

8th Grade Curriculum Overview

The middle school years represent the biggest growth period in a child's life, other than birth to two. It is a period of many "firsts", including having more than one teacher, changing classes, and assuming more responsibility for learning and additional homework.

In order to provide for a smooth transition from grade to grade during this time, teachers, administrators, and support personnel are invested in providing a safe and healthy school environment which is imperative for the growth and development of each child. Our middle schools are staffed with teachers who are experts at teaching young adolescents. They use instructional methods that prepare all students to achieve high standards and a variety of assessment methods for students to demonstrate what they know and understand. By working in partnership with each student and his/her parents, every child is involved in rich and successful learning experiences that support student learning, healthy development and the mission and vision of the Sanborn Regional School District.

The following information about the middle school curriculum describes the student's journey through the middle school years, grades 6 through 8. Based on State and National Standards, the middle school curriculum provides a comprehensive, diverse and challenging curriculum to meet the learning needs of all students.

This curriculum overview articulates "Topic Highlights" for the core content areas so families know the big ideas learners will be studying in class. As you view this middle school curriculum brochure, read it "looking through the eyes of the learner" to frame a picture of the blend of high expectations and exciting learning experiences.

This section of the overview provides a broad summary of the instructional areas focused in each trimester for Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and STEM.

English Language Arts (ELA)

Trimester 1	Realistic Fiction Unit: plot and structure; character analysis; theme analysis Writing: Character analysis; theme analysis
Trimester 2	Nonfiction Reading Unit: central idea analysis Argument Writing Research Unit: Interdisciplinary with Social Studies
Trimester 3	Research Writing Reading: Narrative nonfiction Research Writing

Math

Trimester 1	Exponents and Scientific Notation Real numbers Solve Equations with Variables and Variables on both sides Linear Relationships and Slope
Trimester 2	Functions Systems of Linear Equations Triangles and the Pythagorean Theorem
Trimester 3	Transformations Congruence and Similarity Volume Scatter Plots and Two-Way Tables

Science

Trimester 1	Unit 1: Impacts, Newton's Third Law Unit 2: Magnets, Electricity and Circuits Unit 3: Fossils and the Earth's Layers
Trimester 2	Unit 4: Evolution and Adaptation Unit 5: Ecosystem Management
Trimester 3	Unit 6: Newton's Laws Unit 7: Energy

Social Studies

Trimester 1	Unit 1: The Founding Unit 2: Westward Expansion Unit 3: Rising Tensions Unit 4: The Civil War
Trimester 2	Unit 5: Reconstruction Unit 6: The Gilded Age Unit 7: WWI and an interdisciplinary unit with ELA
Trimester 3	Unit 8: Roaring 20s Unit 9: Great Depression Unit 10: WWII & the Holocaust

STEM

Trimester 1	Unit 1: Scientific Method Unit 2: Concepts in Energy
Trimester 2	Unit 3: Building the Atomic Model Unit 4: Concepts in Physics
Trimester 3	Unit 5: Lego Robotics Unit 6: Coding Unit 7: Ethics and Misinformation in STEM