

Eighth Grade

A Grand Concept ~ The United States of America

Texts

Language Arts

Literature by McDougal Littell

Word Wise by McDougal Littell

English by Houghton Mifflin

English Workbook Plus

Mathematics

California Algebra 1 by Prentice Hall

or

Algebra Readiness by Prentice Hall

Science

Physical Science by Holt

Study Guide B (Workbook)

Social Science

Discovering Our Past: The American Journey to World War I by Glencoe

Chapter Quizzes and Tests

Maps, Charts, Graphs by Modern Curriculum Press

Introduction

The eighth grade year is a milestone year for the students. They are mastering their educational skills, learning to work independently, and preparing themselves to begin their high school years. The eighth grade theme, *A Grand Concept ~ The United States of America*, is about the building of this great nation through hard work, perseverance, and compromises. This yearlong plan encompasses the California State Standards for eighth grade, but also leaves room for flexibility in curriculum planning.

Curriculum

READING

Literature The reading is centered around the Literature anthology by McDougal Littell. Every month one unit will be covered. Your student will have a list of stories from which to choose and do the suggested activities. Activity pages and assessments will be available for each selection. The plan is designed to cover at least one - two stories per week. If your student is highly motivated, he or she may read all of the selections.

TRADEBOOKS

In addition to the textbook, we suggest including the recommended tradebooks with your student's weekly work. These suggested books will connect with, enhance, and enrich the core curriculum. You may know of additional books that you would also like to include. It is very important to supplement his or her daily academics and encourage daily free reading. VOCS has made a conscientious effort to procure the tradebooks listed on the grid for our library. A number of the tradebooks have corresponding literature units available for your use.

LANGUAGE ARTS

English This book is an in depth study of the writing process as well as the grammar skills necessary for reading and writing success. The first half of the book reviews all the elements of grammar and the exercises reinforce the learned skills. The second half of the book goes over the elements of effective writing and different types of writing formats with examples and explanations for teaching strong writing skills.

Word Wise The vocabulary/spelling workbook is designed to continue to reinforce the vocabulary and spelling skills already learned as well as present the student with more challenging lists. Do the new lesson's workbook pages each week, give a practice spelling test, work on the difficult words and then give a final test at week's end. For something different have the student use the list of words in a creative writing activity.

Writing Workshop This is a section within the Literature textbook at the end of each unit. It offers a writing assignment, discussion of the elements for an effective essay, and examples to guide the student.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Discovering Our Past: The American Journey to World War I (AJ) This book gives an in-depth look at the beginnings of this country and the building of a great nation. State Standards require not only a greater review of our history but also an emphasis on our Constitution. This year your student will also be required to pass a test on the Constitution.

Chapter Quizzes and Tests (QT) This supplement to the history text provides review and assessment of understanding of the reading.

Maps, Charts, Graphs (Maps) This is a great review of geography, map skills, and reading graphs.

MATHEMATICS

Our school-wide recommended curriculum for math is Prentice Hall California Algebra 1, a curriculum that is closely correlated to the State Standards.

California Algebra Readiness by Prentice Hall is also available for those students who are not yet ready for Algebra 1. This standards based course will continue to build on your student's math foundation to prepare him or her for Algebra 1 in high school.

SCIENCE

Physical Science is the text we recommend for science. In addition to the regular reading, it is full of hands-on activities and experiments to reinforce the learning. We also have an extensive science kit program which offers additional means of “experimentation”.

ART

While art is an enrichment subject, there are many ways to incorporate art appreciation into daily academics. Throughout the Language of Literature textbook there are works of fine art. There is a complete list on LoL pR110 & R111. Take the opportunity to have your student look at a painting and discuss the elements of the artwork. This could also be a start for a creative writing activity. The student might also like to try creating a picture of his or her own to go along with a reading assignment. VOCS has unit studies with activities on these artists: da Vinci, Monet, Picasso, Renoir, and Van Gogh. These are available for check out throughout the year. We also have an excellent selection of library books covering various artists, art appreciation, and art activities. If you want additional activities for your student we also have a collection of seasonal projects to offer as well.

ENRICHMENT

VOCS offers a variety of enrichment classes throughout the year appropriate for the various grade levels. Many field trips are also planned and so you'll want to watch the newsletter for the activities which may interest you and your student.

MULTIMEDIA

Be sure to ask your resource teacher about videos, tapes, CDs, and software that may be applicable to your course of study. In addition there are numerous websites that offer educational challenges for your student. Be sure to check out the “Cool Internet Sites” binder in the Parent Place. It has a plethora of web addresses appropriate for student study. A great source for lesson plans and academic support in all subjects is ceea.org.