

School District 622



North St. Paul  
Maplewood  
Oakdale



**SKYVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**2009 - 2010**

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**SKYVIEW COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1100 Heron Ave. N., Oakdale, MN 55128-5357



**TEAMING APPROACH GRADE 8:** One of the concepts in building an effective middle school is providing students with small community membership within the larger school community. Teachers and students in the eighth grade team form a cohesive and supportive group. Together they build a feeling of belonging and a sense of shared productivity.

**LANGUAGE ARTS 8:** Language arts encompasses the basic elements of literature and written composition. Spelling, Greek and Latin root words, vocabulary and speech are integrated into the course.

Reading skills are developed through two main avenues: self-selected materials outside of class, and specific literature studied as a whole class. Each 8<sup>th</sup> grader will read several selections from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade anthology and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. Other novels may be read and are listed below.



Writing skills are developed through several means, including creative, narrative, expository and persuasive writing. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are covered within the context of the writing process.

**Texts:** Required: *Holt, Elements of Literature, Second Course, 2005* (anthology); *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck.

**Optional:** *Night*, by Elie Wiesel, 1960; *The Call of the Wild*, by Jack London, 1903; *The Glory Fields*, by Walter Dean Myers, 1994; *The Red Scarf Girl*, by Ji-Li Jiang, 1997

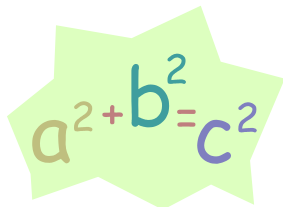


**Geography 8:** The eighth grade course is a year of studying World Geography. World Geography gives each student not only the facts, but also allows the student to use this information in map and globe activities, reading and critical thinking lessons. This course helps students to understand and examine the world. To do this one must look at the whole in relation to its parts, its parts in relation to one another and all in relation to each student's place in the future. The course will include both physical geography such as landforms and water and regional or cultural geography dealing with people and how and where they live. Sample units include Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Students are encouraged to see themselves as part of the global world. It is important for informed citizens to know about the world as it exists today.

**MATH 8:** District 622 is using a program for sixth through eighth grade math called *MathThematics*. This program presents math concepts that connect mathematical ideas to real world applications. A variety of teaching methods will be used including cooperative learning, discovery-based learning and direct instruction. The majority of eighth grade students are enrolled in Book 3 of the *MathThematics* series. This course includes topics in probability, geometry, data analysis, patterns, and computation. Problem solving, mathematical reasoning, estimation, technical reading and writing are embedded in the curriculum. Enrichment is available within each module.



**ALGEBRA 1:** The major concepts developed in Algebra 1 include algebra, geometry, probability and statistics.



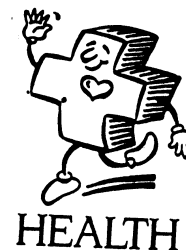
Algebra 1 counts as one year of high school math. Placement in this class will be determined by a district selection process.

**SCIENCE 8:** Science 8 is a full year study of chemistry and physics. Modern theories, concepts and laws are systematically developed through lectures, laboratory experiments and demonstrations. Emphasis is placed on the scientific method and problem solving strategies. Mathematical expressions are introduced and used when appropriate. This course provides the required background for science courses in grades 9-12. Students must provide paper, pencil, calculator and a three-ring binder for class. Text: *Modern Physical Science*, Holt, Rhinehart, Winston.



**PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8:** Students are required to take physical education for three-fourths of the school year. This course will focus on promoting an active lifestyle, skill building, physical fitness development, rhythmic education, team games and other optional activities. Student participation, quizzes and skill assessments are paramount to achieving success in physical education.

**HEALTH 8:** Health is taught in conjunction with the student's physical education class and is taught by the same teacher. This course is taught for nine weeks, throughout the year. Health Education will cover communicable/non-communicable diseases, the immune, endocrine and reproductive systems, tobacco and alcohol abuse and abstinence-based human sexuality.



**TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8:** Industrial Technology is a trimester class for students in 8th grade. The technology lab at Skyview consists of 18 technology modules, which are 8 days in length. Students will complete 6 modules during the trimester. Students are given an opportunity to choose modules but are paired randomly by computer scheduling. Each module consists of pre and post tests, research questions and hands-on activities. Information is presented using computers, video, CD-ROM and textbooks. Several modules require a small fee for the take-home projects completed. The modules in the technology lab at Skyview include:



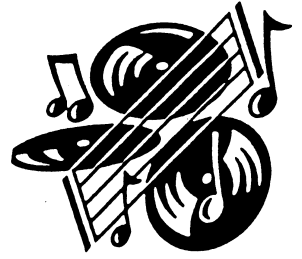
Applied Physics  
Electricity  
Engineering Bridges  
Graphic Communication  
Robots  
Engineering Trusses

Audio Broadcasting  
Computer Graphics & Animation  
Energy, Power & Mechanics  
Meteorology  
Rocketry & Space  
Product Manufacturing  
Home Mechanics

Career Exploration  
Electronics  
Flight Technology  
Research & Design  
Creative Solutions  
Video Broadcasting



**BAND 8:** Eighth grade band is a yearlong commitment open to students who have completed seventh grade band. Band is a performance class and **attendance at all performances is mandatory.** Students prepare for two to three concert performances per year. Students enhance their music reading skills through preparing music that is appropriate to their ability levels. Band members receive small group lessons during the trimester, in addition to their band rehearsals. **Home practice is required. Students who do not meet minimum expectations and requirements may be re-evaluated to determine their eligibility to remain in band.** The school may provide the following instruments: bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone and tuba. There is a rental charge for use of these instruments. All other instruments must be provided by the students.



**JAZZ ENSEMBLE:** Jazz Ensemble is an extra-curricular class that meets before school 3 days a week. Students are selected by an audition process. Jazz Ensemble auditions are open to sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass guitar or drums.

**MUSIC APPRECIATION 8:** Eighth grade Music Appreciation is a course which meets daily for one trimester. Study units include: music history, the history of jazz, and the history of rock & roll. Music listening skills will be developed throughout the course.

**CHOIR 8:** Eighth grade choir is a yearlong course, which meets every other day throughout the year. Through choral experience, students explore various types of music in three or four parts. It is a performance-oriented course in which music reading skills are developed. This choir presents two performances each year. **Attendance at all concerts is mandatory. Choir is a yearlong commitment** for highly motivated students who love to sing!



**SWING CHOIR:** Swing Choir is a select group of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who love to perform. Popular songs are stressed with this group and choreography is included. This is an extra-curricular activity that meets before or after school.



## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (FACS) 8:**

FACS is a trimester class that involves individual and group work as well as laboratory experiences. The areas covered are:

### ◆ **Consumer Education:**

Students learn about consumer rights and responsibilities and the decision-making process, which includes understanding about wants, needs, and goals. They will get a packet from a bank and learn how to write checks, deposit slips and how to reconcile a checking account. They learn how to compare products through various types of media.

### ◆ **Child Development**

Students learn about the stages of development of a child from pre-natal through age five. This includes the stages in physical, social and cognitive development. Areas of discipline, parenting skills, reading to children, child safety, and activities for children are included in this unit.

### ◆ **Foods and Nutrition:**

Students review kitchen preparation skills, kitchen management skills and prepare labs. Nutrition includes keeping a food record for a period of time. Students learn about the various nutrients and what they do for the body. They also learn about calories and information about healthy eating. This unit includes reading labels and understanding what they mean.



### ◆ **Housing and Home Furnishing:**

Students learn the principles and elements of design. They complete a project incorporating a floor plan and interior decorating skills they have learned in the unit.

NOTE: Careers are integrated in all areas.

Students will need a pencil, blue or black ink pen, calculator for the consumer unit. For the housing unit, students will need colored pencils, two glue sticks and graph paper.

**SPECIAL SERVICES:** Special education services are provided for students who qualify in a cross-categorical inclusion or intervention model. Services are provided in the areas of learning disabilities (LD), other health impaired (OHI), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and emotional behavioral disorder (EBD). Related services for qualifying students are provided in the areas of speech/language, hearing impairment, and/or adaptive physical education.

## **OTHER SERVICES OFFERED:**

Homebound instruction for students absent from school due to injury or illness for a consecutive period of 15 days or more is also available. Parents and/or students who feel that they are in need of such services should contact the Guidance Office.