

Middle School Course List

Course	Grade Level	Description
English		
Language Usage	6th	Covers concrete, abstract, and compound nouns, subject, object pronouns, compound direct objects, verb phrases, principal verb parts, positive and negative comparisons, sentence mechanics, diagramming, and fragments.
	7th	Introduction to the writing process, review of all parts of speech, active and passive voice, progressive tense verbs, interrogative, demonstrative, relative, and indefinite pronouns, sentence fragments, run-on sentences, phrases and clauses, coordinating conjunctions, verbals, and review of punctuation.
	8th	Review of all noun types, pronouns, verbs, degrees of comparison for adjectives and adverbs, participial phrases, restrictive and non-restrictive clauses, diagramming, punctuation, colons, semicolons, quotations, letter writing, shifts in tense, point of view, and problem words.
Reading	6th	Covers pronunciation skills and symbols, review of consonants, vowels, verbs, word analysis skills, sight words, core subject words, words with multiple meanings, sequencing, alphabetization, comprehension skills including conflict and climax, fiction, non-fiction, fables, poetry, figurative language including alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia, irony, personification, flashback, and foreshadowing. Selected authors include: Burnett, Longfellow, Irving, Defoe, Crane, Burns, and Poe.
	7th	Review of verbs, consonants, vowels, word analysis skills including Greek and Latin words, connotation and denotation, word similarities, abbreviations, comprehension skills including classifying, comparing and contrasting, recognizing cause and effect, point of view, literary terms, elements of fiction, examples of newspaper writing, poetry, drama, and figurative language. Selected authors include: Dickens, Twain, Washington, Crane, Stevenson, Hardy, London, Shelley, Dryden, and Sidney.
	8th	Review of consonants, vowels, verbs, word analysis skills including Greek and Latin words, compound words, antonyms, homonyms, core subject words, comprehension skills including recognizing outcomes and conclusions, cause and effect, predicting outcomes, common expressions, biography and autobiography, poetry, literary devices, and figurative language. Selected authors include: Tolstoy, Longfellow, Emerson, Henry, Franklin, Thoreau, Irving, Bierce, Bradstreet, Henry, Shakespeare, and Lawrence.
Vocabulary	6th	Covers how to use a thesaurus, multiple meanings of words, strategies for solving types of relationships, improving vocabulary through synonyms and antonyms, using context, prefixes, suffixes, and roots, foreign terms, short vowel sounds, diphthongs, initial consonants, and the /oo/ sound.
	7th	Covers the identification and use of closed, open, and accented syllables, using a pronunciation key, synonyms, antonyms, words in context, words borrowed from names and places, foreign phrases, test taking strategies, identifying the /y/ sound in words, vowel clusters, separate sounds for the consonants "c", "g", and "s", and the sound of /ph/.
	8th	Review of how to use a dictionary, the origin of words, review of the parts of speech, analogies, homonyms, homographs, strategies for critical recognition of small words in larger words, foreign terms, review of sounds made by /au/ and /aw/, initial and final consonants, and introduction of words that use silent letters.
Writing	6th	Covers writing sentences and paragraphs, narrative, expository, descriptive, and persuasive paragraphs, analogies, newspaper stories, book reports, summarizing, writing story endings, using formal and informal language, and sketches.
	7th	Topic areas include identifying the audience, writing introductory and concluding sentences, using a variety of techniques, organization skills, identifying sentence types and their punctuation, writing narrative or expository stories, summarizing skills, writing biographical sketches, essays, and creative writing.
	8th	Review of the writing process from brainstorming to publishing, specialized writing assignments including journal writing, writing paragraphs, writing using formal and informal language, letter writing, analogies, summaries, and book reports. Also provides hints on how to use a library to access information.
Language Arts Keyboarding Companion	6th	Student exercises include changing positive statements to negative statements, changing statements into questions by changing the verb position, changing questions into statements by moving the auxiliary verb position, combining sentences by adding the word "and" where necessary, combining four sentences into two sentences, and adding a compound predicate.

	7th	Student exercises include changing plural nouns to singular nouns, changing indefinite amounts to specified quantities, changing masculine pronouns to feminine pronouns, changing pronouns to agree with the subject of a sentence, working with verb tenses, and changing noun phrases to pronouns.
	8th	Student exercises include changing positive statements to negative statements using contractions, changing statements to questions by moving the verb, creating sentences from word lists, combining sentences, and changing questions into statements by moving the auxiliary verb.

Mathematics

Mathematics	6th	Strengthens mathematical knowledge and ability in the areas of rounding numbers, estimation, place value, properties of numbers, multiplying decimals, dividing by one- or two-digit numbers, prime numbers, equivalent fractions, tallies, identifying variables, solving equations, length, capacity and weight units, temperature, lines and rays, parts of a circle, perimeter, positive and negative integers, and ordered pairs.
	7th	Covers place value, commutative, associative, zero, one, and distributive properties, inverse operations, factors, number theory, mixed numbers, ratios, percent concepts, markups, commissions, steps to solving equations, measurement of length, mass/weight, metric units, points, angles, calculating perimeter, area, volume, using a number line, and graphing ordered pairs on a coordinate axis.
	8th	Strengthens mathematical knowledge and ability in the areas of rounding numbers, positive and negative rational numbers, order of operations, proportion, scales, randomly occurring events, counting principle factorials, introduction to algebra, points, rays, quadrilaterals, polyhedrons, cones, formulas for the area of plane figures, the Pythagorean Theorem, statistics, translating word phrases into algebraic expressions with integers, slope, binomials, determinants, and Cramer's rule.

Science

Science	6th	The topic area of Physical Science covers atoms, compounds and molecules, energy, and light energy. The topic area of Life Science covers the cell theory, chromosomes, life functions, biology as the science of life, the brain and nervous system, stimuli, ecosystems, and pollution. The topic area of Earth Science covers weather, erosion, minerals, the moon, deep space, and the Milky Way. Rounding out the lesson sequence are four Scientific Inquiry and Technology topics and a comprehensive review of the science terms from all the lessons.
	7th	The topic area of Physical Science covers motion, energy, atoms, and chemical changes. The topic area of Life Science covers mitosis, DNA bonds, water, the human body, ecosystems, and biomes. The topic area of Earth Science covers the atmosphere, weathering, the earth's rotation and revolution, astronomy, and the moon. Rounding out the lesson sequence are five Scientific Inquiry and Technology topics and a comprehensive review of the science terms from all the lessons.
	8th	The topic area of Physical Science covers motion, energy, machines, waves, electricity, atoms, and chemical reactions. The topic area of Life Science covers cells and cell theory, mitosis, meiosis, Mendel and the study of inherited traits, x and y chromosomes, simple forms of life, classifying organisms, the human body, diseases, green plants, ecosystems, and biomes. The topic area of Earth Science covers the atmosphere, weather, weathering, the changing earth, the earth's rotation and revolution, astronomy, and the moon. Rounding out the lesson sequence are six Technology topics that include safety, science skills, science fair projects, technology and a science terms review.

Social Studies

U.S. Geography	6th	Introduces students to the study of geography and also covers the globe, map symbols, islands, landforms such as glaciers, hills, bodies of water, changing seasons, the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states, the Southeastern states, the Great Lakes region, the Plains region, the Southwestern states, the Mountain states, the Pacific states, the size, climate, characteristics, and settlers of all the regions, the Continental Divide, U.S. governed islands and territories, national landmarks such as the Appomattox Court House, Ellis Island, the Alamo, Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone National Park.
Civics	7th	Covers the areas of the definition and purpose of government, the English Magna Carta, House of Lords and Commons, Thomas Jefferson and the founding fathers' objectives, the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, the English Bill of Rights, the Preamble, religion, the amendments to the Constitution, direct democracy, checks and balances, copyrights, patents, establishing the Presidential system, the definition of civil rights, women's suffrage, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., affirmative action, and much more.

Mid-Level Social Sciences	8th	Topic areas include making economic decisions, management of resources, AFL-CIO, unions, collective bargaining, the definition of anthropology, ethnography, human ancestors, origin of languages, community, mores, culture, divorce, deities, Aristotle, the development of psychology and philosophy, observation, Pavlov, psychosis, Hippocrates, introverts, and much more.
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