



8TH GRADE

GRADE LEVEL SNAPSHOT

This year in Berkeley Unified your student will learn to...

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Analyze how authors develop themes, characters, and points of view in complex texts.
- Evaluate arguments and claims in texts, citing textual evidence to support analysis.
- Write well-organized argumentative, informative, and narrative essays using appropriate tone and structure.
- Conduct short research projects that synthesize information from multiple credible sources.
- Demonstrate command of conventions, varied sentence structure, and academic vocabulary.



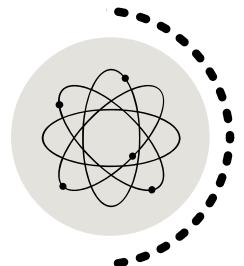
MATHEMATICS

- Analyze and solve linear equations, inequalities, and systems of equations.
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear functions.
- Work with irrational numbers, exponents, and scientific notation.
- Investigate transformations, congruence, and similarity in geometric figures.
- Apply the Pythagorean Theorem and solve volume problems involving cylinders, cones, and spheres.



SCIENCE

- Explore forces, motion, and interactions through Newton's Laws and real-world applications.
- Model the transfer of energy in systems and the cycling of matter in ecosystems.
- Analyze evidence for the age of Earth and the processes that shape its surface.
- Investigate natural selection, adaptation, and genetic variation in populations.
- Use scientific practices to design investigations, analyze data, and construct explanations.



SOCIAL STUDIES & ETHNIC STUDIES

- Study U.S. history from the founding of the nation through Reconstruction.
- Analyze the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the development of American democracy.
- Examine key events and movements including westward expansion, abolition, and the Civil War.
- Evaluate primary and secondary sources to understand historical perspectives and civic ideals.
- Connect historical events to contemporary issues and the responsibilities of citizenship.





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This year in Berkeley Unified your student will learn to...

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

- Perform music and create artworks that demonstrate technical proficiency and expressive intent.
- Compose and improvise using standard notation, form, and artistic principles.
- Analyze and critique works of art and music using historical and cultural context.
- Develop personal style and voice through sustained creative processes.
- Reflect on the role of the arts in individual identity, social commentary, and historical change.



INFORMATION & DIGITAL LITERACY

- Conduct effective research using advanced search strategies and credible sources.
- Evaluate digital media for reliability, bias, and relevance to a task or purpose.
- Produce and publish multimedia presentations that demonstrate critical thinking and creativity.
- Learn how to use library resources and technology to support learning.
- Practice safety and responsible behavior when using digital tools and the school library.



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- Demonstrate self-awareness and self-advocacy in academic and social contexts.
- Apply effective coping strategies to manage stress, pressure, and conflict.
- Build and maintain respectful relationships through empathy and communication.
- Set personal, academic, and community-based goals with action plans and reflection.
- Practice ethical decision-making and leadership in peer and group environments.



HEALTH & FITNESS

- Apply advanced motor skills and strategies in a variety of physical activities and sports.
- Monitor personal fitness levels and set realistic short- and long-term health goals.
- Analyze how nutrition, mental health, and substance use impact well-being.
- Demonstrate responsibility and respect in competitive and cooperative physical settings.
- Use decision-making and refusal skills to promote personal safety and healthy relationships.



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