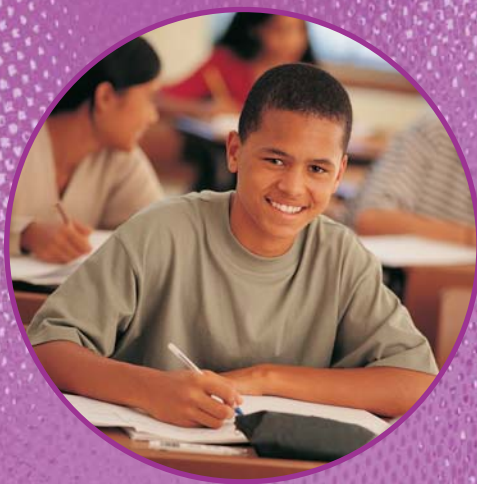


2nd Edition

LEARNING TARGETS WORK!

Targeting Student Achievement one Subject at a Time

DISTRICTWIDE CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT TO STATE STANDARDS

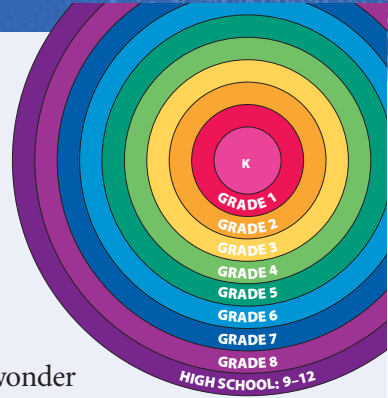


Grade 8



Milwaukee Public Schools

MPS LEARNING TARGETS



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Your child is now beginning **Grade 8**. You may wonder what you should expect your child to learn this year, and how his/her progress measures up to state standards.

This booklet has the answers. It is the Milwaukee Public Schools' set of **Learning Targets** for your child's appropriate grade level. Learning Targets outline what your child will learn in nine curriculum areas: Reading, English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Music, Physical Education, Health and Art.

Learning Targets ensure consistency at each grade level, even if your child moves from school to school during the year. The Targets ensure that teachers instruct the skills and concepts at the level appropriate for your child's development. **We use the Targets to assess student achievement throughout the year.** The teacher is able to help your child before he or she falls behind grade level.

Please keep this booklet and refer to it often. Check the Learning Targets against your child's homework to see how it fits. Bring it to Parent/Teacher conferences to help you talk about your child's progress.

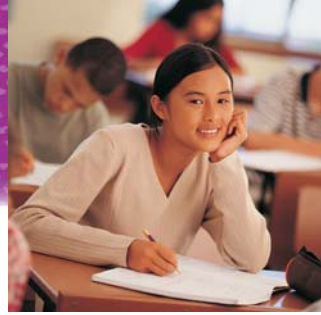
We will work to keep your child *on target* with Learning Targets.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William G. Andrekopoulos". The signature is written in a cursive style.

William G. Andrekopoulos
Superintendent of Schools

Educators and community leaders who are members of *The Milwaukee Partnership Academy* are committed to Learning Targets as critical tools for achievement in MPS classrooms.

GRADE 8 Art



Art education is as essential to the basic education of all children as reading, writing and mathematics. As an area of study, art education covers understanding how things are presented visually, knowing what makes beautiful art and creative problem solving. In Grades 6-8, students explore using different art materials for a variety of projects. They deepen their understanding of the role of art in society. Students will:

- Compare similar art objects from two different cultures.
- Distinguish between fine art, functional art and commercial art.
- Identify elements of art and design, such as color, shape and texture.
- Identify principles of art and design, such as how light and dark affect color, how texture provides depth, etc.
- Using recycled materials, create a model of a building based on a drawing.
- Produce a videotaped commercial for a product.
- Create a portrait that communicates the characteristics of an individual.
- Discuss how artistic works show us life in the past.
- Create the same image in two different mediums; for example, use watercolor and pencil to portray the same scene. Discuss the differences.
- Understand that art begins with an idea.
- Discuss the role of the artist in other societies and cultures, and the type of art created.

GRADE 8 Health



Health education in K5 through 8th grade includes both a personal and community approach to health care. Grade 8 focuses on health issues students may soon encounter, and teaches healthy alternatives. Students will:

- Describe and give examples of “fad” behaviors, such as body-piercing, and how they affect health.
- Identify the importance of healthy choices regarding rest, physical activity, nutrition and sexuality/HIV.
- Use good consumer purchasing sense.
- Explain why some advertised products are not for everyone.
- Describe how we communicate our emotions in a healthy manner.
- Identify community health agencies and list the services they provide.
- Use good decision-making models and good communication skills.
- Know how to avoid high risk behaviors such as drugs, alcohol, smoking and unsafe interpersonal behaviors.

GRADE 8 English Language Arts



In Grade 8, students learn to judge effective writing and speaking. They learn to make informed judgements about media and products. Students will:

- Employ speaking skills to suit an intended audience.
- Evaluate a speaker as to whether or not the information presented is accurate and believable.
- Participate in large and small group discussions, respecting the ideas of others and keeping an open mind.
- Choose words purposefully and evaluate how words are used in communication.
- Interpret and evaluate language to discover whether it is appropriate for a particular audience and setting.
- Use a computer to access information for different purposes.
- Develop and apply a system for judging the quality of media products.
- Create and publish a variety of media products, such as a class newspaper.
- Create a promotion aimed at teenagers that considers financial limitations and sponsorship and provides an authentic experience in advertising.
- Improve a media product using feedback from others and create criteria for evaluating products they develop themselves.
- Produce a well-written research paper.
- Write for a variety of purposes. Write clear commentaries and critiques about something that was read or viewed.
- Identify and apply strategies to improve their own and others' writing.
- Apply the rules of standard American English to their writing.

GRADE 8 Mathematics



In Grade 8, students continue to explore all strands of mathematics as stated in the State Standards justifying their strategies and using the appropriate vocabulary of mathematics as they prepare for higher level mathematics in high school. Students will:

- Compare and order real numbers, analyze and solve problems using percents, apply proportional reasoning and ratios in mathematical and real world contexts, determining reasonableness of results.
- Analyze, describe, and identify properties of figures, including the Pythagorean Theorem. Use proportional reasoning, transformations and symmetry to solve routine and non-routine problems.
- Determine the perimeter, area, and volume of 2- and 3-dimensional figures. Use tools with appropriate degree of precision to determine measurements directly; i.e. ruler and protractor.
- Organize, display, compare, and interpret data in a variety of ways in mathematical and real-world contexts. Use reasoning and logic to formulate questions, pose problems and make conjectures from organized and displayed data using the mean, median, mode, and range.
- Determine the likelihood of simple and complex events using experimental and theoretical probability.
- Describe, interpret, and translate graphical representations of mathematical and real-world phenomena on coordinate grids i.e. linear and non-linear functions.
- Create, use, and translate between different representations to organize, record, communicate, and describe patterns and the relationship among variables (tables, graphs, equations, pictures, and writing).
- Demonstrate understanding of properties by evaluating expressions and linear equations.

GRADE 8 Music



The music curriculum for kindergarten through Grade 8 provides children with musical understanding at a beginning to intermediate level. In Grade 8, students attain greater skill in using instruments and voice and with other musical forms (ensembles). They identify elements of music and use the vocabulary of music. Students will:

- Participate in organized instrumental, vocal, dance or theater groups and learn musical literature and vocabulary.
- Read music, as well as sight-read music, while incorporating different elements of musical instruction that the music provides.
- Play an instrument at an intermediate to advanced level. Use the instrument properly, showing breath control if needed and proper tone.
- Sing or play two-, three- and four-part chorales using the different musical elements, then play the same music together on musical instruments.
- Sing together while reading music and applying musical elements.
- Perform musical selections from the Wisconsin State Music Association at a Class B (Grades 3-4) level.
- Identify and perform major and minor scales (C, F, G, Bb and D) concert.
- Identify, define and correctly perform theme and variation, passacaglia (slow 3/4 time) and round.
- Identify aleatoric methods in an example of performed music. This is music that results from randomly playing notes. Develop their own aleatoric sections for a composition.
- Arrange, rehearse and perform a duet with two instruments or voices that are not alike.
- Participate in district events, such as the Biennial Music Festival or Milwaukee Honors Project.

GRADE 8 Physical Education



As children grow and increase their physical abilities, physical education teaches them not only how to participate in physical activities within groups, but to develop lifelong interest in both team and individual sports. In Grade 8, students continue to develop physical skills in both individual and cooperative activities. Students will:

- Report engaging in new physical activities outside of school at least three times a week.
- Describe and demonstrate behaviors that are part of a healthy lifestyle.
- Discuss the difference between competitive sports and lifetime activities done for personal enjoyment.
- Observe and explain the characteristics of advanced skills, such as describing the characteristics that ensure a successful serve in volleyball.
- Create sequential movements in dance, martial arts, basketball or other activities.
- Participate in assessments of physical fitness and create a plan to improve areas of weakness.
- Demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior in physical activity settings through cooperative activities, adventure education, team sports and individual sports.
- Understand the importance of physical activity and healthy food choices in maintaining good health.
- Demonstrate respect and understanding for all students regardless of their appearance or physical abilities by displaying acceptance and cooperation.

GRADE 8 Reading



In Grade 8, students apply the reading strategies they have learned to a variety of texts. They evaluate material from different sources for accuracy and value. Students will:

- Use a variety of reading strategies to analyze and decode unfamiliar words.
- Use a variety of reading strategies to comprehend unfamiliar words and phrases, such as word origins and figurative language.
- Apply a variety of reading strategies to analyze what is being read; for example, verify what is read to evaluate the credibility of the text.
- Read with fluency, accuracy and expression.
- Select a variety of reading materials to read for information and enjoyment.
- Analyze and compare the effects of story elements in a variety of literary works to determine what makes good literature.
- Analyze the structure of texts to understand their meaning; for example, use cause/effect, compare/contrast, problem/solution and fact/opinion to comprehend and analyze what is read.
- Identify and discuss the main idea and key points to analyze common themes from a variety of cultures, both written and oral.
- Analyze and compare the themes found in classical literature to similar themes in contemporary literature. Evaluate and connect themes to their own experiences.
- Using different types of documents, compare and contrast the information found in them to learn about a topic. Analyze the sources of information and make generalizations about the topic.

GRADE 8 Science



In Grade 8, students are able to evaluate scientific ideas. They begin to apply facts. Students will:

- Connect scientific themes to the natural and designed world. Explore different physical and living systems. Identify cycles and their changes.
- Describe how scientists conduct and record research. Give an example of a scientific study where scientists disagree on the results. Research the contribution of other cultures, both ancient and modern, to science.
- Refine research skills. Record, review and analyze the results of scientific study.
- Observe chemical reactions. Investigate how heat changes matter. Construct electrical circuits. Explore sound and light waves.
- Discuss how information on the history of the Earth is gathered.
- Create a model of the solar system and use it to explain the cycles of day/night and seasons.
- Explain how the structures and functions of the human body systems work together. Examine cellular structure and explain cell specialization. Discuss human reproduction and hereditary traits.
- Evaluate different scientific solutions to the same problem. Conduct an investigation comparing the quality of similar products.
- Evaluate the consequences of decisions affecting personal health and safety. Describe health problems related to various human activities, such as sun exposure, poor nutrition, lack of exercise and loud music.

GRADE 8 Social Studies



United States History and Geography

Social Studies includes five areas of study: Geography, History, Civics, Economics and Behavioral Sciences. In Grade 8, students study the United States in greater depth. Students will:

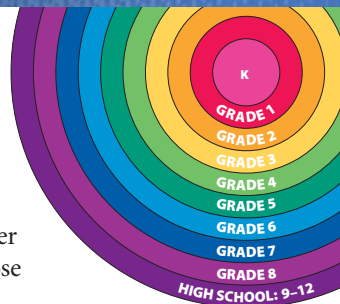
- Use a variety of geography tools to show how geography influenced the growth of the U.S. Construct mental maps of the U.S. Describe the movement of people during its expansion and the impact on the environment and American Indian populations. Describe how science and technology affected the growth of the nation. (Geography)
- Identify significant events, people and documents in U.S. history. Use a variety of resources to interpret historic events. Discuss the different perspectives of these accounts. Summarize major issues associated with the history, culture and tribal sovereignty of the American Indian nations and bands in Wisconsin. (History)
- Explain the basic principles of democracy. Explain the purpose of government. Describe how the federal system separates federal, state and local governments. Explain the balance of power among the three branches of federal government. Summarize historical and cultural issues and current status of American Indian groups living in Wisconsin. (Civics)
- Identify basic characteristics of a market economy including products, property, competition, profit, voluntary trade and limited role of government. Explain the economic factors leading to the European settlement of the Americas. Describe how investment in people and equipment improves the quality of life. Describe how personal investing has a personal as well as social benefit. (Economics)
- Discuss why it is important to examine a number of views on social issues. Give historical examples of how beliefs about how people should live lead to conflict. Make connections and look for patterns that lead to an understanding of the complexity of social issues. (Behavioral Sciences)

Believe it – Achieve it!

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Learning Targets benefit you and your child.

- Learning Targets allow you to see exactly what your child should learn in each of nine subject areas at each grade level.
- Teachers can provide examples of work so that you can easily see what's expected of your child.
- If your child does not meet an expected skill level, the teacher will know what the child needs to learn and can address those needs.
- Children know what is expected of them. They will see posters listing the learning targets listed for each subject hanging in their classrooms.



Learning Targets help all schools perform consistently.

- Teachers in all grades work with the same goals in mind, using the same concepts.
- The same standards of performance are expected from all students.
- Having the same Learning Targets in each classroom means a child who must change schools will be less likely to miss important parts of his or her education.

Children with special education needs will have many opportunities to meet the Learning Targets.

- Special needs children will be provided with accommodations based on their educational needs when appropriate.
- Accommodations will be identified in IEP or 504 educational plans.
- These students may be given extra time to finish assignments and assessments.
- They may also get step-by-step directions and organizational tools.
- In rare cases, an IEP/504 team may determine that an alternate curriculum is more appropriate.

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To access the MPS Learning Targets (parent versions), go to <http://mpsportal.milwaukee.k12.wi.us> and click "Parents."
To access the teacher versions, go to <http://mpsportal.milwaukee.k12.wi.us> and go to the Teacher Community homepage.



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