



SKOKIE SCHOOL
DISTRICT 68

District 68 Vision:

**To provide all students with the
comprehensive education necessary for
living an enriched and productive life
in a rapidly changing world.**

**Eighth Grade
Educational Program**

Introduction

In District 68, we offer our students comprehensive educational programs and services. This grade level brochure is designed to provide you with an overview of the challenging curriculum we offer our students as well as to highlight many of our additional student services and programs.

If you want more information about any aspect of the eighth grade program, please contact either your child's classroom teacher or the school principal.

Language Arts/Reading

Instructional Program

- **Reading/Literature**
 - Reading Strategies and Comprehension
 - Predicting
 - Summarizing
 - Connecting
 - Inferring
 - Imaging
 - Questioning
 - Literature
 - Novels
 - Poetry
 - Non-fiction articles and essays
 - Student selected material
 - Short Stories
 - Plays
 - Vocabulary
 - Fluency
- **Writing**
 - Essays
 - Expository
 - Narrative
 - Persuasive
 - Poetry
 - Short Stories
 - Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling
- **Speaking**
 - Oral Presentations
 - Daily Classroom Discussions
- **Listening**

By the end of 8th grade, students will be able to:

- Recognize and use a variety of literary elements including dialogue, various points of view, mood, and tone
- Use a variety of writing styles/genres in written work, including mystery
- Use correct punctuation, spelling, and grammar in written work
- Use various spelling strategies to anticipate the correct spelling and meaning of a word
- Use appropriate language and style in writing for a variety of purposes and audiences
- Write narrative text using focus, elaboration and organization strategies
- Write expository and persuasive text using focus, support and elaboration strategies
- Incorporate planning, revising and editing as integral parts of the writing process
- Use a variety of resources when compiling research
- Use a variety of note taking strategies
- Use MLA format when citing research materials
- Use various features, forms and structures when writing poetry
- Define unfamiliar words in reading and writing from context
- Identify and understand story elements such as theme, character, plot, and setting
- Implement various reading strategies as appropriate to the text
- Evaluate written work of authors and others, recognizing both strengths and areas for improvement
- Make oral presentations to the class
- Actively participate in class and small group activities

Mathematics Instructional Program

Pre-Algebra

Instructional Program

- Algebraic Expressions and Integers
- Solving One and Two-Step Equations
- Number Theory and Exponents
- Ratio, Rates, Proportions, and Percents in problem solving
- Linear Functions and Graphing
- Spatial Reasoning including Surface Area and Volume
- Data Analysis and Probability
- Pythagorean Theorem

Algebra

Instructional Program

- Basic Algebra Assumptions
- Solving Equations
- Solving Inequalities
- Problem Solving Applications
- Solving and Applying Proportions
- Analyzing Functions and their graphs
- Systems of Equations and Inequalities
- Exponents and Exponential Functions
- Polynomials and Factoring
- Quadratic Equations and Quadratic Functions
- Radical Expressions and Equations
- Rational Expressions and Equations

By the end of 8th grade, students will be able to:

- Recognize rational and irrational numbers
- Understand the relationship between squares and square root
- Solve one and two-step equations and inequalities using fractions, decimals, and integers
- Compute distances, lengths and measures of angles using proportions and the Pythagorean Theorem
- Recognize and apply relationships among two and three dimensional geometric figures
- Use graphical representations to explore probability of independent and dependent events
- Solve for surface area and volume of various three dimensional figures
- Apply ratio, proportion, and percent concepts to solving practical problems
- Solve systems of linear equations using graphs, tables, and calculators
- Apply introductory algebraic concepts to solve practical problems

Science

Instructional Program

- Life Science
 - Genetics
 - Cells
 - Inherited Traits
 - DNA
 - Current Genetic Issues
- Physical Science
 - Interaction of Matter and Chemistry
 - Matter
 - Periodic Table of the Elements
 - Reactions
 - Acids and Bases
- Experimental Design
 - Scientific Method

By the end of 8th grade, students will be able to:

- Classify objects based on their physical and chemical properties
- Determine an unknown by analyzing its properties (i.e. mixtures, solutions, pure substances, acids, bases)
- Formulate an explanation of the relationships among atoms, molecules, elements, and compounds
- Investigate the properties of gases at varying temperatures, pressures, and volumes
- Analyze the laws of conservation of mass and energy
- Argue the placement of an element on the periodic table based upon its chemical characteristics
- Describe the effects of electromagnetic and nuclear forces including atomic and molecular bonding
- Design and conduct a scientific procedure to determine the identity of an unknown substance
- Justify why DNA is referred to as the blue print of life
- Analyze patterns of inheritance and probability of genes and traits being passed on using Punnett squares and pedigrees
- Analyze the transmission of genetic traits, diseases, and defects
- Compare and contrast meiosis and mitosis
- Compare characteristics of organisms produced from a single parent with those of organisms produced by two parents
- Conduct scientific experiments that control all but one variable

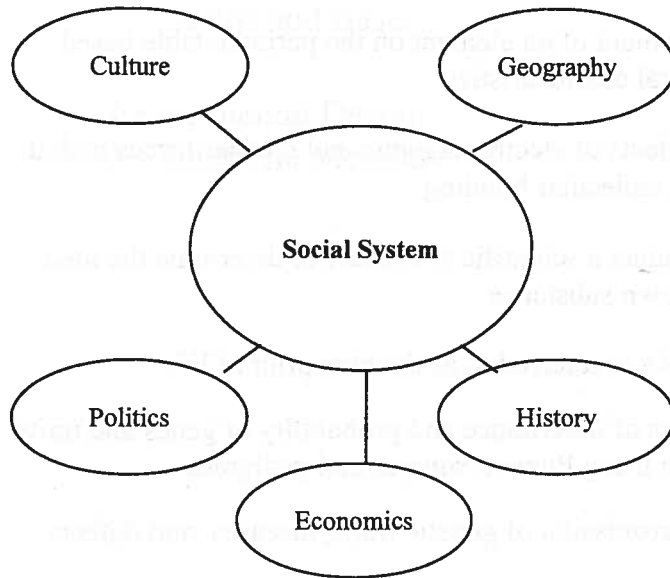
Social Studies

Instructional Program

Overarching Themes:

- The formation of states and the redrawing of maps
- The emergence of “Super Powers”
- Man’s inhumanity to man
- The struggle among ideologies in modern society
- The motivation of individuals to stand up for their convictions and their attempts to bring about change
- The powers and limitations of the government and the rights of citizens

Social System Organizer:



Using the five strands of a social system, students will develop a greater understanding of the world during the 20th and 21st centuries. Students will learn how the events of the last 110 years are connected and be able to explain the resulting changes in the world that are part of the overarching themes.

Units of Study:

- Five Strands of a Social System
- WWI/Middle East
- WWII/Genocide
- Cold War
- Political Movements
- United States and Illinois Constitutions

By the end of 8th Grade Students will be able to:

- Explain the five themes of a Social System
- Compare and interpret historical maps
- Synthesize and propose a solution for a geographic conflict
- Research and analyze a historical event
- Compare and contrast forms of government
- Interpret political cartoons
- Research social and political changes of the 20th and 21st centuries
- Understand and explain the federal and state constitutions

Physical Education & Health

The physical education curriculum emphasizes fitness, movement, team building, and safety. Units of instruction include soccer, fitness, cross country, challenge education, frisbee, team handball, flag football, speed-away, basketball, gymnastics, line dance, floor hockey, creative dance, badminton, volleyball, circuit training, track and field, softball, and tennis. Health topics include chronic and communicable diseases, healthy relationships, sexuality, and media literacy.

Art

Refining of basic skills and exploration of personal style are main areas of focus in the eighth grade visual arts program. Paint is the primary medium used within this course. Although projects continue to be based on a wide variety of important elements, students are encouraged to move beyond basic solutions and explore personal style on a more advanced level.

Computer Applications

The goal of this class is to provide students with a learning environment that develops technology skills. The computer is used as a tool to facilitate learning in all subject areas. Students will continue to develop keyboarding and advanced word processing skills. Students will explore other uses of computer applications through spreadsheet, database, and presentation software.

Drama

Students will develop skills by working in the genres of drama games, pantomime, improvisation, puppetry, children's theatre, and creation of original theatre pieces. They will gain confidence and skill in speaking, performing, collaborating, and providing constructive feedback to others. They will learn about the history of the theatre and the role of drama in our culture and the culture of others. Students will take risks and develop responsibility in relation to their own role and as a member of a supportive ensemble.

Family Consumer Sciences

Family Consumer Sciences in eighth grade includes more advanced food preparation experiences and meal planning. Consumerism is included to assist students in making wise choices based on economic circumstances, environment-friendly practices, and traditions of diverse cultures. Multiple opportunities to prepare, present, serve, and clean-up after meals are included. Caring for clothing including laundering, decorating, and repairing are offered.

Music

Students will discuss and defend their musical choices with respect to the elements of music. Particular emphasis will be on the only form of music that was developed solely in the United States: Jazz. Students will study the culture, history, development, and world influence of this unique, truly American music. Technological applications are incorporated.

Technology

Technology 8 will emphasize the integration of different types of technology and will meet in the Technology Center. Students will rotate through a variety of "modules" focusing on topics such as computer graphics and animation, digital video, architecture, graphic communications, engineering bridges, rocketry and space, computer numeric control, biotechnology, CADD, audio broadcasting, research and design, applied physics, bioengineering, digital manufacturing and robotics, and automation.

Homework Expectations

- ❖ To reinforce, review, study, and extend the work in the classroom.
- ❖ To help students learn to work independently, organize time, use good study skills, and develop self-discipline.
- ❖ To teach students how to follow directions, make judgments and comparisons, raise questions, improve reading skills, express themselves in written and oral language, listen and observe, and use resource materials.
- ❖ To help parents by giving them a better understanding of what their child is learning in school.

The average homework time for an eighth grader is approximately 60-90 minutes per evening. (Times may vary due to student's ability, organization, and time management skills.)

Additional Student Services and Programs

- English Language Learners
- Gifted and Talented Education
- Social Work Services
- Special Education Services
- Before and After School Computer Lab and Library Media Center
- Library Media Instruction and Internet Safety
- Instrumental Music
- Advisor Program
- Before and After School Activity Program
- Intramural and Interscholastic Sports

Reporting Student Performance

Student Academic Performance is formally reported to parents by mail for all classes at the following scheduled times during the year:

Mid-trimester reports by team teachers as needed
Report cards mailed each trimester

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled during November for all students. Conferences may be scheduled as necessary at team planning time during school days throughout the year. Please contact your child's teacher or team leader to schedule a meeting. In addition, Encore teachers and Physical Education teachers provide updates on grades throughout the year as warranted.

Use of Technology

District 68 provides extensive access to students and staff to support teaching and learning. These resources continue to be upgraded annually as part of the long range technology plan. This technology support ranges from a wide area network linking all District sites, to Internet access in each classroom, to an array of software and computer labs which support the curriculum. At Old Orchard, a unique Technology Center program is offered to help students learn about such topics as applied physics, robotics, graphic design, landscape architecture, and more.