



Grade 8

Royal Oak Schools has a comprehensive curriculum for all eighth graders that includes academics, foreign language, physical education, health, music and art. Our curriculum also includes areas essential to the education of the total child. We pay close attention to the physical learning environment and the learning climate of our classrooms. We recognize the uniqueness of every child and are dedicated to providing the best educational experience possible. This folder describes Royal Oak's Curriculum for eighth grade students in the core academic areas of language arts, social studies, math and science.

A Parent guide to the Royal Oak

Middle School

- Instruction is delivered in a variety of ways to maximize achievement.
- Our curriculum is under continuous review and revision by teachers and administrators from all buildings.
- Teachers carefully monitor the progress of all students in a variety of ways. Report cards are sent home six times a year. Standardized assessments for eighth graders include the Stanford Achievement Test, and the MEAP Science, Social Studies and Writing Tests. Results are sent to parents and used in educational planning.
- At every level, students accomplish important milestones in each curricular area. The curriculum is developmentally appropriate and challenging at each grade.
- This next four sections of this brochure outlines what we expect eighth grade students to be able to demonstrate throughout the year in each of the four core curricular areas.

language arts

The K-12 English Language Arts curriculum provides a framework for students to develop reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills.

The eighth grade English Language Arts Curriculum includes activities and strategies that promote development and application of communication skills and their integration in other content areas.

Students will:

- read a minimum number of pages and/or minutes and maintain an ongoing record of their readings.
- respond to the reading in Literary Logs
- use reading strategies that develop vocabulary and comprehension
- participate in literature circles or book clubs
- read materials that support other content areas
- read a variety of genre
- produce a minimum of 12 completed writings including exit composition
- use the Writing Process which includes prewriting activities, drafting, peer conferencing, revising, editing, and final copy
- explore and produce a variety of writing forms
- select pieces of writing to include in their K-12 Writing Portfolio
- reflect, in writing, on Exit Composition
- express coherent ideas orally in large and small group settings
- prepare and deliver a Persuasive Speech
- develop Individual Video Portfolio
- use and explain Active Listening Guides
- produce a research project that integrates reading, writing, listening, speaking, thinking, and technology

social studies

The K-12 Social Studies Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop social understanding and civic responsibility by building four capacities in learners: disciplinary knowledge, thinking skills, commitment to democratic values, and citizen participation.

Students will:

CIVIC PERSPECTIVE

- identify the responses of individuals in the American colonies to historical violations of human dignity involving discriminating, persecution, and crimes against humanity.
- select historic decisions in the American Revolution and evaluate them in the light of core democratic values and resulting costs and benefits as viewed from a variety of perspectives.
- distinguish between representative democracy in the United States and other forms of government.

GEOGRAPHY

- locate and describe diverse places, cultures and communities east of the Mississippi.
- use narratives and graphic data to describe the setting of significant events that shaped the development of the United States as a nation during the era of expansion, growth, and reform.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

- construct and interpret timelines of people and events from the American Revolution.
- use primary and secondary records to analyze significant events that shaped the development of the United States as a nation during the Civil War.
- compose narratives of events from the history of the United States during the Era of Reconstruction.
- select a contemporary condition in the United States and trace some of its major historical origins.

ECONOMICS

- describe and demonstrate how the economic forces of scarcity and choice affect the management of personal financial resources, shape consumer decisions regarding the purchase, use and disposal of goods and services and affect the economic well being of individuals and society.
- explain and demonstrate how businesses confront scarcity and choice when organizing, producing and using resources, and when supplying the market place (business choices).
- describe how government decision on taxation, spending, public goods, and regulation impact what is produced, how it is produced, and who receives the benefits of production (Role of Government)
- explain how a free market economic system works, as well as other economic systems, to coordinate and facilitate the exchange, production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. (Economic System)

math

The K-12 Mathematics Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop reasoning, communication, and problem-solving skills. The six strands of the math curriculum include: patterns, relationships and functions; geometry and measurement; data analysis and statistics; number sense and numeration; numerical and algebraic operations and analytical thinking; and probability and discrete mathematics.

Students will:

- express mathematical relationships such as functions/equations graphically, algebraically and verbally.
- analyze the relationships for mathematical attributes using these attributes to make linear vs. non-linear, continuous vs. non-continuous and correlation for positive, negative or non-existent.
- use integers and rational numbers in a variety of ways
- use manipulatives, diagrams, mental math, estimation and models will be used to achieve understanding.
- use calculators to construct a method to factor numbers and used to find powers and square roots.
- collect data with observations, surveys, simulations and controlled investigations.
- design and execute experiments to solve real world problems.
- conduct probability experiments to show dependent and independent events, likely or unlikely events, and determine theoretical chance or mathematical outcomes.
- apply measurement to describe the physical world, solve problems, construct scale drawings to model application of ratio in the real world and solve problems.
- draw and construct objects to develop geometric concepts, derive formulas, and illustrate surface area and volume.
- explore spatial visualization concepts by viewing and describing objects from different points of view, constructing three-dimensional models from two-dimensional drawings and vice-versa.

science

The Science Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop scientific literacy by using, constructing, and reflecting on scientific knowledge, and coming to informed conclusions. Students will learn concepts and theories of the three main science areas: earth, life, and physical.

Students will:

- generate scientific questions on observations on a daily basis.
- design and conduct scientific investigations on a weekly basis.
- use the scientific investigation process including: test, fair test, hypothesis, theory, evidence, observations, measurements, data, conclusion.
- use tools and equipment appropriate to scientific investigations.
- use metric measuring devices for scientific investigations.
- use appropriate sources of information to support scientific investigations.
- communicate findings using appropriate technology.
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of claims, arguments, or data.
- investigate the contributions of minorities to the field of science.

Physical Science

- measure and describe things around them using weekly investigations.
- identify and describe forms of energy.
- investigate how electricity and magnetism interact with matter.
- explain how matter and energy are the fundamental entities of the physical universe.
- investigate, describe and analyze ways in which matter changes.
- describe how living things and human technology change matter and transform energy.
- explain how visible changes in matter are related to atoms and molecules and how changes in matter are related to changes in energy.

- compare and contrast how physical and chemical interactions of matter and energy bring about all of the changes we observe in the physical world.
- investigate and explain how things around us move and explain why things move as they do.
- demonstrate and explain how we control the motions of objects.
- relate motion to energy and energy conversions.
- compare, contrast, and explain how motion of objects is accounted for by gravitational, and electromagnetic.
- investigate and explain sounds and sound waves.
- explore and explain shadows, color, and other light phenomena.
- measure and describe vibrations and waves.
- compare and explain waves to vibrations transfer of energy.
- analyze and explain how sound, light, and electromagnetic waves relate to manner in waves are propagated.

What Parents Can Do...

- Talk to your child about school daily.
- Talk to and work with your child's teacher(s).
- Have your child read a variety of material daily.
- Have your child practice writing at home (e.g., thank you notes, letters, and lists.)
- Make math part of everyday life (e.g., money, time, fractions, and multiples.)
- Acknowledge a good job when you see it with positive comments.
- Check and sign your child's planner daily.
- Look over and discuss your child's work.
- Encourage regular attendance at school.
- Promote community service and involvement in school activities.



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