

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 8th Grade

Purpose of the Grade Level Guide

- Provide parents a general overview of the content taught at each grade level
- Provide information regarding the district instructional materials used to teach the content
- Provide parents a general overview of the intellectual, social, physical, and emotional characteristics of a child in this grade level
- List resources that can be used to gain additional information regarding Worthington's Learning Standards in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies
- Provide resources to assist parents in supporting their child's learning
- Provide district contacts to whom questions can be directed

Communication with Parents

Communication regarding a student's program and progress in learning comes in many different ways and forms throughout the year. The chart below best describes the total "Communication Pie." The Grade Level Guide is one "slice" of the pie. It is intended to give you a snapshot of what to expect at each grade level and resources to help you gain more information about Worthington's Learning Standards for ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies.



8th Grade

This Grade Level Guide is intended to give you an overview of the content in the core academic courses, materials used, and resources to help you gain more information about Worthington's Learning Standards in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies.

NOTE: This document contains hyperlinks connecting you with samples of the resources used in Worthington Schools if the document is read electronically. These hyperlinks are meant to be a representative sample of the resources and not a comprehensive list of the materials used in our classrooms.

Worthington Schools – Grade Eight Guide

Mathematics

In **CCSS 8th Grade Math**, students will learn a number of skills and ideas that they must know and understand to be ready for college and career. Your child will continue to learn how to write and reason with algebraic expressions. Your child also will make a thorough study of linear equations with one and two variables. Building on previous work with relationships between quantities, your child will be introduced to the idea of a mathematical function. And your child will prepare for high school geometry by understanding congruence (same shape and size) and similarity of geometric figures, understanding slope, and relating linear equations in two variables to lines in the coordinate plane, solving linear equations (e.g., $-x + 5(x + 1/3) = 2x - 8$); solving pairs of linear equations (e.g., $x + 6y = -1$ and $2x - 2y = 12$); and writing equations to solve related word problems, understanding functions as rules that assign a unique output number to each input number; using linear functions to model relationships, analyzing statistical relationships by using a best fit line (a straight line that models an association between two quantities) working with positive and negative exponents, square root, and cube root symbols, and scientific notation (e.g., evaluating $\sqrt{36 + 64}$; estimating world population as 7×10^9), understanding congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software (e.g., given two congruent figures, show how to obtain one

from the other by a sequence of rotations, translations, and/or reflections) and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem to solve problems.

District Instructional Materials:
Pearson Digits

In **CCSS 8th Grade Math 1**, students will formalize and extend the mathematics that they learned through the end of 7th grade. Content in this course is grouped into six critical areas, or units. The units of study deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Eighth Grade Math 1 includes an exploration of the role of rigid motions in congruence and similarity. The Pythagorean Theorem is introduced, and students examine volume relationships of cones, cylinders, and spheres. Eighth Grade Math 1 uses properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades. The final unit in the course ties together the algebraic and geometric ideas studied. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

This course differs from Math 1 in that it contains content from 8th grade. While coherence is retained, in that it logically builds from Accelerated 7th Grade, the additional content when compared to the high school course demands a faster pace for instruction and learning.

District Instructional Material:
Pearson Digits

Language Arts

Worthington's Learning Standards in English Language Arts, adopted by the Worthington Board of Education, are K-12 standards that provide the basis for a rigorous education in the Worthington Schools.

The board adopted approach to comprehensive literacy instruction is the [Strategic Balanced Literacy Framework](#) (SBLF) adopted by the Worthington Board of Education in April 2006. The [SBLF Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document provides more information on the guiding principles of this framework.

Language Arts 8 is composed of reading, writing, speaking, viewing, and listening. The course focuses on the study of literature including novels, short stories, plays, poetry, and nonfiction. Basic elements of the writing process are emphasized through the conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics.

8th Grade

Formal and informal opportunities are given to develop students' speaking and listening skills. To enhance their middle school experience, students participate in individual and collaborative activities.

District Instructional Materials:
Collections Anthology Houghton-Mifflin

Enriched English 8 is specialized in terms of breadth, depth, and pace. Skills developed in Enriched English 7 are reinforced and extended. It is a challenging course concentrating on the elements of literature and the writing process. This course is designed to create a comfortable environment for enriched students, and it provides a foundation for students entering Enriched English 1 their freshman year. Students analyze all genres of literature examining theme, style, character, and tone. They learn techniques that enable them to produce a variety of original papers, presentations, and projects. Because teachers have an extensive awareness of these students' particular intellectual needs as well as their affective needs, they design and facilitate instruction accordingly.

District Instructional Materials:
Collections Anthology Houghton-Mifflin

Reading Intervention is offered for selected students who need to improve reading skills and strategies. Instruction focuses on the acquisition of vocabulary, the reading process, and reading applications in informational, technical, and persuasive texts. Students will be responsible for practicing and developing reading strategies and skills. The goal of the program is to bring students who

are reading two or more years below grade level closer to middle school level reading. Students in reading intervention need to focus on goal setting, organizational skills, study and test taking skills, as well as reading skills.

District Instructional Materials:
Leveled Literacy Intervention

English Language Learners participate in English and Reading classes at their level of language proficiency. This can include pull out programs as well as full inclusion in grade level appropriate English and Reading instruction.

Social Studies

U.S. Studies from 1492 to 1877: Exploration Through Reconstruction

The historical focus continues in the eighth grade with the study of European exploration and the early years of the United States. This study incorporates all four social studies strands into a chronologic view of the development of the United States. Students examine how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors.

District Instructional Materials:
McDougal Littell: *American History: Beginnings Through Reconstruction*; and TCI: *The US Through Industrialism*

Science

Eighth grade science focuses on helping students use scientific inquiry to discover patterns, trends, structures, and relationships that may be described by simple principles. These principles are

related to the properties or interactions within and between systems. The Earth Science section of the course will focus on the physical features of Earth and how they formed. This includes the interior of Earth, the rock record, plate tectonics, and landforms. Students will learn about forces and motion within, on, and around the Earth and within the universe in the Physical Science portion of the course. The Life Science section focuses on continuation of the species.

District Instructional Material:
[Holt Science and Technology](#) and [Gizmos](#)

Other Courses Taken

(see course handbook)

One of the following:

- General Music
- Choir
- Band
- Orchestra
- Art

One of the following:

- Foreign Language Level 1B
- Reading Lab

Health (one semester)

Wellness 4 Life

Seminar

Assist

Worthington School District **Grade Level Eight** Guide

General Characteristics of Grade 8 Children

Intellectual

- become more analytical
- can deal with abstract
- are able to see dimensions of problems
- can conceptualize other's thoughts
- are able to apply logic to verbal and hypothetical problems
- are sensitive to their place in time
- are concerned with end product

Physical

- develop at a rate which varies from peers
- grow rapidly preceding the onset of puberty (girls about two years ahead of boys)
- have rapid muscular growth
- are awkward and restless because of uneven growth of different body parts

Emotional

- are preoccupied with self
- begin to have models other than parents
- become more self-conscious
- search for self-definition through friendship
- establish values
- wish to no longer be viewed as a child
- change moods unpredictably

Social

- are sensitive to attitudes of peers with an emphasis on peer group and a sense of belonging
- need to be noticed
- show increased interest in opposite sex
- deliberately exclude others
- select leaders who are often precocious intellectually and physically and are popular with the opposite sex
- begin to challenge parental and school authority
- develop a sense of opposite sex identity
- participate in family activities
- develop a sense of justice and concern for others
- want to develop independence

District and State Assessment Schedule

To view the [District Assessment Calendar](#), log on to the district website <http://www.worthington.k12.oh.us>, select the "Academics" tab, select "Academic Achievement" in the drop down menu, then click on "Assessment" on the left hand rail.

Resources

For additional information regarding our curriculum and programs, please refer to the following resources:

Worthington Schools Website:

<http://www.worthington.k12.oh.us/>

Ohio Department of Education Website:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/>

If you have questions, please feel free to discuss them with your child's teacher, the building principal, or contact any of us in the Department of Academic Achievement. You can also use the district website to contact any administrator in the district through email.