

GRANDVIEW PREPARATORY MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

GRADES 6 THROUGH 8

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH	DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY	DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS <i>By Placement Exam</i>	DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE	DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE <i>By Placement Exam</i>	FINE ARTS/PE DEPARTMENTS
<p>COMPOSITION A three year series is specifically designed to reinforce the concept of <i>Writing Across the Curriculum</i>. There is a balance of basic grammar and vocabulary skills with a focus on expression consistent with the level of comprehension. The activities planned in this series include peer evaluation, editing, outlining, and extensive rewriting. This program takes an active approach to instruction and learning by developing and applying problem-solving skills, employing small group activities, engaging students in hands-on activities, exploring long-term projects, and by developing conceptual understanding through interactive questioning.</p>	<p>CULTURAL LITERATURE Students will explore works of diverse cultural importance reinforcing critical reading and analysis skills. Readings include: <i>Detectives in Togas, The Mystery of the Roman Ransom, The Gypsy Game, The Egypt Game, The Cage, So Far from the Bamboo Grove, The Cay, Number the Stars, The Cage, Swiss Family Robinson, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, and A Wrinkle in Time.</i></p>	<p>WORLD CULTURES Students are introduced to the major world events from prehistoric beginnings through the twenty-first century. Students examine the timeline of world-altering events, societies, and individuals from inception. Students will learn of our indebtedness to history and how the past has shaped our current day approaches and attitudes toward our world and ourselves. Readings will coordinate with Literature study and writings will coordinate with Composition study.</p>	<p>COURSE ONE focuses on the mastery of skills in the following: representing data, geometry concepts, manipulating decimals, patterns, functions, equations, measurement, fraction concepts and operations, ratio, proportions and percent, probability, integers and coordinate graphing. COURSE TWO focuses on the application of skills and includes the following areas: interpreting data, geometry, applications of decimals, introduction to algebraic concepts, measurement, fraction applications, number theory, probability and graphing in the coordinate plane. COURSE THREE is a pre-algebra course emphasizing the application of skills in: drawing conclusions from data, patterns in geometry, integers and variable expressions, algebraic equations and inequality, graphing in the coordinate plane, functions, rational numbers, applications of proportions, probability, applications of percent, and geometry.</p>	<p>LIFE SCIENCE In this course, science skills are approached primarily through a study of natural sciences, particularly organisms and their environments. The process of life on Earth and how organisms are linked will be explored. Topics include: Introduction to Life, Heredity, Mitosis, Asexual and Sexual Reproduction, Genetics, Human Body Systems, Ecology and Ecosystems, and Distribution of Life.</p>	<p>COURSE ONE introduces students to the Spanish foreign language basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as the cultures of Spanish speaking people. This course presents the basic structures of Spanish along with situations for students to utilize introductory expressions, vocabulary, sounds of the language and listening comprehension. COURSE TWO is a more structured study of the Spanish language. Students focus on the present tense and learn the past tense, building on skills. Activities include creating a travel guide for a Spanish speaking country and planning cultural celebrations.</p>
	<p>THEMATIC LITERATURE Students take a thematic approach to understanding literature by exploring topics such as Destructive Decisions by reading at a whole-class level and within small groups. Readings include: <i>Stargirl, A Day No Pigs Would Die, Catcher in the Rye, The Adventures of Ulysses, The Man Who Was Poe, The Hound of the Baskervilles, Tears of a Tiger, The Outsiders, and Scorpions.</i></p>	<p>WORLD GEOGRAPHY Introductory course to the fundamental skills and jargon of geography. The world map is their venue. Students achieve an understanding of how world geography has shaped historical events and how it continues to influence the modern political world. Students study map reading, longitude and latitude, and climate analysis. Readings will coordinate with Literature study and writings will coordinate with Composition study.</p>	<p>INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRA provides a rigorous and in-depth study of algebra, emphasizing deductive reasoning skills. This course includes the following topics: operations and properties of real numbers, algebraic and graphical solutions to first degree equations and inequalities, relations and functions, operations with polynomials including all forms of factoring, quadratic equations, and applications to real world problems.</p>	<p>EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE This course examines our earth and our universe and their varied and complex systems. Content areas include: Earth's Changing Crust, Weather, Oceans, and Astronomy. Students will search for answers about our universe, galaxy, and our planet.</p>	<p>COURSE THREE has an increased focus on reading and writing, with emphasis on Hispanic culture and mastery of basic structures as well as added grammar and vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on pronunciation through oral work. Concepts introduced include preterit of regular and irregular verbs, reflexive verbs and reflexive pronouns. Students describe activities and narrate sequential events in the present, past, and simple future.</p>
	<p>ETHICS IN LITERATURE Students examine literature as an example of fine writing and as a channel for dealing with themes of freedom, compassion, and courage. Poetry plays an important role in developing student expression and individual voice. Students address ethical issues of loyalty, justice, and equality. Readings include <i>Romeo and Juliet, To Kill a Mockingbird, Inherit the Wind, Across Five Aprils, and Animal Farm.</i></p>	<p>U.S. HISTORY & CIVICS From the advent of the war with England and the signing of the <i>Declaration of Independence</i> and the writing of the <i>Constitution</i> to the climate of our current political institutions, this course examines our civic history and the people and documents that have altered the course of history of the United States of America. Government at the local, state, and federal levels will be examined, and the rights and duties of citizenship will be explored.</p>	<p>IPS - PHYSICAL SCIENCE The theme for this course is the anatomic model of matter. Students will gain knowledge and insight through useful laboratory skills and guided reasoning. Students will engage in experiments and discussions leading to the discovery of a new concept. Physical and chemical properties are examined. Content areas include: Volume and Mass, Characteristic Properties, Solubility, Separation of Substances, Compounds, Elements and The Atomic Model of Matter.</p>	<p>COURSE FOUR is designed for students who have demonstrated a high level of achievement and motivation in Spanish. The course is conducted mostly in Spanish and completes the range of present tense conjugations and preterit forms. Topics include reflexive construction, affirmative and negative expressions, object pronouns and writing. Emphasis is placed on aural comprehension and oral production.</p>	<p>HEALTH ISSUES educates students on the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Topics include Personal Health, Family and Social Health, Body Systems, Personal Fitness, Nutrition, Medicines, and Safety and Emergency Care.</p> <p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION introduces students to team and individual sports as well as dance and fitness. Students learn the importance of fitness. Activities include dance, skills training, agility and quickness, time and reaction drills, flexibility exercises, fundamentals of long distance running, soccer, volleyball, and basketball.</p>