

Mercer County
Junior High



Course Description Book
2022-2023

English / Language Arts

Grade 6

English / Language Arts courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Beyond emphasizing different uses for language, these courses may also include using language (particularly written text) to construct meaning and connections.

(*AmplifyELA* will be used as a primary district curriculum source.)

Units of Study:

1. Amplify Unit A: Boy: Tales of Childhood
2. Amplify Unit B: Mysteries & Investigations: The Secret of the Yellow Death, The Speckled Band, The Red-Headed League
3. Amplify Unit D: The Greeks
4. Amplify Unit E: Summer of Mariposa
5. Amplify Unit F: The Titanic Collection and the novel: Titanic: Young Survivors
6. Grammar: Quill, Amplify and projects
7. AR reading/projects
8. Other Possible Reading List: Harris and Me, Julie of the Wolves, Long Claws, Tuesday of the Other June, Zlateh the Goat, Lob's Girl, President Cleveland: Where are You?, The Dust Bowl, Southpaw, Chicago Fire, Phantom Tollbooth, and Fractured Fairy Tales

Math

Grade 6

This course builds on concepts that were learned in previous years. The 6th grade Illinois Learning Standards have been used to develop this curriculum. The units covered include ratios and proportionality, rational number operations, expressions, equations, data distribution, probability, and geometry measurement. The eight mathematical practices are also incorporated into daily learning; make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, use appropriate tools strategically, attend to precision, look for and make sense of structure, and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Units of Study:

1. Whole Numbers and Decimals
2. Fractions
3. Rational Numbers
4. Ratio and Rates
5. Percents
6. Units of Measure
7. Algebra: Expressions
8. Algebra: Equations and Inequalities
9. Algebra: Relationships Between Variables
10. Area
11. Surface Area and Volume
12. Data Displays and Measures of Center
13. Variability and Data Distributions

6th Grade Advanced Math

Grade 6

This course is designed to challenge those students that excel in math. The curriculum follows the 6th and 7th grade Illinois Learning Standards. Units covered include real numbers and exponents, expressions and equations, congruence and similarity, functions, linear systems, Pythagorean Theorem, patterns, and bivariate data, and volume. The eight mathematical practices are also incorporated into daily learning; make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, use appropriate tools strategically, attend to precision, look for and make sense of structure, and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Units of Study:

1. Whole Numbers and Decimals
2. Fractions
3. Rational Numbers
4. Ratio and Rates
5. Percents
6. Units of Measure
7. Algebra: Expressions
8. Algebra: Equations and Inequalities
9. Algebra: Relationships Between Variables
10. Area
11. Surface Area and Volume
12. Data Displays and Measures of Center
13. Variability and Data Distributions
14. Adding and Subtracting integers
15. Multiplying and Dividing Integers
16. Rational Numbers
17. Rates and Proportionality
18. Proportions and Percents

Science

Grade 6

This course uses an integrated approach to science that includes life, earth and physical science. Topics in the area of life science include photosynthesis/respiration, feeding relationships in ecosystems, cycling of matter in an ecosystem and population dynamics. Topics in the area of physical science include introduction to particles of matter and thermal energy. Topics in the area of earth science include weather and climate. All areas include a variety of activities including hands-on activities. (*AmplifyScience* will be used as a primary district curriculum; supplemental resources will also be utilized.)

Units of Study:

1. Nature of Science (short mini-unit)
2. Particles of Matter
3. Microbiomes
4. Ecology
5. Populations and Resources
6. Thermal Energy
7. Ocean, Atmosphere, and Climate
8. Weather
9. Climate Change

Social Studies: World History

Grade 6

The focus of 6th Grade Social Studies centers on ancient civilizations in Asia, Africa, and Europe. We will learn about each civilization's unique geography, religion, achievements, politics, economics, and social structures. Furthermore, students will practice being historians by investigating historical events and using evidence and reasoning to support their ideas.

Units of Study:

1. Geography (Introduction Unit)
2. Early Humans
3. Mesopotamia
4. Egypt
5. India
6. China
7. Greece
8. Rome

English / Language Arts

Grade 7

English / Language Arts courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Beyond emphasizing different uses for language, these courses may also include using language (particularly written text) to construct meaning and connections.

(AmplifyELA will be used as a primary district curriculum source.)

Units of Study:

1. Amplify Unit A: Red Scarf Girl
2. Amplify Unit B: Character & Conflict (A Raisin in the Sun)
3. Amplify Unit C: Brain Science (Phinneas Gage)
4. Amplify Unit D: Poetry & Poe
5. Amplify Unit E: Frida & Diego Collection
6. Amplify Unit F: Gold Rush Collection
7. Grammar: Quill / Amplify
8. Cartoon Vocabulary
9. AR reading

Math

Grade 7

This course builds on concepts that were learned in previous years. The 7th grade Illinois Learning Standards have been used to develop this curriculum. The units covered include ratios and proportionality, rational number operations, expressions, equations, data distribution, probability, and geometry measurement. The eight mathematical practices are also incorporated into daily learning; make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, use appropriate tools strategically, attend to precision, look for and make sense of structure, and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Units of Study:

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adding and Subtracting Integers 2. Multiplying and Dividing Integers 3. Rational Numbers 4. Rates and Proportionality 5. Proportions and Percents 6. Expressions and Equations 7. Inequalities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Modeling Geometric Figures 9. Circumference, Area, and Volume 10. Random Samples and Populations 11. Analyzing and Comparing Data 12. Experimental Probability 13. Theoretical Probability and Simulations |
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7th Grade Advanced Math

Grade 7

This course is designed to challenge those students that excel in math. The curriculum follows the 8th grade Illinois Learning Standards. Units covered include real numbers and exponents, expressions and equations, congruence and similarity, functions, linear systems, Pythagorean Theorem, patterns, and bivariate data, and volume. The eight mathematical practices are also incorporated into daily learning; make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, use appropriate tools strategically, attend to precision, look for and make sense of structure, and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Units of Study:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adding and Subtracting Integers 2. Multiplying and Dividing Integers 3. Rational Numbers 4. Rates and Proportionality 5. Proportions and Percents 6. Expressions and Equations 7. Inequalities 8. Modeling Geometric Figures 9. Circumference, Area, and Volume 10. Random Samples and Populations 11. Analyzing and Comparing Data 12. Experimental Probability | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Theoretical Probability and Simulations 14. Real Numbers 15. Exponents and Scientific Notation 16. Proportional Relationships 17. Nonproportional Relationships 18. Solving Linear Equations 19. Transformational Geometry 20. Transformations and Similarity 21. Angle Relationships in Parallel Lines and Triangles 22. The Pythagorean Theorem 23. Volume |
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Science

Grade 7

This course uses an integrated approach to science that includes life, earth and physical science. Topics in the area of life science include cells and cell processes, heredity, dissection and human anatomy/physiology. Topics in the area of physical science include atoms, states of matter, the periodic table, and physical and chemical properties/changes. Topics in the area of earth science include rocks, minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes. All areas include labs and hands-on activities. (*AmplifyScience* will be used as a primary district curriculum source.)

Units of Study:

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| 1. Science Lab Skills | 6. Chemical Reactions |
| 2. Geology on Mars | 7. Populations and Resources |
| 3. Plate Motion | 8. Metabolism |
| 4. Plate Motion Engineering Internship | 9. Metabolism Engineering Internship |
| 5. Rock Transformations | 10. Traits and Reproduction |

Social Studies: Geography

Grade 7

The focus of 7th Grade Social Studies mainly centers on the different facets of the Earth's geography. Not only does this include physical geography, but also climate, cultural, economic, and political aspects. The class will pay particular attention to these in terms of their existence in the western hemisphere, with the fifty states being a special area of concentration. The eastern hemisphere will be discussed as time allows. Extensive work will be done in regards to working with maps.

(*World Studies – Western Hemisphere – Prentice Hall – 2005*)

Units of Study:

1. Basic Geography Terminology and Maps
2. Earth's Physical Geography (the planet, land forms, climate/weather, vegetation zones)
3. Earth's Human Geography (population, migration, economics, politics)
4. Earth's Cultural Geography
5. Natural Resources
6. States

English / Language Arts

Grade 8

English / Language Arts courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Beyond emphasizing different uses for language, these courses may also include using language (particularly written text) to construct meaning and connections.

(*AmplifyELA* will be used as a primary district curriculum source.)

Units of Study:

1. Perspectives and Narrative (writing a narrative)
2. Liberty and Equality (The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave)
3. Science and Science Fiction (Frankenstein graphic novel)
4. Holocaust: Memory and Meaning
5. The Space Race Collection (research essay)
6. Poetry
7. Grammar
8. The Call of the Wild
9. The Outsiders

Math

Grade 8

This course builds on concepts that were learned in previous years. The curriculum follows the 8th grade Illinois Learning Standards. Units covered include real numbers and exponents, expressions and equations, congruence and similarity, functions, linear systems, Pythagorean theorem, patterns, bivariate data, and volume. The eight mathematical practices are also incorporated into the daily learning: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, use appropriate tools strategically, attend to precision, look for and make sense of structure, and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Units of Study:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Real Numbers 2. Exponents & Scientific Notation 3. Proportional Relationships 4. Nonproportional Relationships 5. Writing Linear Equations 6. Functions 7. Solving Linear Equations 8. Solving Systems of Linear Equations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Transformations and Congruence 10. Transformations and Similarity 11. Angle Relationships in Parallel Lines and Triangles 12. The Pythagorean Theorem 13. Volume 14. Scatter Plots 15. Two-Way Tables

8th Grade (Math I)

Grade 8

This course is designed to challenge those students who excel in math. The curriculum follows the 9th grade Illinois Learning Standards. Conceptual categories of units covered include number and quantity, algebra, functions, modeling, geometry, and statistics and probability. The eight mathematical practices are also incorporated into the daily learning: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, use appropriate tools strategically, attend to precision, look for and make sense of structure, and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Units of Study:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expressions 2. Equations in one Variable 3. Relations and Functions 4. Linear and Nonlinear Functions 5. Creating Linear Equations 6. Linear Inequalities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. System of Linear Equations and Inequalities 8. Exponents and Roots 9. Exponential Functions 10. Polynomials 11. Quadratic Functions 12. Statistics

Science

Grade 8

This class will build on the scientific concepts that students have learned previously and work to prepare students for science courses offered at the high school level. The year will incorporate areas of study in physical science, life science, and earth science. Specific topics include density, buoyancy, astronomy, animal diversity, dissection, and energy.

(*AmplifyScience* will be used as a primary district curriculum source.)

Units of Study:

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| 1. Science Introduction (measure/graph) | 8. Cooking with Light |
| 2. Harnessing Human Energy | 9. Math with Light Waves (Protractor Work) |
| 3. Density | 10. Earth, Moon and Sun |
| 4. Force and Motion | 11. Natural Selection |
| 5. Rockets | 12. Worm Dissection |
| 6. Magnetic Fields | 13. Frog Dissection |
| 7. Light Waves | 14. Evolutionary History |

Social Studies: American History

Grade 8

This course covers U.S. History up to the time of Reconstruction. The first semester will be spent covering the Reformation, early European colonization of North America (Separatist and Puritans) the first Indian wars (King Philips and Queen Ann's war) the French and Indian War, The American Revolution and the U.S. Constitution. First semester includes flag and voting test units. The second semester covers the War of 1812, Jacksonian era politics, Industrialization, The Mexican War, Slavery, and the Civil War. The second semester includes a mini unit on the history of Illinois, and the Illinois state constitution test. (*Call to Freedom* – Holt – 2005)

Units of Study:

1. World Before the opening of the Atlantic
2. The Earliest Americans
3. Colonial America
4. The Virginia Company- The Atlantic Slave trade
5. Plymouth Plantation- The Pilgrims Experience
6. The Puritans
7. Conflict in the American Colonies- The American Revolution
8. Launching the Nation- Foundations of Government
9. The U.S. Constitution
10. The Expanding Nation
11. King Cotton - The Slave System
12. The Nation Breaks apart- The Civil War
13. Reconstruction

Physical Education

Grades 6, 7 and 8

The department has developed a curriculum with a variety of activities with special attention on participation, safety, and success. Topics covered include physical health and fitness programming, recreational and leisure time activities, positive social behaviors, and team building skills. This course is for an entire year. *Students will be required to wear a school PE uniform during class.*

Units of Study:

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| 1. Frisbee | 7. Volleyball |
| 2. Soccer | 8. Badminton |
| 3. Football | 9. Floor Hockey |
| 4. Pickleball | 10. Nitroball |
| 5. Basketball | 11. Speedball |
| 6. Bowling | 12. Tchukball |

Elective Courses

Band

Grades 6, 7 and 8

Junior High Band is an intermediate level band. Students are required to have prior musical experience either through 6th grade beginning band or private instruction. The course is designed to build upon skills students have already developed as well as introduce new skills. Students explore and perform a variety of musical styles throughout the year. Students will also study basic music theory, history, and terminology. The band will perform several times throughout the school year, including parades and organizational contest. Band will meet as a separate grade level group of 6th, 7th and 8th grades every day. The *Mercer County Golden Eagles JH Band* will give the music student an opportunity to excel on their instrument as well as build a life-long appreciation of music.

Units of Study:

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|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Group Performance |
| 2. Solo Performance |
| 3. Practice / Scales |
| 4. Goal Setting / Self Reflection |
| 5. Music Theory |
| 6. Music History |
| 7. Instrument Technique |
| 8. Instrument Care |

Chorus

Grades 6, 7 and 8

Junior High Chorus includes singing choral music, sight reading, music theory, and music appreciation. We will also have two concerts a year, winter and spring. Each year in April, students will be attending the Prairieland Choral Festival. We also will be doing a mini-musical to be presented at the New Boston Elementary school during the school day. Chorus students will sing at 8th grade promotion ceremony. Students can also participate in extra activities such as IESA Festivals and Solo/ Ensemble contest. **(Students are required to attend Organization Contest each year.)**

Units of Study:

1. Group Performance
2. Solo Performance
3. Practice / Scales
4. Music Theory
5. Music History

Art 1

Grades 6, 7 and 8

Students taking this course will investigate the tools and processes used for creating art in a variety of different media. Basic art elements and principles will be reviewed and used as the central focus for creation. Students will have the opportunity to work in both 2D and 3D design.

Units of Study:

1. Drawing – Graphite, Pen/Ink, Colored Pencil
2. One Point Perspective – Impressionism/Van Gogh, Surrealism/Salvador Dali
3. Oil Pastels – Fauvism
4. Mixed Media Art – Whimsy
5. Acrylic Painting – Color Mixing, Tint and Shade
6. Watercolor Techniques
7. Printmaking – Pop Art/Andy Warhol
8. Fabric Art – Feminist Art/Miriam Schapiro
9. Sculpture – Puppet Making
10. Pottery Basics – Cubism/Picasso

Art 2

Grade 7 and 8

Prerequisite – Art 1

Students will further their knowledge of art techniques and processes and continue to build skill in wide variety of art media. Projects include both 2D and 3D design. The students and teacher will work together to plan, develop and execute a permanent work of art to be displayed on school grounds.

Units of Study:

1. Drawing – Graphite, Pen/Ink, Colored Pencil, Charcoal
2. Two Point Perspective
3. Scratch Art
4. Watercolor Painting
5. Acrylic Painting – Art Nouveau/Klimt
6. Printmaking – Monotype
7. Relief Sculpture – Metal Tooling, Cardboard Design
8. Maskmaking
9. Pottery – Hand Building: Coil, Slab, Mold

Art 3

Grade 8

Prerequisite – Art 1 and Art 2

Students will further their knowledge of art techniques and processes and continue to build skill in wide variety of art media. The students and teacher will work together to plan, develop and execute a permanent work of art to be displayed on school grounds. Students and teacher will have the opportunity to take part in designing the school yearbook.

Units of Study:

1. Drawing – Graphite, Pen/Ink, Colored Pencil, Charcoal
2. Mixed Media Art
3. Scratch Art
4. Watercolor Painting
5. Acrylic Painting
6. Faux Stained Glass
7. Printmaking – Multicolor Relief
8. Mobiles – Alexander Calder
9. Sculpture in the Round – Recycled
10. Pottery
11. Yearbook

20th Century History I and II

Grades 7 and 8

This class is designed to incorporate many of the aspects of social studies into a year-round study of the history of the 20th century. While there will of course be emphasis on the United States, other major events in the world will also be examined. A major area of concentration will be placed on studying primary and secondary accounts of the events that have happened in the last one hundred years. In doing so, we will gain more in-depth knowledge of the stories that have shaped our modern world. Reading, writing, and research will be three core components of this class that will all involve ELA standards and Common Core. The second class begins where the first class ends.

Units of Study:	
1. Spanish-American War	10. Great Depression
2. Immigration	11. World War II
3. Factory Life/Child Labor	12. Route 66
4. Panama Canal	13. The Cold War
5. Wright Brothers	14. Korea
6. Titanic	15. Civil Rights Movement
7. World War I	16. Vietnam
8. Roaring Twenties	17. Middle East
9. Scopes Monkey Trial	18. The Olympics

Study Hall

Grades 6, 7 and 8

Students have the option of taking study hall as an elective. Students will have the opportunity to receive support from a teacher to help them complete assignments, study for assessments and a quiet environment to read if all other coursework is finished.