

Social Studies

Through the integrations of primary and secondary sources (both text and digital), students will explore the following aspects of American Government.

Citizenship, Politics, and Government

- Identify, define, compare, and contrast ideas regarding the nature of government, politics, and civil life
- Demonstrate how citizens participate in civil and political life in their own communities

Foundations of Government in the United States

- Trace founding-era events and analyze and interpret the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Analyze and explain ideas about liberty, equality, and justice in American society

Purposes, Principles, and Institutions of Government of the U.S.

- Describe structures and functions of government at the national, state, and local level
- Trace the evolution of political parties in American government
- Explore the three branches of government and the checks and balances system.

Economics

- Describe capitalism and the free enterprise system
- Analyze the relationship between economic decisions and political freedom.

Students will investigate the above topics via multiple primary and secondary sources, including the text United States Government: Democracy in Action and the U.S. Constitution. Through the integration of multiple sources, students will be able to:

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of sources
- Analyze the relationship between primary and secondary sources in relation to the same topic
- Summarize sources and determine main ideas
- Analyze an author's presentation of information
- Utilize visuals within a text to expand understanding of a topic
- Create visuals to demonstrate understanding of a government related process
- Develop textual analysis into a well-supported written arguments, informative texts or narrations of a historical event
- Identify parts of a text that demonstrate an author's point of view or opinion
- Introduce and support claims regarding a topic within written work

English Language Arts

Language

- Identify and correctly use parts of speech and basic parts of sentences
- Identify verbs and use them correctly to enhance sentences
- Diagram sentences to identify parts of speech and parts of sentences
- Identify and correctly use phrases and clauses in various types of sentence such as simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex
- Learn to create more effective sentences
- Learn to identify and avoid problems such as sentence fragments, run-on sentences, and misplaced modifiers
- Learn and practice the agreement of tense, number, gender, and mood in sentences
- Learn and correctly use proper punctuation and capitalization
- Emphasize the use of commas, apostrophes, ellipsis, dashes, hyphens, colons, and semi-colons

Composition

- Write coherent compositions with clear focus and supporting ideas
- Write persuasive and explanatory pieces that are logical and based on solid evidence
- Expand vocabulary in writing samples
- Generate questions and summarize information from reference sources
- Use note-taking skills, outlining, and a bibliography in a research paper
- Generate questions and summarize information from reference sources
- Learn to paraphrase, quote, and cite primary and secondary sources
- Write business and friendly letters using the proper conventions

Literature

- Experience the genres of non-fiction, fiction, drama, poetry, and the novel
- Identify the characteristics of such genres
- Learn and be able to identify theme, plot, characterization, conflict, climax, and resolution
- Learn and be able to identify the concepts of sound in poetry—alliteration, onomatopoeia, and rhyme scheme
- Learn and be able to identify the sensory imagery of similes and metaphors
- Learn and be able to identify irony: dramatic, situational, and verbal
- Use both explicit and suggested information from the text to support its main ideas
- Analyze dialects, slang, and jargon. Identify their use and impact
- Identify how the short story reflects an author's personal history, attitude, and beliefs
- Identify how stories reflect the ideas, customs, and beliefs of the people living in certain historical periods
- Compare and contrast two or more pieces of writing. Discuss how differences in presentation can affect the power and meaning of the pieces

Vocabulary

- Expand vocabulary in speech and writing
- Learn the meanings of various prefixes, suffixes and Greek and Latin roots
- Become familiar with and use dictionaries, glossaries, and thesauruses to understand words more precisely
- Be able to interpret figures of speech such as puns and idioms
- Learn the difference between denotation and connotation

Mathematics

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Inquiry-based learning practices integrated throughout the curriculum to engage students in all areas of Math

Various resources are brought together to provide a comprehensive algebra program to eighth grade students. Content includes the Common Core State Standards for 8th grade and algebra, various investigative projects, cooperative learning, hands-on applications, and journaling across all aspects of the mathematics curriculum. Whenever possible, connections are made across multiple disciplines. Students are expected to justify and explain the mathematical processes using appropriate vocabulary throughout the entirety of the academic year.

The Number System

- Define and identify rational and irrational numbers as components of the real number system and locate them on the number line
- Solve problems using decimal approximations of irrational numbers

Expressions and Equations

- Understand and apply the properties of integer exponents
- Use square and cube roots
- Express large and small numbers in scientific notation
- Solve problems involving real life applications using scientific notation
- Graph and interpret proportional relationships
- Calculate slope and the various forms of equations associated with it
- Graphing linear equations, including graphing the results of a doll bungee jumping and predicting a larger scale jump based on the previous data collected
- Simplify and solve linear equations
- Solve systems of equations
- Solve and graph exponential and quadratic equations

Functions

- Define and understand a function as a rule that assigns each input value to exactly one output
- Use cardboard "function machines" to demonstrate
- Compare and interpret linear functions
- Create function models that apply to real life contexts
- Use the vertical line test, as well as the definition of a function to determine if a graph represents a function
- Look for patterns and write a function based on the relationship between two quantities
- Investigate inverse functions

Geometry

- Manipulate images using transformations: dilation, rotation, reflection or translation
- Show and understand that figures obtained by a series of dilations, rotations, reflections or translations are similar to the original figure
- Understand and apply the properties of transversals to determine angle measures
- Define, understand, and prove the Pythagorean Theorem
- Understand that the Pythagorean Theorem is related to the area of squares built off the sides of a right triangle
- Know the formulas for surface area and volume of cones, cylinders, prisms and spheres and use them to solve real-world problems

Statistics and Probability

- Construct and interpret the data in a scatter plot. Look for patterns, outliers, clusters, positive associations or negative associations
- Use lines of fit in scatter plots to show the relationship between two variables
- Display data in a two-way table
- Whenever possible, students will collect data to explore relationships

Science

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Inquiry-based learning practices integrated throughout the curriculum to engage students in all areas of Science in accordance with middle school Next Generation Science Standards

Motion and Speed

- Understand the concepts and interrelationships of motion, speed and acceleration
- Develop an understanding of how forces work and relate them to mass, gravity, and friction

Newton's Laws of Motion

- Learn how Newton's 3 laws are relevant to the physical world

Energy/Thermal Energy

- Understand energy transfer and energy transformation and includes the Law of Conservation of Energy
- View one kind of energy and its impact

Simple Machines

- View simple machines, their workings and how they form the basis for complex machines

Matter

- Understand solids, liquids and gases; their similarities and their differences

Atom

- Learn how all matter on earth is composed of atoms
- Investigate how the structure of the atom is related to matter
- Ask questions and define problems progressing to specifying relationships between variables while clarifying arguments and claims
- Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings
- Evaluate competing design solutions based on jointly developed and agreed-upon design criteria

Spanish

- Review and master concepts from Grades 5, 6, and 7
- Identify the geography of Mexico and the Caribbean
- Give examples of the indigenous cultures' contributions to Mexican way of life
- Compare and contrast higher education in the United States and Mexico
- Express and identify numbers through 100
- Ask and tell time
- Report and ask questions about one's daily school schedule
- Use the verb tener and tener que in declarative and interrogative sentences
- Compose sentences and/or paragraphs with expressions of frequency
- Recognize and apply the rules for regular present tense verbs
- Compare and contrast what students wear to school in Mexico and the United States
- Compare and contrast the school systems in Mexico and the United States
- Analyze the art work of Diego Rivera
- Respond appropriately to audio cues
- Compare and contrast people and/or places using integrated sources
- Celebrate selected holidays

Art

- Learn and explore about various artists and their techniques
- Use appropriate vocabulary related to the methods, materials, and techniques learned in grades PreK -6
- Create 2D and 3D artwork from direct observation in order to develop skills of perception, coordination, and memory of detail
- Use a variety of materials such as watercolor paints, colored pencils, and oil pastels in order to create their work
- Continue to learn about color theory and practice using this knowledge to enhance their art
- Incorporate religion and learn how it plays a role in art

Physical Education

- Demonstrate an understanding of movement concepts, strategies, and tactics, as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities
- Achieve and maintain a healthy enhancing level of physical fitness
- Exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that reflects self and others in physical activity settings
- Value physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression or social interaction
- Apply and demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills in dance
- Make connection between dance and other disciplines

Music

- Sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of liturgical and non-liturgical music
- Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of liturgical and non-liturgical music
- Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments to liturgical and non-liturgical music
- Compose and arrange music, within specified guidelines, for both liturgical and non-liturgical music
- Read and notate music
- Listen to, analyze, and describe music, both liturgical and non-liturgical
- Evaluate music, and musical performances, both liturgical and non-liturgical
- Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts, in the secular and non-secular world
- Understand music in relation to history and culture
- Understand music in the history of the Catholic Church and music's role in worship

Library

- Recognize and use proper library etiquette
- Understand and demonstrate proper care of books
- Listen attentively
- Follow directions
- Participate in story discussion
- Demonstrate and utilize knowledge of the Dewey Decimal System and Card Catalog
- In addition to library skills, time is spent reading seasonal, holiday and life lesson stories
- Work with teachers to incorporate specific books/stories into the library curriculum
- Collaborate with the computer teacher, using iPads and computers as tools, to create projects that complement a book

Religion

- Learn the origins and purpose of the church
- Survey the history of the church from the post-apostolic era to the present
- Examine the mission of the church
- Explore the meaning of the church in the modern world
- Understand the right to life of all people
- Learn how to live by moral values
- Understand the church's teaching regarding sexuality
- Understand that every person has the right to care, comfort, and consolation as they face serious illness or death
- Encourage and practice vocal, reflective, personal, and communal prayer
- Participate in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Participate in the Mass through various methods—altar serving, lecturing, or choir.

Technology

- Learn advanced iMovie and Movie Maker using video editing skills – Intermediate research skills to create Public Service Announcements or topic digital stories
- Use intermediate Excel skills to include a chart with formatting, formulas, and graphs
- Use intermediate Microsoft Word/Publisher as desktop publishing/website creation. – including research, columns and formatting, textboxes, and bullet formatting
- Create Resumes using Microsoft Word to format resume, research job skills and want ads
- Create cover letter using Microsoft Word with proper formatting and page setup
- Interview skills and mock job interview recorded with video
- Complete Type to Learn lessons
- Use Internet research skills for Scavenger Hunt handouts and research projects with proper citations
- Use Web2.0 tools for engaging and displaying student work and working collaboratively with the global community
- Learn CAD design program using Sketchup to create houses and insert components
- Utilize Google Classroom tools for individual and collaborative and project-based learning

STANISLAUS SCHOOL

Welcome to Grade 8



This brochure is to provide a brief overview of our Grade 8 curriculum.

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