



Maple Curriculum At Glance **6th, 7th, 8th Overview**

At Maple School, academics are aligned with best practice in each curricular area and are accomplished in a supportive environment that uses strategies appropriate for this age level.

Science:

The Maple science curriculum is a standards-based, carefully sequenced curriculum. Each academic year includes units based in physics, chemistry, and biology. Each year's content and experiences revisit and build on the learning of previous years. This "spiral" curriculum ensures that students learn science content and scientific practices across different units within their own grade level, which are extended as they progress through 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Students are therefore given the opportunity to further develop and use their understanding throughout their three-year experiences in middle school science, and transfer their knowledge to high school and the future.

Students practice the skill of writing scientific explanations throughout our middle school science curriculum, including these three essential parts: claim (a testable answer to the question), evidence (data used to support the claim) and reasoning (explanations that connect evidence to the claim using scientific principles). By the end of each grade, students will be able to increasingly: use evidence to create models to explain or predict phenomena design investigations, explore solutions to complex questions, gather, analyze, and organize data, draw conclusions, make inferences and communicate their ideas and finding, uncover patterns in the phenomena they experience, and integrate technology as a tool in any of these areas.

Math:

The Maple mathematics curriculum emphasizes deep mathematical understanding and reasoning with problem solving at the center of math learning. Students use the The Big Ideas Math program as their primary resource and offers dynamic online resources and STEM integration. Big Ideas follows a balanced instructional approach and incorporates conceptual understanding with procedural fluency; students benefit from discovery learning and direct instruction. Each math lesson begins with a discovery activity that encourages conceptual understanding. The activities provide students with the opportunity to explore, question, explain, and persevere as they seek to answer essential questions that encourage abstract thought. Activities are followed by a direct instruction lesson. These lessons give students the opportunity to develop procedural fluency and to use clear, precise mathematical language. These lessons also give teachers opportunities to use class discussion, flexible grouping, and other delivery methods in their classrooms. Real-life applications are regularly integrated allowing opportunities for students to connect classroom lessons to realistic scenarios and the mathematical practices are woven into every math lesson.



English Language Arts:

The Maple English Language Arts Department is committed to encouraging a love of reading in our students that will help them on the road to becoming lifelong learners, along with developing critical readers, writers and thinkers who will excel in high school, college and their chosen careers. Our program is multi-faceted, aligned to both the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts as well as best practice and most current research in the field.

Students read both fiction and informational text as part of our workshop approach to reading, combining student - selected text with whole class works. Lessons targeting literary strategies, grammar and vocabulary are an important part of a well-rounded English Language Arts block. Writing instruction is seamlessly integrated into the ELA classes through a workshop approach as well. This means that students choose their own topics under the specific genre teachers are focusing on at that time. Middle school writing instruction also targets argumentative, informative/explanatory and narrative as delineated in the Common Core State Standards.

Social Studies:

The social studies curriculum at Maple School focuses on supporting student growth so that our students will develop a strong content base in order to understand that the past informs the future. Students learn that local, national, and global perspectives emphasize interconnectedness among people and events and understand how to work to address environmental concerns and human rights issues. In addition, students will also build understanding of how to participate in the economic development of the United States/global community and expand their ability to thrive, contribute and produce in a participatory culture. This supports students use and understanding of information/communication technologies and media literacies for collaboration and networking.

*** For more detailed information please visit each teacher's individual websites.**