



8th Grade



Curriculum  
Overview

**Spoooner Middle School**



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## LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS

Students will be provided with access to the latest technology so they may become 21st Century Learners. Additionally, they will benefit from technology lessons that are infused into all curricular areas.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The goal of physical education is to develop physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity.

To pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, a physically literate individual;

- Has learned the skills necessary to participate in a variety of physical activities.
- Knows the implications of and the benefits from involvement in various types of physical activities.
- Participates regularly in physical activity.
- Is physically fit.
- Values physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle.

### Supporting the curriculum at home

- Please model a physically active lifestyle with your child. The impact of this one simple action is huge because, if you are physically active your son or daughter will see the value and importance of lifelong physical activity.
- Ask what your child is learning about and remind him/her to review the unit study guide before every test.
- Encourage your child to complete his or her daily fit log portfolio throughout the year.

## LEARNING BEYOND THE CORE

### CULTURE

Grade 8 Language and Culture is a semester long course that meets on A and B day. This class is open to all 8th grade students.

Students learn about different Spanish speaking countries by taking virtual tours. Students learn about the culture of those countries, their traditions, and their celebrations. Students compare and contrast different aspects of the Hispanic culture, as we focus on clothing, currency, cooking, family life, art, and music. Students learn useful expressions and vocabulary essential to communicate in Spanish at the airport, at a restaurant, at the mall, at the beach, and at the unique places we will be exploring. Enriched cultural projects using technology will give students a better understanding of the Hispanic culture as well as their own culture.

### SPANISH

Spanish is a semester long course that meets on A and B day. This class will build on the basic vocabulary learned in Introduction to Spanish, moving students closer to conversational Spanish skills. A variety of different activities and games are incorporated to learn and practice the language. Our focus will be on different subjects such as clothing, family, sports, food, places, etc. We will explore different aspects of the culture through music, unique projects, virtual tours, and traditional cooking. This class is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that have taken Spanish previously.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for supporting your child's academic growth and progress. We know that students are more likely to succeed in school when their parents/guardians participate in their educational activities on a daily basis. Staff in the Spooner Area School District have worked hard to identify and provide you with this Curriculum Overview. It contains a sample of the content that your child should master by the end of the school year. While this is not inclusive to all of the material required for graduation at the end of 12th grade, it serves as a resource that can be used when supporting your child throughout the school year.

We have aligned our English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum to the Common Core State Standards and are starting to see positive outcomes in the classroom as teachers and students are becoming more comfortable with expectations. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be more rigorous and relevant to students and reflect the knowledge and skills required for success in college and careers.

Additionally, this document provides recommendations for parents to "extend" student learning at home. Activities and resources are available for each content area at each grade level. Parents are also encouraged to check student progress in Skyward. This will assist parents in monitoring student progress. Another resource is our school district website at [www.spooner.k12.wi.us](http://www.spooner.k12.wi.us). You are encouraged to visit the "parent" tab for additional resources and information.

Above all else, remember to speak with your child's teacher on a regular basis. This communication is very important to your child's success. Their teacher can provide parents with immediate information and feedback intended to support your family successfully meet their needs.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kabdi  
Spooner Middle School  
Principal

## PARENT AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

*DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, AND EXCEL*

### SKYWARD

Skyward is a tool for parents to assist them track their child's attendance, discipline and grades. Parents can access Skyward at <https://sasd-21.sasd.spooner.k12.wi.us/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wsSky/fwemnu01.w> Please contact your child's school office for assistance to access this information if needed.

### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Today's students are preparing to enter a world in which colleges and businesses are demanding more than ever before. To ensure all students are ready for success after high school, the Common Core State Standards establish clear, consistent guidelines for what every student should know and be able to do in math and English language arts from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents and educators can access additional information at <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

### WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Educational information for parents and students can be accessed on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website at [http://dpi.wi.gov/launchpage\\_parentsstudents](http://dpi.wi.gov/launchpage_parentsstudents).

### SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS

New assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics for grades 3-8. Students will be participating in these assessments beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. For additional information and practice questions please visit their website at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/>.

## CHOIR

Performance-based class designed to introduce choral concepts, including part-singing, vocal production/technique, proper diction, music theory and history, ear-training, and appropriate stage presence and behavior. This ensemble will perform music of all types concentrating on standard choral literature.

### OBJECTIVES

- Rehearse and perform a wide variety of music from different time periods.
- Develop excellent choral ensemble habits and daily rehearsal techniques.
- To improve individual vocal skills.
- To utilize proper concert etiquette both as a performer and audience member.
- To learn to manage stress related to public performances.
- To develop a team concept and cultivate excellent work habits.
- To acquire fundamental skills in music theory.

## SPANISH

Introduction to Spanish part 2 is a semester long course that meets on A and B day. This class will build on the basic vocabulary learned in Introduction to Spanish in 7th grade, moving students closer to conversational Spanish skills. A variety of different activities and games are incorporated to learn and practice the language. Our focus will be on different subjects such as clothing, family, sports, food, places, etc. We will explore different aspects of the culture through music, unique projects, virtual tours, and traditional cooking. This class is open to all 8th grade students that have taken Spanish previously.

### Spanish language and CULTURE

Grade 8 Spanish Language and Culture class is a semester long course that meets on A and B day. This class is open to all 8th grade students. In this class students will learn about different Spanish speaking countries, the culture of those countries, their traditions, and their unique celebrations. Students will compare and contrast different aspects of the Hispanic culture, as we focus on clothing, currency, cooking, family life, art, and music. Students will learn useful expressions and vocabulary essential to communicate in Spanish at the airport, at a restaurant, at the mall, at the beach, and at the unique places we will be exploring. Virtual tours and enriched cultural projects using technology will give students a better understanding of the Hispanic culture as well as their own culture.

## LEARNING BEYOND THE CORE

### ART

ART is a semester long course that meets on either A or B days. It is designed to build upon the knowledge and skills acquired in 7 Grade Art and will move at an average pace. With a variety of media, students will focus on learning techniques and skills through the use of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design in their artwork and in Art History. Each student will be able to work on a variety of projects that are aligned with state standards in the visual arts. Each assignment is attempting to engage student's imagination through a hands on creative engagement of both mind and body. Students need to realize that in order to succeed they will be expected to endeavor to work at creating quality works that involve a process of working and reworking ideas.

### BAND

This class is an introduction to instrumental music with a fundamental focus on the principles of music education and performance through the venues provided such as marching band, concert band, small ensemble performance, solo performance and audition-based ensembles regionally and statewide. This course also serves as a preparation for students interested in music-related classes in high school. This course is recommended for students who have an interest in developing and improving their existing musical skills. The class provides students with fundamental skills and knowledge and diverse experience necessary to succeed in performance-based situations. This course is designed to analyze artistic performance in both subjective and objective manners. Students will be evaluated through their performances, class assignments and other auditions. Evaluations will be objective as well as subjective in nature. Instrumental Music fulfills an elective requirement in middle school.

### CAREERS

This course is designed to help students raise awareness about their interests in future careers and learn about what it might take to achieve those interests. Students are taught a variety of topics including workplace skills, completing a job application, practicing an interview as well as an introduction to finance. The course has an emphasis of career exploration and uses the Wiscareers database and many guest speakers to teach students about a variety of careers. Students also complete personal inventories such as personality profiles, multiple intelligence surveys and the Career Clusters inventory. There is also a focus on post-secondary education options for students so that they are more familiar with the variety of school types they might attend in pursuit of a given career after graduation from High School.

## RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RtI)

RtI allows the school district to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of individual students. Students who need academic interventions as well as enrichment are supported in this initiative. Additionally the parent is a key component of their child's education. Parent and family resources can be found at <http://www.wisconsinrticenter.org/parents-and-family.html>.

## PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Our Parent Teacher Organization strives to enhance children's educational experiences. Our primary objective as a PTO is to provide our school with funds, programs, resources, and services that will enrich and maximize the education of every child. To meet this important objective, and afford services that are no longer covered by our school budgets, we must fundraise. Though it may not be our favorite responsibility, it is a necessary one. Our school community must raise money if we want to provide our children with such items as updated technology, library books, school improvements, incentive prizes, grade and curriculum based assemblies, etc. Our goal, simply stated, is creating a better school and a better educational experience for our children. We strive to create an atmosphere where teachers, administrators, and support staff can do their best work – and so can our children. Becoming a member does not mean you automatically sign up to volunteer, it just means you support our group and believe in what we're doing.

## PTO COMMUNICATIONS

- Visit the Spooner School website – [www.spooner.k12.wi.us](http://www.spooner.k12.wi.us). Simply click on PTO under the "For Parents" section for access to all PTO related activities and information.
- PTO Parent Email Distribution List – To be added to our distribution list please include your
- E-mail address on the Membership envelope or simply contact an Executive Board Member and request to be added.
- Spooner Area Schools PTO is also on Facebook. Simply visit our page and click "Like".



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

This course is designed to work on writing, reading, speaking, and research skills to prepare students for high school. These skills will be addressed in a variety of ways. Students will write argument essays, narratives, poems, a research paper, and there will also be journaling. Students will also be reading a variety of genres: fiction and nonfiction novels, articles, short stories, and plays. Students will present poems, plays, and a speech to their peers.

### READING

- To determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to characters, setting, and plot.
- To analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- To determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text.
- To analyze how differences in the points of view in the characters and the audience or reader create such effects as suspense and humor.
- To analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script.

### WRITING

- To critique and write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- To write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- To produce clear writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, audience, and purpose.
- To conduct research to answer a question drawing on several sources.

## GEOGRAPHY

- To observe, analyze, and explain human-environment interactions and how culture influences the types of interactions that occur.
- To construct and use maps of various types to represent and explain the spatial patterns of culture and environmental characteristics.
- To explain spatial patterns of human population movement and how it is influenced by political, economic, and environmental change.
- To analyze the ways in which cultural and environmental characteristics vary among various regions of the world.

## BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

- Give examples to explain and illustrate the influence of prior knowledge, motivation, capabilities, personal interests, and other factors on individual learning.
- Give examples to explain and illustrate how factors such as family, gender, and socioeconomic status contribute to individual identity and development.
- Describe the ways in which local, regional, and ethnic cultures may influence the everyday lives of people.
- Describe and explain the means by which individuals, groups, and institutions may contribute to social continuity and change within a community.
- Describe and explain the means by which groups and institutions meet the needs of individuals and societies.
- Describe and explain the influence of status, ethnic origin, race, gender, and age on the interactions of individuals.
- Identify and explain examples of bias, prejudice, and stereotyping, and how they contribute to conflict in a society.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

### At home, you and your child can:

- Use Family Access to review grades with your child on a regular basis.
- Watch the news with your child and discuss how current events relate history, geography, and the other themes of social studies.
- Regularly question your child about social studies class and encourage them to talk about the topics we are exploring.
- Stay up to date with classroom activities with Google classroom.
- Feel free to contact Mr. Plote with any questions by email or phone.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

The course of study for 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies is designed to explore the United States history to present, First Nations history and culture, state history of Wisconsin, and local history of Spooner, Wisconsin. Areas of emphasis will include Political Science and Citizenship, Economics, History, Geography, and Behavioral Science. The course will focus on the events and history connected with the United States of America. By the end of eighth grade, students should know the standards of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction standards listed below.

### POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CITIZENSHIP

- To describe the roles of political, civil, and economic organizations in shaping people's lives.
- To explain the relevance of personal interests and perspectives, civic virtues, and democratic principles when people address issues and problems in government and society.
- To understand rules and laws as a way of addressing public problems and analyze the purposes, implementation, and consequences of those public policies in multiple settings.
- To compare historical and contemporary ways of changing societies, and promoting the common good.

### ECONOMICS

- To understand why people specialize and trade, and how that leads to economic interdependence.
- To describe the role of competition in the determination of prices and wages in a market economy.

### HISTORY

- To analyze connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts and classify events as examples of continuity or change.
- To explain how and why perspectives of people have changed over time and understand how multiple factors influenced the perspective of people over time.
- To explain and evaluate multiple causes and effects of events and developments in the past.
- To classify various historical sources and evaluate their relevance to the historical record based on evidence gathered about them.

### SPEAKING AND LISTENING

- To engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners.
- To present information, findings, and supporting evidence so listeners can follow the organization; use appropriate eye contact, volume, and clear pronunciation.

### LANGUAGE

- To demonstrate command of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- To use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
- To determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases choosing from a range of strategies.
- To demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

### SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

#### At home, you and your child can:

- Every week sit down with your student and review grades on Family Access.
- Provide a wide range of reading material at home like magazines, newspapers, and books.
- Encourage you student to read at home every day.
- Demonstrate and discuss how you use Language Arts skills every day. For example: reading directions, filling out an application, answering questions in an interview, or writing a letter.
- Easy sites to access:  
<https://newsela.com/>  
<http://www.usatoday.com/>  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

## MATHEMATICS

This course is designed to develop student skills in Pre-Algebra. Math 8 will allow students to gain an understanding of what Algebra is and to prepare them for high school math courses. In 2014 the Spooner Middle School implemented the College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM) program to align with the Spooner High School. This curricular program is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and consists of ten main topics which include: Equations, Transformations, Angles and Triangles, Graphing and Writing Linear Equations, Systems of Linear Equations, Functions, Real Numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem, Volume and Similar Solids, Data Analysis and Displays, and Exponents and Scientific Notation. We will explore all of these topics and increase our ability to problem solve with real life problems.

### THE NUMBER SYSTEM

- To know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.

### EXPRESSIONS AND EQUATIONS

- To work with radicals and integer exponents.
- To understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- To analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.

### FUNCTIONS

- To define, evaluate, and compare functions.
- To use functions to model relationships between quantities.

### GEOMETRY

- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
- To understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
- To solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres.

### STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

- To investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

- Students will be able to recognize how patterns can be used to help predict the likelihood of future disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis.
- Students will understand the global climate system and how it is changed by greenhouse gases and the decisions made in regards to use of fossil fuels. Students will also use the law of conservation of energy to explain how there are many ways that electricity can be generated.
- Students will practice engineering through precise criteria and constraints, use scientific knowledge and relevant knowledge to solve problems.
- Students will work toward solving problems by testing ideas, using models and modifying original ideas.
- Students will use test results to reflect and identify useful characteristics of designs.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

### At home, you and your child can:

- Make it a habit to review Family Access with your student on a regular basis
- Check the Grade level blog to be informed of upcoming assessments and project due dates
- Study with your student by reviewing notes, study guides and objectives
- Discuss with your student how their learning is connected to the world by pointing out how Science surrounds us and is part of our every-day lives
- Try to point out careers that are science related and share with your student the multitude of opportunities they can pursue in the science field



## SCIENCE

This course is designed to introduce and build students' knowledge in the areas of Earth and Physical Science. Students are taught how to approach science using a method of inquiry and problem solving. Many hands on labs and activities are integrated to give students the opportunity to “do” science and learn about topics through discovery.

### Next Generation Science Standards

- Students will understand the structure and properties of matter, including how matter is made of atoms, which combine with one another in various ways.
- Students will understand that substances react chemically in certain ways and for certain reasons. Students will be able to show understanding of the law of conservation of matter in the context of chemical reactions.
- Students will be able to give examples and explanations for each of Newton's 3 laws of motion.
- Students will be able to describe and differentiate between various physical forces such as electric, magnetic and gravitational.
- Students will be able to describe wave properties, including wave patterns and behaviors.
- Students will be able to describe the properties of light waves including patterns and behaviors as well as how they differ from matter waves such as sound and water.
- Students will be able to explain the basics of digital transformation of information such as through the use of wave pulses.
- Students will use models to learn about and describe the apparent motion of the sun, moon, Earth, stars and galaxies.
- Students will understand the organization of the solar system and how this helps us learn about planets, moons, asteroids, eclipses and Earth's seasons.
- Students will understand how Earth's internal processes have shaped and continue to shape Earth's surface. Students will also use maps and fossil records to support the idea of continental drift.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

### At home, you and your child can:

- Review the online information about CPM at <http://cpm.org/>
- Encourage your student to work on math skills through various websites such as Khan Academy and Moby Max
- Demonstrate or discuss how you use math each day.
- At home, you and your child can:
- Every week sit down with your student and review grades on Family Access on Skyward.
- Review daily homework and notes from class. Have students teach you what they learned in class.
- Include students in everyday math skills.
- Balancing a checkbook, calculating a tip at a restaurant, measurements while do household building/chores, telling time, calculating a total bill after a percent is applied, etc.
- Practice basic math skills. Use flashcards to review addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills.
- Play math related/problem solving games with your students.
- Cribbage, sequence, checkers/chest, multiplication war, etc.
- Visit Mobymax.com and work with student on the math and fact master tab. This program allows to students to work at their level and strengthen the skills they may be missing.
- Use khanacademy.com to practice math skills and watch videos on any math subject.