

Skill Expectations for 8th Grade

Language Arts

Eighth grade students continue working on fluency, comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills. Reading great literature and working through novel units will provide a basis for challenging vocabulary in conjunction with the ISAT vocabulary words.

The units will also help students learn and practice effective reading processes and help students respond to reading using a variety of writing and speaking experiences. Dramatization, memorization, and understanding of grammar will greatly increase students' comprehension skills and their enjoyment of reading.

Students will learn, memorize, and master the following elements of grammar:

- Noun, verb, adjective, and adverb
- Preposition
- Pronoun
- Conjunctions and interjections
- Verbals
- Particles
- Gerunds and infinitives
- Independent/Dependent Clauses
- Adverb/Noun Clauses
- Compound-Complex Sentences

Students will work on a daily oral language board that includes punctuation, grammar, spelling, capitalization and more. The use of Shurley methods and diagramming will continue. Students will also work on a daily analogy and geography board.

Students will understand the steps of the writing process such as combining sentence parts and sentences to produce a variety of sentence types, including simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex.

Students will continue writing five paragraph expository essays, exploring different writing styles, the use of main idea, plot and character development, and other story elements. In addition, students will learn to write 3 paragraph, 5 paragraph, and 10 paragraph persuasive essays and letters. As students learn to use supporting ideas and information, they will also learn to use reference materials and collect data and information. Students will write two major research paper as a demonstration of the mastery of these skills.

Creative and purposeful writing assignments will also use technological tools to further prepare students for future education.

The four novels that will be read in the 8th grade are the following: The Pearl, To Kill a Mockingbird, Devil's Arithmetic, and My Brother Sam is Dead. One novel, Walk Two Moons, will be read outside of class. Students will be required to take tests that measure their comprehension.

Spanish language study will be continued.

Social Studies

Eighth grade will focus on the history, geography, and culture of the United States of America. Among specific areas to be studied are the English Colonies, the American Revolution, the Civil War, the Westward Expansion, the Reconstruction, the Industrial Revolution, the World Wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and the America today.

Students will memorize the following elements:

- The 43 Presidents, their parties, and the years in service
- The Key Dates of America's History
- The Key United States historical terms
- Part of the Declaration of Independence
- The Gettysburg Address
- The Preamble of the Constitution
- The 27 Amendments
- A Presidential Report

Mathematics

In the eighth grade students will study either Pre-Algebra or Algebra. Students will continue the use of Saxon math textbooks as the basis for the study of Pre-Algebra or Algebra. Assessments will be based on the material covered on homework assignments.

Students will continue the use of a math concept board, practice computation, and mad minutes.

Students will continue expanding knowledge of computations, geometry, fractions, estimation, algebra, graphing, and problem solving.

Course Description: Algebra will cover the following topics:

- Perform basic operations with integers and rational numbers.
- Solve equations and inequalities and word problems. Perform operations with monomials and polynomials.
- Factor polynomials. Simplify rational expressions.
- Graph linear equations and determine slope, x-intercept, and y-intercept.
- Solve systems of linear equations, radical equations, and quadratic equations.
- Continued review of concepts learned in Pre-Algebra

Course Description: Pre-Algebra will cover the following topics:

- Use integers and expressions to solve problems.
- Solve equations.
- Use decimals in equations.
- Use rational numbers, exponents, and scientific notation.
- Use ratios, proportions, and percents.
- Solve inequalities.
- Graph equations.
- Find area and volume of various solids.

- Solve problems involving right triangles.

Skills needed for success in the 8th grade:

◆ **Be familiar with the concepts to be studied in Pre-Algebra**

- Solve equations.
- Use integers and expressions to solve problems.
- Use decimals in equations.
- Use rational numbers, exponents, and scientific notation.
- Use ratios, proportions, and percents.
- Solve inequalities.
- Graph equations.
- Find area and volume of various solids.
- Solve problems involving right triangles

◆ **Understand the first seven patterns of Shurley Sentences**

◆ **Understand sentence diagramming**

◆ **Be able to take notes accurately and quietly**

◆ **Be able to write complete sentences using correct capitalization, grammar, punctuation, and be able to use a variety of sentence types**

◆ **Be able to read and comprehend above grade level novels**

- Themes
- Plot
- Character Development
- Figurative language
- Main ideas
- Compare and contrast
- Provide answers based on supporting ideas and information
- Research

◆ **Be able to write five paragraph expository essays, descriptive essays, stories and persuasive essays**

◆ **Understand the research writing process**

◆ **Be willing to participate in the dramatization and the memorization of poems and vocabulary**

◆ **Be able to master the information given and carry that information into the next year**

Attitudes and behaviors needed for success in the 8th grade:

◆ **Accept individual responsibility to:**

- Show kindness to ALL in and out of the classroom
- Follow class and school rules with a good attitude
- Use different methods to organize schoolwork
- Meet deadlines for turning in completed homework assignments

- Complete long term assignments on time
- Remain on task at all times (when working individually and with others)
- Follow directions
- Show respect for others
- Be honest and trustworthy in checking and completing any assignments
- Take the initiative to ask questions for clarification when needed

◆ **Know that excellence is a standard and you will be expected to:**

- Complete homework (on average you will have about 1-2 hours of daily homework)
- Do your best
- Use your time wisely
- Be accountable for your behavior
- Be enthusiastic about being a part of Compass Public Charter School

◆ **Parents will be expected to:**

- Support the school by helping your child meet school and class expectations
- Encourage your child to be an advocate for themselves by communicating with the teacher about any concerns that might arise
- Follow up with the teacher if student discussions with the teacher are not satisfactory
- Help your child complete homework successfully