



# Junior High 2025-2026

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## 6th Grade English Language Arts [Back to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### Description:

This course provides an overview in reading/comprehension of various genres including fiction and non-fiction. Students read the novel *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen and analyze the main character's development. Various activities emphasize informative and fiction writing, including planning, research, use of organizers, drafting, revision, and editing. Instruction also includes grammar basics and mechanics such as combining sentences and using correct punctuation. Analytical exercises consist of comparing genres, evaluating media, and identifying and using persuasion. Additionally, students practice necessary life skills such as communication and presentation, reflecting on the importance of collaboration in teamwork.

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## 6th Grade Health [Back to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### Description:

In 6th grade Health, students are encouraged to continue good health practices learned at home. These practices include hygiene, nutrition, medical and dental care, and personal health choices. Coverage is given to sorting through information to make choices among health products. Attention is given to navigating social pressures, puberty, and reproductive processes. Students are given the opportunity to refine their critical thinking skills by evaluating the consequences of their decisions and actions. They are guided to understand that their decisions have consequences not only to themselves, their friends and families, but also to the community at large. By learning to find and evaluate health materials and understand the consequences of their actions, students are being equipped to make good choices and ensure good health throughout their lives.

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## 6th Grade Mathematics [Back to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### Description:

6th Grade Mathematics has a primary focus in the area of numbers and their operations, proportionality, expressions and equations, geometry, measurements, and statistics. Students are exposed to concepts, including fractions, decimal operations, and ratios. They learn and practice the geometric principles of area and volume. In algebra, students learn to balance equations, solve inequalities, and perform functions. Students are also taught and given the opportunity to practice statistical representations and interpretation of data. Further topics on financial literacy are also covered in this course.

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## 6th Grade Science [Back to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### Description:

6th Grade Science is an integrated course surveying essential concepts in physics, geology, chemistry, astronomy, and biology. Students will investigate elements and compounds while learning the basics of chemistry. Students will examine different forms of energy and the laws of motion. An investigation of the structure of the earth will precede a study of the characteristics and properties of rocks, minerals, and fossils. A study of astronomy, including galaxies, stars, and the solar system will provide a context in which students will consider the history and future of space exploration. The course concludes with an inquiry into cells, classification, and ecology. Throughout the course, there are lab investigations, including video labs, to reinforce science concepts and skills.

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## 6th Grade World Cultures [Back to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### Description:

The World Cultures course seeks to expand the knowledge of students beyond their local community to appreciate the diversity of the world at large. The course begins with a survey of ancient civilizations and the development of the Middle East's three major religions. In unit 2, students will study the classical foundations of Western civilization and survey European nations. Unit 3 surveys American history, culture, and the role of citizens. The remainder of the course takes students on a whirlwind tour of dozens of many nations around the world, exploring the history, geography, governmental systems, customs, and cuisine of each.

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## 7th Grade English Language Arts [Back to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### Description:

In this course, students will learn and apply new skills in reading, writing, and oral communication. Students will consider the importance of establishing a purpose in reading and identifying themes. Reading assignments include short stories, myths, legends, true stories, and expository texts. Students will read and critique the historical novel *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. Students will plan, draft, revise, proofread, edit, and publish a fictional narrative and an expository essay. Students will research reliable sources in order to create a research essay and accompanying multimedia presentation. Exploring the poetic devices of sensory and figurative language, students will create a poem of their own. Students will develop oral communication skills by preparing and presenting persuasive and instructional speeches. The course finishes with an investigation of communication in teamwork and collaboration.

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## 7th Grade Mathematics [Back to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### Description:

This course reviews many concepts of mathematics, and it introduces new concepts of graphing and financial information. Students work with sets and subsets, rational and irrational numbers, and exponents. Other topics include order of operations, additive inverses, and a thorough treatment of decimals. Algebraic concepts include ratios, rates, proportions, equations, and inequalities. Geometry concepts include triangles, circles, and circumferences. Students are taught graphing concepts such as plotting in different forms. Probability is covered, as well as financial topics, including interest, taxes, and budgeting.

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## 7th Grade Science [Back to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### Description:

In 7th Grade Science, students explore our world and beyond. Students begin their study in the physical sciences with a survey of matter and the basics of atomic theory. In this integrated science course, students learn how forces, motion, and energy change the earth and affect the environment before beginning an examination of outer space. Learners discover the earth's uniqueness as they survey the characteristics of stars, galaxies, and objects found in our solar system. Students transition to life science with an investigation of cells and genetics that leads to a survey of the major human body systems. A study of the plant and animal kingdoms progresses into a study of ecosystems. The course concludes with a focused examination of aquatic ecosystems including watersheds, aquifers, surface water, and the oceans.

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## 7th Grade Ancient World History [Back to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### Description:

This course introduces students to basic geography of the continents, including boundaries, rivers, and landforms. Students are introduced to the early history of people groups, including civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China, and the foundations of western civilization: ancient Greece and Rome. The languages, art, literature, societies, and way of life of these cultures are covered. The rise and fall of world kingdoms is discussed, ending with the fall of Rome in 476. Further studies into subsequent civilizations include the Byzantine Empire, rise of nations, and events in the world through the Renaissance and Reformation. Information is presented concerning the rise of many different world cultures.

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## **7th & 8th Grade Health** [Back to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course is designed to give middle school students the information they need to have health for a lifetime. This includes how to make good decisions about health. Issues covered include eating disorders, stress-related emotional disorders, coping with stress, peer pressure, relationships, as well as use and misuse of prescription, illegal, and OCT drugs. Adolescence and puberty are presented. The course also presents safety and first aid, including first on-scene responses such as CPR, choking rescue, and use of an AED. Students are given instruction on avoiding danger, abuse, and violence. This discussion includes information about gangs and weapons. Students are given tools to enhance their own social skills and improve their outlook for personal and community health. They are taught the importance of respect for themselves and others, including preventing bullying behavior. Students are exposed to long-term strategies and goal setting, as well as career information and outlooks in health-related industries.

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## **8th Grade English Language Arts** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course expands students' reading horizons and communication skills. Students explore narrative, epic, lyric, and free verse poetry to develop appreciation for the structure and sound of literature. Reading assignments include O. Henry's "A Retrieved Reformation," Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, and William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker*. Writing projects include a personal narrative, a procedural text, and a multimedia research presentation. Students learn to evaluate bias in media, present persuasive speeches, participate in debates, and practice formal and informal speaking and listening.

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## **8th Grade Mathematics** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course emphasizes applying mathematics to real-life situations, building problem-solving skills in expressions, equations, proportions, geometry, and measurements. Students learn graphing, data interpretation, and financial literacy concepts such as budgeting and personal finance. It ensures mastery of basic skills needed for high school mathematics.

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## **8th Grade Math STAAR® Study Guide** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

The STAAR® study guide provides a comprehensive review of TEKS-tested topics. It includes summaries, practice problems, and three practice tests with detailed answers. Each question is tied to the appropriate TEKS, enabling students to focus on areas needing improvement and practice test-taking strategies.

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## **8th Grade Science (3rd Edition)** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course surveys physical, life, and earth sciences. Students study matter, energy, forces, ecosystems, genetics, and the human body systems. Earth science topics include the atmosphere, weather, water cycles, and geological processes. Students also investigate astronomy, space exploration, and the impact of human activity on the environment. Laboratory and hands-on experiments reinforce concepts and scientific thinking. (brightthinker.com)

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## **8th Grade Science STAAR®** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course provides a comprehensive review aligned to Texas STAAR® Science standards. Students practice critical thinking and problem-solving through TEKS-aligned questions. Includes multiple practice tests, answer keys, and strategies for mastering scientific reasoning, inquiry, and analysis tested on the 8th grade STAAR® Science exam. (brightthinker.com)

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## **8th Grade United States History** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

Students explore U.S. history from the pre-Colonial era to the present. Major topics include founding documents, the American Revolution, the Constitution, westward expansion, civil war, Reconstruction, industrialization, World Wars, civil rights, and modern U.S. history. Students analyze historical sources, evaluate cause-and-effect relationships, and learn to interpret historical data. (brightthinker.com)

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## **8th Grade United States History STAAR®** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

A study guide and review for the Texas STAAR® U.S. History exam. Includes summaries of TEKS standards, practice questions, and three full-length practice tests. Provides detailed answer explanations, strategies for test-taking, and guidance on focusing study efforts on key historical topics.

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## **8th Grade Art** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course introduces students to various artistic techniques and mediums. Students will explore elements such as line, shape, form, space, texture, and color, applying them in creative projects. The curriculum includes studying famous artists and art history to understand different styles and movements. Students will create their own artworks, developing both technical skills and personal expression.

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## **8th Grade Music** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course provides an introduction to music theory, including rhythm, melody, harmony, and dynamics. Students will learn about different musical genres, instruments, and the history of music. The curriculum includes listening exercises, basic music composition, and opportunities for performance. Students will develop an appreciation for music and its cultural significance.

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## **8th Grade Theater** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course explores the fundamentals of theater, including acting, improvisation, and stagecraft. Students will study dramatic literature and participate in scene work to develop performance skills. The curriculum emphasizes creativity, collaboration, and communication. Students will have opportunities to perform in front of an audience, building confidence and stage presence.

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## **8th Grade College & Career Exploration** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course helps students explore various career options and understand the educational requirements for different professions. Students will assess their interests and skills, research potential careers, and set personal and academic goals. The curriculum includes lessons on resume writing, interview techniques, and workplace etiquette, preparing students for future career planning.

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## **8th Grade Investigating Careers** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course provides an in-depth look at various career fields, including healthcare, technology, business, and the arts. Students will learn about job responsibilities, required skills, and career pathways. The curriculum includes guest speakers, virtual job shadowing, and projects that simulate real-world work experiences. Students will develop a better understanding of the workforce and how to pursue their career interests.

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## **8th Grade Reading Comprehension, Part 1** [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

This course focuses on developing reading comprehension skills through the study of various texts, including fiction, non-fiction, and informational materials. Students will practice identifying main ideas, supporting details, and making inferences. The curriculum includes vocabulary development, summarization techniques, and critical thinking exercises to enhance understanding and retention of reading materials.

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## 8th Grade Reading Comprehension, Part 2 [Back to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade](#)

### **Description:**

Building upon the skills developed in Part 1, this course delves deeper into advanced reading comprehension strategies. Students will analyze complex texts, evaluate arguments, and synthesize information from multiple sources. The curriculum includes lessons on literary analysis, understanding tone and perspective, and developing written responses to reading materials. Students will enhance their ability to interpret and critique diverse texts.

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