



## EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM

**IN EIGHTH GRADE GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION** our students will:

- write essays using the classical oration structure: thesis, proof, refutation, etc.
- use their outlining skills to organize their compositions
- be able to format essays using both Chicago and Turabian style manuals
- continue to master English grammar by sentence diagramming and other exercises

**IN EIGHTH GRADE LITERATURE** our students will read and discuss:

- novels such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Robinson Crusoe*
- poems such as “Ozymandias” and “Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night”
- Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* and speeches by E.B. White and Rachel Carson
- short stories from Chekov, Hawthorne, Tolstoy, and Dostoevsky

**IN EIGHTH GRADE HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY** our students will:

- read and hear about the major defining events of American history from 1877-2020
- study the physical and political geography of Europe and the Middle East
- evaluate the rights and principles contained in the Declaration of Independence
- understand the difference between violent and non-violent forms of activism
- understand the causes and ramifications of the major wars of the twentieth century

**IN EIGHTH GRADE LATIN II** our students will:

- translate Latin stories such as “The Judgment of Paris” and “The Labors of Hercules”
- study the passive voice in pluperfect, perfect, and future tenses
- Complete Wheelock’s Latin chapters 18-27

**IN EIGHTH GRADE ALGEBRA I** our students will:

- study and apply the laws of algebra and conditional equations
- understand fundamental operations with polynomials
- solve word problems involving systems of equations
- solve quadratic equations using the quadratic formula

**IN EIGHTH GRADE INTRODUCTORY PHYSICS** our students will:

- understand the laws of motion and the concepts of force, work, energy, and power
- know the basic terms and concepts of electricity
- conduct experiments involving connections between electricity and magnetism
- study the electromagnetic spectrum, refraction, and reflection

**IN EIGHTH GRADE ART** our students will:

- understand and apply the six main composition rules of photography
- study the great works of art and architecture of the twentieth century
- create their own painting in watercolor and acrylic paints using two-point perspective

**IN EIGHTH GRADE MUSIC** our students will:

- become familiar with instruments and works of music from non-Western cultures
- study American musical theater including Ziegfeld, Gershwin, Bernstein, Rodgers, and Hart
- sing choral arrangements as part of the eighth grade choir

Michael Rose, Headmaster

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### EIGHTH GRADE LITERATURE

#### Novels & Plays

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding  
*To Kill a Mocking Bird* by Harper Lee  
*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe  
*Much Ado About Nothing* by Shakespeare

#### Poems

“Buffalo Bill’s” by E.E. Cummings  
“Chicago” by Carl Sandberg  
“The Gift Outright” by Robert Frost  
“I Dwell in Possibility” by Emily Dickinson  
“My Heart Leaps Up” by Wordsworth  
“Ozymandias” by Percy Bysshe Shelley  
Sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare  
“We Real Cool” by Gwendolyn Brooks  
“Spring and Fall” by G. Manley Hopkins  
Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

#### Short Stories

“The Bet” by Anton Chekov  
“Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment”  
“God Sees the Truth but Waits” by Tolstoy  
“An Honest Thief” by Fyodor Dostoevsky  
“The Open Boat” by Stephen Crane

#### Non-fiction

*The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank  
*My Early Life* by Winston Churchill  
*Vietnam War Heroes* by Allan Zullo