

8TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

SAGEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL 2009/2010

8th Graders are enrolled in five required courses. The following courses will be taken for one year: Language Arts 8, Social Studies 8, Science 8 and Mathematics (level recommended by 7th grade teacher). Physical Education and Health will be taken for one semester each.

LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (one year)

This course concentrates on developing skills to increase proficiency in reading and writing. Students will develop and practice comprehension and critical thinking skills using both fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will also practice and develop writing skills including understanding of process, purpose, and audience for writing using the Six Traits: organization, ideas, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions.

Discovery Language Arts

This program is designed for those students who need advanced academic programming beyond what can normally be expected in a middle school classroom. These students are provided with a rigorous program that includes in-depth, complex instruction, and fast-paced study related to Douglas County's academic standards. The course is available by gifted programming/placement.

MATHEMATICS in 8th grade (one year)

The eighth grade mathematics program at Sagewood offers students three placement options: Math 8, Algebra 1, and Discovery Algebra 2. All are full year courses.

Math 8 is the second year of the two-year Pre-Algebra sequence, successful completion of which will lead to enrollment in Algebra 1 in ninth grade. Students will take the second portion of Pre-Algebra in eighth grade. Pre-Algebra is a preparatory course for Algebra 1 covering topics in rational numbers, positive and negative numbers, fractions, decimals, equations, algebraic manipulations, ratios-proportions-percents, geometry, the metric system, linear equation, statistics, probability, and graphing. Topics are introduced in seventh grade and expanded upon in eighth grade. Students will also be introduced to Algebra 1 concepts.

Algebra 1 is the same ninth grade course offered in high school. However, successful completion of this course does not earn high school credit.

Prerequisite: Students must successfully complete the seventh grade Pre-Algebra course with a content grade of a "B" or better and have a TEACHER'S RECOMMENDATION. The Algebra 1 course covers the use of variables, real numbers, first and second degree equations, factoring, polynomials, solving equations with one and two unknowns, radicals, and algebraic and graphic applications

Discovery Algebra 2 is for the very advanced (gifted) math student who successfully completes Discovery Algebra 1 and is available by gifted programming/placement into the Discovery Program to any student not currently enrolled in Discovery. Successful completion of this course DOES earn high school credit. This is a rigorous course that includes the following topics for the advanced (gifted) math student: linear, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, rational, and trigonometric functions, complex numbers, matrices, vectors, and conic sections. Problem solving is stressed using many math concepts as well as graphing calculators.

SCIENCE 8 (Physical Science) (one year)

This course will consist of a study of the following curriculum: forces, motion, energy, matter, electricity, light, and magnetism. The application of the scientific method is used throughout the year while exploring activities and topics. The curriculum covered is designed to introduce concepts that will be expanded upon at the high school level.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8 United States History 1783-1865 (one year)

This course will begin with a review of earlier American history prior to 1783 and will cover U. S. History through the Civil War. There will also be a focus on the structure and function of the U. S. government. Students will be graded on proficiency in all eight district middle school social studies standards. Course work will include research, organization, understanding cause and effect, content area reading strategies, expository writing, as well as appreciation and understanding of America's past.

HEALTH 8 (one semester = 18 weeks)

Topics will include maintaining mental, social and emotional health, to include communication skills, stress management techniques, problem solving and conflict resolution skills. Other topics include the strategies to cope with harassment, abuse, violence, depression, and suicide. Students will also analyze the impact of nutrition on a person's well-being and explore risk factors, information and community resources to promote health and decrease disease. Additional topics include reducing risks related to substance use and abuse; and demonstrating healthy decisions concerning their sexuality.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 (one semester = 18 weeks)

Expenses: Students are required to have a plain gray t-shirt, black athletic shorts, and athletic shoes which need to be tied. It is also advisable to have a gray sweatshirt and black sweatpants for cold or inclement weather. All physical education attire should not have writing or emblems. Tank tops and cut off shirts are not allowed. Students must also provide their own combination padlock.

The Physical Education Program is fitness-based with daily emphasis on flexibility, muscular strength, and cardiovascular exercise. **Activities include both team and individual sports.**

Attention: The Physical Education component, by its nature, includes a risk of injury to the participants which may range in severity from minor to long-term or catastrophic. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised physical education classes, it is impossible to eliminate risk. Students must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems to their teacher, follow prescribed programs, and act responsibly while in the class area.

Do not attempt any strenuous conditioning programs until you have consulted a physician. Students enrolling in physical education classes should have a physical.