



8th Grade Explorers

English Language Arts

Mrs. Leigh Ann James



Objectives:

1. We will analyze and evaluate complex text.
2. We will compose high school level writing by the end of the year.
3. We will confidently speak in front of an audience.
4. We will actively listen to learn information in order to respond appropriately.

Materials Needed: (These should be with students every day.)

- *Pencils, pens, highlighters (3-4 different colors)
- *Agenda
- *ELA folder
- *Earphones with a cord
- *MacBook Air
- *Book Club book
- *Pencil bag or container

Class Guidelines:

1. Respect yourself. You are valuable and worth the effort!
2. Respect your elders. Your parents and educators care about you, your learning, and your future. We work together for your benefit.
3. Respect your education. You deserve this, so do your part, and have fun!
4. Respect your peers. Everyone has something to offer. Be nice, help each other, and treat others the way you would like to be treated.
5. Respect your environment. Live gratefully and take care of things.

Student Responsibilities:

- Give your best effort in all that you do.
- If a task is assigned, it is a requirement.
- Turn work in on time and complete.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to collect missed assignments and notes. All agendas, modules, and assignments are housed in Canvas.
- Follow all user guidelines on your MacBook Air. Charge your device every evening to assure it will be ready for use during the school day.

Book Club requirements:

I ask students to read regularly and want them to enjoy doing so. Each student will choose 1-2 novels to read each quarter. Novel choices should be based on interest and appropriate reading level. Books are available from our library, the public library, and my classroom library. Students will submit choices to me for approval and be grouped according to genre for book clubs.

Novels that may be used for study:

Ground Zero by Alan Gratz

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass

The Life of Frederick Douglass by David F. Walker

They Called Us Enemy by George Takei

Fourth quarter, students will conduct literature circles. Possible choices:

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli

The Berlin Boxing Club by Robert Sharenow

All But My Life by Gerda Weissmann Klein

Surviving Hitler by Andrea Warren

Refugee by Alan Gratz

Unlikely Warrior by Georg Rauch

The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank



Late or Missing assignment policy:

If something is assigned, completion is expected. If students are using time wisely, most work can be completed during class and will generally be due the next morning by 8:00 am. Assignments and due dates will be listed in the agenda daily. If an assignment is not completed on time, students will make a plan to complete it, email the plan to parents and to me, and follow through with the plan that evening. If it is still not complete the following morning, I assume they need assistance and that they have arranged transportation to stay after school in order to maintain pace with the class. I am available most afternoons until 3:30. Late assignments will incur a late fee of 20% at my discretion. All work needs to be completed within the unit to receive credit and will not be accepted after the unit is complete as we will be moving forward with learning.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me.

Mrs. Leigh Ann James

ljames@usd232.org

I am looking forward to another wonderful year at Monticello Trails Middle School!

Mrs. Leigh Ann James



8th Grade Mathematics

Class of 2028

2023-2024
School Year

Welcome to Mrs. Wadsworth's Class at Monticello Trails Middle School!

What will we learn?

- Unit 1: Solving Equations and Applications
- Unit 2: Angle Relationships
- Unit 3: Functions and Linear Equations
- Unit 4: Statistics and Probability
- Unit 5: Real Numbers and Pythagorean Theorem
- Unit 6: Exponents, Scientific Notation, and Volume

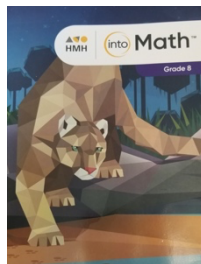
Kansas Standards:

Our units and textbook align with the Kansas State Math Standards: [Math Standards](#)

Our Textbook:

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, *Into Math*, 2020

Each student will also have an on-line version of this textbook.



There will be daily/weekly work from both the on-line and traditional books.

Materials:

Charged Macbook Air	Math Binder w/ Dividers	Pencils	Wired Earbuds
Loose Leaf Paper	TI-84 Graphing Calculator – recommended after Spring State Testing Class Set is present but will need own in high school		

Grading:

Students will be graded on the work performed in class, assigned daily work/homework, quizzes and tests performed at school, and projects done both in class and/or outside of school. **Each student** is responsible for turning in assignments on time and getting caught up on any work they missed while absent for any reason. Expectations will be strict to assist students in developing successful habits for work completion. Grades will be calculated using total points.

Teacher Contact Information:

Haley Wadsworth
8th Grade Explorers Team

Email:
HWadsworth@usd232.org

School Phone:
913-422-1100

Please always feel free to email any time you have questions. Phone calls are accepted, understanding I may not be able to return your call until after school or during my planning period.

We share one common goal:
Your child's success!

Late Work:

Your student may receive up to 20% deduction for work submitted after the intended due date. For each day of excused absence, your student will receive 2 school days to turn in any assignment(s) they missed without penalty. The only exception to this rule is for a previously known project due date; these projects are due immediately upon your student's return to school.

Late work will be accepted until the day of the Module/Unit/Chapter test is taken, then any missing assignments associated with the Module/Unit/Chapter will become zeros and unable to be made up.

Skyward:

When looking at grades, Skyward is your official grade location. There are grades present in Canvas, but they are not the official grade represented on your student's grade card.

When an asterisk * is present, this indicates that an assignment is still in process of being entered, it does not mean the assignment is missing. A missing assignment is notated by a 0 entered for the points and NHI (not handed in) as the code associated with the assignment.

Submitting Work:

Students will submit all work through Canvas or directly on the HMH textbook website. When there are paper assignments, turn in trays are located in my room for your student to turn their work into, but prior to turning it in, generally a photo will be submitted onto Canvas to show that the assignment was submitted/turned in.

Assessment Retakes:

Students may retake any assessment in which they are not satisfied with the grade they earned up to 2 additional times, with the best score taken as their grade as long as their re-assessment date is 2 days prior to the end of the quarter in which the assessment is within. All practice work must be completed, and corrections of their initial test will be done prior to re-assessing. Once these protocols are confirmed by myself, then I will schedule a time for your student to re-assess. This could take place before or after school, or during ELT as long as the student is comfortable with that setting and shortened period. I have multiple versions of each test so the retake will be a different version of the first test they took, but will cover the same content and concepts each time.

Cheating:

A note about cheating: **Cheating will not be tolerated.** If you are caught cheating, you will receive a zero for the assignment or test. If you are helping someone to cheat (giving answers, sharing tests, etc.), you will receive a zero on the assignment or test.

Essential Standards of Math 8: What ALL Students will Leave Math 8 Mastering

Operations with Integers	Pythagorean Theorem - Solving for Unknown Side	Solving 2 Step Equations
$y=mx+b$: Identify & Graph - Slope & Y-Intercept		$y=mx+b$: Solve for Slope from Points (table, 2 points, graph)

We're Better Together, Let's Make It a Great Year!!



Overall Purpose of 8th Grade Pathways

Students will create a realistic plan for high school and beyond based on their interests, talents, skills, and passions that will help them market themselves in a manner that will provide them opportunities to accomplish their life goals.

Students will put the skills and talents that they will use throughout their life to action to create relevant, work-based projects that they are proud to show to others.

Major Areas of Focus

Project-Based Learning

Welcome to 8th Grade Pathways. Primarily, Pathways is a Project-Based Learning class in which you will participate, complete, and share highly-engaging projects that center on real-world experiences. Each project will focus on 21st Century Learning skills such as creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. Each quarter's project follows Kansas learning standards and you and your classmates will be given choice over the path each project will take. Each quarter's project is featured in the schedule below:

Project-Based Learning Schedule

Quarter	Focus Area	Product Generated
Quarter 1	Product Design and Marketing	Print Advertisements or Commercial
Quarter 2	Creative Writing	Fiction Multi-Genre Story Creation
Quarter 3	Filmmaking/Research	Documentary Movie
Quarter 4	Middle School Reflection/ Professional Personal Marketing	Middle School Memory Book/ Professional Job Interview (Final E-Portfolio, Resume, Cover Letter)

Why is Project-Based Learning Important to Me?

While you may not grow up to sell products, write stories, or make movies, without a doubt you will be using the skills that it takes to generate these creations (creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication) in any job you do. The skills you will use to create our projects are skills that you must master in order to have future success. Plus, in all careers you will have to present your work to others and market/sell/persuade these people that your work meets the objectives of the job.

Individual Plan of Study

In 8th grade, you will continue to build your Individual Plan of Study to help prepare for high school and beyond. You will participate in activities that will equip you with the skills to make some important decisions for your high school years. You will focus on the following:

- Solidifying your high school course Pathway and high school courses by February
- Continuing to explore your potential future career and what it takes to get there (Xello)
- Building an e-portfolio where you can showcase all your projects from Pathways as well as pertinent projects and work from other classes that highlight your accomplishments. Your e-portfolio also will describe your goals, qualities, experiences outside of the classroom, etc., and will be an essential tool for you to use throughout high school to market yourself and your accomplishments. You will continue to develop this website throughout high school.
- Marketing your skills, talents, passions, accomplishments, etc. to be prepared to show others that you are a great candidate for whatever you desire to do in high school and in life. We will focus on creating resumes, cover letters, interviewing skills, professionalism, job shadowing, requesting letters of reference, and tracking your academic achievements.
- Generating and sending weekly IPS Logs that will keep you, your parents, teachers, and potentially building administration informed about your academic progress and plans of action. The intention of these logs is to help you be responsible for your progress and to inform those who care about you about your progress. If you are doing well each week, that's great! If you encounter some struggles, then these logs and communication can help you get back on the track to success.

Why do I Need to Create an Individual Plan of Study?

Simply put, people experience much more success and happiness in life if they make informed decisions about their lives and if they have well-developed plans of action. While all your classes are important, it can be argued that Pathways has the potential to best prepare you for what the future has in store for you and to give you the tools to experience future success. And if you take your time to create your life plans, you will have less anxiety when it comes to making important decisions and you will have a greater chance to fulfill your goals without wasting time and money in the future.

General Information

Assessment

You will be graded on all three major areas of Pathways: Quarterly Project-Based Learning (PBL) Activities/Projects, Individualized Plan of Study Activities (IPS), and daily class work/activities. Each PBL project will be scored with specific rubrics. Each quarter's PBL project will be scored according to the 21st Century Skills Standards' Rubrics and will focus on the 4C's of learning (Creativity, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Collaboration). The major assessment will come when you complete your projects and present them. Typically, that will come at the end of each quarter. Consequently, it is imperative that you are not late to complete any project. Throughout each quarter, you will be assessed with various checkpoints and activities to ensure you are on track to complete each project and learning essential skills on time.

Materials

Pathways is a technology-based course, so the main item that you will need each day will be your fully-charged MacBook. Any other materials or technology will be determined as needed. During class time, there will **never** be time for you to play games or stream shows/movies on your computer. Participating in these activities can cause you to lose the use of your computer. Remember, your MacBook is not your property and can be taken away if not used properly. You are responsible for contacting K12 if you have any computer issues.

Technology Help Desk

Get help with district technology

Having issues with district provided technology?

Students and Parents: You can reach our Help Desk by:

Phone: 816-382-4840

Chat: chat.k12itc.com

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Expectations/Behavior

You want to participate in behavior that will “open doors” for you this school year and in the future. We all make mistakes, but in 8th grade, you need to make a strong effort to make positive impressions on your classmates and adults so that opportunities are opened for you and not closed. Life is much more fun and rewarding when we have open doors and not closed ones. Here are some great traits to help you be successful this school year:

- Best Effort
- Respectful of Everyone and their Ideas
- Open Mind
- Managing Time Wisely
- Listening to Everyone
- Patience
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Fun

Late/Missing Work

Most assignments leading up to projects will be graded based on **satisfactory completion** of each assignment. If an assignment is late, the assignment will be marked as “Missing” in Skyward and will be given a 0. Parents will receive a notification through Skyward. If the assignment is turned in after the due date, it could receive up to a 20% late deduction. More so than in other classes, because Pathways is project-based, there will not be as many daily assignments as in other classes. However, it is extremely important that you do not fall behind because each project is substantial and can impact your grade greatly. Because each project will be due toward the end of each quarter, you will not have built-in time to be late. Plus, meeting scheduled deadlines is a real-world skill that you must master to have future success. You will have one make-up day for each **excused** absence. **If you ever fall behind, it is highly advised that you stay after school. All teachers are required to stay after school until 3:35, and there will be at least one teacher each day that will allow you to work in their room after school.**

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is against the law. Yeah, really. There will be times in Pathways and in life when you can use others’ information, but you must document where you received that information. Honest mistakes happen, but any blatant copying of others’ work or information will result in a zero and parent notification on the first offense. You will be required to do the assignment again without plagiarizing to improve your grade. On the second offense, you will be referred to the office. This includes the use of Artificial Intelligence sites. Trust is an important characteristic to maintain your integrity.

Bring your Own Device (BYOD)

You will not need any device in Pathways beyond your MacBook, so please leave your phone in your backpack or locker. Any violation of this policy may result in consequences that will prohibit you from using your device, parent notification, and/or office referrals.



8th Grade Earth and Space Science Course Syllabus

Students will expand their knowledge and understanding of science through the study of Earth and Space. They will learn through a combination of discussions, labs, projects, videos, and lectures. Students will use observation, inquiry and the scientific method to understand how Earth Science relates to their everyday lives.

Materials Needed

- Either a 1 ½ “ or 2” three-ring binder and dividers OR a Spiral notebook and Folder
- Pencils
- Grading Pen (any color besides black)
- Loose leaf paper (for three ring binder, not needed if you use a spiral)
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Ear buds

Textbooks (Three Consumable Textbooks)

- Bring Science Alive! Earth: minerals, rocks, fossil record, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering, soil formation, erosion, deposition.
- Bring Science Alive! Weather and Climate: fresh water, ocean water, atmosphere, weather, climate
- Bring Science Alive! Space: solar system, planets, universe & beyond
- Online versions are also available on your student MacBook, through the icon.

Classroom/Building Expectations

All students are expected to come to class ready to learn and participate.

- Come to class on time, prepared for class and ready to learn. This includes bringing the necessary supplies for class: pencil, grading pen, agenda, ear buds (not air pods), homework, etc.
- Be respectful of others and yourself.
- Listen attentively to teacher and peers.
- Respect the opinions of others.

- Keep your hands to yourself and off of other peoples' belongings.
- Be mindful of your workspace and the space of others.
- Keep your area clean and leave it as clean as you found it.
- Follow the Science Safety Rules (reviewed the first week)
- No cellphones in the classroom or hallways. Phones can be kept in lockers and checked during passing period, but you do not walk the hallways with your phone in hand!
- No Air pods – WIRED earbud are required for computer use.

Late/Absent Work Policy

- Late work is any work not completed when due or when we are ready to grade it in class (trying to finish it while we are grading is late). Writing in answers as we are grading is academic dishonesty and students who choose to do this will not receive credit for completing the assignment.
- Late work must be turned in before the test over the unit to receive credit, and is not accepted after we have finished the chapter/unit. Any work turned in late may have up to a 20% reduction in points.
- If you ever fall behind, it is highly advised that you stay after school. All teachers are available stay after school until 3:30 pm, and there will be at least one teacher each day that will allow you to work in their room after school.
- It is expected that a student turns in all missing work, even if the work is done after the test. I will ask students to stay after school to complete missing work. First quarter my afterschool time may be limited to Friday.
- If you are absent, you will have two make-up days for regular daily assignments for each excused absence. For projects, if you are absent the day the assignment is due or you are scheduled to present, the project or presentation is due immediately upon your return.

Grading

Students' grades are based on their performance on Labs, Projects, Quizzes and Tests. Homework grades are usually (but not always) completion grades and are not based on the accuracy of the work. Homework is the practice to help them learn the content or master the skill. Students are expected to correct homework assignments to help them with the comprehension of the material taught. I like to think that we learn more from correcting a mistake than by just writing down an answer. I offer extra credit periodically during a unit to add something more meaningful to the concepts being taught. I do not provide any extra credit at the end of a quarter to improve a grade.

SKYWARD vs CANVAS:

SKYWARD:

Grades are updated regularly in SKYWARD and that is where you will see the class grade for your child. Canvas may show you a grade on an assignment but it is not where you see the complete class grade. An * in Skyward will be present if I have not yet entered a grade. This is not a missing assignment, but may appear so in Skyward, you need to click on the actual class on your Skyward to see if the asterisk is present. If an assignment is missing you will see a 0 recorded and NHI in the gradebook.

CANVAS:

Canvas is the holder of assignments and the place where electronic work is submitted. The first module in Canvas is a weekly snapshot of our daily assignments. These are organized by week. Each week is then put into a module with all of the assignments for that week. Most classwork can be found in a module for the week.

Tests/Projects

At the end of a unit a test or project will be given to show mastery of the skills students need to learn. Completing assignments, correcting and reviewing the work completed is expected to be done prior to taking a test. If a student scores below a 70% on a test I offer the option of making test corrections to raise the test grade up to a 70%. For this to happen, all assignments assigned during the unit must be completed and corrected prior to test day. (Turning in a late/missing assignment on test day does not meet this criteria.)

Other Learning Platforms

- Ed Puzzle
- Actively Learn
- Newsela
- Flipgrid
- Nearpod
- Google (docs, pages, slides)

Essential Standards (what your child needs to know to move on)

- MS-ESS-3: Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.

- MS-ETS1-1: Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.
- MS-ETS1-3: Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).

Beth Parker

8th Grade Explorer Team Science

bparker@usd232.org

913-422-1100

Course Description

This course examines the history of the United States from the American Revolution through Civil War and Reconstruction to America's rise to prominence after 1900. Key people will be examined, along with political, military, scientific, and social developments of each era.

Major Units of Study: Topics within the Unit:

Prologue – Setting the Scene Exploration, Colonization of America. Unit 1 – Establishing America Independence, Articles of Confederation; Constitution. Unit 2 – Regionalism and Expansion Movement West and Removal; Sectionalism; Slavery. Unit 3 – March to War Popular Sovereignty; Expansion of Slavery. Unit 4 – Towards a More Perfect Union The American Civil War; Reconstruction. Unit 5 – The Rise of America Economic Expansion and the Rise of Industry.

Course Expectations- All rules and procedures can be covered with these three statements. • **Be Respectful** of everyone in our class and school through words and actions. • **Be Responsible** for yourself and your learning, as well as the learning of others in our shared class. • **Be Safe** in creating a positive, inclusive learning environment that is open to all.

Materials: As we navigate through this year we will have to be flexible on how the class will be structured. To help accommodate this students should bring to class every day the following items.

1. Macbook (fully charged)
2. Macbook Charger
3. Plug in earphones (apple earbuds are not allowed in classroom by building policy)
4. A writing utensil

Assessment re-takes: Students who receive below a 70% on assessments have the option for re-takes. The typical procedure is that the student will stay after school on an assigned day to reflect and correct any issues. Students can receive ½ point back on any answer they correct for a possible final score of 70%. **All missing work must be turned in before the test corrections can take place.**

Late work: Students are expected to turn in all assignments on time and on the expected day. Generally, work time is built into the day to allow the students to complete the work in class. Points can be deducted for missing or late work (up to 20%). A student can turn in a missing assignment up until the end of the section/concept. Once we have moved on from that section/concept the zero will stay in place.

Please refer to my canvas site to stay up to date on what we are doing in class, to post on message boards, to connect with class content, to access helpful links, and to get information on missing work.

I am looking forward to a great year!
Ross Schaffer

Contact information:
Ross Schaffer
rschaffer@usd232.org
(913) 422-1100 x2715