

ANACORTES MIDDLE SCHOOL
8th Grade Instruction Program Description
2016 - 2017

All AMS Language Arts, U. S. History, and Math classes are Common Core aligned.

Language Arts 8th Grade Students will engage in expository, argumentative, and narrative writing. They will focus on spelling, vocabulary, and essay writing, as well as the study of grammar, punctuation, and usage. When writing, students will work on Common Core Standards. Students will engage in rigorous projects; which includes a letter to the Supreme Court over a constitutional issue during the 1st semester and the personality project 2nd semester. Students read a range of materials from short stories, poetry, and novels to primary sources, as well as non-fiction articles related to American history and current events.

U.S. History The time period covered in 8th grade US History starts at the Revolutionary War and continues with study of the Constitution through the end of the nineteenth century. The history of Washington State is taught parallel with US history through 1900. The history content covered in this period of American history provides the back bone for thinking, reading, and writing in Language Arts.

Challenge Bloc will be two periods, covering Language Arts and Humanities.



MATHEMATICS

Math 8th Grade Math 8th focuses on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures.

Algebra I - 8th Grade** Algebra I focuses on five critical areas: (1) developing fluency writing, interpreting, and translating between various forms of linear equations and inequalities, and using them to solve problems; (2) interpreting functions given graphically, numerically, symbolically and verbally translating between representations, and understanding the limitations of various representations (3) using regression techniques to describe approximately linear relationships between quantities; (4) extending the laws of exponents to rational exponents; and (5) expanding experience with functions to include – exponential, quadratic, absolute value, step, and those that are piecewise-defined. ***Please read * note on other side.

***Geometry** for students who have successfully completed Algebra I with a B or better.



SCIENCE

Science 8th Grade Three basic areas of science are introduced: Physics, Chemistry, and Earth Science. Physics involves the study of energy forms, energy transfers, waves, forces, and motions. Chemistry is the study of properties, structure of the atom, chemical reactions, and periodic table basics. Earth science includes the study of interactions in our solar system and Earth's climate.

***Advanced Science 8th Grade** Combines the science content of 8th and 9th grade Physical Science. The content focus includes Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science. Students who meet the requirements of this course can enroll in Biology as 9th graders, and must pass with a B or better each semester.

Students are selected using the following criteria: enrolled in Accelerated Math 7 or higher, in the 7th grade, had qualifying Math and Reading MAP test scores, and received a positive teacher recommendation. ***Please read *note on next page.***

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical Education/Health 8th Grade Students will have the opportunity to develop their physical fitness levels. They will engage in a wide array of activities in order to further their fitness development, improve their cardiovascular health, and endurance through running.

ELECTIVES

Eighth graders may select two or three electives of the following: AMS Concert Band, Choir, Spanish I, AVID 8 (by invitation), Art, Leadership, Robotics, Garden to Kitchen, Metals Technology I, and Web Design.

MUSIC

*All music classes are **yearlong** and meet daily.*

AMS Concert Band Concert Band is open to students who have at least one full year of experience in a school band or have teacher's permission to join the band. Skills are built upon through the use of more advanced music and the second band book. Class activities include concert performances, community events, and band festivals



Jazz Band AMS Jazz Band is open to all students in the AMS Concert Band or by permission of the teacher. Students play Jazz, Funk, Rock, Blues, Swing, and Latin styles in the upper-level group; meets two days a week, at AMS Band room before school. Class activities include concert performances, community events, and band festivals.

Choir AMS Choir is open to all 7th and 8th graders who enjoy singing alone or in a group. **NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.** Musical skills and singing confidence are built through engaging rehearsal and performance experiences. The AMS Choir performs in quarterly concerts, takes a field trip to compete in our league festival, and also sings at some special events upon invitation.

EXPLORATORY

Classes are all **one semester** and meet daily with the exception of AVID 8 and Spanish I, which are yearlong classes.

Leadership Designed for students who want to be involved by serving others as leaders in our school. Students should have a strong character, positive attitudes, and a willingness to promote school spirit among their peers. Some class responsibilities will include school assemblies, school dances, fundraisers, ASB government (with class representatives), special events, spirit days, and service opportunities on and off campus. ASB Officers will be enrolled for both semesters.

Robotics Students will program and build LEGO models to perform certain tasks using LEGO construction kits, computers and programming software. Cause and effect learning is enhanced by using computers to program the models. Testing and adjusting their programming is done in real time, similar to scientists working in labs.



Art Students will be given a broad exposure to the concepts, materials, and techniques used to create visual imagery. Students will explore design, layout, color-mixing, rendering, conceptual skills, graphic design, medium, and format.



Garden to Kitchen The students will learn sustainable methods of growing and cooking healthy food from scratch. Class will focus on the science of growing vigorous plants including their cultivation, harvest, and preparation. Coursework will take place in the classroom and outside. Students will take charge of maintaining a school garden, using tools, and promoting healthy eating at AMS.



AVID 8th Grade The AVID class takes the place of an elective, is yearlong and is by invitation only.

Math and Reading Enrichment These courses have been designed to help improve the math or reading competencies of 8th graders and to help support grade level learning across all content areas and offer students the necessary tools to achieve higher test scores. (Please note that students will be placed depending on SBAC and MAP scores.)

***Spanish I** (yearlong)

Credit for HS graduation: 1.0 credit

This first year of Spanish is an introduction to the language and culture through music, art, role-playing, and conversation. Formal language structures are also introduced. Through this course, students will see that proficiency in Spanish can open doors in business, education, agriculture, law enforcement, communications, and travel. **Please read * note.**

****Metals Technology I** (semester)

Credit for HS graduation: 0.5 Career Technical

Lab Fee: \$15.00

Material Fee: Cost of actual materials

Introduces students to various machines, techniques and career opportunities in metalworking – hand tools, welding (oxy/acetylene, MIG and arc), forging, and sheet metal. Students will learn to identify and work with various metals and power tools. Students will be required to pay for their project materials. **Please read ** note.**

****Web Design** (semester)

Credit for HS graduation: 0.5 Career Technical

Learn basic Graphic Design and Web Design skills in this computer-based digital design course for beginners. Projects include logo making, map making, text manipulation, website development and basic animation. We use Adobe CS5 Industry standard software including Illustrator, Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Flash and Fireworks. In this course, students will create illustrations and animations to integrate into web pages.

Students with a "B" grade or better in this course can earn 5 college credits. Please read ** note.

***For a student to remain in a High School credited class their grade must be a B or better. Once they are in the B- or lower range, they are put on probation and will be dropped unless they bring their grade back up.**

These classes are available for High School credit. In the fall of their 9th grade, students will be contacted by their counselor or advisor; at that time, the student (and their parents) will have the opportunity to elect to receive the credit and the grade earned at AMS. Keep in mind the grade earned at AMS will then be part of the student's AHS cumulative GPA and transcript.

**** Students in VOC classes at the High School (Metals and Web Design) must have a passing grade to receive a High School credit.**