

Winnisquam Regional Middle School

8th Grade Program of Studies

2011-2012

English/Language Arts (ELA)

The 8th grade English Language Arts course is designed to prepare students for high school and beyond. The class will explore the following themes of Determination/ Speaking out, Perspective/ Point of View, Conflicts/ Depression, and Tolerance/ Conformity. Students will explore the themes through the use of short stories, novels, poetry, non-fiction, and drama. Other topics and skills such as spelling, grammar, vocabulary, and the writing process will be incorporated within the themed units. An honors option is offered to students who are capable of extending their learning by engaging with the curriculum at a more advanced level.

Read 180

This course is an intensive reading intervention program designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is significantly below grade level. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading and writing skills.

Geometry

This course follows Algebra 1 and will be taught with the rigor necessary to classify it as a college preparatory class. Includes topics such as triangles, polygons, perpendicular and parallel lines, proof – deductive and inductive reasoning, areas and volumes of polygons and polyhedra, and analytic geometry. It provides the students with the basic geometry skills, deductive thought processes, and analytical skills necessary to solve mathematic problems. Group work will be an integral part of this course along with open – ended investigations and guided inquiries. A scientific calculator is required. (TI -83+or equivalent is recommended). This is an honors level course in Grade Eight.

Algebra

This course is aligned with the Winnisquam Regional High School's Algebra course and builds upon the skills developed in previous math courses. The central focus is on symbolic reasoning and calculating with symbols. The course emphasizes the use of mathematics in real-life situations and the integration of problem solving and critical thinking skills to make meaningful connections to life's experiences.

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is a course designed to provide students with the understanding of the concepts and skills needed to be successful in Algebra and Geometry. Students will extend their elementary skills and investigate and explore mathematical ideas and develop multiple strategies for analyzing complex situations. Students will analyze situations verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically. In addition, students will apply mathematical skills and make meaningful connections to life's experiences.

General Math

General Math is a course designed to further the development of students' mathematical concepts. Students will continue with grade level course work, along with strengthening basic arithmetic skills. Arithmetic skills will be strengthened; geometry and introductory algebra skills will be emphasized to better ready students for higher level mathematics. Some topics include identifying, working with and solving for variables, transformations of objects, ratios, volume of three dimensional shapes and integers.

General Math with Lab

General Math with a lab follows the same description as General Math except there will be an additional lab component to the class. The lab will allow time for students to focus on individual skill building needs. The program(s) will be technology based and occur in the learning lab. The math teachers and the learning lab instructor will work together to create, monitor, and adjust labs to enable students to make progress and meet individual learning goals.

Science

Physical Science: This is an inquiry-based physics and chemistry class. The class will provide an introduction to physics and chemistry concepts, as well as real-world connections. Concepts covered will be forces, motion, energy, electricity and magnetism, structure of an atom, periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, chemical equations, solutions, acids and bases. Formal Labs will be required. An honors option is offered to students who are capable of extending their learning by engaging with the curriculum at a more advanced level.

Social Studies

This is a survey course of United States history. Students will study and evaluate the historical and cultural development of the United States from the 19th century through the 21st century. Students will be required to write and use a variety of inquiry methods of research. An honors option is offered to students who are capable of extending their learning by engaging with the curriculum at a more advanced level.

Band and Chorus

Students in the 8th grade have the option to choose to participate in Band and/or Chorus.

Spanish

Students in the 8th grade have the option to choose to participate in a Rosetta Stone Spanish class one day per week. This is offered on a first come first served basis.

