

Eighth Grade Core Academic Orientation Guide



Lincoln Middle School

2017-2018

Dear Parents/Guardians and Eighth Grade Students:

Welcome to another school year at Lincoln Middle. In an effort to efficiently acquaint you with important information for the school year, we have compiled this booklet of information.

This booklet includes eighth grade expectations, needed supplies, and basic information regarding the core classes: history, reading, writing, science, and math.

Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions, comments, or concerns at any time during the school year.

We look forward to sharing in your eighth grade student's success during this school year at Lincoln Middle.

Sincerely,

Team 8 Core Teachers

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<u>SIGNATURE FORM</u> <i>[Mr. Olson will print off copies for students]</i>	
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Teacher Contact Information

Math:

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Science:

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History:

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Reading and Writing:

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Special Education:

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Supply List

General Supplies—All Classes

- 10 blue/black pens (NOT GEL PENS!!)
- 2 highlighters
- 24 pencils
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1-2 boxes of tissue (give to 1st hour teacher the first week of school)
- 2 packages of lined 3 x 5 note cards (100 ct.)
- 1 package white copy paper
- 1 set of ear buds

Math 8

- 1 green spiral notebook (wide)
- 1 green two-pocket folder
- 1 pad graph paper ($\frac{1}{4}$ in. or $\frac{1}{2}$ cm)
- 1 inexpensive calculator (Dollar Store)

Algebra 1

- 1 three-ring binder (1")
- 1 pack binder dividers
- 1 pad graph paper ($\frac{1}{4}$ in. or $\frac{1}{2}$ cm)
- 4 AAA batteries
- 1 inexpensive calculator (Dollar Store)
- 1 graphing calculator (optional)

Science

- 1 yellow spiral notebook (wide)
- 1 yellow two-pocket folder

History

- 1 red spiral notebook (wide)
- 1 red two-pocket folder

Reading and Writing

- 1 blue two-pocket folder
- 1 pack loose leaf paper (college-ruled)
- 1 package of Post-it notes (page marker type-4 colors) [optional]

8th Grade Daily Schedule

- 7:25 First Bell: Students may go to their lockers
7:35 School Start Bell: Classes begin

<u>Period</u>	<u>Length of Class</u>
1st Hour	7:35 - 8:32
2nd Hour	8:35 - 9:32
3rd Hour	9:35 - 10:32
4th Hour	does not exist because of longer class periods
5th Hour	10:35 - 11:12
6th Hour	11:15 - 12:12
7th Hour (lunch)	12:15 - 12:52
8th Hour	12:55 - 1:22
9th Hour	1:25 - 2:02
10th Hour	2:05 - 2:45

- 2:45 End of the School Day: Students are dismissed

Cell Phones and Other Devices

Cell phones and other hand-held devices must be kept in lockers at all times during the school day. All hand-held devices are also not allowed in the cafeteria, gyms, and playground during lunch. The only exception to this rule is if you have permission from a specific teacher to use your hand-held device in class for a specific purpose. All electronic classwork will be completed on iPads, so there will be no reason to bring other electronic devices to class.

iPads

Each eighth grade student will be responsible for his or her own iPad. More comprehensive rules and expectations for iPad care and use will be shared before school starts and when you pick up your School District of La Crosse-issued iPad.

Reading and Writing

Course Description: *Through eighth grade language arts, students are taught how to write, read, research, and think well. The hands-on approach of writing workshop is used to emphasize the importance of continual practice in writing. Students learn to analyze literary elements through reading of high quality literature. Students are also taught formal oral language skills.*

The classes will include the following:

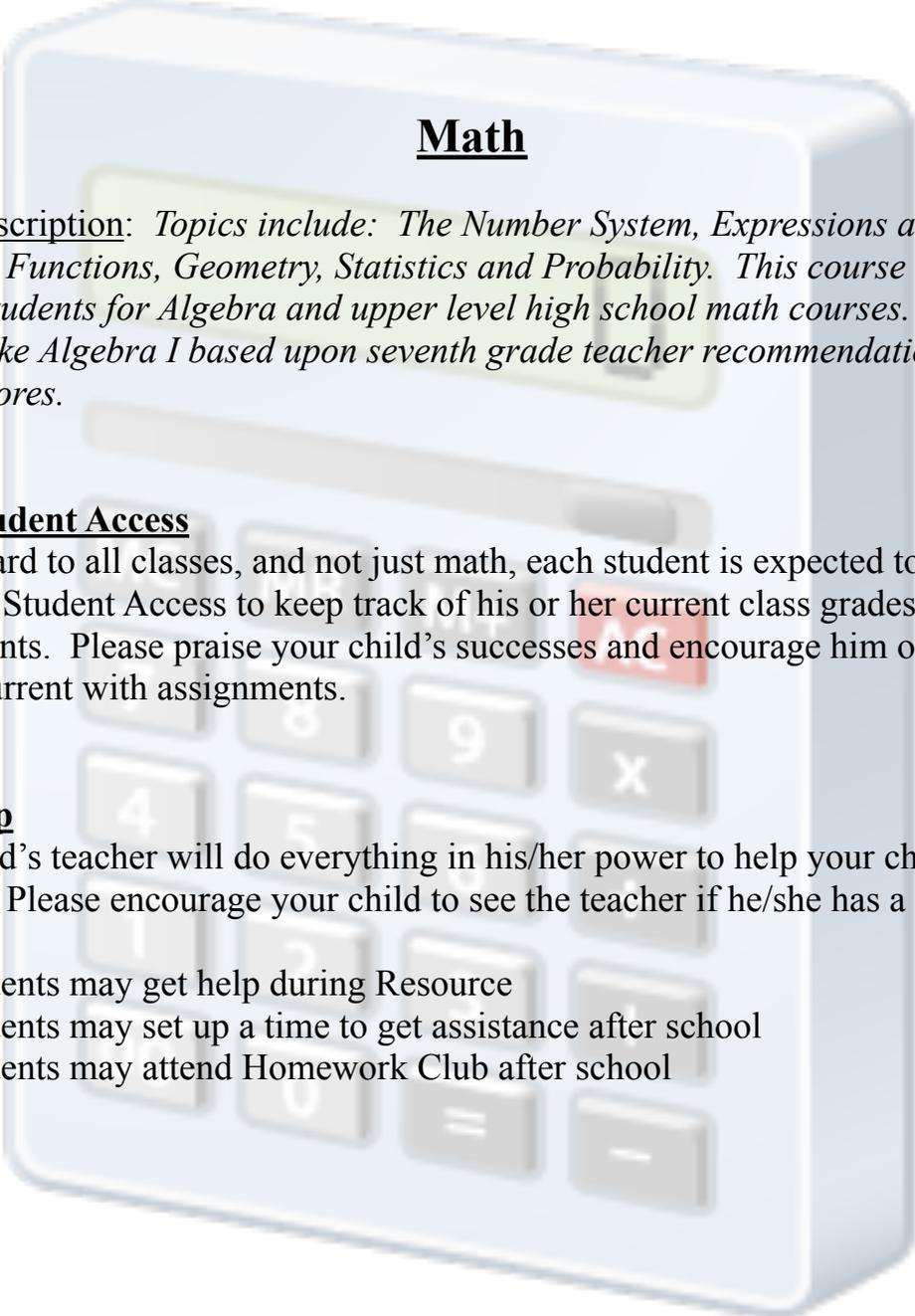
- Focus on learning to write at an analytical level
- Focus on four pillars of language arts: reading, writing, speaking, listening—all with a critical eye and ear
- Grammar taught both holistically and traditionally
- Formal individual speaking taught and practiced

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: You will learn the elements of certain literary genres (short stories, essays, drama, poems, etc.) and how to apply them to your own written works, using proper grammar and mechanics. You will employ reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in order to communicate effectively.

To reach these goals, you will:

- Apply the steps of the writing process, as well as the elements of a particular genre, to your own writing
- Give and receive constructive criticism in the process of self-evaluation
- Write clear, coherent and comprehensible sentences and paragraphs
- Identify grammatical errors and problems

Plagiarism: Any student who submits a paper in which whole or part has been written by someone else or which contains passages quoted or paraphrased from another's work without proper credit given (quotation marks, citation, etc.) has plagiarized. Early in the school year, students will be taught the definition of plagiarism, as well as how to properly site their sources. A student who has plagiarized will receive an automatic grade of zero points.



Math

Course Description: *Topics include: The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. This course prepares students for Algebra and upper level high school math courses. Some students take Algebra I based upon seventh grade teacher recommendations and test scores.*

Parent/Student Access

With regard to all classes, and not just math, each student is expected to use Skyward Student Access to keep track of his or her current class grades and assignments. Please praise your child's successes and encourage him or her to stay current with assignments.

Extra Help

Your child's teacher will do everything in his/her power to help your child succeed. Please encourage your child to see the teacher if he/she has a question.

- Students may get help during Resource
- Students may set up a time to get assistance after school
- Students may attend Homework Club after school

Earth Science

Course Description: *Earth science is the study of earth, its matter, features, processes, and places in the universe. The course covers the following topics: geology, astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, and hydrology. Students are also exposed to environmental issues and concerns.*

During the course of the school year, we will be studying the following major units related to Earth Science. Here is a brief explanation about each one:

- **Foundations of Earth Science** (*scientific method, lab safety*)
- **Geology** (*rocks and minerals, rock cycle, glaciers, caves*)
- **Earth's Internal Processes** (*earth's internal structure, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes*)
- **Geologic Time** (*fossils, extinction theories, dating methods, earth history*)
- **Astronomy** (*the moon, Earth's seasons, stars and galaxies*)
- **Hydrology** (*water cycle, underground water systems, watersheds, water quality, river and lake issues*)
- **Meteorology** (*earth's atmosphere, air pressure, weather conditions and mapping, climate zones*)
- **Oceanography** (*ocean locations, water circulation, ocean floor features, life in the ocean*)

Throughout the study of each of these topics, there will be a focus on the environment since it is important for eighth grade students to possess the knowledge of and appreciation for our planet. Science-related current events will be discussed everyday so your eighth grade student will be an informed citizen.

U.S. History

Course Description: *U.S. History covers the periods of early exploration to Reconstruction, with the emphasis on the early time periods. Today's society is studied through the learning of diversity and appreciation of differences.*

During eighth grade U.S. History, emphasis will be placed on the following areas: Exploration and Discovery, Colonization, The Declaration of Independence, The American Revolution, The U.S. Constitution, Expansion of the United States, Immigration, Industrialization, Civil War, and Reconstruction.

Course goals

- the development of student responsibility and work habits
- the promotion of the ability to problem solve
- the learning of the basics of U.S. History

Reading

There will be an emphasis on reading a variety of primary and secondary sources related to the studied content. Texts of various levels will be provided for students of all ability levels to read and comprehend.

50 States

Each student will be responsible for passing the 50 states test during the first semester, as well as knowing all the state capitals during the second semester.

Involvement in a variety of activities will occur throughout the school year, and the students will be learning information through many different avenues. Various teaching styles will be utilized including hands-on activities, field trips, guest speakers, lectures, group activities, differentiated instruction and projects, videos, research projects, discussions, debates, etc.

Eighth Grade Expectations

ATTENDANCE

Students must be in their seats when class is scheduled to start, or they will be marked tardy. Chronic student tardiness will be referred to the office.

Individual teachers may have additional consequences for tardiness. It is very important to be present and fulfill class responsibilities every day. In the event of an absence, students are required to ask his or her teachers about any missing work and complete it in a timely manner.

LATE WORK

Eighth grade teachers see homework as an important aspect of student growth and learning. Therefore, all homework is expected to be turned in on time. Homework will be accepted for full credit only on the due date. Eighth grade teachers understand that sometimes challenges arise with homework completion. In an effort to give students a break, each student will be given two homework passes per quarter which will allow him/her to turn in two assignments one day late without penalty. The student may choose to use these two homework passes in any of the four academic classes.

HOMEWORK CLUB

In order to assist all students with academic success, students are able to attend after-school homework club in the LMC Monday-Thursday from 2:45-3:45 and receive assistance from teachers.

KEEPING TRACK OF ASSIGNMENTS

All Lincoln students are responsible for keeping track of their daily and long-term assignments from each class on their district-issued iPads. Teachers reserve the right to check on assignments in student calendars at any time.

There will also be a google calendar for all students to view daily activities and assignments regarding their core classes. Here is a copy of the QR code to access this calendar:



Field Trips

The school administration has the following expectations regarding extra activities:

It is our intent to provide students with a variety of experiences during their middle school education. In this regard, every student will have opportunities to participate with varied groups (athletics, music, etc.) which will invariably necessitate their dismissal from regularly scheduled classes. In order to alleviate confusion, it is necessary that certain guidelines be established and adhered to by all people involved:

- Any student being dismissed will have the responsibility of notifying each of his/her teachers and obtaining information on make up work. This must be done at least two days in advance of the dismissal date. Students negligent in this responsibility will not be allowed to participate in the activity.
- Homework is the original due date as the rest of the class regarding absences for school-related “pre-planned” events.
- Teachers will give reasonable direction to the students concerning work to be completed or made up.

Field trips will take place periodically throughout the school year with relevance to various subject areas. It is our goal to have every student attend field trips and special events that take place both inside and outside of the school building. However, the principal reserves the right to exclude individuals from such activities if they demonstrate an inability to act accordingly in the classroom, either academically or behaviorally.

The eighth grade end-of-the-year field trip/event and the recognition ceremony/dance are planned and supervised by the eighth grade core teachers and administration. These events are rewards for good behavior, effort, and academic achievement throughout the eighth grade year. Therefore, students may not be able to participate in the end-of-the-year activities as determined by the recommendation of administration based in part on the following guidelines:

- failed classes for the year
- numerous office referrals throughout the school year
- numerous unexcused absences and/or tardies throughout the school year

Academic Grading Scale

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

The upper two numbers in each letter grade are plus (+)
The lower two numbers in each letter grade are minus (-)

Responsibility Grading Scale

	A	B	Needs Improvement
<u>Readiness:</u> Denotes that the student is ready to learn.	The student is prepared for class with required class materials and assignments.	The student is usually prepared for class with required class materials and assignments.	The student needs improvement in being better prepared for class with required class materials and assignments.
<u>Participation:</u> A measure of the student's engagement.	The student is engaged in classroom activities and discussions without being asked as evidenced by listening, contributing, and asking questions.	The student is usually engaged in classroom activities when asked as evidenced by listening, contributing, and asking questions.	The student needs to be engaged in classroom activities and discussions.
<u>Behavior:</u> A measure of adherence to classroom expectations.	The student follows classroom rules.	The student usually follows classroom rules.	The student needs to improve on following classroom rules.

School Work Expectations

To ensure that each student is evaluated only on the basis of his/her own efforts and products, the following expectations have been established for work in all Team 8 core classes:

School District Policy:

- Students have the responsibility to do school work to the best of their ability as assigned by their teachers so that it reflects the merit of their own thinking, skill, and material organization.
- Students have the responsibility of refraining from presenting school work as their own which is the result of cheating or plagiarism.
- Students have the responsibility of not allowing other students to use their school work for purposes of cheating.

No student will unjustly advance his or her own academic accomplishments through plagiarism or the copying of another classmate's work. Students understand that ANY information taken from ANY source, other than the student himself/herself, MUST be given proper credit. ANY combination of more than FIVE CONSECUTIVE WORDS from a document, INCLUDING Internet documents, will be considered plagiarism.

Students must understand the great value placed on honesty, cooperation, and consideration and the penalties that are imposed for violations of these qualities. Intellectual honesty is strongly promoted and expected. Those who plagiarize or copy written assignments will earn zero points on any copied work, including the person who allowed his/her work to be used by others. These students will also have to write a letter to their parents describing their actions. The school principal will also be made aware of the situation. If cheating becomes a chronic problem, the student(s) may encounter school detention and/or suspension.

In the few instances when students are dishonest, they will be given an extra writing assignment focusing on the topic of honesty and will need to further research the content within the subject area that was copied or plagiarized. This writing assignment will be completed under the supervision of the core teacher, who witnessed the dishonesty, outside of regular class time. The student will not be able to make up any work that earns a grade of zero points due to dishonesty.

Signature Form



Please **DETACH** only this page and return it to Mr. Olson (Room 203) by Friday, September 15, 2017.

I have read and understand the all of the information within this orientation guide, and was particularly careful to read the School Work Expectations and Eighth Grade Expectations set forth by the Team 8 core teachers. I realize the penalties for purposeful academic dishonesty imposed by the School Work Expectations.

_____ (CLEARLY PRINT Student's Name)

_____ (Student's Signature) _____ (Date)

My eighth grade student has shared this orientation guide with me, and I have read the information contained within it, particularly the School Work Expectations and the Eighth Grade Expectations set forth by the Team 8 core teachers.

_____ (Parent's/Guardian's Signature) _____ (Date)

Comments/Questions: _____

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COUGARS

