



# HILLIARD COMSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

### **Advisory Class Starts the Day**

We start each day with a 13 minute advisory class with your student's 1<sup>st</sup> period teacher. The Advisory class gives students instruction in strategies to be successful in school based on our mottos of Respect, Responsibility and Safety. Each Friday, students have time to self-reflect on their work for the week, and get organized for the upcoming week.

### **Math**

**Each course is designed to support student's ability to access Algebra in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grades. Class-work using state adopted texts; online support via ALEKS and after school tutoring are provided.**

#### **Areas that are covered include**

- Numbers and Operations: Rational and Real Numbers
- Patterns, Relationships & Algebraic Thinking
- Geometry & Measurement
- Algebraic Thinking: Linear & Nonlinear Functions
- Statistics, Data Analysis & Probability

**Text:** *Glencoe's California Pre-Algebra Math*

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra:** Prepares students for the rigors of Algebra in either the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grades

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra Readiness:** Continues support for Algebra in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra:** some students are ready to tackle Algebra in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.

### **English : 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **California State Standards Addressed:**

- Speaking Strategies
- Word Analysis
- Fluency
- Systematic Vocabulary Development
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing Strategies
- Listening
- Written and Oral Language Conventions (Sentence Structure, Grammar, Punctuation, Capitalization, Spelling)

Students will work with the Prentice Hall Anthology, following the course pacing guide developed by the English Department. The course is a reading/language arts course designed to provide the instruction and strategies needed for students to be successful with the California State Standards for English/Language Arts. This class will teach essential skills and content so that students may improve their abilities to read, write, listen, and speak academic English, Students are encouraged to read 30 minutes daily in their self-selected reading book. The course will also incorporate Study Island as technological instruction in numerous content area standards.

#### **Texts:**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes: Bronze Level*
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes: Silver Level 2002*
- *Language!* For Intensive English Classes
- Selection Support: Sills Development Workbook
- Reader's Companion Workbook
- Independent Reading book & Accelerated Reader/Study Island Online support

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### **Science**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Life Science**

The California State Standards for Seventh Grade Science are studied, specifically Cell Biology, Genetics, Evolution, Earth and Life History, Structure & Function of Living Systems, Physical Principles in Living Systems and Investigation & Experimentation.

#### **Texts:**

- CPO: *Focus on Life Science*
- Labs

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science**

The California State Standards for Seventh Grade Science are studied, specifically: Motion & Forces, Structure of Matter, Earth in the Solar System, Chemical Reactions, Chemistry of Living Systems, Atomic Model & Periodic Table, Density & Buoyancy, Investigation & Experimentation.

#### **Texts:**

- CPO: *Focus on Physical Science*
- Labs

### **History**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade: World History**

The study of several societies, kingdoms, and empires from around the world, beginning with the rise of Rome and concluding with the age of Enlightenment. Students will investigate the interactions of culture, trade, scholarship, philosophy, religion, and conquest.

The end result will be the study of the Enlightenment. During this period, people came to understand that the natural state of man is one of freedom; thus all people are entitled to self-government and such governments must protect the inalienable rights of its people. These concepts are the foundations of the 8th grade US History curriculum.

#### **Texts:**

- *McDougal little: World History Medieval & Early Modern*
- TCI Interactive Activities
- Primary Sources

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade: U.S. History**

The study of the United States will start with the discoveries of America and the establishment of the 13 British-American colonies. The course continues through Revolution and the founding of the Republic, then takes a comprehensive look at the Constitution and US government. Next, students explore the growth of the nation through the first Presidencies, the industrial revolution, immigration, a rapidly changing society, manifest destiny, and sectionalism. Then the course will take an intense look at Slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction.

#### **Texts:**

- *McDougal Little: Creating America*
- TCI Interactive Activities
- Primary Sources

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### **Physical/Health Education: 7 & 8 Grade**

Physical education significantly contributes to students' well-being; therefore, it is an instructional priority for California schools and an integral part of our students' educational experience. High-quality physical education instruction contributes to good health, develops fundamental and advanced motor skills, improves students' self-confidence, and provides opportunities for increased levels of physical fitness that are associated with high academic achievement. The Physical Education Model Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve affirms the standing of physical education; rigor is essential to achievement, and participation is not the same as education. Mastering fundamental movement skills at an early age establishes a foundation that facilitates further motor skill acquisition and gives students increased capacity for a lifetime of successful and enjoyable physical activity experiences. Similarly, the patterns of physical activity acquired during childhood and adolescence are likely to be maintained throughout one's life span, providing physical, mental, and social benefits.

#### **Grading:**

3 minute warm-up/jog:	2 points per day
Stretching/Exercises:	2 points per day
Aerobic run:	2 points per day
Activity:	4 points per day

### **California State Standards for Grades 7 & 8**

- Students demonstrate the motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.
- Students demonstrate knowledge of movement concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activities.
- Students assess and maintain a level of physical fitness to improve health and performance.
- Students demonstrate knowledge of physical fitness concepts, principles, and strategies to improve health and performance.
- Students demonstrate and utilize knowledge of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activity.

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### Electives

#### **AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination):** **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only**

This course is designed to accelerate students towards more challenging classes and encourage college prep courses and activities once they get to high school. AVID has a proven record of bringing out the best in students by using discussion, study groups, tutors, study skills, critical thinking & inquiry and enrichment field trips. An application and interview are required for entrance into this course.

#### **Leadership**

This course is designed for those students who demonstrate leadership skills and would like to take part in planning events and programs. An application and teacher recommendations is required for entrance.

#### **Digital Storytelling/Film Making**

In this semester long elective, students will write, produce, pitch, direct, record, edit and share their own digital stories. Students will use both still and video cameras, lights, sound equipment, and computers. Students will work individually and in groups to produce video projects.

#### **Drama**

In this one semester exploratory course, students will learn acting techniques, vocal expressing, and group building skills. In addition, they will participate in acting exercises and games, perform scenes and participate in a small drama production.

### **Teen Living**

This course covers all aspects of home economics including sewing, nutrition, budgeting, child-care, family communication and cooking. The Teen Living program has an updated culinary arts classroom.

### **Art**

This course emphasizes the importance of art theories and technical skills which include working in different art mediums such as clay, painting, printmaking, drawing, etc. Projects are chosen that naturally connect art with other class subjects. Students work in 2-D focusing on composition.

### **NEW FOR JANUARY 2013:**

#### **Project Make**

The Project Make course is an outgrowth of the Maker movement associated with the work of Dale Dougherty of O'Reilly Media in Sebastopol, CA. The Maker movement is a growing worldwide collective of people of all ages and backgrounds who are using simple and complex equipment, materials and technologies to find solutions to real-world problems as well as communicating their ideas, processes and findings with one another through various media.

Project Make will provide a rich “making” environment, including access to diverse tools and materials from which students can develop and apply academic, aesthetic, technical and interpersonal skills by creating and building meaningful products appropriate to the middle school level.

*“Make things you use in your everyday life and you develop a relationship with and a connection to the things around you.” ~ Mark Frauenfelder, founder of BoingBoing and editor-in-chief of Make Magazine.*