

**SOCIAL SCIENCE  
COURSE CONTENT**

**UNITED STATES HISTORY**

- Exploration, Settlement, Revolution
- Constitution/Political Processes/Civic Engagement
- Developing a New Nation
- Westward Expansion & Division
- Civil War/Reconstruction
- Industrialization

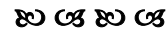
**SKILLS**

- Analyzing Text for Information
- Primary Source Documents
- Research Methods
- Oral/Written Reports
- Cooperative Learning
- Academic Discussion
- Engaging in Arguments using Evidence
- Digital Citizenship
- Geography Skills

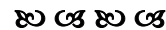
***Examples of current and past EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS***

- Yearbook Club
- Drama Club
- Running Club
- Broadcasting Club
- Green Scene-Gardening & Cultivation Club
- Art Club
- Game Club
- Math Contest Club
- Academic Society
- Archery Club
- Cyber Security Club
- Christian Club
- GSA Club
- Culture Club
- Scrabble Club
- Choir & Singing Club
- E Sports Gaming Club
- Chess Club
- Girls Who Code

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
Our mission at Granite Oaks Middle School, a leader in collaborative and dynamic learning, is to inspire all students to develop their unique abilities with a well-balanced, quality educational experience through high academic standards and diverse extra curricular opportunities strengthened by engagement with our families and community.



The 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum at Granite Oaks is based on the California Common Core State Standards (CCCSS). The CCCSS focus is on critical thinking and problem solving and supports reading, writing, speaking and listening skills infused throughout the curriculum.

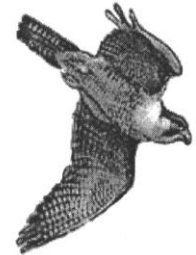


**Granite Oaks Middle School**  
*A California Distinguished School*  
*A National Blue Ribbon School*  
2600 Wyckford Boulevard  
Rocklin, CA 95765

(916) 315-9009  
FAX (916) 315-9885  
Attendance: 315-9009 ext 4105

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Parent and Student Guide  
to Understanding the  
Eighth Grade  
Academic Program**



**Granite Oaks Middle School**

*A California Distinguished School*  
*A National Blue Ribbon School*  
*PBIS Silver State Certified School*

Rocklin Unified School District

Jay Holmes, Principal  
Ron Anaya, Assistant Principal  
Linda Marcarian, Counselor  
Tressa Lindsey-Anderson, Counselor

## INTRODUCTION

Granite Oaks Middle School is a highly academic school. At Granite Oaks, each student is assigned to an academy; academies are teams of up to four teachers with 70 to 140 students. All academies have rigorous expectations in the core curricular areas of language arts, mathematics, social science and science. All students are expected to meet or exceed the same high learning standards. Each academy will teach the same course content which incorporates the state-mandated standards and district benchmarks in each subject area.

## SCIENCE

### COURSE CONTENT

- Structure and Properties of Matter
- Chemical Reactions
- Forces and Interactions
- Energy
- Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation
- Engineering Practices

### SKILLS

- Asking Questions and Defining Problems
- Developing and Using Models
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
- Constructing Explanations
- Engaging in Arguments from Evidence
- Obtaining, Evaluating and Communicating Information

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### COURSE CONTENT

#### Writing

- Argumentative
- Informative/Expository
- Narrative/Hero's Journey
- Literary Analysis

#### Reading

- Literature
- Informational Text

#### Language

- Conventions
- Vocabulary

#### Speaking and Listening

- Presentations (including multimedia)
- Collaborative Discussions
- Performances

### SKILLS

- Close Reading
- Note Taking/Annotating
- Time Management
- Test Taking Strategies
- Cooperative Learning
- Organization

## ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Students in the advanced course engage in highly-differentiated curriculum in order to help prepare them for advanced classes in high school. In addition to analyzing text and writing academic essays, students participate in literature circles, socratic seminars, expert panel discussions, blog posts and 20time projects. Students are also exposed to higher level learning through an introduction to Shakespeare and literary criticism theory. Interested students are admitted into the program

through a recommendation from their 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in the spring. The expectation is that students are strong readers and writers going into this program.

## MATHEMATICS COURSE CONTENT

- Algebra
- Area/Volume
- Geometry
- Problem Solving
- Probability/Stats
- Pattern/Functions
- Proportions, Ratio, Percent

### TOOLS

#### (For Mathematics and Science)

- Scientific Calculator
- Graph Paper
- Metric Ruler

## ACCELERATED MATHEMATICS (BY PLACEMENT)

Integrated I is the first mathematics course of the three-year sequence offered at Rocklin and Whitney High Schools. Students taking Integrated I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will not receive high school credit, though the course grade will appear on their high school transcript.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR ALL QUALIFYING STUDENTS**  
**S.O.A.R.**  
**California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF)**  
**Student Senate (ASB)**  
**Symphonic Band**  
**Spelling Bee**  
**Athletics**  
**Dance Team**  
**Academic Pep Rally**  
**Math and Science Olympiad**