



OVERVIEW

Hello Eighth Grade Families-

This academic success guide has been created to give you an overview of the important concepts your child should be mastering by the end of the year during their time here at Asante Preparatory. It will also give you some ideas of things you can do at home to help support your child. In addition, the guide will give you an overview of the special area classes your child will participate in during their year.

At Asante, we track student progress by standard and look for opportunities to deepen their learning and also accelerate them when appropriate as well. Your child is in their final year at Asante and it our hope that they are enrolled in one of our high school credit opportunities this year: Algebra, Honors Algebra, English or Social Media.

We know how important our partnership will be in helping your child be as successful as possible, so please don't ever hesitate to reach out with ideas or questions!

We hope this is the most amazing year for your child!

The Eighth Grade Team

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

To prepare for bigger challenges in high school, 8th grade students must grapple with major works of fiction and nonfiction that extend across cultures and centuries. As they work diligently to understand precisely what an author or speaker is saying, students also must learn to question an author's or speaker's assumptions and assess the accuracy of his or her claims. They also must be able to report findings from their own research and analysis of sources in a clear manner.

What Your Child Is Learning

- Citing the evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what is explicitly stated and/or implied from a book, article, poem, or play
- Analyzing where materials on the same topic disagree on matters of fact, interpretation, or point of view
- Learning how authors support their ideas through word choice, sentence and paragraph structure, and other methods
- Building writing around strong central ideas or points of view; supporting the ideas with sound reasoning and evidence, precise word choices, smooth transitions, and different sentence structures
- Planning and conducting research projects that include several steps and use many credible and documented print and digital sources
- Analyzing the purpose of information presented in diverse media (e.g., print, TV, web) and evaluating its social, political, or commercial motives
- Presenting findings and claims to others, emphasizing key points with relevant evidence and sound reasoning, adapting speech to the audience and the formality of the setting, and responding to questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas
- Using strong, active verbs to create a clear picture for the reader (e.g., walk, skip, meander, lurch, limp)
- Interpreting figures of speech (e.g., irony, puns) and developing a large vocabulary of general academic words and phrases

Rangers

MATHEMATICS

In 8th grade, your child will learn a number of skills and ideas that he or she must know and understand to be ready for college and career. Your child will continue to learn how to write and reason with algebraic expressions. Your child also will make a thorough study of linear equations with one and two variables. Building on previous work with relationships between quantities, your child will be introduced to the idea of a mathematical function. And your child will prepare for high school geometry by understanding congruence (same shape and size) and similarity of geometric figures

What Your Child Is Learning

- Understanding slope, and relating linear equations in two variables to lines in the coordinate plane
- Solving linear equations (e.g., $-x + 5(x + 1/3) = 2x - 8$); solving pairs of linear equations (e.g., $x + 6y = -1$ and $2x - 2y = 12$); and writing equations to solve related word problems
- Understanding functions as rules that assign a unique output number to each input number; using linear functions to model relationships
- Analyzing statistical relationships by using a bestfit line (a straight line that models an association between two quantities)
- Working with positive and negative exponents, square root and cube root symbols, and scientific notation (e.g., evaluating $\sqrt{36 + 64}$; estimating world population as 7×10^9)
- Understanding congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software (e.g., given two congruent figures, show how to obtain one from the other by a sequence of rotations, translations, and/or reflections)
- Understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$) to solve problems

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SOCIAL STUDIES

Eighth grade students will make connections between historical and current/recent issues as a base for implementing change in society. Students will recognize and practice their roles and responsibilities as both American and global citizens. United States History will focus on the major events that have their roots in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments. Areas of focus include:

- Foundations of the United States government stemming from historical events such as the American Revolution and Civil War
- Constitution including structure, function, and principles
- Formal institutions such as Congress, the courts, the presidency, and linkage institutions such as media, elections, interest groups, polling, and political parties
- Historical and current legislation and landmark Supreme Court cases
- Civil rights movements throughout American history such as African-Americans, Latinx, Asian-Americans, women, American Indians, LGBTQ individuals, persons with disabilities, youth, and the elderly
- Immigration
- Amendments to the Constitution that have expanded the right to vote and equal protection under the law
- Social movements and issues both historical and current including the constitutional principles and structures (amendments, courts, Congress, and executive orders) that spur, promote, and protect these movements
- Human rights and genocides including treaties and organizations that promote human rights and a study of the nations and leaders that abuse human rights and/or support genocide
- Environmental issues
- Information and media age including digital citizenship and media literacy
- Terrorism both domestic and international and how it influences citizens' safety and rights
- Examination of primary and secondary sources including written and oral histories, images, and artifacts
- Disciplinary skills and processes including change and continuity over time, multiple perspectives, using and understanding sources, and cause and effect

SCIENCE

By the end of eighth grade, students will describe how stability and change and the process of cause and effect influence changes in the natural world. Students will apply energy principles to chemical reactions, explore changes within Earth and understand how genetic information is passed down to produce variation among the populations. Student investigations focus on collecting and making sense of observational data and simple measurements using the science and engineering practices:

- ask questions and define problems,
- develop and use models
- plan and carry out investigations,
- analyze and interpret data
- use mathematics and computational thinking,
- construct explanations and design solutions
- engage in argument from evidence
- obtain, evaluate, and communicate information

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SPECIAL AREA CLASSES

At Asante Preparatory Academy, students in eighth grade enroll in elective courses. Band and choir are both offered at these grades.

Students also have a range of elective courses to enroll in each quarter in other areas of the arts, physical education, and iExplore courses. For a full offering of the elective courses that were offered see the 2021-2022 elective course descriptions.

WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- Make time in everyone's busy schedule for family discussions about things going on around the world. Weekends can be a chance for everyone to catch up.
- Visit the campus of a local college with your teen. Begin talking about college early. What do they expect from college? What high school courses will your child need to pass to prepare for college
- Make sure to keep books and magazines around the house that your child will enjoy reading and learning from.
- Talk to them about the symbols and themes in movies, TV shows and video games.
- Mathematics Ask your child to share with you any work he or she is doing in math class that strikes them as interesting. Some possibilities might include:
 - Solving interesting problems involving cylinders and spheres, such as figuring out how much water fits inside a garden hose, or how many earths would fit inside the sun.
 - Analyzing data with a scatterplot, for example to decide whether exercise and obesity are related.
 - Solving "just for fun" algebra puzzles, such as: "I'm thinking of two numbers. The difference between the numbers is 40. Twice the smaller number is 20 more than the larger number. What are my numbers?"

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**THANK YOU
FOR SHARING
YOUR CHILD
WITH US!**



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