

# **MONARCH K-8**

## **MIDDLE LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

(Subject to change per BVSD curriculum)

### **2012-2013**



**MONARCH K-8 MISSION STATEMENT:**

**Monarch K-8 is a community of learners where we celebrate and honor the diverse talents, interests and unique potential in each of us. We engage in challenging and creative academic activities in a safe, respectful environment. We value and encourage success for all.**



**Principal  
Assistant Principals**

**Counselors**

**Melisa Potes  
Sarah Oswick  
Khara West  
Christine Ross  
Tara Krams**

# Table of Contents

<b>Welcome and Sixth Grade Curriculum</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Seventh Grade Curriculum</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Eighth Grade Curriculum</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Seventh and Eighth Grade Year-Long Electives</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Seventh and Eighth Grade Semester Electives</b>	<b>8-10</b>
<b>Science Curriculum</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Health Curriculum</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Language Arts Curriculum</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Sixth Grade Reading</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Social Studies Curriculum</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Mathematics Curriculum</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Math Placement</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Middle Level PE Philosophy</b>	<b>16</b>

## WELCOME TO MONARCH!

This booklet is designed to offer information about course offerings for middle level students during the 2012-2013 school year. The information in this booklet will explain the curriculum for grades six, seven and eight and will describe elective offerings as well.

We recognize that early adolescents require an environment that differs from both elementary and high school. As students progress through each middle grade at Monarch K-8, more academic choice and responsibility will be given in preparation for high school.

### Fundamental goals which drive our curriculum include:

- mastery of the basic skills: reading, writing and mathematics
- command of problem solving skills which underlie success in the academic and real world
- development of good work habits, time management, planning and study skills
- exploration of different courses and activities
- understanding of oneself and one's relationship with others

## SIXTH GRADE

Sixth grade students are scheduled into a core academic block, exploratory classes, physical education, music, and a lunch period each day. The core subjects of language arts, reading, social studies, math and science are taught by a team of teachers. During another part of the day, students alternate physical education and music. Music offerings include band, orchestra and choir/drama. Exploratory classes meet daily. Students have the opportunity to explore different elective areas throughout the year. These areas may include art, applied technology, shop, crafts, computer, and nutrition and life management. (Actual course offerings are based on facility availability, teacher expertise and number of sixth grade students.) Students with strong study and language skills (spelling, writing, and grammar) may take the first year of either Spanish or French **in lieu** of exploratory classes.

### Sixth Grade Required Subjects

Language Arts  
Reading  
World Geography I: The Americas  
Math  
Science  
Physical Education  
Music  
Exploratory Classes or 1<sup>st</sup> Level Foreign Language

### Sixth Grade Choices: Math

Sixth Grade Math (MO5)  
Seventh Grade Math (M15)

### Music

Band\*  
Orchestra\*  
Choir

**\*Students must furnish their own instruments.  
(Guitar and piano are not included in band or orchestra)**



## SEVENTH GRADE

Seventh grade students will be scheduled for four core academic subjects, two elective periods, one semester of physical education, one semester of health/PE, and lunch. The academic subjects include language arts, world geography, science and math. Students may choose their remaining two periods from the electives described in this booklet.

### Seventh Grade Required Subjects

Language Arts or Advanced Language Arts\*  
World Geography II: Eastern Hemisphere  
Math (M15, M25, Algebra 1 Advanced)  
Science  
Physical Education/Health

**\*Students interested in Advanced LA must complete an initial screening, show evidence of strong language and grammar skills, and have a passion for literature. Students should also score in the high proficient/advanced range on the reading and writing CSAP. The ALA program uses much of the BVSD adopted William and Mary curriculum including a variety of webs and Socratic seminar. Some of the material may prove to be too sensitive for some middle school students. Space in this class is limited.**

### Seventh Grade Electives

Students may choose:

- 2 year-long electives or
- 1 year-long, 2 semester electives or
- 4 semester electives

### Year-Long Electives:

Spanish 1A (first full year of Spanish)  
French 1A (first full year of French)  
Band  
Select Choir  
Orchestra

Spanish 1B (after completion of Spanish 1A)  
French 1B (after completion of French 1A)



### Semester Electives:

Art I  
Advanced Art  
Ceramics  
Crafty Creations  
Creative Writing  
Computer Power  
Desktop Publishing  
Food Fun

Foreign Foods & Fabrics  
Office Assistant:  
(Individual teacher, main office or Media center)  
Leadership in Action  
3-D Design  
T.I.D.E. -Technology, Innovation, Design & Engineering  
Theater Arts  
Woodworking/Crafts

## EIGHTH GRADE



Eighth grade students will be scheduled for four core academic subjects, two elective periods, one semester of physical education, one semester of health/PE, and lunch. The four academic subjects include science, math, language arts, and U.S. Society.

### **Eighth Grade Required Subjects:**

Language Arts or Advanced Language Arts\*  
U.S. Society  
Science  
Math (M25, Algebra 1 Advanced, Geometry Advanced)  
Physical Education/Health

**\*Students interested in Advanced LA must complete an initial screening, show evidence of strong language and grammar skills, and have a passion for literature. Students should also score in the high proficient/advanced range on the reading and writing CSAP. The ALA program uses much of the BVSD adopted William and Mary curriculum including a variety of advanced graphic organizers (webs) and The Socratic Method (seminar). Sections of the class material may prove to be too sensitive for some middle school students. Space in this class is limited.**

### **Eighth Grade Electives**

Students may choose:

- 2 year-long electives or
- 1 year-long, 2 semester electives or
- 4 semester electives

### **Year-Long Electives:**

Spanish 1B (after completion of Spanish 1A)  
Spanish 2 (might be taken at Monarch High School after successful completion of 1A and 1B)  
French 1B (after completion of French 1A)  
French 2 (will be taken at Monarch High School after successful completion of 1A and 1B)  
German 1 (only for 8<sup>th</sup> graders in excellent academic standing –Monarch K-8 schedule permitting )  
Band  
Select Choir  
Orchestra

### **Semester Electives:**

Art I  
Advanced Art  
Ceramics  
Crafty Creations  
Creative Writing  
Computer Power  
Desktop Publishing  
Food Fun

Foreign Foods & Fabrics  
Office Assistant:  
(Individual teacher, Main Office or Media Center)  
Leadership in Action  
3-D Design  
T.I.D.E. -Technology, Innovation, Design & Engineering  
Theater Arts  
Woodworking/Crafts

## SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES

### WORLD LANGUAGE

World Language Courses are based on the four standards: Communication, Culture, Connections and Comparisons. For the Novice-Low Range Level, students learn to communicate, comprehend and present, in oral and written form, on very familiar topics, using isolated words and high frequency phrases in the context of Culture, Connections and Comparisons

Not only is proficiency in a world language a component of preparation for college, it reinforces language arts skills. Study of French or Spanish may begin in grades 6, 7, or 9. Level 1A and 1B at the middle school (which are adapted to the middle school student) are equivalent to Level 1 in high school.

German 1 students (8<sup>th</sup> graders only) will learn about German culture, customs and traditions. They will be able to converse and write about various aspects of their personal lives ranging from home and family to life at school, recreational interests, hobbies, and sports. Students acquire skills through oral repetition, dialogues, short compositions, dictations, reading and written exercises. Students will be using German from the first day.

**FRENCH 1A, SPANISH 1A** For students who are in sixth or seventh grade.

**FRENCH 1B, SPANISH 1B** For students who have successfully completed level 1A

**FRENCH 2, SPANISH 2** For students who have successfully completed level 1B  
(might be taken at Monarch High School)

**GERMAN 1** For 8<sup>th</sup> graders in excellent academic standing, (MK-8 schedule permitting)  
taken at Monarch High School.



### MUSIC

#### **BAND**

This course will give students an opportunity to explore music as a form of expression. A wide variety of music will be performed including classical, jazz and popular styles. Emphasis will be placed on note and rhythm reading as well as individual improvement throughout the year. Extra activities include Middle Level Band Festival and regular concerts each semester. A portion of the final grade is dependent on participation in after school/evening activities.

#### **ORCHESTRA**

Orchestra is a string-performing group in which students receive technical training and opportunities for enrichment and development in individual and group musicianship. Performance at concerts and appropriate attire are required. Extra activities include String Camp and Solo & Ensemble Festival. A portion of the final grade is dependent on participation in after school/evening activities.

#### **SELECT CHOIR**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Select Choir begins with two-part singing and introduces students to three and four-part singing. Fundamental vocal techniques are continually reinforced along with creating, understanding, and discussing music. Extra activities include District Middle Level Choir Festivals, theater field trips and special performance opportunities. A portion of the final grade is dependent on participation in after school/evening activities, therefore, culminating performances are a meaningful and mandatory component of this class. This class meets for one year.

## SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE SEMESTER ELECTIVES

### **ART I**

This course for the beginning or intermediate art student is designed to provide basic skills in several mediums, as well as an appreciation of art in different cultures. It will include drawing, painting, mixed media, and other two and three-dimensional techniques. Drawing instruction may include portraits, still life, and landscape as well as abstract compositions and designs. Other media that may be introduced includes printmaking, collage, graphic art, calligraphy, jewelry, ceramics, and sculpture. The curriculum will be adapted to the needs and levels of the students, and the course may be taken more than once.

### **ADVANCED ART**

The student will receive individualized instruction in a variety of drawing and painting techniques, materials and concepts. Emphasis will be on using one's eyes to see beyond the expected. Student involvement in the work, expression of creative ideas, effort and craftsmanship will be expected of all students. This class may be taken for one or two semesters.

### **CERAMICS**

In this one term course, students will be introduced to the properties of ceramic clay. The emphasis in this course is on hand-building; however some wheel throwing will be introduced. Students will create functional and non-functional projects and learn to finish them in a variety of ways. This course may be taken more than once.

### **COMPUTER POWER**

This is a semester course in micro computing. For students graduating in 2010 or later Computer Power or T.I.D.E. credit in the middle school may be used to cover the computer requirement in Boulder Valley High Schools. While it does not count for High School credit it does allow the student to take a wider variety of electives in High School since they do not need to use one of their high school electives to take a computer course.

**Topics Covered:** Computer History, Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Publisher, Web Page creation, Basic Programming, Linear Programming, Graphic Creation, Internet Safety, Flash, and Key Boarding.

Students will make advanced Power Point Presentations, spreadsheets and Word documents. They will make a web site using HTML or web based page production site. The students will learn about linear programming using a graphic based program to create their own video game. Proper keyboarding will be reinforced with a variety of methods to teach and/or advance the students typing skills. Flash animations will be produced as well as making a short movie. Photoshop will be used to demonstrate the power of digital photography and how to use the technology to enhance their reports in other classes.

### **CRAFTY CREATIONS**

In Crafty Creations, students will be introduced to a variety of craft and folk art materials and methods. Students will create well-crafted, functional and decorative pieces based on art from different cultures. Possible projects and materials include: jewelry making, weaving, batik, polymer, clay, printed t-shirts, embossing foil, Japanese gardens, Huichol beading, and others depending on student interest. The Crafty Creations course is designed for students who enjoy hands-on projects. This course may be taken more than once.

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

Students will read models of outstanding poetry and prose. They will be given an opportunity to develop their own unique writing style and will write poetry, stories, and plays. Local writers will be invited to share their experiences with students.

### **DESKTOP PUBLISHING**

This is an eighteen week course that covers using the computer as a publishing tool. We will use Microsoft Publisher extensively to make a variety of projects including a school newsletter. Movies or Music Videos will be scripted and produced using Power Director. Podcasts or Vodcasts may be produced in class also or websites. Projects may include making projects with other people using the Google products for collaboration and presenting the finished product to an audience. An example of this would be researching a country that an elementary class will be studying and making a presentation about that country that will give the content to the elementary students in a grade appropriate style to enhance their learning. The desktop publishing students will use skills they have learned in class to make this an exciting learning experience for the elementary students as they fine tune their computer skills to make this presentation. Keyboarding will be taught throughout the semester to increase their typing speed and skills.

Students will create complex business publications (newsletters, flyers, brochures, posters and newspapers), publish projects for other classes (reports, time lines, and newspapers), use publishing templates, use a page layout program, employ the elements of design in published documents, place and modify text prepared in other applications within a page layout program, and publish a project on-line. Note: all writing in this course will emphasize language mechanics, writing techniques, and the 6 Traits + 1 in writing process.

### **FOOD FUN**

This class provides students with the opportunity to research and prepare nutritious foods. Students will use recipes to plan, prepare, serve, and evaluate foods through the use of a variety of cooking techniques. Students will be required to demonstrate the use of appropriate safety, sanitation and kitchen procedures. Food topics may include herbs, spices, fast food, convenience foods, snacks, baking and multicultural foods.

### **FOREIGN FOODS AND FABRICS**

Students will learn about cuisine and food traditions from twelve different countries. We will make a traditional main dish and a dessert from each country: Mexico, Japan, Germany, Italy, Spain, France... to name a few. The sewing activities will include sewing terminology and techniques, principals of reading a pattern and interpreting information, and the use of sewing machines. We will sew three projects: one by hand and two by machine.

### **LEADERSHIP IN ACTION (Based on student interest and BVSD School Board Approval)**

This is a project-based course designed to enable students to acquire and apply leadership processes, strategies, and tactics for a diverse and changing world. Students will generate project ideas, demonstrate emotional intelligence, examine personal characteristics associated with leaders, utilize teamwork skills, and apply project management skills.

### **MAIN OFFICE AIDE**

Must pick up Student Office Aide request form from the front desk. The form must be filled out and returned with the course selection form. Eighth graders have priority. This may be taken for one semester only.

### **MEDIA CENTER AIDE**

Media center aide tasks may include but are not limited to: checking library materials in and out, shelving library materials, changing and maintaining bulletin boards, Internet research, and assisting elementary students with research. Approval from the Media Specialist is required. This may be taken for one semester only.

### **THEATER ARTS**

Students will gain a background in the basics of drama. Basic vocabulary and stage directions will be introduced. This course will provide situations for developing poise and confidence, interacting with others and appreciating the contribution of others. Reading, writing, speaking and listening skills will be involved as students demonstrate and perform what they have learned.

### **THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGN (3-D Design)**

This sculpture class will help the students develop skills, understanding, and awareness of the three dimensional creative process. Students will explore materials such as clay, plaster, wood and wax. This course may be taken more than once.

### **T.I.D.E. (Technology-Innovation-Design-Engineering)**

The T.I.D.E. class is a hands-on learning environment in which students use tools and technology to solve real-world problems. Students take ideas from concept to completion, learning the design-build-communicate process. The class is made up of 48 various modules and each student will be able to choose which modules they would most like to do. Three to four individual modules are completed in a semester in addition to the group projects. The course may be repeated to do more of the modules. Some of the modules that are available are: CNC lathe, digital imaging, CNC mill, lasers, satellite communication, house wiring, manual drafting, pneumatics, impact design, magnetic vehicle design, mechanisms, video production, hydroponics, and 3-D computer animation. Newly added modules are Advanced movie production that involves using a high end movie editing program (Final Cut), Solid works (a high end 3-D design/CAD program), sketch up, robotics challenge, claymation, Animation Master, Sprite maker, and TABS (a 3-D modeling program that prints out templates for students to construct what they drew in 3-D on the computer into real life models). Two entire class projects are completed in the semester with the students designing and building a rocket that must protect a raw egg from breaking. The second project is designing a CO<sub>2</sub> car in 1/12<sup>th</sup> scale that will race down a 66ft. track in less than 1 second.

### **WOODWORKING/CRAFTS**

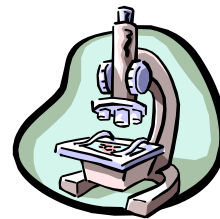
This class is a combination of traditional woodworking and crafts. The class is made up of various modules, allowing each student to choose which wood project they would most like to make. Not all students will be making their woodworking project at the same time. While some students are in the wood lab, others are working on craft modules. All students will be rotating through the woodworking portion of the class. This allows smaller numbers in the fabrication lab, which is safer to monitor. Approximately every five days students will switch craft modules.

The craft modules to choose from are: leather (four coasters and a wooden coaster holder), greeting card design, beaded key chain, Memory book pages, fly-tying, scroll saw cutting (including a 3-D wooden animal and/or name plates), wooden barrel pen on the lathe or a wood bowl, decorative wood burning, stained glass stepping stones, scrapbooking, digital photography and greeting cards using cricut.

First year students will choose one of the following woodworking projects: beach chair, chess board, decorative box, plant stand, and bedside table, Skateboard, Longboard, or DVD holder. Second year students may choose more advanced projects: coffee table, end table, secret box, wooden vault or a custom design project of their choosing.

All middle level students are required to take science, language arts, math and social studies. The following pages describe course content in these four areas and at each grade level.

### Monarch K-8 Science Grades 6, 7, 8



#### Major Curricular Themes and Topics Covered in Sixth Grade:

- States of Matter; Properties of Matter; Conservation of Mass
- Nature of Science (Lab skills, note taking, safety, scientific method, metric unit)
- Waves (Natural, Sound, Light)
- Atoms and Elements
- Compounds and Molecules
- Mixtures
- Physical and Chemical Changes
- Forces and Motion
- Forms of Energy and Energy Transfer
- Conservation of Energy
- Forms of Energy; Energy Transfer; Conservation of Energy

#### Major Curricular Themes and Topics Covered in Seventh Grade:

##### Introduction to Science, Measurement, Safety, Scientific Method

- Nature of Science
  - Lab skills, note taking, safety, scientific method, metric units, technical writing for communicating lab results
- Organisms – From Macro to Micro
  - Language of science (Latin roots,) microscope use, scientific drawings, diversity of life (invertebrates vs. vertebrates,) optional squid dissection, experimenting with live organisms, ecosystems, life cycle of plants, cells, microorganisms (the good and the bad,) genetics
- Change Over Time
  - Adaptations, fossil record, theory of evolution
- Human Body Systems
  - Using models to understand the size and function of organ systems, chemical testing of foods, releasing energy from food, circulatory, respiratory and musculoskeletal systems, how our bodies maintain internal balance, optional frog dissection, speakers on organ and tissue donation
- Culture vs. Biology
  - Cross – curricular unit done with Language Arts that explores the clash between our current culture and biological reality (scaling up Barbie and Ken, how media portrays beauty, Body Mass Index,) usually done at the beginning of *December*

#### Major Curricular Themes and Topics Covered in Eighth Grade:

- Science Safety and Metric Review
- Geology (rocks/rock cycles, minerals, soils, plate tectonics, earth history, water systems)
- Oceanography (water chemistry, movements, bathymetry)
- Astronomy (earth/moon/sun system, solar system, stars, galaxies/universe, technology)
- Meteorology (atmosphere, weather factors, forecasting, severe weather, atmospheric process, climate vs. weather)

## HEALTH 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Health is a required 9 week course in grades 7 and 8. The emphasis in both grades is on factual health information, decision making and prevention strategies for a healthy lifestyle. In seventh grade we focus on nutrition, living skills, first aid, gateway drugs, sexuality and safety. In eighth grade the units are: mental health, fitness principles, alcohol and other drugs, sexual decision making, lifestyle diseases and safety.

### Middle School Language Arts Overview

The overriding philosophy that drives the writing portion of the language arts curriculum centers around creating writers who have a solid command of the English language. Each grade level addresses the basics of the English language including spelling, vocabulary, and correct grammar usage. Additionally, each grade level addresses the writing process in a developmental framework, each grade level taking this process a bit further.

All grade levels incorporate the following basics into their individual programs:

- Spelling
- Sentence Structure
- 6 Traits Instruction
- Vocabulary
- Paragraph Structure
- Grammar Usage
- Essay Structure
- Punctuation/Capitalization
- Speaking/Listening

Each individual grade level builds on concepts and skills learned in previous grades:

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Expository Writing
  - 8 Sentence Paragraphs
  - Persuasive Writing
  - Technical Writing
  - Essay Answers
  - Summaries
  - Compare/Contrast Writings
  - Limited Research Projects
  - Advertising
- Research Skills
  - Working Knowledge of Library
  - Graphic Organizers
  - Limited Note Taking
  - Summarizing
  - Bibliography Form
  - Application of Research in Project Format
  - Using Table of Contents, Index
  - Glossary, Heading, Atlas and Almanacs
- Narrative Writing
  - Personal Narratives
  - Informative Narrations
  - Journal Writing
  - Letter Writing
- Descriptive Writing

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Expository Writing
  - 8-10 Sentence Paragraphs
  - Persuasive Writing
  - Explanatory Writing
  - Essay Answers
  - Summaries
  - Compare/Contrast Writings
  - Research Projects
- Research Skills
  - Note Taking
  - Summarizing
  - Thesis Statements
  - Outlining
  - Source Work
    - source cards
    - bibliography
  - Intro and Conclusion Paragraphs
- Narrative Writing
  - Personal Narratives
  - Friendly Letters
  - Journal Writing
- Descriptive Writing

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Expository Writing
  - 8-14 Sentence Paragraphs
  - Powers (writing concisely)
  - 5 Paragraph Essays
  - Essay Answers
  - R.A.F.T.S. (Role, Audience, Format, Topic, Strong Emotion/Verbs)
  - Advanced Research Project
- Research Skills
  - Utilization of Non-traditional Sources
  - Locating Specific Information
  - Selecting Topics/Developing Hypotheses for Research & Presentation
  - Utilizing and Expanding Bibliography Skills Learned in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Other High School Preparatory Writings
- Poetry

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Poetry
- Fictional Writing
  - Mysteries
  - Fables
  - Myths
  - Fairy Tales
  - Dramatic Pieces

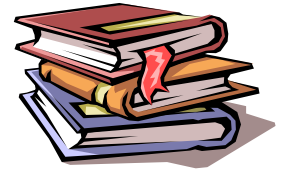
- Speaking/Listening
  - Oral Presentations
  - Class Discussions
  - Other Speaking Exercises

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Speaking/Listening
  - Oral Presentations
  - Class Discussions
  - Other Speaking Exercises

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Speaking/Listening
  - Further Development of Oral Communication
  - Class Discussions
  - Other Speaking Exercises



The overriding philosophy that drives the reading portion of the language arts curriculum is that the connection between reading and writing is invaluable. At Monarch K-8, the reading curriculum incorporates the reading of individual novels and class novels with the types of writing cited above. Each grade level studies various genres and independent reading. Creating lifelong readers is stressed throughout the grades. Below are the various genres studied at each grade level:

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Mystery, Science Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Mythology, Fantasy, Short Stories, Poetry, Drama

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Fantasy, Newberry and ALA Awards and Honors, Classics, Adventure, Historical Fiction, Drama, Biography, Autobiography, Short Stories.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade** – U.S. Historical Fiction/Non-Fiction Correlating with U.S. Society, Drama, Poetry.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE READING

6<sup>th</sup> grade reading is tied into the academic content standards for language arts in the Boulder Valley Public Schools. A separate reading class allows for ample opportunity to master skills in reading fiction and nonfiction works.

Skills covered in reading:

- Explaining the purpose of reading and adjusting reading rate for reading fiction and nonfiction
- Selecting and practicing appropriate reading strategies by using the following: previewing, practicing, skimming/scanning, pausing, consulting other sources, note taking, etc.
- Learning strategies for developing and determining word meaning through the study of word origins, metaphors, figurative language, idioms, analogies, and the use of dictionary and thesaurus
- Understanding of elements in different genre
- Determining author's purpose, viewpoint, and bias in materials
- Identifying persuasive messages in print and non-print media
- Demonstrating knowledge of the elements of plot, character, setting, conflict, theme, and point of view
- Examining figurative language, basic symbolism, suspense dialogue, and dialect
- Summarizing text concisely and developing and answering questions which enrich interpretation of the literary work
- Participating in literary discussions that go beyond the concrete level of the text

## Monarch K-8 Social Studies Grades 6, 7, 8



Literature and writing are integrated throughout the curriculum and across all grade levels. Historical inquiry and research is emphasized, and students have opportunities for debate, discussion, group and individual projects.

### **Sixth Grade World Geography I: The Americas - Areas of Study include:**

Components of a Civilization

Maps and Globes (continents and oceans, land forms, latitude and longitude)

Canada (geography, history, culture)

Latin America (Mexico, Central America, South America and Caribbean: geography, culture, history)

Five Themes of Geography (location, place, region, movement, human/environment interaction)

Aztec, Inca, Mayan Cultures

Daily Geography, Current Events

### **Seventh Grade World Geography II – “World” –**

**World Geography II provides students with the tools and skills necessary to analyze and interpret the world from a geographic perspective. The regions of the Eastern Hemisphere: Africa, Europe, South, East and Southwest Asia will be the focus of study. Students will develop an understanding of the physical and cultural processes that shape the earth and its people and an appreciation for our roles and responsibilities as world citizens. Seventh grade students will additionally study the emergence of major religions in the Eastern Hemisphere and the origins of democratic thought through the study of Ancient Greece and Rome.**

### **Eighth Grade - US Society**

This course presents the social impacts and multiple perspectives of people associated with significant events in pre-1890 American history. Our studies will expose students to the important contributions made by the many groups who shaped and continue to influence the American experience. This will include an examination of the roles of typically underrepresented groups. The role of religion will be discussed as the shaping ideal in the formation of the United States. Students also will be provided with a deep examination of the role of the Constitution in our government and our societal values. In the spring, all students will be expected to participate in the National History Day formal research at the school level. District participation in this competition is optional.

## Monarch K-8 Mathematics Grades 6, 7, 8

### M05 (6<sup>th</sup> grade) – Course Content:

Number Sense (factors and multiples, rational numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, ratio and proportion)  
Mental Math and Estimation  
Geometry and Measurement (perimeter, area, volume, constructions, metric and English units)  
Data, Statistics and Probability  
Problem Solving  
Algebra (variables and integers)

### M15 (7<sup>th</sup> grade) – Course Content:

Basic Operations  
Patterns  
Formulas  
Measurement  
Ratio and Proportion  
Problem Solving

Number Theory  
Probability  
Algebraic Equations  
Geometry  
Integers and Real Numbers  
Coordinate Graphing



### M25 (8<sup>th</sup> grade) – Course Content:

Integers  
Linear Equations  
Inequalities  
Factoring  
Exponents and Powers  
Basics of Geometry  
Circles  
Coordinate Geometry  
Probability & Statistics

Variables  
Formulas  
Polynomials  
Quadratic Equations  
Radicals  
Pythagorean Theorem  
Ratio and Proportion  
Problem Solving

### Algebra 1 Advanced – Course Content:

Variables  
Rate Applications  
Polynomials  
Quadratic Equations  
Projectile Motion  
Rational Expressions  
Functions  
Problem Solving

Linear Equations  
Matrix Algebra  
Factoring  
Inequalities  
Coordinate Geometry  
Irrational Expressions  
Preview of Geometry

### Geometry Advanced - Course Content:

Study of the postulational system and development of formal proof through topics such as:  
Congruence  
Perpendicularity  
Circles and Spheres

Parallelism  
Properties of Polygons  
Lines and Planes

The goals throughout the math curriculum are for students to value mathematics, to become confident in their abilities, to become problem solvers, and have the ability to reason and apply mathematics to real life situations.

## **Math Placement**

Appropriate placement in math classes is based on several pieces of information which include:

A. CSAP/TCAP category scores (Advanced, Proficient, Partially Proficient, Unsatisfactory); B. Teacher recommendation; C. Class Grades/Assessments; D. CSAP Growth Scores; E. Advancement work (summer work packets); F. Placement test scores.

The Monarch K-8 mathematics department strives to make sure students are appropriately challenged in their math classes yet making sure students are covering all math topics they will be presented with on district and state assessments. Discussions about advancing students are encouraged. Please contact the student's current math teacher for more information and advice.

## **MIDDLE LEVEL PE PHILOSOPHY**

Physical Education is an education process that focuses on increasing one's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors relative to physical activity.

We believe that physical education is an essential part of the school curriculum for boys and girls at all ages, grades, and developmental levels. It is not only intrinsically important, but it supports and complements instruction in the other curricular areas. PE helps to teach students how to move efficiently and effectively, how to benefit from the effects with the regularity of vigorous movement, which is essential for a healthful lifestyle. Physical Education is an essential part in complementing a student's total educational experience.

Physical Education also provides a number of important benefits which improve the overall health of our students. Physical benefits include: improved physical fitness, an active lifestyle, reduced risk of many diseases, stronger/healthier bones, and an increased ability that helps the entire body to function more efficiently. The mental benefits include: improved academic performance, increased interest in learning, improved judgment, greater self-discipline, and the desire to set and meet goals. There are psychological and social benefits as well. These include increased levels of self-confidence and self-esteem, a reduction of stress, having an appropriate outlet for stress, and positive peer relations. Physical activity also reduces the risk of depression, and helps to promote a healthier lifestyle.

We at Monarch K-8 are committed to creating a positive environment in which all students are able to find success. Our students are involved in a variety of activities that promote growth in all areas for a healthy educational program.