



EIGHTH GRADE

Your eighth grader will learn the following knowledge and skills. These academic benchmarks will be used to track your child's learning progress and determine his/her grades.

Over the course of this school year, teachers will be using these benchmarks to prepare lessons, projects, and assessments to guide your child's learning and help him/her achieve grade level expectations for our district.

If you have questions about the curriculum, feel free to contact:

Your child's teacher;

Jim Finley or Jason Zielinski, Building Administrators at West De Pere Middle School (920-337-1099);

Amy LaPierre, Director of Curriculum (920-337-1393)



LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading Literature

- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports analysis of what the text says
- Determine a theme or central idea and analyze its development; summarize objectively
- Analyze the impact of particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings, analogies and allusions
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how they contribute to meaning and style
- Analyze how differences in points of view create such effects as suspense or humor
- Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production stays faithful to the text/script
- Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or characters types from myths, traditional stories or religious works

Reading Informational Text

- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports analysis of what the text says
- Determine central idea and analyze development
- Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas and events
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings
- Analyze the structure of a specific paragraph
- Determine author's point of view or purpose and how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence and viewpoints
- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums to present
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing if reasoning is sound
- Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic

Writing

- Write arguments
- Write informative/explanatory texts
- Write narratives
- Develop and strengthen writing through the use of the writing process

- Use technology to produce and publish writing, to collaborate with others, and to efficiently present relationships between information and ideas

Research and Inquiry

- Conduct short research projects using several sources
- Gather information from multiple print and digital sources; assess credibility and accuracy of sources; quote or paraphrase to avoid plagiarism; use standard form for citation
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research

Speaking and Listening

- Engage effectively in one-on-one, group, and teacher-led discussions
- Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse formats
- Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims
- Present claims and findings, using appropriate eye contact, volume, and pronunciation
- Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims, and add interest
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts, demonstrating command of formal English when appropriate

Language (Writing/Speaking)

- Explain the function of gerunds, participles and infinitives
- Use verbs in active and passive voice and in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive moods
- Correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood
- Use correct spelling and punctuation • Build vocabulary



MATHEMATICS

The Number System

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

Expressions and Equations

- Work with radicals and integer exponents
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations

Functions

- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities

Geometry

- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres

Statistics and Probability

- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data



SCIENCE

Physical Science,
Engineering

Structure and Properties of Matter

- Describe the atomic structure of simple molecules (e.g., ammonia) and extended structure molecules (e.g., sodium chloride)
- Know that synthetic materials come from natural resources and impact society
- Predict and describe how a particle is affected by temperature

Chemical Reactions

- Analyze a substance before and after mixing to determine if a chemical reaction occurred
- Describe how chemical reactions conserve mass (atoms are neither lost nor gained)
- Design a device that uses a chemical process to transfer thermal energy

Forces and Interactions

- Design a solution to a problem about colliding objects
- Show that an object's motion depends on the forces acting on it and its own mass
- Determine what affects the strength of electric and magnetic forces
- Explain that gravity is an attractive force and depends on the mass of objects
- Show that even if two objects aren't touching, fields exist between them that exert forces on each other (e.g., magnets)

Energy

- Using graphs, show the relationship of kinetic energy (energy created by movement) to an object's mass and speed
- Show that when the order of objects in a system changes, the potential energy changes
- Create a device that either minimizes or maximizes the transfer of thermal energy
- Investigate the relationships of the energy transferred, the type of matter, the mass, and the change in average kinetic energy of the particles using temperature as a measurement
- Explain that when an object's kinetic energy changes, energy is transferred to or from that object

Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation

- Describe how a wave's amplitude is related to its energy
- Using a model, describe that waves are reflected, absorbed, or transmitted through various materials
- Show that digital signals (instead of analog signals) are a more reliable way to communicate information

Engineering Design

- Taking into account the effect on people and the environment, define how successful a design solution will be and what limitations it will have
- Compare two or more design solutions to determine how successful they will be and what limitations they have
- Create a new design solution that has the best characteristics from several existing design solutions
- Improve an object (or tool/process) based on gathered data of testing the object repeatedly



SOCIAL STUDIES

World History
(1650 CE – 1870 CE)

Map Skills

- Use a variety of maps, globes, and pictures to gather and compare information
- Know the location of regions, states, countries, major bodies of water, and mountain ranges
- Create maps
- Gather information from a variety of sources

Road to Independence

- Understand democracy's basic principles
- Understand the role of political parties and interest groups in American politics
- Understand the role of military alliances and trade associations
- Know about the independence among individuals and nations

Expansion Westward

- Know the natural resources bases of the world
- Know how major discoveries in science and technology impact the physical and human environments
- Know how bias, prejudice, and stereotypes cause conflict in society
- Know how socio-economic factors may lead to conflict among people
- Know how capital investments affect the standard of living and quality of life

Native Americans

- Know the history, culture, tribal sovereignty, and status of the American Indian tribes in Wisconsin

Civil War

- Know the factors that influence the wages of workers
- Know that differences in cultures may lead to understanding and misunderstanding among people
- Know how perspectives of historical events vary based on the role of the individual
- Know how media influences decision-making in society

Reconstruction

- Know the need for laws and policies
- Understand services provided by the government

America Developed

- Know how the past can be interpreted using a variety of sources
- Know significant events and people in the major eras of United States history
- Understand important political documents and their functions in the American political systems