



GRANDVIEW R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT

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6th-8th Grade Virtual Course Descriptions 2023-2024

Science

Life Science

Life Science is the study of cells, heredity, biological populations and their changes over time. It includes human biology, ecology, diversity of organisms and the history and nature of science. In this course, students will have the opportunity to conduct and design experiments, identify and classify organisms. Students will work on developing skills in data recording, classifying, measuring, observing, hypothesizing, analyzing, evaluation and inferring.

Earth Science

In the first semester students will learn about the scientific method and hone their understanding of using scientific measurements to Earth and Space Science. Also included are lessons on Earth maps and globes including detailed instruction on how to find specific locations using latitude and longitude. Much of the first semester focuses on space science. Students will learn about Earth movements, seasons, the Moon, tides, solar and lunar eclipses, the Sun and its role as the main source of light and energy in the solar system. They will learn about planets, asteroids, meteors, comets and their orbits and how force gravity holds it all together. Outside the solar system there are lessons on stars, constellations, nebula, the Milky Way and galaxies beyond. There have been many recent discoveries in space science. Accordingly, careful attention has been given to presenting the most updated information available in areas of discovery such as stars with planets and the latest methods of detecting them as well as a look at NASA's most recent Curiosity landing on the Martian surface.

Physical Science

This is an introduction to the Physical Sciences and scientific methodology. The objectives are to impart a basic knowledge of the physical properties and chemistry of matter. Skills are developed in the classroom, and reinforced through homework reading, and interesting labs that relate to everyday life.

Math

6th Grade Math

Students begin the first semester of this course with a review of basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers. More complex concepts are built on these basics. Students learn how to add, subtract multiply and divide integers, decimals and fractions. The course also includes lessons on ratios and proportions. The second semester of Math 6 introduces students to the order of operations and how to use them in solving application problems. Building on these concepts, students are then introduced to the basics of algebra and algebraic expressions. Students then learn how to apply these problem-solving skills to percent and solving single and multiple step equations. An exploration of Geometry, probability and statistics concludes the second semester.

7th Grade Math

In this first semester of grade 7 math online course, students work with problem-solving skills, beginning algebra skills, geometry, decimals, fractions, data analysis, number theory and patterns, percent, and integer use. Projects measure the student's ability to integrate and apply the course objectives. In this continuation of the first semester, students work with fractions; unit conversions; proportions and rates; percent; geometry topics including lines, angles, polygons, polyhedrons, perimeter, area, surface area, volume, and transformations; squares and square roots; permutations and combinations; and probability. Real-life application of concepts is emphasized in all units.

8th Grade Math

The first semester of Math 8 will help students move from the world of simple mathematics to the exciting world of Algebra and Geometry and will provide them with a concrete understanding of the basics for algebraic thinking. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the math concepts they have already learned and will stretch their thinking by solving real world problems. The second semester of Math 8 builds on the concepts learned in the first semester and prepares students with the building blocks needed to dive deeper into the exciting world of Algebra and Geometry.

Social Studies

6th Grade Social Studies

The first semester of Social Studies 6 introduces students to the beginnings of ancient civilization. We will trace the path of human origins in Africa and follow the path of migration around the Earth. This course will help students understand why we study history and the process in which we form conclusions about events in the past. Students will begin to learn about the major ancient civilization around the world and their cultures. Modern civilizations can trace their foundations to these ancient civilizations, and their cultures and histories teach us much about ourselves and the modern world in which we live.

7th Grade Social Studies

This study of the history of the United States emphasizes how ideas, events, and philosophies have shaped the nation. Students will learn about America's past while mastering the skills of historical interpretation. Study begins with the earliest arrivals of people and ends with the conclusion of the Civil War. Beginning with

Reconstruction, this course uses the same skill development approach to guide students through U.S. history to the present.

8th Grade Social Studies

In this course students will understand the significance of government, law, and politics. They will examine the United States foundational documents and how they shaped the United States government. Students will examine the purposes and functions of federal and state government, law, and political systems. Learners will evaluate their role and civic responsibility to their families, communities, and country including voting and being a productive member of society. Second semester takes a more individualistic approach as students closely examine topics such as the justice system, local government, the environment, and the economy. Learners will understand the role that they play in each of these topics and the differences that they can make. Students will get to know leaders and influential people that have championed many causes including civil rights and the environment. Learners will also learn proper ways to interact in society including interpersonal skills and respecting differences in others including disabilities.

MS World Geography

In this exploratory course, students will get an overview of both physical and human geography. To start their studies students will define and describe the five themes of geography: location, place, region, human-environment interaction, and movement. The students will explore each of the major regions of the world—the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Central and Eastern Asia, and Southern Asia and Oceania—while focusing on these five themes.

Language Arts

6th Grade Language Arts

Through a study of myths, fables, and folk tales from different cultures—as well as novels and other modern forms of narrative, students learn the elements common to all forms of literature and also the elements that are unique to each form. In lessons focused on writing and language study, students craft essays in several different modes and learn how to create the more formal style expected for school writing assignments. Lessons in this semester guide students to recognize and reproduce text structures and organizational patterns that work for different types of essays. The writing lessons also demonstrate the kinds of changes that students should make during the revising and editing stages of the writing process. Opportunities for teacher feedback are frequent, detailed, and varied.

7th Grade Language Arts

Through analysis of written, spoken, and multimedia texts, students will become more critical consumers of information and of various forms of media. They will also synthesize and organize ideas to prepare structured essays in several different modes, including narrative, persuasive, and expository. Each lesson will guide students in learning and applying specific strategies for reading and writing different types of texts. A review of basic English mechanics is included in many of the writing lessons, along with a discussion of levels of formality required for different purposes and audiences. This course provides instruction in many modalities, including audiovisual presentations and videos, interactive activities, projects, and discussions. Opportunities for teacher feedback are frequent, detailed, and varied. The second semester of Language Arts 7 builds on the skills and concepts introduced in the first semester. Students tackle more difficult texts and themes in

Semester B, and the level of analysis demonstrated and required is more in-depth. In this part of the course, students study the English language closely—both its history and evolution, and the less obvious ways it can be used to convey meaning. The reading assignments are selected to guide students in understanding how language can be used to convey broader themes in poetry, drama, and humorous or satirical texts. Students continue to develop their writing skills through multi-draft assignments and projects. Emphasis in this semester is on recognizing the multiple levels of meaning that any word or phrase might convey, and in writing one's own texts with these concepts in mind.

8th Grade Language Arts

During the first semester of this year-long course, students will read and analyze various kinds of written texts, include novels and short fiction, informational texts representing a wide range of topics and forms, and several one-act plays. Lessons in Semester A will also guide students in writing their own narratives and essays, using the readings in the course as both examples and sources of ideas for reflection, analysis, and argument. Students will learn better ways to discuss their thoughts and perceptions with others—they will practice their skills in collaborative discussions as well as informal journal entries, presentations, and speeches. Writing assignments include personal narratives, analytical and persuasive essays, and an original one-act play. Special emphasis is placed on reading in certain content areas, such as science and history, as well as understanding and thinking critically about news and media sources. In Semester B, students will examine the role of historical autobiographies and diaries in our understanding of history. In the process, they'll study the impact of point of view on nonfiction texts. Students will be given opportunities to write autobiographical narratives of their own and then asked to connect their experiences to universal themes or philosophical positions, which they explore through writing about them. In the second half of the semester, students will study the relationship between poetic expression and several conventions of language, including syntax, voice, sentence types, and punctuation. Next, they will explore the nature of creativity, the processes that tend to produce good literature, and the features of experimental and multi-genre forms of fiction. Near the end of the semester, students will reflect on their own growth and development throughout the year, compiling a portfolio that illustrates the progress they've made. Finally, students will consider what high school will ask of them and how they might fulfill those expectations, having gained a better understanding of their strengths as well as areas ripe for continued learning and progress.

Electives

Health

This course will help the student understand the importance of making decisions that will affect his or her physical, emotional, mental and social health. This course will provide students with the knowledge and resources they will need to make responsible informed decisions about their health. Students will have an opportunity to evaluate their own values, opinions and attitudes about health.

PE

To improve and maintain optimum health, it is necessary for people of all ages to participate in physical exercise. There is little doubt that, in addition to students in schools, the number of adults participating in sports and recreational activities in the United States has increased in recent years. Physical education is much more than just fitness and exercise. A well-planned program will cause you to think and express your emotions about different situations. In addition, a good program can make a valuable contribution to your education.

These experiences will help you develop a sense of wellness. Emphasis in this course is placed on the value of these sports as possible lifetime activities and on creating a clear explanation of the rules and basic principles of a variety of sports. The sports covered in this course are archery, bicycling, golf, skiing, tennis, volleyball, baseball, basketball, football, hockey, and soccer. Information about the playing area and equipment, basic rules, safety considerations, and terminology for each sport are included in the discussions. For the most part, the information presented in each lesson applies to sports programs throughout most sections of the United States.