

# **Grade 8 Course Descriptions**

## **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Students apply their language arts knowledge and skills and expand their use of language. The course objectives are organized under the following areas of study: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Technology standards should be applied in the context of language arts. Students are evaluated on their ability to read and interpret elements of literature such as conflict and characterization. They continue to refine their writing and develop in the areas of grammar, usage and mechanics. In addition, they learn to write in a variety of formats. Students explore a variety of literary types including poetry and non-fiction. They also become better acquainted with the role of technology in academics.

## **MATHEMATICS (Algebra I)**

The course objectives for grade 8 are to develop fluency in working with linear equations and extend their experiences with tables, graphs, and equations. Skills for solving linear equations and inequalities and systems of linear equations and inequalities will be developed. Students will extend their knowledge of the number system to include irrational numbers, as well as, generate equivalent expressions and use formulas. Students will simplify polynomials and begin to study quadratic relationships. Students will use technology and models to investigate and explore mathematical ideas. In addition, students will analyze situations verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically. Students will apply mathematical skills and make meaningful connections to life's experiences. Reading, writing, and problem solving are included throughout the year.

## **SCIENCE**

The purpose of this course is to emphasize the importance of the organization, analysis, and application of data continues to be an important focus of classroom inquiry. During the school year students will learn the processes of living things, systems and interactions in nature. This course teaches students to formulate their own questions about their surroundings and all life processes they see. During the school year students will learn about how living things grow and respond to changes. These are the topics included throughout the year.

**Module K** - Introduction to Science and Technology

**Module A** - Cells and Heredity

**Module B** - The Diversity of Living Things

**Module C** - The Human Body

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

This course gives the students an overview and opportunity to build on the concepts, generalizations, and skills developed in previous grades. The content focuses on the geographic regions of the Eastern Hemisphere including Europe, the former Soviet Republics, Africa, and Asia. The study focuses on the physical environments it examines social, economic, and political institutions. Concepts of the Western Hemisphere are drawn from history and social sciences. Events in these countries are linked to current events in order to make it relevant. Students are constantly reminded as to how the SLOs fit into the daily lessons and into real life situations.