

LEARNING & LEADING IN THE 8TH GRADE



A Note From Dr. Stacy

Our goal at Beechwood is to foster a positive relationship between all members of the school community, including staff, students, parents, and guardians. We recognize that schools cannot improve student achievement and maximize growth alone; families play a significant role in their children's education. Simply put, students are more successful in school and life when their families are engaged in their educational journey. It is our goal that these documents increase the partnership, communication and understanding between home and school.

This is an overview of your child's educational year at Beechwood. We have addressed both specific content expectations and nontraditional concepts like wellness, leadership and creativity. Growth as a leader and learner is more complex than reading and math alone. To be globally competitive, our children need exposure to new content, problem solving, business engagement, leadership opportunities, and more. Please review the document to see what your student will be expected to know and do by the end of their academic year.

If and when you have questions, please reach out to your teacher and/or administrator. Anyone of us would be more than happy to discuss the specifics of this document or help you answer any questions you might have about your child's academic progress. We are all partners in their educational and leadership journey.

The Beechwood Way

No matter how much technology, culture, and society around the world changes, the high expectations for Learners at Beechwood will never change. We teach your children to think critically and creatively, be resilient, and to be fearless so that they can adapt to that changing world landscape. Some of the ways we support Learners:

■ Wellness

We understand that physical and mental health is important to learning

■ Personalized Support Services

All students succeed when their individual needs are met

■ Writing

Effective writing is an essential component of communication

In order to further prepare your children for a changing world, we give them a number of Leadership opportunities. We teach your children the qualities and habits of a Leader- Strategic Thinking, Decision Making, Intrapersonal Communication, and Time Management. Since leadership takes many forms, we want your children to confidently use their skills to lead. Some ways that we support Leaders:

■ Field Experiences

Experiences that are aligned to give students opportunities to observe and experience varied leadership

■ Leadership

Support students in defining their individual leadership skills

■ Community Engagement

We share our learning with the community and grow from the exchange

The world has become smaller and closer all at the same time. In order to be successful in that environment, your children need to be Globally Competitive. Through a series of courses and experiences students refine their translatable skills to compete with students across the globe. Some of the ways we support Globally Competitive students:

■ Electives

Courses that enhance the student experience and deepen understanding of a specific topic

■ Research

Using skills to review, analyze, and develop a product that addresses a question or problem

8TH GRADE EXPERIENCES



Learners

We understand that physical and mental health is important to learning. In Grade 8, your child will experience: Social Emotional Learning Curriculum, counselor classroom visits, Wellness Club,

Annual Assembly Cycle (bully prevention, substance abuse, & digital citizenship), Suicide Prevention Assembly, and use of the Tiger Tipline.

All students succeed when their individual needs are met. In Grade 8, your child will have the opportunity to experience advanced classes in math and science, Gifted services, English & Math Lab classes, Study Skills classes, Individualized Learning Plans, Minors Advisory Week, and scheduling meetings.



Leadership

Experiences that are aligned to give students opportunities to observe and experience varied leadership opportunities.

In Grade 8, your child will have the opportunity for laboratory experiences in science, case studies, simulations, dissections, and guest speakers.

We support students in defining their individual leadership skills. In Grade 8, your child will have the opportunity to participate in Kentucky United Nations Assembly (KUNA), Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP), National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), and Student Council Advisory.

We share our learning with the community and grow from the exchange.

In Grade 8, your child will have the opportunity to solve a challenge for a business partner through Seminar and join Tigers Who Care.



Globally Competitive

We offer courses that enhance the student experience and deepen understanding of a specific topic. In Grade 8, your child

has the opportunity to take physical education, band, chorus, speech and debate, world languages, General Art, FACS Essentials (Life Skills), and Digital Literacy.

We use skills to review, analyze, and develop a product that addresses a question or problem.

LANGUAGE ARTS



Beechwood learners will read widely and deeply from a broad range of high quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational print and non-print texts and text sets from diverse cultures, time periods and disciplines, including all content areas. Through intentional scaffolding in which responsibility is gradually released, students will learn to activate schema, use cognitive strategies flexibly, acquire rich content knowledge and develop into independent and proficient lifelong learners. Learners will demonstrate competency of these standards in the context of authentic reading, writing, speaking and listening tasks.

Grade 8 learning will include, but is not limited to:

Literary and Informational Reading

- Cite the strongest evidence to support analysis of a text, themes and their development over a text, & analyze how elements of a story advance the plot or develop characters
- Analyze tone and meaning, compare/contrast text structures, and determine an author's perspective and purpose. Analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints
- Analyze the extent to which a filmed/live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating choices made by the director or actors. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using print and non-print formats for presenting particular topics or ideas
- Analyze a modern text and how it draws on literature from the past to create a new version
- Identify and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient. Analyze two or more texts with conflicting information on the same topic

Writing

- Compose ARGUMENTS to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
- Compose INFORMATIVE AND/OR EXPLANATORY TEXTS to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts and information through the selection, organization and analysis of relevant content
- Use NARRATIVES strategically in other modes of writing, utilizing effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured sequences for the intended purpose
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience
- With some guidance, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed

Language

- Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives). Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice to achieve particular effects; Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood; Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood
- Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break; Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission
- Interpret figures of speech in context; Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words; Distinguish among the connotations of words with similar definitions

MATH

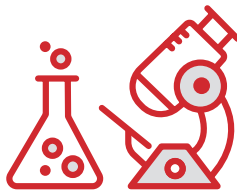


Beechwood learners will make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, model with mathematics, use appropriate tools strategically, attend to precision, look for and make use of structure, look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Grade 8 learning will include, but is not limited to:

- Irrational numbers and fractions, multi-step equations with radicals and exponents, graphing equations, slope, properties of numbers with interpretation of solutions, systems of linear equations, functions, transformations, Pythagorean Theorem, volume, probability and statistics

SCIENCE



Beechwood learners will ask questions and define problems, develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, use mathematical and computational thinking, construct explanations and define solutions, engage in argument from evidence, obtain, evaluate and communicate information and use scientific equipment safely.

Grade 8 learning will include, but is not limited to:

- **LIFE SCIENCE:** Living organisms, cells, cell cycle, heredity and genetics, ecology, evolution and taxonomy

SOCIAL STUDIES

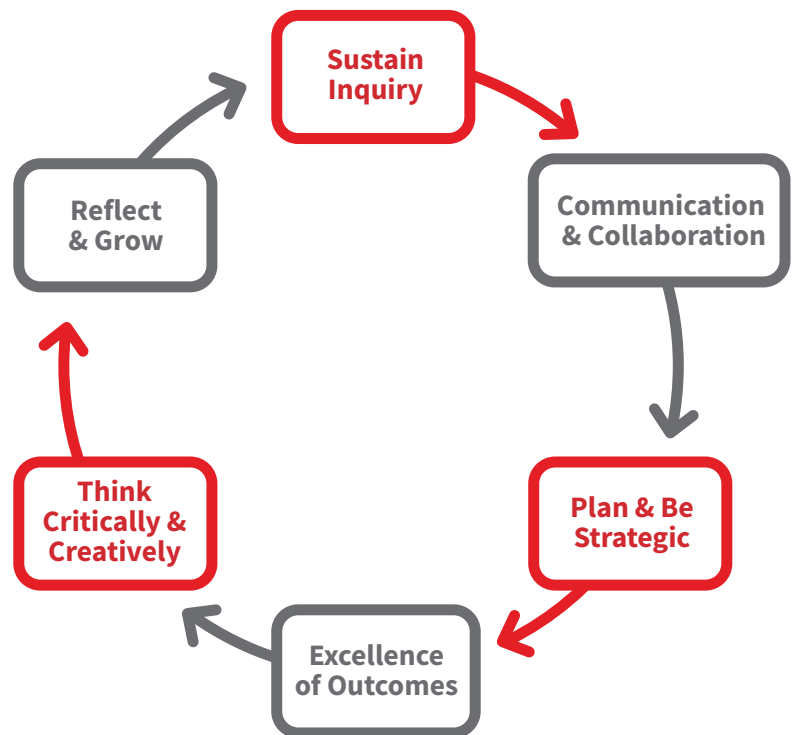


Beechwood learners will use the standards to explore the relationships and interactions among individuals and groups at local, state, national and international levels through the disciplines of civics, economics, geography and history and the inquiry practices of questioning, investigating, using evidence and communicating conclusions.

Grade 8 learning will include, but is not limited to:

- **UNITED STATES HISTORY (1600-1877):** The founding and development of the United States in the Colonial Era, Revolutionary Period, Early Republic, Westward Expansion, Civil War and Reconstruction
- The role of citizens in the U.S. political system, how regions of the United States specialized based on supply and demand due to their geographic locations, how global interconnections impacted culture, land use and trade, and the role of changing political, social and economic perspectives had on the lives of diverse groups of people

SEMINAR CORE CONCEPTS



8th Grade Seminar

Seminar in 8th grade takes the Seminar Core Concepts and applies them to a year-long study of multiple career fields. This study takes place using the same Seminar Challenge Process developed in 7th grade and the career topics mirror the Minors that students have an opportunity to take in High School. The idea of 8th grade Seminar is to give students an experience with each career field and allow them to work with a community partner to learn side-by-side with them so that they may choose an area or areas of specialization once they enroll in 9th grade. The year culminates with a project based on their 9th grade Minor choice.

Seminar Minor Focus

1. Biomedical
2. Computer Science
3. Engineering
4. Fine Arts
5. Culinary
6. Media Arts
7. Performing Arts
8. Entrepreneurship (coming soon)

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