

Hoopeston Area Middle School Curriculum Guide



Dear Hoopeston Area Families,

This guidebook is meant to provide you with information about the curriculum taught at Hoopeston Area Middle Schools. It is a tool for you to better understand the framework for instruction as well as the expectations in each subject area for your student(s).

We hope that this guidebook will answer basic questions that you may have as well as provide insight into what your child will be experiencing in the classroom on a daily basis.

Our entire curriculum in literacy and mathematics is aligned to the New Illinois Learning Standards. Our science curriculum is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards, which focus on engineering, life science, physical science, and Earth and space science.

The more that you know and understand about our curriculum, the better able we will be to work together for the learning success of your child. If you have further questions about any of our curriculum programs, feel free to contact me or talk to your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Emily Brown

Hoopeston Area C.U.S.D. #11 Curriculum Coordinator

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Literacy

Our literacy curriculum is aligned to the New Illinois Learning Standards for English Language Arts. For a complete list of all of the standards please look online at <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy>.

7th and 8th Grade English Language Arts

The HAMS 7th and 8th grade Language Arts Department has adopted the Collections Series that is aligned to the New Illinois Learning Standards. These units are filled with content that focuses on literature, informational text, speaking and listening, writing, and language. Within Collections units, students will be assessed in different ways to show their mastery of the content. Throughout the school year, students will be challenged through six unique units: Basic Writing/Research, Speech, Biographies / Autobiographies, Short Stories, Poetry/Drama, and Independent Research. The units will be centered on Big Ideas and I-Can Statements.

Café

CAFÉ is an acronym for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanding Vocabulary. The Café menu is a set of strategies for building skills in comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and vocabulary. During independent practice time in the Daily 3, students will have small group and individual conference time to learn and work on these strategies. The Café system includes goal-setting with students in individual conferences, developing small group instruction based on clusters of students with similar goals, and targeting whole-class instruction based on emerging student needs and fine tuning one on one conferring.

English Language Arts Common Core Aligned Units

All units are focused on common core standards. These units are themed and filled with content that help students master skills in reading literature, reading informational text, reading foundational skills, speaking and listening, and language. These units are taught during the whole group focus lessons of Daily 3. The standards in the units focus on what students should know, understand, and be able to do at their grade level. The units are centered by a “Big Idea” that get students actively linking about what they will be learning. Essential questions are also a big part of the units. They are open ended questions that stimulate higher order and deeper thinking. Teachers use ‘I Can’ statements to help hold students accountable for their own learning. These statements are simply the common core standards written in language that students can understand and use to determine their own mastery.

Units of Study for Writer's Workshop

Writer's Workshop is a new format that we will be using for writing instruction this year. Our teachers have been trained on Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Writer's Workshop. These units of study are aligned to the Common Core Writing standards and will help students learn to write research based argumentative types of writing. Through the workshop format, teachers will be taught writing lessons during focus lessons in the Daily 3 and then will be given independent practice time to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish their work. During this independent practice time, students will work with the teacher in small groups and individually to conference about their writing.

8th Grade Honors English

The 8th grade Honors English Language Arts program at Hoopston Area Middle School is designed to create independent learners that are ready for the increased responsibility of the high school environment. The course focuses on developing academic writing skills through research and argumentative papers, expanding vocabulary through studying Latin and Greek root words, deepening understanding of texts by examining multiple interpretations, and encouraging critical thinking by pushing students to form and support their own opinions of topics covered. Classes often include group collaboration, spirited classroom discussion, and extensive "book talks" on books and series students are reading on their own. Though the work is rigorous and expectations are high, the honors class is a relaxed atmosphere where students are encouraged to be themselves and express their opinions.

Mathematics

Our mathematics curriculum is aligned to The New Illinois Learning Standards for mathematics. For a complete list of these standards please visit:

<http://www.corestandards.org/Math>

7th Grade Math& 8th Grade Math

Our Middle school Math Curriculum is aligned to the Illinois Model Math Scope and Sequence which is aligned to the New Illinois Learning Standards.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra

Students taking Pre-Algebra in 7th grade move through an accelerated math curriculum in order to be prepared to take Math I as 8th graders.

8th Grade Math I

Students taking Math I in 8th grade move through an accelerated math curriculum that makes them eligible to take Math II their freshman year of high school.

Science

The Next Generation Science Standards have recently been released and are currently awaiting adoption by the state of Illinois. We will be working to align our curriculum to these standards over the next few years and will have full implementation of The Next Generation Science Standards by the 2016-17 school year. Please visit <http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards> for a complete list of the standards.

7th Grade Science

Units of Study

- Earth's Materials
- Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond
- Matter and Energy

8th Grade Science

Units of Study

- The Basis of Life
- Human Body Systems
- The Interdependence of Life

History

Our History Curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts for History/ Social Studies. For a complete list of these standards please visit:
<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RH/6-8/>

US History

Seventh graders in US history will be taken through over 200 years of our country's trials and tribulations. We start by doing a quick review over early peoples in North and South America, exploration and colonization. We then will explore the movement towards independence and the American Revolutionary War. Next we will look at our new country's beginnings and westward movement while also looking at conflicts with Native Americans, Britain, France and Mexico. We will then start to examine the differences occurring within our own country between Northerners and Southerners. The American Civil War will be discussed at length as well as the results and effects of the war on the United States. We will end the year by studying the Age of Business, the Industrial Revolution in America, Immigration, and Progressivism. Documents studied during the year will include the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, the Gettysburg Address and the Emancipation Proclamation.

Cultural Geography (7th Grade)

In Cultural Geography we will look at the make-up, lives, cultures and traditions of people outside the United States. It is a nine mini-unit glimpse at how others outside of our country live. We will look at population, religion, government, communication, arts, food and languages. Each unit is made up of a notes/worksheet day, an activity day, an article day and a video day. On video day, we will watch *Bizarre Foods* with Andrew Zimmern. At the end of each quarter, each student is expected to do an independent research project on a country of their choice.

American Cultural Geography (8th)

In American Cultural Geography, we will look at the make-up of our American population. We will look into different parts of the United States and see how cultures and traditions differ from region to region. Within each of the six mini-units, we will have a notes/worksheet day, an activity day, an article day and a video day. On the video day, we will watch *Bizarre Foods America* with Andrew Zimmern. At the end of the quarter, each student is expected to do an independent research project on a state of their choice.

Eighth Grade Government and World History

In Government, we begin with states and capitals. There is a review of the Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, Magna Carta, and the Federalist Papers. A Pre-Constitution unit is completed. The US Constitution includes a breakdown of the three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. All amendments are introduced. The Illinois Constitution and US Flag are part of the Government curriculum. World History includes Scientific, Agricultural, and Industrial Revolutions and how England's government was used as a framework for the US government. World War I and II along with the Korean, Cuban, and Vietnam conflicts are covered. A Holocaust unit incorporates ELA instruction. Discussion of issues affecting the United States since 1900, Attacks of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are reviewed.

Art

Middle School Art

An overview course designed to allow each 7th grade student to explore a variety of media, techniques and methods. Projects focus on introducing and developing the elements of art (line, form, color, value, texture) and principles of design (balance, variety, harmony, emphasis). Understanding and appreciation of self and others through art history, culture, and heritage is emphasized. Samplings of two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects are produced.

Music

Middle School Band

Middle School Band is an intermediate level group for both seventh and eighth grade students. This band performs four concerts throughout the year (Fall, Christmas, Winter and Fine Arts). The purpose of this class is to prepare students to play in the high school band. Members will improve their musical skill, as well as, learn music theory and history. Some members may also participate in the Jazz Band which meets before school and performs at local events and area competitions. Students should have one or more years of experience playing on a band instrument. In some instances, students with less experience may also perform in this band if given consent from the director.

7th/8th grade Concert Choir

Concert choir is a class designed for students interested in music, singing and

performing. Some musical knowledge is helpful but no previous musical experience is necessary. Students will learn basic musical/vocal skills during daily rehearsals and are required to participate in 4 concerts throughout the year (one each term).

Physical Education

Middle School Physical Education

The mission in physical education is to provide quality instruction and educational support equitably, educating all students to be lifelong self-directed learners, with a desire for lifelong fitness, in a safe and student-friendly learning environment. To encourage and empower the students to reach their full potential and succeed in and out of the classroom, establishing high expectations, compassionately helping them reach those expectations, fostering student, teacher, and parent partnerships.

Middle School physical education class builds off of the skills developed in the students 6th grade physical education experience, offering students with skill development in general education/physical fitness/sport related activities, while developing individual personal fitness with the desire for lifelong learning. Personal fitness training and development is the major theme of this class, developed/practiced in all activities throughout the year. Major units include, flag football, pre/post fitness testing, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and softball. Students have written assessments at the end of each unit to check for understanding of the concepts presented during the unit. Mini units include, but are not limited to, team handball, collaborative games, team building activities, badminton, and pickle ball. It is the goal of the physical education department to develop skills in a progressive manner throughout the middle school years based on the Illinois State Goals while incorporating Common Core Standards into the curriculum.