

Comanche Middle School 8th Grade Handbook



2016-2017

Welcome to 8th grade!

It is going to be an awesome year!

Teachers:

Science

Pam Gabel
Sarah Samuelson

Math

Lydia Podrebarac
Frances Engelcke
Nathan Morse

English Language Arts

Shala Waldman
Aronda Fawcett
Lynn Nolte (Read 180)

Social Studies

Jordan Burr
Sheila Howard

Connect

Brian Lenz

ESOL

Miguel Aldrete

PE

Melissa Miller

Special Education

Justin Stevens

Curriculum for 8th Grade

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

8th grade students study all four strands of Mathematics which are the Number System, Algebra, Statistics and Geometry. Instructional time focuses on three critical areas; 1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations including solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; 2) grasping the concept of a function (a rule that assigns one input to one output) and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; 3) Volume of a cone, sphere and cylinder and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Algebra I

Algebra develops the art of problem solving for students. Algebra 1 covers the fundamental concepts of algebra, including exponents and radicals, linear equations and inequalities, ratio and proportion, systems of linear equations, factoring quadratics, complex numbers, completing the square, and the quadratic formula.

Language Arts

Read 180

In this class, students will focus on raising reading Lexile levels through fluency and comprehension activities. They will also focus on writing skills by answering short answer questions and writing short informative and argumentative essays. Students will cite reasons for their answers or opinions. They will work in small groups with the teacher, on computer software, and independently. Parents can help their child by asking them what they are reading at school and encouraging them to read daily at home for 15-20 minutes.

English Language Arts

Eighth graders in the course of the year will become better readers and writers. They will write a variety of papers, all graded using the 6+1 Trait writing method. At the beginning of the year, students will write a paper. Throughout the year, students will learn different ways to make their writing better while using the Schaffer Method. At the end of the year, students will use the skills they learned to revise that paper from the first week of school. It will then be regarded as their final writing assessment. Eighth graders will also read a variety of short stories, poems, and novels like The Outsiders and A Soldier's Heart. Once a week, students will read a nonfiction article of the week on Newsela.com set at their specific Lexile level to work on raising their reading level. Every 8th graders goal is to be proficient which is a 1050 Lexile score. We will focus on different types of writing for preparation for Kansas State Assessments. Get excited!

Social Studies

In 8th grade Social Studies your student will learn about the rise of the United States after the American Revolution and follow the history of the country through the Civil War. Students will learn skills to help them through the rest of their lives including researching and writing skills.

Science

We will be using the Scientific Process to help prepare you for high school. We will begin the year with a review of the Scientific Process, which will be used all year. After the review we will move into the first of our five units for the year. The first unit focuses on flow of energy through ecosystems. Students will look at food chains and how organisms acquire energy as well as interactions within ecosystems like diversity and succession. Unit 2 focuses on natural selection and adaptations of organisms over time as well as their classification. Units 3 and 4 cover cells and organization of organisms. This includes looking at plant and animal cells as well as human body systems. Unit two focuses on the Unit 4 focuses on growth, development, and reproduction of organisms. During unit 4 we will be dissecting a frog. Finally our last unit will be looking at genetics as well as human reproductive systems.

8th Grade Procedures and Policies

Dress Code: Comanche students are to wear a spirit shirt or a blue or black polo with jeans or khakis. If Comanche students are cold, they are only allowed to wear a heather gray crew neck sweatshirt or sweater or royal blue, black or gray hoodies, COMANCHE LOGO REQUIRED. Zippers are not allowed on the hoodie. Advisory teachers will check students' attire in the morning and afternoon. ***Teachers may write office referral or give detention.

Tardy/Late Policy: Tardy is defined as a student not being in his/her assigned area when the tardy bell rings. Each teacher determines assigned areas. Failure to come to class without an admit slip, when needed, constitutes a tardy. The policy starts over every nine weeks (or) is cumulative over any consecutive nine-week period. ***See Comanche 2016-2017 handbook on the USD 443 website for consequences.

Materials: Students are expected to have paper, pencils, a library book (or ebook), their agenda (includes hall passes) and their zipper binders EVERYDAY in EVERY class. Students *may* be required to bring additional materials at the discretion of each teacher. Students *need* to have materials for whatever class they are attending in that period. ***DO NOT LEAVE WORK IN LOCKER OR IN OTHER CLASSES. ***CHEWING GUM WILL RESULT IN A REFERRAL. ***DO NOT BRING ANY TYPE OF BACKPACK, GYM BAG, STRING BAG, etc.

Homework and Test Policy: Teachers will coordinate homework and tests on a regular basis. If a student does not finish an assignment in class, it will become homework.

Missing Assignments/Late Work: ***If absent, 8th graders are responsible for asking their teachers for what work they missed while gone. If 8th graders know they will be gone ahead of time, students should let teachers know and receive work beforehand. Each quarter students who have no missing assignments will have the opportunity to participate in a reward party, while students having missing assignments will be assigned to "work time" to get caught up on their missing assignments. Missing assignments may be docked for being late. For work that is missing after 10 school days, missing will be removed from Skyward and the assignment will be listed in Skyward as 0. It will be up to the teacher's discretion whether or not they accept late work on certain assignments or projects.

Grading Scale: 8th graders will receive the marks below this year.

Grade Mark	High	Low
A+	100.00%	99.50%
A	99.49%	92.50%
A-	92.49%	89.50%
B+	89.49%	87.50%
B	87.49%	82.50%
B-	82.49%	79.50%
C+	79.49%	77.50%
C	77.49%	72.50%
C-	72.49%	69.50%
D+	69.49%	67.50%
D	67.49%	62.50%
D-	62.49%	59.50%
F	59.49%	0.00%

Bulletin Board: Teachers will display student work and achievements outside their individual classrooms. Teachers will display upcoming activities and deadlines in the hallways on all around the 3rd floor. 8th graders will be informed of school events.

Advisory Program: Students will be with a specific teacher, or advisor, throughout the year. This advisor assists 8th graders with missing assignments, providing general announcements when necessary, and helping students with any personal/academic issues as needed. Advisors will check grades and provide information to students regarding any missing work, Ds, or Fs. Students are expected to get any and ALL missing assignments completed. If two or more assignments are still missing or if the student has D's or F's, he/she will be assigned to ASP the following week.

After School Program (ASP): ASP is Monday-Thursday from 7:00 – 7:40 a.m. or 3:10 - 4:00 p.m. Verbal or written confirmation by parent is necessary for an 8th grader to attend. The goal is for 8th graders assigned to ASP to complete all missing work and raise their grades. Students who fail to attend ASP will receive an office referral.

Title 1 Tutoring: Students struggling in the specific areas of Math and English/Reading may be given the opportunity of subject tutoring after school. If your student is determined to need this tutoring a representative from the school will contact you with information about this program.

Discipline: Students are expected to be respectful to school staff and other students at all times. They are also expected to respect school property. In the event a student should violate those requirements consequences may be after school detentions, parent contacts, parent meetings, or office referrals depending upon the situation.

Awards: Students will have several opportunities to receive various awards. Each nine weeks, CMS counselors recognize five students from each team to receive a character/leadership award. To receive this award, students should exhibit the following qualities:

- Respectfulness
- A Caring and Positive Attitude
- Honesty
- Responsibility

Students receiving this recognition will receive:

- A Comanche t-shirt
- Certificate
- Picture in the paper

Students may also earn an academic award each nine weeks. The Distinguished is given to students earning a 4.0 GPA. The First Honor Roll is awarded to students earning a 3.5 or above and the Second Honor Roll is given to students earning a 3.0 to a 3.4.

Communication with Parents

One-way communication for general announcements: The team will use phone call, e-mail and written letter.

Two-way communication for when a parent's attention is required: Phone call and/or e-mail, written letter and parent meetings.

8th grade team meets daily during **8th hour 2:02 – 2:46 pm**. Friday is the scheduled meeting day with parents.