

A GUIDE

for

EIGHTH GRADE



2018-2019

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Wilson County Schools is to provide an educational environment which creates success for all students through the community working together.

FOREWORD

The middle school years are important in the academic development of our children. In middle school, children are making the transition from elementary school to high school. These years are very important years academically, yet often very challenging as children enter the adolescent years. The middle school program in Wilson County is designed to help our students develop physically, emotionally, and academically.

Our curriculum is strong and is constantly improving to meet the changing needs of our middle school students. This guide is designed to provide parents an overview of the academic program to which their children will be exposed.

Our middle schools have been continuously improving and you should expect our schools to continue to get better and better. We are glad to have your child in one of our middle schools. We expect it to be a great experience for your child in preparation for high school.

Wilson County Middle Schools

Phone Numbers

| | |
|--|----------|
| David Lyndon (Exec. Director of Secondary Ed)..... | 399-7779 |
| Daniels Learning Center | 399-7900 |
| Darden Middle..... | 206-4973 |
| Elm City Middle | 236-4148 |
| Forest Hills Middle..... | 399-7913 |
| Speight Middle | 238-3983 |
| Springfield Middle..... | 237-4250 |
| Toisnot Middle | 399-7973 |

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Component I: Report Card

Students are expected to pass all four core area subjects (language arts, mathematics, social studies and science).

Component II: EOG Tests (Reading, Mathematics, and Science)

Students are expected to score Level III, IV, or V on the reading, mathematics, and science End-of-Grade Tests.

Component III: Attendance

Students are expected to be in attendance a minimum of 90 % of the school year.

CORE AREA SUBJECTS

GRADE 8 MATHEMATICS

Grade Eight Mathematics is designed to teach these **major concepts**:

- Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers
- Work with radicals and integer exponents
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations
- Define, evaluate and compare functions
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data

Foundations of Math I is designed to teach these **major concepts**:

- Work with radicals and integer exponents
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations
- Define, evaluate and compare functions

- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres
- Extend the properties of exponents to rational exponents
- Write expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems
- Perform arithmetic operations on polynomials
- Understand the relationship between zeros and factors of polynomials
- Solve equations and inequalities in one variable
- Solve systems of equations
- Use coordinates to prove simple geometric theorems algebraically
- Summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable
- Interpret linear models

Math I is designed to teach these **major concepts**:

- Extend the properties of exponents to rational exponents
- Interpret the structure of expressions
- Write expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems
- Perform arithmetic operations on polynomials
- Understand the relationship between zeros and factors of polynomials
- Create equations that describe numbers or relationships
- Understand solving equations as a process of reasoning and explain the reasoning
- Solve equations and inequalities in one variable
- Solve systems of equations
- Represent and solve equations and inequalities graphically
- Understand the concept of a function and use function notation
- Interpret functions that arise in applications in terms of the context
- Analyze functions using different representations
- Build a function that models a relationship between two quantities
- Interpret expressions for functions in terms of the situation they model
- Use coordinates to prove simple geometric theorems algebraically
- Summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable
- Summarize, represent, and interpret data on two categorical and quantitative variables
- Interpret linear models

Successful completion of Math I in eighth grade meets the NC Math I requirements for high school graduation.

GRADE 8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade Eight English Language Arts is designed to teach these **major concepts**:

READING

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from text
- Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas
- Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text
- Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning and tone
- Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text relate to each other and the whole
- Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text
- Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence
- Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take
- Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently

WRITING

- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence
- Write informative / explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences
- Use digital tools and resources to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others
- Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism

GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade Eight Social Studies is designed to teach these **major concepts**:

- Apply historical thinking to understanding the creation and development of North Carolina and the United States
- Understand the ways in which conflict, compromise and negotiation have shaped North Carolina and the United States
- Understand the factors that contribute to change and continuity in North Carolina and the United States
- Understand the geographic factors that influence North Carolina and the United States
- Understand the economic activities of North Carolina and the United States
- Analyze how democratic ideals shaped government in North Carolina and the United States
- Understand the role that citizen participation plays in societal change
- Understand how different cultures influenced North Carolina and the United States

GRADE 8 SCIENCE

Grade Eight Science is designed to teach these **major concepts**:

- Understand the properties of matter and changes that occur when matter interacts in an open and closed container
- Explain the environmental implications associated with the various methods of obtaining, managing, and using energy resources
- Understand the hydrosphere and the impact of humans on local systems and the effects of the hydrosphere on humans
- Understand the history of Earth and its life forms based on evidence of change recorded in fossil records and landforms
- Understand the structure and hazards caused by agents of diseases that effect living organisms
- Understand how biotechnology is used to affect living organisms
- Understand how organisms interact with and respond to the biotic and abiotic components of their environment
- Understand the evolution of organisms and landforms based on evidence, theories and processes that impact the Earth over time
- Understand the composition of various substances as it relates to their ability to serve as a source of energy and building materials for growth and repair of organisms

CULTURAL ARTS ELECTIVES

GRADE 8 ART

This class is available to students who desire an exposure to art. Skills will be developed in areas such as drawing, painting, designing, printmaking, sculpture and crafts. Students will be encouraged to broaden their perception and appreciation of art and to formulate opinions and judgments based upon their experiences. Throughout the course, associations will be made between the students, their environments and man and his dependence on art.

GRADE 8 BAND

This course is designed to allow students to participate in the band program based on their knowledge, ability and performance level. Home practice is expected of each student as well as having weekly playing tests. Each student furnishes his/her own instrument.

GRADE 8 CHORUS

This level of chorus concentrates on learning the basics of choral music. Broad areas of instruction include note reading, pitch discrimination, vocal pedagogy and elements of music. Types of songs include unison, two-part, some three-part, round canon and some antiphonal singing. Kinds of music to be sung include folk songs, pop, rock, soul, blues and classical. Evaluation is based upon performance and written theory work.

OTHER ELECTIVES

GRADE 8 HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health at the eighth grade level focuses on the student's growing role as the decision-maker for his own health practices. Topics included are wellness awareness, stress management, protecting self/others, relationships, nutrition/weight management and substance abuse. Physical education activities provide the student with the skills necessary to remain physically active and fit throughout his/her lifetime. The course includes instruction in individual, dual and team sports; personal fitness; recreational dance; gymnastics and recreational activities.

GRADE 8 TECHNOLOGY

The Wilson County Schools middle school program offers several electives in the Career and Technical Education area. Programs represented vary across the district and include:

- Technology Design and Innovation
- Exploring Family and Consumer Science
- Exploring Business, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship
- Exploring Career Decisions
- Computer Skills and Applications
- Exploring Biotechnology - Health Science
- Exploring Biotechnology - Agri-Science
- Exploring Agricultural Science

Individual schools may offer additional elective courses as student interest warrants.

To view a complete listing of course objectives, visit
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/>