8th Grade

Traditional Coursework

**Language Arts 3**
- Grade 8
- Year

The eighth grade language arts curriculum consists of reading, composition, speech, media literacy, literature, and vocabulary development. Students will read a variety of genres (short stories, novels, drama, poetry, nonfiction) for content and meaning while practicing reading strategies. Students will enhance their writing skills through argumentative and informative/expository writing, producing a variety of finished products, including poems, summaries, reviews, and essays. Students will be expected to recognize occasion, audience, and purpose when speaking formally and informally.

**Advanced Language Arts 3**
- Grade 8
- Year

The advanced language arts curriculum in eighth grade is designed to move at a rigorous pace. Vocabulary is enhanced through analogies and writing usage. Students will read a variety of genres (short stories, novels, drama, poetry, nonfiction) for content and meaning while practicing reading strategies. Research will be conducted on the background of the poetry and literature to study, analyze, and interpret these works. Students will enhance their writing skills through argumentative and informative/expository writing, producing a variety of finished products, including poems, summaries, reviews, and essays. Essays will be critiqued based on criteria learned throughout the semester.

**Mathematics 3 - Pre-Algebra**
- Grade 8
- Year

Students will analyze and represent linear functions and solve linear equations and systems of equations. Analyze two and three dimensional figures by using distance and angle relationships. Analyze and summarize data sets including box and whisker plots, scatter plots and lines of best fit. Compare, contrast and convert between customary and metric systems. Solve one and two step inequalities with one variable. Perform operations on real numbers using multi-step and real world problems.

**Algebra I**
- 1 High School Credit
- Grade 8
- Year

Prerequisite: 7th grade advanced

This course is designed to provide the foundation for future secondary mathematics courses and develop skills needed to solve mathematical problems. Topics shall include, but are not limited to, functions, linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, polynomials, operations with rational expressions, solving rational equations and characteristics of quadratic graphs.

**Algebra I Honors**
- 1 Weighted High School Credit
- Grade 8
- Year

Prerequisite: 7th grade advanced

This course includes a rigorous, in-depth study of all of the topics included in Algebra I, as well as absolute value equations and inequalities, operations with rational expressions, solving rational equations and characteristics of quadratic graphs.

**Geometry Honors**
- 1 Weighted High School Credit
- Grade 8
- Year

Prerequisite: Algebra I Honors

This course includes a rigorous, in-depth study of all of the practical applications of geometric skills and concepts in the real world, as well as, but not limited to, truth tables, vectors, Fibonacci sequence, coordinate geometry proofs, proofs involving circles and problems involving cross sections of solids.

**Physical Science**
- Grade 8
- Year

Safety skills and the use of the scientific method and metric system are utilized to further students' knowledge of science. The content area for the eighth grade focuses on an introduction to chemistry and physics. Chemistry topics include properties of matter, changes of matter (e.g., physical and chemical), and the atomic model of matter. Physics topics include forces (e.g., magnetic, electrical, gravitational), energy (e.g., thermal, kinetic, potential), motion, light, and sound. Laboratory activities and safe laboratory techniques are an essential part of the course. Projects are used to further the students' understanding of the key concepts.

**Physical Science Advanced**
- Grade 8
- Year

This course is designed to provide an introduction to chemistry and physics. Chemistry topics include properties of matter, changes of matter (e.g., physical and chemical) and the atomic model of matter. Physics topics include forces (e.g., magnetic, electrical, gravitational), energy (e.g., thermal, kinetic, potential), motion, light, and sound. An inquiry approach is used to explore principles of physics and chemistry. Critical thinking skills and higher mathematics skills are used extensively. Emphasis is placed on the use of the scientific method to solve problems and understand natural phenomena. Laboratory activities and safe laboratory techniques are an essential component of this course.

**Note:** Enrollment in eighth grade advanced science is open to any student. Some indicators of student success are FSA Mathematics and Reading Scores, and related Reading scores, performance in previous science courses, and teacher recommendation. Student motivation, commitment to hard work, and interest are important factors in a student’s success.

**United States History**
- Grade 8
- Year

Primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of American history from the Exploration and Colonization period to the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States and the resulting impact on world history.
United States History Advanced  Grade 8  Year
Primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of American history from the Exploration and Colonization period to the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States and the resulting impact on world history. Advanced courses offer scaffolded learning opportunities for students to develop the critical skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation in a more rigorous and reflective academic setting. Students are empowered to perform at higher levels as they engage in the following: analyzing historical documents and supplementary readings, working in the context of thematically categorized information, becoming proficient in note-taking, emphasizing free-response and document-based writing, contrasting opposing viewpoints, solving problems, etc. Students will develop and demonstrate their skills through participation in an extended research-based paper/project (e.g., History Fair Project, participatory citizenship project, mock congressional hearing, or other teacher-directed projects). Note: This course is designed to prepare students for Honors and/or Advanced Social Studies course work in High School.

8th Grade
Seminole County Public Schools Pre-IB Prep Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Pre-IB Prep Language Arts</td>
<td>Grade 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eighth grade SCPS Pre-IB Prep Language Arts emphasizes critical thinking and theme-based activities which include work in reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Emphasis is placed on interpretation and critical analysis. In literature and viewing, students consider the writer’s or speaker’s background including possible biases as part of their own growing ability to understand and interpret the written and spoken word. In writing, students move beyond formulaic models as they advance their writing skills. Students participate in formative assessments, both individually and as group members. Students will also complete an extended essay on a topic of their choice.</td>
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<td>Algebra I Honors</td>
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<td>Prerequisite 7th grade advanced math</td>
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<td>Pre-IB Prep Advanced Science</td>
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<td>The SCPS Pre-IB science curriculum builds on the skills and content studied in the seventh grade SCPS Pre-IB class and provides for the basis for material studied in the high school IB program. Safety skills and the use of the scientific method and metric system are utilized to further students' knowledge of science. Laboratory activities and safe laboratory techniques are an essential part of the course. Projects are used to further the students' understanding of the key concepts. Critical thinking skills and higher mathematics skills are used extensively. Students will be required to participate in a variety of projects that promote research skills, scientific design, experimental procedures, writing, and forming conclusions based upon data collection. This course is a hands-on, accelerated comprehensive science course designed to challenge students.</td>
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<td>Environmental Science Honors</td>
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<td>This course is designed as an interdisciplinary course to provide students with scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to identify and analyze environmental problems and to evaluate risks and alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Laboratory investigations that include the use of scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem solving, laboratory apparatus and technologies, experimental procedures, and safety procedures are an integral part of this course.</td>
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<td>Pre-IB Prep American History Advanced</td>
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<td>This course is designed for the highly motivated student who wishes to pursue the International Baccalaureate Program or Advanced Placement courses in high school. Students will explore the events of U.S. history using documents, images, cartoons and other primary sources along with secondary text. With a more rigorous focus on document based inquiry, the students will examine and analyze the political, economic, technological and social developments of the United States from the period of colonial settlement through Reconstruction. Florida’s role in our nation’s history will also be emphasized. Instruction will focus on students developing an understanding of themes in U.S. History including the impact of expansion, the development of conflicts, the influence of diverse groups on American culture and the impact of world events on American thinking. Instructional strategies that support the rigor, reading and writing of IB and Advanced Placement course work will be emphasized. These include: College Board reading strategies (APPARTS, OPTIC, SOAPSTone, etc.); Structured note-taking, including Cornell notes; The DBQ Project, and analysis of significant historical documents, along with historical writing; Extended research based project (e.g. History Fair project, Mock Trial, etc.). This course is specifically aimed at preparing students for International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement Social Studies courses in High School. Students who successfully complete the SCPS Pre-IB Preparatory Program have a program link to Seminole High School IB. The student is required to submit an application during the application period and return the response form on time to guarantee assignment.</td>
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<td>Pre-IB Prep Spanish I</td>
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<td>The purpose of this course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through linguistic, communicative and cultural approaches to language learning. Reading and writing will be introduced and basic grammar structures explained. Students will be introduced to the culture and customs of various Spanish-speaking countries. This course is the same course that is taught in the Pre-IB program at Seminole High School. Students will earn high school credit upon successful completion of the course. This is a yearlong course. Students are required to successfully complete semester examinations at the end of each semester.</td>
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