

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Description

## REQUIRED CORE COURSES

### ELA 8 (English Language Arts):

Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Yearlong

8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts is the study of the English language through reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will use a variety of informational and narrative texts to increase reading and comprehension skills. Students will write narrative, informational/explanatory and argumentative texts to improve vocabulary, syntax and the development and organization of ideas.

### LITERACY TECHNIQUES 8:

Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Yearlong

Students will apply reading, writing, listening and speaking skills being taught in 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA through the study of current events, narrative and informational texts.

### MATH 8:

Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Yearlong

Students will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

### MATH ACADEMY 8:

Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Yearlong

Students will have additional time and support to learn and apply the math skills learned in Math 8.

### MATH 8 – HONORS & SECONDARY MATHEMATICS 1:

Prerequisite: Teacher Placement  
Duration: Yearlong

Students will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. The honors course includes extra depth and additional topics.

Students in Secondary Mathematics I will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomenon, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas are tied together. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

### U. S. HISTORY:

Prerequisite: None  
Duration: Yearlong

This course surveys the history of the United States from prehistory and European discovery to its emergence as a leader among the nations of the world. Emphasis is on the early year to 1877. The course is taught from a political, economic, historical, sociological, and cultural point of view. Objectives outlined in the state core curriculum are included as part of this eighth grade survey course. The basic skills of literacy in the content are emphasized.

**SCIENCE 8:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Yearlong

The 8th grade SEEd (Science with Engineering Education) standards describe the constant interaction of matter and energy in nature. Students will explore how matter is arranged into either simple or complex substances. The strands emphasize how substances store and transfer energy, which can cause them to interact physically and chemically, provide energy to living organisms, or be harnessed and used by humans. Matter and energy cycle and change in ecosystems through processes that occur during photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Additionally, substances that provide a benefit to organisms, including humans, are unevenly distributed on Earth due to geologic and atmospheric systems. Some resources form quickly, allowing them to be renewable, while other resources are nonrenewable. Evidence reveals that Earth systems change and affect ecosystems and organisms in positive and negative ways.

**INTERMEDIATE FITNESS – BOYS (8A, 8B, & 8C) or GIRLS (8A, 8B, & 8C):**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

Physical Education provides participation in activities promoting cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, muscle endurance, and muscle strength. Individual sports such as tennis, running and cross country skiing are taught. Team sports such as: basketball, volleyball, soccer, football, ultimate frisbee, and softball will be taught. Emphasis is placed on individual achievement and lifetime sports. Physical education is required for two trimesters, and a third trimester may be taken as an encore elective if you wish to have P.E. a full year.

**DIGITAL LITERACY:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

This course is an introduction to computer literacy. Students will have opportunities to use technology and develop skills that encourage creativity, critical thinking, productivity, and collaboration in the classroom and day-to-day life. Skills will be demonstrated by creating a project for a different content area.

This course is aligned with national and international standards and the Utah Core to prepare students across multiple levels of skills.

Students will complete this course with a prerequisite to move into high school computer literacy courses.

**ELECTIVE ENCORE COURSES****DEBATE:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

This course is a very broad discipline that offers students the argumentation and speaking skills necessary to contest a variety of issues, as well as those needed to creatively tell a story and demonstrate public speaking abilities. Students will gain advanced skills in research, writing, note-taking, and logical analysis by building effective argumentation and cutting humorous/dramatic performance pieces. Students will study the forensics events of Public Forum, Impromptu, Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking and Storytelling. Students, who choose to, will have the opportunity to participate in debate tournaments.

**DEBATE – INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

This course will focus on individual event categories of debate: impromptu, extemporaneous, original oratory, duos, and short scenes. Imagination and a willingness to do some risk taking are essential for success in this class. Performance opportunities will include a variety of speeches, story-telling, monologue, and short scenes. In preparation for these performances students will learn about movement, voice, sensory /emotional recall and character building.

**SPANISH 8:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Yearlong

Students will continue to learn to speak, read, write, and understand spoken Spanish. They will have the opportunity to improve their understanding of Spanish and the Spanish culture through games, songs, videos, guest speakers, tapes, and other classroom activities. This is an academic class that will prepare students to enroll in Spanish level II at the high school level.

**BEGINNING GUITAR:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

This course is designed for students with minimal or no guitar experience. Students will learn how to care for their instrument, what to look for when purchasing an instrument, guitar tuning, chords and chord accompaniment, strum patterns, and some single note melodies.

**INTERMEDIATE GUITAR:**

Prerequisite: Beginning Guitar or Previous Guitar Experience

Duration: Trimester

This course will begin where Beginning Guitar left off. Students will continue with tuning, chords and chord accompaniment, strum patterns and melodies. Students will also learn alternating bass strumming and Barre chords will be introduced.

**ADVANCED GUITAR:**

Prerequisite: Intermediate Guitar or Previous Guitar Experience

Duration: Trimester

Students will be introduced to more chords, especially Barre chords and chord accompaniment, more advanced melodies graduating into two and three or more part harmony and actual guitar solos, finger picking and scales.

**CHOIR 8:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

This course is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls with a desire to sing. Students will perform a wide variety of music in various musical styles, generally in three part (SAB) harmony. Attention will be given to posture, breath support, diction, and tone production. Some theory will also be discussed. A minimum of one concert per trimester will be given.

**GLEE:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

This is a full year course, open to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls with a desire to sing. Those students interested in singing only part of the year must register for choir! Students will perform a wide variety of music in various musical styles, general in three part (SSA) harmony. Attention will be given to posture, breath support, diction, and tone production. Some theory

will also be discussed. A minimum of one concert per trimester will be given. Attendance at the concerts is mandatory. This class may have the opportunity to perform in concerts outside of the regular curriculum. The events are not mandatory, but strongly recommended as class time will be used to prepare for them, and the musical rewards are great.

**BAND – SYMPHONIC WOODS & BRASS:**

Prerequisite: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band or Previous Band Experience

Duration: Yearlong

This class will start to play and understand semi-advanced literature. Students will be expected to play on a more difficult level and know about scales, chords, and many other aspects of musicianship. Students will participate in several festivals. We will hold four or five concerts each year and play at least once for the students of the middle school. The student may rent a school instrument.

**ORCHESTRA:**

Prerequisite: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra or Previous Orchestra Experience

Duration: Yearlong

This class is designed predominately for eight grade students who have had at least four years of experience on a violin, viola, cello, or bass. The focus will be on more advanced levels of techniques as well as broadening their musical understanding of stylistic techniques within each musical period. Out of class practice is required and private lessons are recommended. Viola, cello, and bass instruments are available to rent from the school.

**2D (DIMENSIONAL) ART:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

This foundational art course will focus on the elements of art and principles of design, composition and art history. Skill building, familiarity with art media and studio procedures are also key aspects of the course. Students will work with a variety of materials and media on a flat 2-D surface, including pencil, pen, ink, watercolor, acrylic, printmaking, collage and mixed media.

### 3D (DIMENSIONAL) ART:

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

This foundational art course will focus on the elements of art and principles of design with a concentration on 3-D works of art made from a variety of art media and materials including paper, wire, plaster, etc. Students will gain an understanding of proportions, emphasis, organic forms and balance.

### CERAMICS:

Prerequisite: None

Students will be introduced to basic ceramic hand-building construction techniques for making sculptural and functional pieces. Projects completed in this course provide students with the experience of creating something from the rawest of materials and following the process to a finished, final product. Various methods of surface decoration and glazing techniques will also be presented. The expressive aspects of pottery will also be explored by the application of the elements and principles of art and design.

### PRINTMAKING:

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

Printmaking is a form of art where a plate or surface is created, and a series of artwork is produced from that surface. In this course students will explore the four main processes of printmaking with a concentration on relief printing. Students will generate, choose, and refine ideas to produce meaningful works of art with a tight focus on line and pattern.

### FACS EXPLORATION:

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

Students will have the opportunity to explore Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) activities using a variety of media and technologies. The FACS Exploration class is taught over 2 years. Students may take the class in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and again in 8<sup>th</sup> grade since different curriculum is covered. Students will explore and cultivate skills in Foods & Nutrition, Childcare, Interior Design, Your \$ - Your Life, Free Enterprise, Fashion/Clothing, Careers and Sew Boxer Shorts and a Lizard/Frog.

### TECH EXPLORATION

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

This is an action based course that introduces students to the technological systems of two or more of the following areas: energy, power technologies, information and communications technologies, transportation technologies, manufacturing technologies, and construction technologies. This course is designed around exploration in cooperative and individualized activities rather than project and skill development.

Using AutoCAD students will design and cut the front view of a compress air race car with a class 4 laser. Students will build and race their compress air car, most cars will reach speeds of 40 to 50 MPH. Other activities include using Freehand to design and cut vinyl stickers, making a radio advertisement using "Garage Band" and create an "iMovie" and publish it to "YouTube". Students will use a 3-D printer to print an object that the student either designed from Inventor or downloaded from "thingiverse.com".

### ROBOTICS:

Prerequisite: Citizenship Grade of an H or an S all year

Duration: Trimester

This course introduces the basics of design, building and the control of robotic systems using the VEX robotic system. The course combines various topics in mechanics, electronic sensors, and programming using "EasyC". Enrolling in this course will allow students to complete an Associate's Degree in Automated Manufacturing while at Logan High School.

### COUNSELING AIDE, OFFICE AIDE, or TEACHER AIDE:

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

Office aides are used to assist in the work of the general office and counseling office. Teachers will specify the tasks for their own aides. A student must have a 3.0 grade point average to qualify for these aide positions. A positive attitude, excellent attendance, and a willingness to work are essential. Approval must be obtained from your parents.

**MEDIA AIDE:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

Students in this course work in the Media Center under the supervision of the Media Specialist. A student must have a 3.0 grade point average or above. A positive attitude, excellent attendance, and a willingness to work are essential. Approval must be obtained from the Media Specialist and parents.

**PEER TUTOR:**

Prerequisite: None

Duration: Trimester

Students in this course work under the supervision of Special Education teachers in assisting students who have special needs or disability conditions. A positive attitude, excellent attendance, and a willingness to work are essential.