

Welcome to 8th GRADE!

Twin Cities International Schools sets expectations, or standards, for what students need to know in all grade levels and content areas. This guide is designed to help you understand the 8th grade standards so you can support your student's learning during the school year. If you have questions about this information or your student needs help, please visit the teacher website links provided at the bottom of each content page or the student support teacher resources at the end of the newsletter.

When talking to your student about school, you can ask:

- ▶ Can you tell me about something you **read** today?
- ▶ How could you use the **math** you learned today?
- ▶ What **scientific ideas** did you talk about today?
- ▶ What did you learn about your **role in society** today?
- ▶ How did someone help you learn today?



If your student is also learning English, you can ask:

- ▶ How does your teacher help you understand and participate in class?
- ▶ What are some tools you can use to help you identify unknown words?



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:

- ▶ Read various texts including books, poems, letters, and news articles.
- ▶ Speak and listen in formal and informal ways by participating in presentations and daily conversations.
- ▶ Communicate opinions, information, and experiences in writing for various readers.
- ▶ Use knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary in both speech and writing.



MATHEMATICS

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:

- ▶ Use math to represent and solve real-world problems.
- ▶ Engage in mathematical reasoning to determine if an answer is true or false.
- ▶ Utilize tools, like rulers and calculators, to show mathematical relationships.
- ▶ Identify patterns and number structures to solve problems.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:

- ▶ Ask scientific questions about the natural world and technological advances.
- ▶ Learn through observations and hands-on experiments.
- ▶ Solve problems using the scientific method and incorporating various tools.
- ▶ Communicate findings to others to in both written and spoken form.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:

- ▶ Learn about their local community, state, country, and world.
- ▶ Discover how people and events from the past relate to the present.
- ▶ Work to understand how people view the world and events differently.
- ▶ Locate various sources of information when researching a topic.

The next four pages focus more specifically on the Minnesota learning standards for **8th GRADE**.

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this class, we will strive to become better at communication through all mediums including reading and writing. We are going to be digging into some novels, learning about some writing styles, and trying to make the best of this unexpected year. We've got this!



By the end of 8th grade, students can:



- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text, including those by and about Minnesota American Indians, and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot.
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas.
- Analyze how particular lines or dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
- Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, poems, and historical novels of Minnesota American Indians, or religious works, including describing how the material is rendered new.
- Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader create such effects as suspense or humor.
- Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events.
- Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR STUDENT:

- What are you reading for independent reading? Do you have a favorite book series or genre?
- How do you decide which analysis of a text is accurate? Is there a way for more than one to be true? Why?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER:

- What topics your student is curious about in class and resources where they can learn more.
- Ways to practice textual analysis in everyday life (e.g. news articles, information about products, etc.)

For more information or to connect with your student's ELA teacher, please visit:



Ms. Miranda's ELA Website

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course you will learn important mathematical principles and how those principles are connected to one another and to what you already know. It is designed to emphasize the study of multiple representations of linear and non-linear functions. It includes mathematical concepts for working with rational numbers, various expressions, analyzing and solving linear equations & inequalities & systems of equations, the study of graphing, and polynomials.



By the end of 8th grade, students can:



- Use linear functions to represent relationships in which changing the input variable by some amount leads to a change in the output variable that is a constant times that amount.
- Understand that a function is linear if it can be expressed in the form $f(x) = mx + b$ or if its graph is a straight line.
- Understand that a geometric sequence is a non-linear function that can be expressed in the form $f(x) = ab^x$, where $x = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$
- Represent linear functions with tables, verbal descriptions, symbols, equations, and graphs; translate from one representation to another.
- Identify graphical properties of linear functions including slopes and intercepts. Know that the slope equals the rate of change, and that the y-intercept is zero when the function represents a proportional relationship.
- Represent geometric sequences using equations, tables, graphs, and verbal descriptions, and use them to solve problems.
- Justify steps in generating equivalent expressions by identifying the properties used, including the properties of algebra.
- Solve multi-step equations in one variable. Solve for one variable in a multi-variable equation in terms of the other variables. Justify the steps by identifying the properties of equalities used.
- Represent relationships in various contexts with equations and inequalities involving the absolute value of a linear expression.
- Understand that a system of linear equations may have no solution, one solution, or an infinite number of solutions.
- Use the Pythagorean Theorem to solve problems involving right triangles.
- Analyze polygons on a coordinate system by determining the slopes of their sides.
- Collect, display and interpret data using scatterplots.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR STUDENT:

- How do you know if a function is linear? What does the slope tell you?
- Why is it important to justify the steps in generating answers?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER:

- Ways to practice algebra in everyday life. (e.g. Suppose your grades on three math exams are 80, 93, and 91. What grade do you need on your next exam to have at least an average of 90 on the four exams?)
- Resources your student can use to support their understanding of current math concepts.

For more information or to connect with your student's Math teacher, please visit:



Ms. Tessa's Math Website

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In Science this year we will be learning about Earth Science: this includes the Solar System, how the earth system affects us and how we affect the earth system. I love earth science as I love to look at natural landscapes and wonder how those features were formed. I hope all of you are curious about the earth around us.



By the end of 8th grade, students can:



- Ask questions about locations of common elements on the periodic table to note patterns in the properties of similarly grouped elements.
- Plan and conduct an investigation of changes in pure substances when thermal energy is added or removed and relate those changes to particle motion.
- Analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred.
- Develop models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and crystals.
- Develop and use a model to describe how the total number of atoms does not change in a chemical reaction and thus mass is conserved.
- Gather and evaluate information from multiple sources to describe that synthetic materials come from natural resources and impact society.
- Plan and conduct an investigation to determine how the temperature of a substance is affected by the transfer of energy, the amount of mass, and the type of matter.
- Ask questions about data to determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces.
- Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that the change in an object's motion depends on the sum of the forces on the object and the mass of the object.
- Construct and interpret graphical displays of data to describe the relationship of kinetic energy to the mass and speed of an object.
- Design, construct, and test a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer.
- Use mathematical representations to describe a simple model for waves that includes how the amplitude of a wave is related to the energy in a wave.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR STUDENT:

- Which synthetic materials come from natural resources? How do they impact society?
- What factors affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER:

- Resources your student can use to support their understanding of current science concepts.
- Places in the community where your student can learn more about the science topics covered in class.

For more information or to connect with your student's Science teacher, please visit:



Mr. Bill's Science Website

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The world we live in is complicated and constantly changing. In this class we will learn why that is by exploring the connections between the geography, history, religions, governments, and economies of the contemporary world. Skills we will focus on developing are reading and writing with purpose, and discussing and analyzing sources. My goal is for every student to leave 8th grade ready to succeed in high school.



By the end of 8th grade, students can:



- Exhibit civic skills including participating in civic discussion on issues in the contemporary United States, demonstrating respect for the opinions of people or groups who have different perspectives, and reaching consensus.
- Explain how different types of governments reflect historically and culturally specific understandings of the relationships between the individual, government, and society.
- Apply reasoned decision-making techniques in making choices; explain why different governments faced with the same alternatives might make different choices.
- Identify factors which affect economic growth (percentage changes in Gross Domestic Product— real GDP) and lead to a different standard of living in different countries.
- Identify characteristics of command, mixed, and market-based (capitalist) economies; classify the economic systems of countries in a given region.
- Explain why trade is mutually beneficial to countries; define and apply absolute and comparative advantage with respect to international trade.
- Obtain and analyze geographic information from a variety of print and electronic sources to investigate places or answer specific geographic questions; provide rationale for its use.
- Create and use various kinds of maps, including overlaying thematic maps, of places in the world; incorporate the “TODALSS” map basics, as well as points, lines, and colored areas to display spatial information.
- Formulate questions about topics in geography; pose possible answers; use geospatial technology to analyze problems and make decisions within a spatial context.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR STUDENT:

- How do countries utilize trade to mutually benefit each other? How has trade changed over time?
- What factors affect the economic growth of a country? How can those factors impact a country's standard of living?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER:

- People and places in the community related to historical events or topics covered in class.
- Resources where students can learn more about course related content or take virtual field trips.

For more information or to connect with your student's Social Studies teacher, please visit:



Mr. Adam's Social Studies Website

Electives at TCIS!



TCIS believes in the importance of offering electives for its students. All students in grades 5-8 will have the opportunity to participate in Arabic, Media/Technology, Art, and Physical Education during the school year. Please read over a sample of the coursework covered below and contact your student's teacher if you have any questions.

ARABIC

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:



- Enrich their cultural heritage by learning how to read, write and speak Arabic both at school and at home.
- Learn “Anasheed” and participate in conversations in Arabic to learn vocabulary for different contexts that can be used in daily life situations.
- Participate in Arabic classes that are taught twice a week.

For more information or to connect with your student's Arabic teacher, please visit:



Ms. Suhair's Arabic Website

MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY

Students will build on their technology skills each year by being able to:



- Understand the importance of internet safety and the significance of creating a positive digital footprint.
- Define what coding is and create their own codes.
- Understand that there are steps and sequences in coding and relate that to their everyday life.
- Create their own robots and design them to move around, pull objects, and much more!

For more information or to connect with your student's Media/Technology teacher, please visit:



Ms. Korrie's Media/Technology Website

ART

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:



- Integrate knowledge and personal experiences while responding to, creating, and presenting artistic work.
- Understand that artistic works influence and are influenced by personal, societal, cultural, and historical contexts, including the contributions of Minnesota American Indian tribes and communities.
- Create, develop, present, and evaluate original artistic ideas and artwork.

For more information or to connect with your student's Art teacher, please visit:



Ms. Sarah's Art Website

PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH

In every grade at TCIS, your student will:



- Demonstrate competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns (e.g. sit and reach, sit-ups, push-ups, shuttle run, mile run, and pacer test).
- Apply knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement performance.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness.

For more information or to connect with your student's P.E. and Health teacher, please visit:



Mr. Chris and Coach Jen's P.E. Website

Student Support Resources

TCIS has a variety of resources available to all learners to ensure that every student is able to reach their full academic potential. If your student is in need of support, please contact their content classroom teacher or one of the support teachers listed below.



Response to Intervention (RTI)

Response to Intervention (RTI) teachers are available in each grade level to support students in all content areas (English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Media Literacy). Please contact your student's grade level RTI teacher for more information or to set up a help session.

❖ 5th Grade RTI Teacher



Ms. Ali's RTI Website

❖ 6th Grade RTI Teacher



Ms. Nancy's RTI Website

❖ 7th Grade RTI Teacher



Ms. Katie's RTI Website

❖ 8th Grade RTI Teacher



Mr. Abdqani's RTI Website

English Language Instruction

English Language (EL) teachers are also available in each grade level to support eligible students in achieving the English language proficiency needed to succeed academically and to realize personal, social, and career goals. EL teachers work in collaboration with both general education and specialist teachers to design a comprehensive instructional program for each student. To learn more, please contact the EL teacher assigned to your student's grade level.

❖ 5th and 6th Grade EL Teacher



Ms. Ifrah's EL Website



❖ 7th and 8th Grade EL Teacher



Mr. Jonathan's EL Website

Educational Assistants

Educational Assistants (EAs) are available in all grade levels to assist students with coursework, answer questions, and connect with families. Please contact the 5th grade EAs listed below via email.

❖ Ms. Hafsa



❖ Email: hafsaj@iecmail.net



❖ Mr. Jibrell



❖ Email: jibrellf@iecmail.net