



The New Academy Curriculum Guide

Eighth Grade

LANGUAGE ARTS

Easy Grammar

Easy Grammar texts use the prepositional approach combined with effective strategies designed for daily review of grammar concepts. This consistent curriculum aids students to understand grammar, a tool for speaking and writing properly. Students complete daily exercises as they review grammar concepts.

Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary

This well-known vocabulary curriculum allows students to complete systematic and explicit vocabulary instruction. Eighth grade students begin in Level C vocabulary, which is on or above appropriate grade level words and expressions. Through this program, children are challenged to learn all aspects of word usage – synonyms, antonyms, definitions and sentence use.

Prentice Hall Literature

Prentice Hall literature is a compilation of notable short stories written by award winning authors. It covers many literary genres, concepts, strategies, essential questions, as well as integrated vocabulary, writing, and grammar resources.

Newbery Book Club

Upper school students' reading assignments will be based on a literary book club membership. Students will experience classic and modern works from the American Library Association's list of Newbery Medal Winners. Students will read through their selections in class and at home. In depth discussions, activities, reports and comprehension quizzes will accompany each book. Through group and individual reading achievements, students will become familiar with the elements and themes of distinguished literature.

The Language Arts program in the Upper School is designed to expand each student's ability to communicate effectively through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Using a variety of literature-based strategies, this program enables the student to incorporate these necessary skills in other areas of study. There is a strong emphasis to develop a high level of proficiency in each of these fundamental areas.

Upper school students will demonstrate increasing proficiency in reading comprehension and the ability to interpret, analyze, apply, and evaluate a wide variety of literary and informational materials. In acquiring these skills the student will develop and use decoding skills, spelling and grammar rules, increased vocabulary, the writing process (revision and editing of drafts), and skills associated with effective speaking and listening. A variety of instructional strategies are used in the classroom to emphasize the following learning objectives.

Students will also study critical analysis and interpretation. In addition, they will be exposed to various forms and genres of writing (creative, academic, formal, fiction, non-fiction). The goal is for each student to have a strong foundation in critical reading, critical analysis, grammar, speech and active listening.

8th Grade Language Arts Curriculum Includes:

- *Reading*
- *Writing*
- *Listening*
- *Critical Analysis*
- *Speaking*
- *Vocabulary*

MATHEMATICS

Pearson – Prentice Hall

Pearson creates educational materials for learners of every age. By understanding what it takes to succeed at college level mathematics, Pearson is able to design comprehensive mathematics lessons that help educators provide targeted and thorough mathematics instruction and intervention to ensure that every student succeeds. Each mathematical topic is delivered with repetition and increasing difficulty to ensure that the student receives in depth knowledge of the topic.

SCIENCE

Holt McDougal

Holt Science and Technology Science program provides superior science education. At the beginning of every science section the student will find the section's objectives and vocabulary terms. The objectives will tell the student what they will need to know after reading the section. Provided illustrations detail complex ideas and processes. The illustrations are designed to help the student better understand the materials presented. The online learning site provides the complete textbook plus great learning tools and practice quizzes.

Social Studies

Glencoe/McGraw-Hill

Our upper school American history, World History, Geography, Civics, Government and Eastern Hemisphere courses will be taught using the newest editions of the Glencoe/McGraw-Hill Social Studies series. The three specific courses students must complete in sixth to eighth grade are American History, Eastern Hemisphere, and World Geography. Eighth graders complete this progression by studying World Geography. These books provide a focused and chronological tour of important themes that shape our history and the processes that drive our social environment. Glencoe/McGraw-Hill social studies texts supply the depth of information required for middle and high school level courses. Topics range from pre-exploration to the present with an emphasis on geography and the connections between history, geography, economics, government, citizenship and current events.

OTHER RESOURCES

Mavis Beacon Typing Software

A leader in typing instruction for over 25 years, upper school students will learn proper typing techniques. As a technologically advanced school, students as early as elementary school will complete most of their assignments on their personal laptop, netbook or iPad. For this reason, it is important to learn appropriate and efficient typing techniques.

Technology Resources

Students will have daily access to the newest instructional technology. This will include Smartboard programs and lessons, personal net books, laptops , iMacs and iPads. With an Apple iPad for every student, upper school students will be completing much of their assignments online, as the New Academy moves toward green and paperless classrooms!

Guest Speakers

To connect real life application to many of the concepts studied within school, our upper school will be welcoming regular guest speakers to share their real world experience with the students at The New Academy!

Field Trips

To further encourage and inspire learning, New Academy students will participate in many field trips to take students outside the classroom where they will experience science, social studies, literature, and fine arts firsthand.

Fun Cards

The Fun Card is an original classroom management and character education system developed by our curriculum coordinator. Each student at The New Academy will carry a 'Fun Card' with them through out the week, which highlights various behavior standards (i.e. respect teachers and friends, use your manners, play fair, etc). Students earn points for appropriate behavior through out the week and are given the opportunity to earn a 'Fun Friday' period at the end of the week.