

Maple Creek Middle School 2023-2024
Grade 8

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics 8 -Duration: two semesters per year

Summary: Eighth grade mathematics is the study of pre-algebraic concepts. This course serves as a bridge between arithmetic and algebra. As you cross this bridge, you will move from working with problems that are mostly numerical to solving those that require more advanced reasoning skills. This requires working with variables and unknowns. You will be introduced to a variety of reasoning skills that are practical in that they are used in other disciplines and outside of school.

Algebra I -High School Credit-Duration: two semesters per year

Prerequisite: Student enrollment in this course is based upon a B or higher in pre-algebra 7 the previous school year, teacher recommendation, or an A- in math 7 coupled with an NWEA score in the 90th percentile or above.

Summary: Algebra I provides a formal development of algebraic skills and concepts used in a wide range of problem-solving situations. The concept of functions is emphasized. Topics include: operations with polynomials, quadratic equations, slope intercept, statistics and probability, exponents and exponential functions, system of equations, and radical functions. Desire alone does not qualify a student for this course. This course is specifically for students who find math interesting and are self-motivated within the context of their daily studies. The pace of the subject matter is accelerated and requires additional homework on a weekly basis. Students must be self-disciplined and able to accept a challenging schedule that moves at a faster rate-of-speed than the regular eighth grade math course. A demanding course of this type requires a very strong skill set in pre-algebra mathematics.

IMPORTANT Note:

To advance to ninth grade Geometry, a student must have a full understanding of algebraic skills.

To take Geometry as a freshman, algebra I students:

- 1) Should receive 1st/2nd semester grade(s) of "B+" or higher or 2nd Semester exam grade of "A-" or higher.
- 2) Students must score a minimum of 245 on the math section of their NWEA Test.
- 3) Middle School Algebra I credits will be awarded at the end of the Freshman year in High School following successful completion Geometry

Note: Students earning a C+ or lower in the first quarter will be placed on probationary status for the second quarter. A student with a C+ or lower for the first semester grade will be re-evaluated prior to starting the second semester of Algebra I. Following a teacher recommendation and parent approval, he/she will be moved to a pre-algebra course. Students who exhibit a consistent pattern of incomplete homework assignments will be removed from the course by teacher recommendation.

Geometry – STEM High School Credit –Duration: two semesters per year

Prerequisite: Algebra I- A minimum grade of B+ in Algebra I is required for this course PLUS teacher recommendation.

Summary: : Geometry provides students with experiences that deepen the understanding of shapes and their properties. Properties and relationships of geometric figures include the study of: angles, lines, planes, congruent and similar triangles, trigonometric ratios, polygons, circles, and spatial drawings. An understanding of proof logic is developed. Geometry STEM offers more in-depth, challenging problems. This is for students who find math to be interesting and are considering a mathematically intensive career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. When choosing this course, please talk to your current math teacher and consider your grades you earned in Algebra I.

Math Lab 8: Duration: two semesters per year

Summary: The purpose of this class is to remediate students who have fallen behind in key areas of mathematics development. This class is assigned to students who have scored in the lowest 10% of their grade level on the math portion of NWEA and have been recommended for support services by their math teacher from the previous academic year. This class takes the place of a student's study hall. Class time is allotted in this course for completion of homework as well as direct instruction for remediation in mathematics.

ENGLISH

Accelerated English 8: - Duration: two semesters per year

Pre-requisite: Student enrollment in this course is based upon a B or higher in a previous high-ability English course, an A- in Lang. Arts 7 in conjunction with a qualifying NWEA score $\geq 85\%$, PLUS teacher recommendation.

Summary: This pre-advanced placement course is intended to prepare students for future honors-level and advanced placement classes. Students will be engaged with in-depth and rigorous coursework that focuses strongly on analyzing and synthesizing a variety of texts. The writing focus in this course will teach students how to write for varied purposes while preparing them for writing in advanced courses in the future.

English 8 - Duration: two semesters per year

Summary: Students will study all basic areas of communication: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The study of literature will encompass works of diverse genres and authors. Students will support literary analysis with textual support/evidence. Writing skills will be developed by engaging in the writing process and conferencing with peers and teacher. Students will have the opportunity to enhance their writing skills through the study and implementation of the following writing formats: narrative, argumentative, and literary analysis. Research skills and techniques will be applied to at least one research project.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Accelerated Social Studies 8: Duration: two semesters per year

Prerequisite: Student enrollment in this course is based upon A B or higher in Accel Social Studies 7 the previous year or have had an A- or higher in Social Studies 7 & an NWEA Reading score at the 85th percentile or above, or common assessment score at or above 90%, PLUS teacher recommendation.

Summary: Students will cover the same Indiana State Standards found in the eighth grade social studies class. The class will move at a faster pace and require more in-depth analysis, synthesis and reflection of United States history. Reading and writing skills associated with primary & secondary sources will be a large focus of this class. This class is geared towards those independent, self-motivated students who have a high interest in social studies.

Social Studies 8 - Duration: two semesters per year

Summary: Eighth grade Social Studies will consist of two semesters of United States history. This course will follow the path of American History from exploration to the Civil War. The course deals with "why" events and situations exist as opposed to the collection of statistics. Students will need to

demonstrate an understanding of the interaction between political, economic, and social forces within a region or country. Skills such as summarizing, identifying main ideas and concepts, and comparing and contrasting views are essential to this course. Students must be able to analyze data and draw conclusions. Students may be required to use information gathered to write a variety of responses including: short answer questions, personal responses, and essays. Much of the material in this course is interactive and works with students to find connections to their own lives, presently and in the future.

SCIENCE 8

Accelerated Science 8 -Duration: two semesters per year

Prerequisite: Student enrollment in this course is based upon A B or higher in Accel Science 7 the previous year or have had an A- or higher in Science 7 & an NWEA Reading score at the 85th percentile or above, or common assessment score at or above 90%, PLUS teacher recommendation.

Summary: Students in **Accelerated**-level science will learn the same curriculum as regular level science classes, as guided by the Indiana Standards for Science. Students qualifying for and choosing to enroll in this course should be highly motivated to explore science concepts and curriculum.

Science 8 - Duration: two semesters per year

Summary: Eighth grade Science is a two-semester course that incorporates the Indiana Academic Standards for Science. The students will use science notebooks to help develop, practice, and refine their science understanding while also enhancing reading, writing, mathematics and communications. These notebooks contain information about the students' classroom experiences and students are encouraged to use them as scientists would; before, during, and after all investigations. The students will formulate and record their questions; make predictions; record data, procedures, and results; compose reflections, and communicate findings. Some studies include: weather and the atmosphere, chemistry, and genetics.

PE/CAREERS 8

Physical Education 8 - High School Credit-Duration: 1 semester per year.

Summary: The physical education program is designed to further develop gross and fine motor skills and to improve cardiovascular and muscular fitness. This is accomplished by participation in team sports, individual sports and lifetime and recreational sports. Basic rules are taught and tested so the students have a working knowledge of each activity. Team sports include: soccer, speedball, lacrosse, flag football, basketball, volleyball, softball, floor hockey, team handball, ultimate Frisbee and badminton. Individual and recreational sports include: table tennis, tennis and pickle ball. As an integrated portion of the physical educational curriculum, students will be involved in the L.I.F.E. (Learning Involves Fitness and Education) Program. This program will concentrate on individual fitness for all students by using aerobic fitness equipment and strength training equipment. Students' fitness and skills proficiency are developed by alternating between the L.I.F.E Room and the team sport activities on a rotating basis.

Preparing for College and Careers: High School Credit-Duration: 1 semester per year.

Summary: *Preparing for College and Careers* addresses the knowledge, skills, and behaviors all students need to be prepared for success in college, career, and life. The focus of the course is the impact of today's choices on tomorrow's possibilities. Topics to be addressed include twenty-first century life and career skills; higher-order thinking, communication, leadership, and management processes; exploration of personal aptitudes, interests, values, and goals; examining multiple life roles and responsibilities as individuals and family members; planning and building employability skills; transferring school skills to life and work; and managing personal resources. This course includes reviewing the 16 national career clusters and Indiana's College and Career Pathways, in-depth investigation of one or more pathways, reviewing graduation plans, developing career plans, and developing personal and career portfolios.

ROTATION CLASSES 8

Art 8 -Duration: one nine-week period

Summary: This course is designed to make the student aware of the basic art elements as well as to develop a more knowledgeable appreciation of the aesthetic quality of the art objects he/she creates in various media. The areas of study include: color and design, drawing, painting, construction, and art history. The objectives of these lessons have been planned to build upon each other, using information learned in an earlier project to aid them in creating a qualitative art object. The principles that a student learned in the seventh grade will be reinforced and advanced during this course.

Technology Education 8 - Duration: one nine-week period

Summary: This course is structured around the State Introductory Indicators for Technology Education at the middle school level. An introductory activity-based course in which students are introduced to the importance of technology and the principles used to design, produce, use, and assess it. Students receive introductions to topics such as computer aided drafting (CAD). The students develop both individual and group abilities needed to participate in and contribute to the ever changing technological society in which we live.

Health 8A and 8B - Duration: one nine-week period each semester

Summary: This course builds on the seventh grade curriculum by expanding topics covered during that year. Emphasis is placed on suicide prevention and positive ways to deal with stress and grief. Review of the changes of puberty, abstinence, consequences of sexual behavior before marriage such as pregnancy, STDs and HIV/AIDS will be discussed. Cancer and the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs will also be covered.

ELECTIVES

Art Enrichment Year Gr 8- Duration: two semesters per year.

Summary: This course is designed to further develop artistic techniques and mediums beyond the regular art rotation. **Some of the areas of study are design, painting, construction, and art history. Through these studies,** students will explore new techniques, mediums, and art styles to gain artistic knowledge.

Spanish 1 - Duration: two semesters per year (**High School Credit Course**)

Pre-requisites: Student enrollment in this course is based upon a grade of B- or higher in seventh grade English , passing of all other courses in seventh grade, and Eng 7 teacher recommendation – based on class performance.

Summary: This class is comparable to an AP high school course in terms of difficulty, study time, and homework with a strong focus on vocabulary and spelling. Level 1 foreign language courses provide instruction enabling students to discuss the many reasons for learning languages and to develop an understanding of the people who speak them. Within this context, the course provides students with opportunities to:

- Respond to and give oral directions and commands and to make routine requests in the classroom and in public places;
- Understand and use appropriate forms of address in courtesy expressions and be able to tell about daily routines and events;
- Ask and answer simple questions and participate in brief guided conversations related to their needs and interests;
- Read isolated words and phrases in a situational context, such as menus, signs, and schedules;
- Comprehend brief written directions and information;

- Read short narrative texts on simple topics;
- Write familiar words and phrases in appropriate contexts and respond in writing to various stimuli.

They will learn:

- About nonverbal communication, such as gestures and body language;
- About awareness of current events in the cultures;
- The major holidays and geographical features of the countries being studied;
- Greeting and leave-taking behaviors in a variety of social situations;
- The appropriate way to respond to introductions and use courtesy behaviors;
- Appropriate etiquette in a variety of social settings

*****Student must continue to pass all core subjects in order to remain in Spanish I.**

***** To move on to Spanish II in gr 9, a student must have a min of C avg for the year in Spanish I.**

*****Upon later completion of Spanish II, the student will receive credits for both courses.**

*****Many students find it helpful to have a study hall when taking Spanish I.**

Band 8 - Duration: two semesters per year.

Pre-requisite: Student enrollment in this course is based on sixth and seventh grade band instruction and/or previous experience on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. .

Summary: This band rehearses daily for one period, stressing total musicianship. Grades are based on practice times, written tests, playing tests and attendance at required performances. The band performs at concerts throughout the year and at the ISSMA band contest. A calendar with concert and contest dates will be handed out the first day of school and can also be found on-line.

Jazz Band - Duration: two semesters per year.

Pre-requisite: Students must qualify for this course through auditions.

Summary: This band rehearses daily for one period, stressing total musicianship. Grades are based on practice times, written tests, playing tests, and attendance at required performances. The band performs at concerts throughout the year and at the ISSMA jazz band contest. A calendar with concert and contest dates will be handed out the first day of school and can also be found on-line.

Concert Choir – Duration: two semesters per year

Summary: Open to any Maple Creek student who enjoys singing and would like to learn a variety of vocal styles. Grades are based on class projects, musical tests, participation in class, and attendance at all performances. The choir will perform at several different events throughout the school year: Fall Concert in October, Winter Musical in December (presented by the Concert Choir Students), Bobcat Coffee House in January, ISSMA Choir Contest in March, and Fine Arts Concert in May. The Concert Choir will also be traveling to the King's Island Theme Park in May to participate in the Music in the Parks Choir Festival. A calendar with concert and contest dates will be handed out at the beginning of the school year.

MC Singers- Duration: two semesters per year.

Pre-requisite: Students must qualify for this course through auditions.

Summary: This group will rehearse daily for one class period, stressing total musicianship. There will also be some after school rehearsals which will be spent learning vocal parts and choreography which cannot be taught during the class time. There will also be a fee for the class which will cover the students costume and travel fees for the year. (The fee will be handed out the first week of school) Grades will be based on singing tests, class projects, participation in class, and attendance at performances. The choral group will perform at three school concerts, several contests, and possibly other venues if the opportunity arises. A calendar with concert and contest dates will be handed out the first day of school and can also be found on-line on the MC Singer web page.

Study Hall 8 - Duration: two semesters per year

Summary: This is a structured study hall for completing assignments, studying, and is also used as a time for students to receive homework help. It may also serve as an extension of the classroom for projects that cannot be finished during regular classroom time.

App Creators (PLTW)- Duration: 1 semester

Summary: App Creators (AC) introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as to other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. The unit provides students opportunities for self-expression. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, community service—the options are endless!

Fine Arts Exploration 2- Duration: 1 semester per year

Summary: Open to any eighth-grade student who enjoys exploring new areas in the fine arts. The class will be filled with various hands-on activities that will teach the students about various areas in the arts. Subjects being explored will be: Music Careers, Studies of Musicians from various countries, Piano Unit (students will learn the notes on the piano and to play several songs on the piano, Handling Money/Creating a Budget, Becoming an Actor and Creating a Stage Design, Cooking Skills/Proper Table Etiquette, Sewing Skills, Guitar Unit (students will learn the notes on the frets and to play several songs on the guitar and ukulele), Basic Graphic Art Skills for drawing and creating videos on the computer, and Digital 101 Concepts to be safe using the computer. Grades will be based on completion of class projects, participation in class, and various tests.

Rotation Classes

Tech Enrichment 8 - Duration: one nine-week period

Summary: This nine-week course allows students to explore a variety of computer programs and technology. Video creating and editing, digital art, website making, and podcast creating! Students will also learn a variety of digital presentation tools that can be used for other classes and personal use!

General Music 8/Piano Lab -Duration: one nine-week period

Summary- This course, through the use of hands-on music technology and listening, develops basic music literacy in the areas of music theory and appreciation. Students will study musical concepts while learning to play the electronic keyboard.

Science Madness – Duration: one nine-week period

Summary: This is an exploration of science at it's best. Students will participate in scientific experimentation and other hands-on science related activities to explore the wonders of our natural world.

Art Enrichment 8 - Duration: one nine-week period

Summary: Art enrichment is meant to provide exposure and expansion of knowledge to a variety of art skills. This course offers fun-filled art activities designed to encourage students who have aspiring interests, and emerging skills in art. This course will further enrich prior art skills obtained in previous courses. Some of the areas of study will be painting, sculpture, printmaking, and more.

(Placement in elective rotation sets will be based on class numbers.)

***All courses will reflect the Indiana Standards

Special Education Courses

Basic Skills Math- Duration: two semesters per year

Summary: This math class is for 6,7,8th grade students who are on modifications for math skills. This class WILL replace their math class at their grade level. It is a year-long class designed to aid in basic skills in math.

Basic Skills English- Duration: two semesters per year

Summary: This English/Language Arts class is for 6,7,8th grade students who are on modifications for language skills. This class WILL replace their English/Language Arts class at their grade level. It is a year-long class designed to aid in basic skills in reading and writing.

Reading Intervention- Duration: two semesters per year

Summary: This class is for 6,7,8th grade special education students that struggle with decoding and the skills for reading. This will NOT replace their English/Language Arts class but is a supplement to allow the development of reading skills. This is a year-long class to build reading skills.