SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MCFARLAND

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Eighth Grade

2024 - 2025

(Last updated April 2024)

This overview is designed to provide information to parents about what is taught in the School District of McFarland in eighth grade. It does not list everything students are taught or all things which students experience. Instead, for each content area, it highlights some state standards and major skills or units that students are taught. For a more in-depth overview, please contact your child's classroom teacher(s).

The McFarland School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, religion, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity, English language proficiency, age, military status, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability in any of its student programs and activities.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Students will:

- Use effective reading strategies
- Read, interpret & critically analyze literature
- Read to understand the human experience
- Read to acquire information
- Create writing for variety of audiences / purposes
- Understand the grammar and usage of standardized American English
- Communicate orally, discuss effectively
- Recognize and interpret various uses and adaptations of language
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of media production & distribution
- Analyze & edit media work
- Conduct research & inquiry on self-selected or assigned topics, issues, or problems

Areas of Study:

- Reading
- Public Speaking
- Writing – Expository, Narrative, Creative, Persuasive

SCIENCE

Students will:

- Understand unifying themes in science
- Understand that science is ongoing and inventive
- Investigate questions using scientific methods and tools.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics and structures of living things.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between science and technology.

Areas of Study:

- Fungi
- Viruses
- Bacteria
- Genetics
- Weather / Climate
- Rocks/Minerals
- History of Life / Fossil Records

SOCIAL STUDIES:
US History

Students will:

- Study the relationships among people, places, and environments.
- Learn about political science & political systems
- Study U.S. History from Colonial times through Reconstruction
- Demonstrate understanding of major concepts by completing a variety of inquiry assignments.

Areas of Study:

- Civics
- US History
- Current Events

MATH
Core Connections 3

Students will:

- Know that there are numbers that are not rational and approximate them by rational numbers.
- Work with radicals and integer exponents.
- Understand the connection between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- Solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.
- Define, evaluate, compare, and use functions to model relationships between quantities.
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres.
- Investigate patterns of association in data with two variables.

Areas of Study:

- Expressions and Equations
- Geometry
- Statistics
- Functions
- Number Sense

MATH
Core Connections Algebra 1

Students will:

- Interpret and write expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems.
- Understand, construct and compare linear functions.
- Create and solve equations that describe number relationships.
- Solve systems of equations algebraically and graphically.
- Construct and compare exponential models to solve problems.
- Construct and compare quadratic models and solve problems. Students will use polynomial identities to solve problems.
- Understand and solve inequalities with one variable algebraically and graphically.
- Construct and compare square root, cube root and absolute value models and solve problems.

Areas of Study:

- Simplifying Expressions
- Linear Functions
- Solving Equations
- Systems of Equations
- Exponential Functions
- Quadratic Functions
- Inequality and Complex Equations

ARRE TIME / DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDANCE

Areas of Study:

- Mindsets & Goals
- Values & Friendships
- Thoughts, Emotions, & Decisions
- Serious Peer Conflicts

ART

In 8th grade arts will have considerably more autonomy to communicate with images by media and subject choice. Students will also explore the role of visual literacy in the everyday world.

Areas of Study :

- Glass Mosaics
- Ceramics
- Graphic Design
- Self Portraits
- Weekly Drawing Assignments

MUSIC

Vocal Music – Choir

- Cambiata Choir
- Treble Choir
- Local and district Solo / Ensemble Festival

Instrumental Music

- Concert Band
- Orchestra
- Jazz Ensemble
- Fiddles on Fire
- Marching Band
- Local and District Solo / Ensemble Festival

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Students will:

- Apply knowledge about human sexuality to complete a personal constitution paper
- Assume respectful, responsible behavior as family (class) members
- Demonstrate ability to complete a sewing project while showing job related skills.

Areas of Study:

- Human Growth and Development
- Constructing a fleece sweatshirt

INFORMATION LITERACY

Students will:

- Listen to book talks of award-winning titles connected to curricular units.
- Be encouraged to develop a life-long interest in reading.
- Understand the nature of technology
- Understand technological systems & their applications
- Research & develop a set of solutions to solve a problem
- Predict possible outcomes of a technological system
- Explore the impact of technology
- Become aware of new technologies

Areas of Study:

- Internet/Telecommunication
- Database
- Multi-media
- Spreadsheets

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will:

- Develop agility, strength, skill, and endurance
- Gain further understanding of health, exercise, and conditioning

Areas of Study:

- Fitness Testing
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Track & Field
- Softball
- Floor Hockey
- Football
- Soccer
- Badminton
- Swimming
- Ultimate Frisbee

TECHNOLOGY and ENGINEERING

Students will:

- Write computer code to control motors, switches and lights.
- Use sensors to control a robot's movements.
- Program the VEX IQ robots so that they can complete a complex task.
- Learn how DC motors work by building a simple electric motor.
- Learn about wood preservatives and how to apply them to wood.
- Turn pieces of pine and plywood into a small decorative box.

FUTURES

Students will:

- Explore who they are as a learner and options for their future.
- Create a 4 year plan for high school and beyond
- Work with software applications that they will use throughout their academic and post-academic careers
- Explore choices that provide for a healthy lifestyle for both the body and the mind.

Areas of Study:

- Career exploration
- Time-management
- Financial literacy
- Employability skills
- Health and wellness

CODING & CREATING GENERATION (C-GEN*)*

Students will:

- Hands-on learning through various 21st-century skills with real-world application
- Focus on creativity and innovation
- Develop and practice collaboration, perseverance, creativity, problem-solving skills, and more!

Units / Projects:

- App & Game Development
- Personal Interest Projects & Goal Setting
- 3D Design & Printing
- AR & VR projects
- Coding approximately 50% of class (Tynker, Makecode with Minecraft, Code.org, CodeHS, etc.)
  - Block-based, Javascript & Python coding languages will be utilized

WORLD LANGUAGES (French I or Spanish I)

Students will:

- Continue level I French or Spanish as a prerequisite to level II in 9th grade.
- Learn about the diversity of French or Spanish culture through the 6 AP themes:
  - 1. Families and Communities 2. Contemporary Life 3. Personal and Public Identities 4. Global Challenges 5. Beauty and Aesthetics 6.Science and Technology
- Be assessed according to 4 of the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Novice-high proficiency standards: 1. Interpretive Listening 2. Interpretive Reading 3. Interpersonal Communication 4. Presentational Writing