



Eighth Grade Benchmarks

Middle School Habits of Mind

- Engagement: Participates fully and collaboratively in school, community, and academic life.
- Integrity: Exhibits ethical behavior and honesty, providing service for the common good.
- Responsibility: Takes care of self, others, and the school as a learner, friend, advocate, and citizen.
- Reflection: Thinks constructively and critically, contemplating the learning and actions of self and others.
- Resilience: Demonstrates persistence while working through challenges.
- Flexibility: Questions the world from varying perspectives, adapting prior knowledge to generate new solutions.

Eighth Grade Science

- Develops reasonable hypotheses, asks relevant questions
- Devises a step-by-step procedure to solve problems and make decisions
- Works safely and collaboratively to develop solutions to scientific problems
- Accurately collects, records, analyzes, evaluates and presents data
- Uses data to support conclusions
- Demonstrates understanding of content and key concepts in current units of study
- Demonstrates an understanding of the use and care of standard laboratory equipment

Eighth Grade Mathematics

- Shares and writes mathematical reasoning and processes
- Attends to precision, reviews strategies, steps, and calculations for accuracy
- Makes connections between projects and real-life scenarios to mathematical concepts
- Writes and calculates numbers using scientific notation
- Identifies rational and irrational numbers and approximates square roots
- Identifies and evaluates radicals and integer exponents
- Writes equations of and graphs proportional relationships
- Analyzes and solves system of equations by graphing, substitution, and elimination
- Uses mathematical operations on polynomials
- Defines, evaluates, compares, uses, and graphs functions to represent relationships between values
- Identifies and describes congruence and similarity through figure transformations
- Understands and applies the Pythagorean Theorem
- Solves quadratic equations by factoring, completing the square, and using the quadratic formula
- Solves problems related to volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres

Eighth Grade Humanities

Reading:

- Reads and prepares for class discussion
- Determines the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in texts and vocabulary study
- Understands, identifies and uses literary devices presented this term
- Independently annotates text and applies annotations to discussions and written work
- Demonstrates comprehension by summarizing, analyzing, and forming opinions based on textual evidence
- Demonstrates comprehension by asking and answering literal, interpretive, and evaluative questions

Writing:

- Follows the conventions of standard English grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Employs prewriting, editing and revising to complete work
- Writes stories that include vivid descriptions and clear storylines
- Writes narrative essays that build toward a conclusion or personal statement
- Writes expository essays that offer a balanced and substantive analysis of topics
- Writes persuasive essays that show two sides of an issue while convincing the reader why a certain position is correct
- Creates poetry that experiments with and incorporates classic techniques
- Completes thorough and thoughtful entries in the Interactive Notebook
- Utilizes theses, topic sentences, and transitions
- Fulfills all requirements of written assignments

Social Studies:

- Completes and presents “The Weekly” responsibly and meticulously
- Demonstrates understanding of content and key concepts in current units
- Conducts research projects drawing on multiple sources
- Uses proper citations and creates an annotated bibliography
- Utilizes effective time-management skills for long-term projects
- Engages in interactive projects in a manner that shows preparation and responsibility

Speaking and Listening:

- Follows agreed upon rules for discussion
- Makes statements and asks questions that show relevant thinking
- Demonstrates understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing
- Demonstrates effective presentation skills
- Participates in class discussions regularly and effectively

Eighth Grade Physical Education

- Perform flexibility and strengthening exercises with proper form-- increase number
- Demonstrate offensive and defensive skills and strategies in team physical activities.
- Show self-control by accepting a controversial decision by an official.
- Organize and work cooperatively with a group to achieve the goals of the group.
- Model support toward individuals of all ability levels
- Sportsmanship (Winning/Losing)
- Describe the role of physical activity and nutrition in achieving physical fitness.
- Participation/Effort in Sports Games
- Participation/Effort in Fitness

- Plan and implement a personal physical fitness workout in collaboration with the teacher.
- Overall Attitude

Eighth Grade Music

Instrument Competency

- Demonstrates beginning to intermediate technique on applied instrument

Ensemble

- Performs as part of an ensemble and works with other members of the group

Aural Skills and Analysis

- Demonstrates an analytical ear and is able to identify instrumentation, style, and the main musical ideas of a work

Aural Recognition

- Is able to identify excerpts from the selected repertoire

Music Theory

- Demonstrates an understanding of basic music fundamentals and terminology, including an understanding of music notation

Rhythmic Competency

- Maintains a steady beat while singing and/or playing an instrument

The Student:

- Maintains focus during lessons and uses class time productively
- Shows respect for the instruments and equipment
- Participates fully and shares musical ideas

Eighth Grade Visual Art

- Explores creative solutions to an assignment
- Uses constructive feedback and critique to deeply engage in the artistic process
- Sustains effort throughout a process
- Analyzes, interprets, and selects own artistic work for presentation
- Uses presentation skills with increasing efficacy
- Naturally implements the elements of art and principles of design
- Synthesizes and relates knowledge and personal experiences to create art
- Uses social, cultural, environmental conditions to inspire creative process
- Uses unconventional materials to create original art

Eighth Grade Spanish

- Accurately responds and asks conversational questions
- Expresses feelings, agreement, disagreement and opinions in the target language
- Expresses affirmative and negative ideas on familiar topics
- Recalls and uses previously taught vocabulary
- Expresses possession using singular and plural possessive adjectives
- Uses reflexive verbs and indirect object pronouns
- Uses the correct conjugations for -AR, -ER, -IR regular verbs in the present tense
- Uses the correct conjugations for a variety of irregular verbs in the present tense
- Uses the correct conjugations for some basic stem-changing verbs in the present tense
- Uses the correct conjugations for some regular verbs in the past tense

- Understands and interprets written language on a variety of topics
- Presents information in the target language on a variety of topics