## History Social Science

*Your child will study the development of American Government and investigate Modern American History from 1898 to the present by exploring the concepts and topics listed below:*

Government/Civics
- Origins and structure of the Constitution, the Articles of Confederation, the Bill of Rights, the Great Compromise, Federalism, Separation of Powers, and the system of Checks & Balances
- Three branches of government
- How a bill becomes a law
- Roles and responsibilities of federal, state & local government
- Differentiation amongst democracy, monarchy, oligarchy, autocracy, communism, and fascism
- Concepts of civil and individual rights
- Duties and responsibilities of citizens and the naturalization process

U.S. Emerges as a World Power
- American involvement in Cuba, Guam, Philippines, Puerto Rico
- American influence in Central America, Panama Canal, Venezuela Boundary Dispute

Women's Rights
- Effect of the Women's Rights Movement in the 19th and 20th centuries

Progressive Movement
- Progressivism and Progressive leaders

World War I
- Causes of and America's entrance in the war
- Causes and impact of American isolationism after WWI and the impact on U.S. foreign policy

The Roaring 20's and the Great Depression
- Key events and developments of the 1920's
- Hoovervilles, the New Deal, the Dust Bowl, military aggression in Europe & Asia

World War II
- Impact of Pearl Harbor, Four Freedoms, the Holocaust, Internment, the Atom Bomb

Cold War America
- Key events, impact, related developments

Civil Rights Movement
- Changing role of women, non-violence movement, civil disobedience, desegregation, American Indian Movement, NOW, Americans with Disabilities Act

Global America
- Inflation, NAFTA, Reaganomics, tax credits, Challenger disaster, "Dot Com", terrorism, 9/11

Revised 2014

**Note:** The concepts and topics listed above are highlights **only.** For a complete version of the NRSD Curricula, please refer to the NRSD website.

## Foreign Language

Your child will expand his/her knowledge through the foreign language program in the eighth grade. Students learn French. Our goal at this level is to introduce students to cultures other than their own, as well as to incite a passion for learning languages. Students are able to continue their education in foreign languages at the high school.

## Our Middle Schools

Florence Sawyer School/Emerson Wing
Grades PreK-8
100 Mechanic Street
Bolton, MA 01740
(978) 779-2821

Hale Middle School
Grades 6-8
55 Hartley Road
Stow, MA 01775
(978) 897-4788

Luther Burbank Middle School
Grades 6-8
1 Hollywood Drive
Lancaster, MA 01775
(978) 365-4558

## District Administration

Michael L. Wood
Superintendent of Schools

George P. King, Jr.
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

## About this Brochure

The curricular highlights in this brochure are broad key areas of study for each core content area. The Nashoba Regional School District prides itself on personalized learning for all. Your child's academic experience will vary based on individual developmental needs and ability

# Nashoba Regional School District

Eighth Grade
(Algebra Edition)
Curriculum Highlights

*"Educating all Students to their Fullest Potential"*

A Brochure for Parents of:

Bolton
Lancaster
Stow

Department of
Teaching and Learning

(978) 779-0539

## English Language Arts

Reading: Text Complexity and academic language

Grade 8 students will continue to experience increasing text complexity in both literature and informational text. Students will cite and analysis textual evidence, think critically to evaluate the validity of textual claims, analyze the development of theme, identify irony and parody, and analyze how differences in point of view creates humor or suspense. Students will compare and contrast films and their texts, as well as text structures. Students will engage in work with complex academic language, figurative, connotative and technical meanings of words in reading, speaking, and listening.

Writing: Text types, responding to text, and research

Grade 8 students will write narratives, persuasive essays, and informational text. Using the writing process, students will produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. The use of irony and parody in writing will be explored. Writing in Grade 8 will include the citation of multiple print and digital sources in research. Grade 8 students will draw evidence from literacy or informational text to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Speaking and Listening: Flexible communication

Grade 8 students will develop their skills in collaboration and communication. They will look critically at information and ideas presented in diverse media and formats. They will present claims and arguments using relevant details and appropriate multimedia support.

Language: Conventions

Language standards include grammar and spelling conventions as well as the use of figurative language to interpret verbal irony and puns.

For more information on more specific grade level standards see: http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/ela/0311.pdf

## Algebra

*Your child will learn to:*

Standards for Math Practice
1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for an express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Number and Quantity
• Extend the properties of exponents to rational exponents.
• Use properties of rational and irrational numbers.
Quantities
• Reason quantitatively and use units to solve problems.

Algebra
• Interpret the structure of expressions.
• Write expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems.
• Perform arithmetic operations on polynomials.
• Create equations that describe numbers or relationships.
• Understand solving equations as a process of reasoning and explain the reasoning.
• Solve equations and inequalities in one variable.
• Solve systems of equations.
• Represent and solve equations and inequalities graphically

Functions
• Understand the concept of a function and use function notation.
• Interpret functions that arise in applications in terms of the context.
• Analyze functions using different representations.
• Build a function that models a relationship between two quantities.
• Build new functions from existing functions.
• Construct and compare linear, quadratic, and exponential models and solve problems.

Statistics and Probability
• Summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable.
• Summarize, represent, and interpret data on two categorical and quantitative variables.
• Interpret linear models.

For more information on more specific grade level standards see: http://www.doe.mass.edu/

## Science & Technology/Engineering

*Your child will learn to:*

Scientific Method
- Design and conduct investigations using the scientific method.
- Practice safe and appropriate lab techniques using the metric system.

Earth and Space
- Describe the Earth-Moon-Sun system and how these bodies interact with one another to create phases, tides, seasons, and eclipses.
- Recognize the role of gravity on the formation of the planets, stars, and solar system.
- Describe lunar and solar eclipses, moon phases, and tides.
- Compare and contrast properties and conditions of objects in the solar system to those on Earth.

Physical Science
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between force and motion.
- Recognize the various forms of energy and how they are transformed.
- Explain the effect of heat on particle motion.
- Give examples of how heat moves in predictable ways, moving from warmer objects to cooler ones.
- Identify and differentiate between physical and chemical properties of matter.
- Gain an understanding of how the elements from the Periodic Table are responsible for all the different forms of matter in the world around us.
- Distinguish the differences between weight, mass, volume, and density.
- Differentiate between an atom and a molecule.
- Explain how the motion of an object can be described by its position, direction, and speed.

Technology/Engineering
- Use appropriate materials, tools, and machines to solve problems, invent, and construct.
- Apply the engineering design process to develop technological solutions to problems within given constraints.
- Communicate through engineering drawings, written reports, and pictures.
- Use manufacturing processes to convert raw materials into physical goods involving multiple industrial processes.

The learning standards for Technology/Engineering cover the grade span from 6–8 as students are seen on a more limited schedule over the three year time span rather than a focused one year curriculum. Grade 6 students will be INTRODUCED to the learning standards. Grade 7 students will have the standards REINFORCED. Grade 8 students will achieve MASTERY of the standards.