessons below at their own pace, students can create computer programs, develop problem-solving skills, and work through fun challenges!

Lego Robotics: Spike Kits LEGO Education SPIKE kits (Prime & Essential) are STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) learning platforms combining classic LEGO bricks with intelligent hardware (programmable hubs, motors, sensors) and a Scratch-based drag-and-drop coding app to teach problem-solving, coding, and robotics to students, with Prime for older grades (4-8). They provide hands-on, playful ways to build and program robots for various challenges, fostering critical thinking and digital skills, and support activities like those in robotics competitions.

Natural Disasters - Floods, Hurricanes and Earthquakes

Students will use explore learning (aka Gizmos) to work through lessons on building earthquake, hurricane and flood proof homes. Then the students will engage in learning about earthquake waves. Finally as a culminating activity students will try building an earthquake proof tower of their own.

Thank You

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