

# Special Areas

## World Language

Conjugation of -Ar Verbs and Irregular verbs  
 Expressing needs and wants  
 Introduce "gustar" (to like) and indirect object pronouns (me, te, le, les)  
 Spanish-American War, exploration, and colonization  
 Research and present results regarding diversity of Products and Practices in Spain  
 Observe patterns of behavior in Peer groups in Spain regarding sports, music, authors and compare with U.S.A.  
 Ask and respond to questions about school topics  
 Discuss past and present events, people, activities

## Visual Art

Use light and dark values to create a three dimensional quality  
 Create Impressionist landscape paintings  
 Work with oil pastels to create self portraits  
 Use visual puns for Surrealistic drawings  
 Create clay mugs which represent aspects of individuals' personalities  
 Write formal critiques about famous works of art

## Music

Perform instrumental or vocal compositions  
 Perform with expressive qualities reflecting the characteristics of a genre

## Health and Physical Education

Healthy decision-making and goal setting  
 Dangers of alcohol and tobacco use

Diseases and disease prevention  
 Medicine types and purposes  
 Accident and fire prevention  
 Character education  
 Bullying prevention  
 Addiction and treatment  
 Motor skills development  
 Fitness, strategy  
 Sportsmanship



**Dress comfortably with rubber-soled shoes for gym.**



# EIGHTH GRADE

## Social Graces:

### What to Expect From Your Middle Schooler

"Encourage R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Sometimes, Post says, the job of a parent is to be the scapegoat. While consistently rude behavior needs reining in, parents should keep in mind that your moody adolescent needs a 'release valve' and often that's you. Don't take the outbursts personally, but instead let your child know that you understand her feelings. She'll grow to appreciate your unconditional love and respect for her emotional needs, and learn to incorporate those aspects into her own life."

By Johanna Sorrentino

[http://www.education.com/magazine/article/social\\_graces\\_middle\\_school/](http://www.education.com/magazine/article/social_graces_middle_school/)

### Eighth Grade Core Reading

*Freak the Mighty*  
*Soldier Boys*  
*True Stories of the Second World War*  
*Night*  
*The Pigman*  
*A Christmas Carol*  
*The Pearl*  
*Selected Poetry*

### Accelerated Students may also read:

*Lord of the Flies*  
*Bomb-The Race to Build—And Steal—The World's Most Dangerous Weapon*  
*The Manhattan Project: A Secret Wartime Mission*  
*Animal Farm*  
*No Fear Shakespeare: Sonnets*

### RECOMMENDED READINGS

#### Eighth Graders Favorite Books

*Harry Potter Series* by JK Rowling  
*Eragon (Inheritance Series)* by Christopher Paolini  
*The Hunger Games* Suzanne Collins  
*Twilight Series* by Stephanie Meyer  
*My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult

### Conventional Homework

Eighth graders should spend approximately 45-90 minutes on daily homework. Additional long-term projects and other assignments may be required.  
 If your child is routinely exceeding this homework time guideline, please contact your child's teacher.

### Milltown Public Schools

JK main office: 732-214-2370  
 PV main office: 732-214-2360  
 Website: milltownps.org

Milltown Public Schools  
 21 W. Church Street  
 Milltown, NJ 08850

*Mission Statement*  
 The Milltown School District, in collaboration with family and community, is committed to academic excellence for all students. We aspire to develop confident, lifelong learners who will succeed in a diverse and changing world.

# Curriculum Brochure

## Grade 8

## Joyce Kilmer School



Instruction is aligned with the

NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards  
 and the  
 National Common Core State Standards

# Eighth Grade Curriculum

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## Language Arts– 8th Grade

### An Integrated Language Arts Program

#### Reading/Vocabulary

- Develop a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize texts.
- Read increasingly difficult text with comprehension and fluency, with an emphasis on analysis and interpretation.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases in text, including figurative and connotative meanings.

#### Writing Grammar

- Writing as a process (pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, post writing)
- Core writing includes—Persuasive/Argumentative, Expository, Literary Analysis, Narrative, Compare/Contrast, Open-Ended Responses, and Speculative
- Choose an appropriate organizing strategy such as cause/effect, compare/contrast, pro/con, etc.
- Effectively present a topic, point of view, or argument.
- Utilize standard English conventions (sentence structure, grammar and usage, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and a variety of sentence types)
- Write reports based on research, including a works cited page and parenthetical citations.
- Use appropriate writing rubrics for peer and self evaluation.
- Maintain a writing portfolio.

#### Speaking/Listening

- Effectively engage in collaborative discussions, building on others' ideas and clearly expressing their own.
- Present information in a focused, cohesive manner for a variety of purposes.
- Use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

#### Accelerated/Honors LA

- The accelerated program follows the 8th grade curriculum at an accelerated pace and examines topics on a deeper, more complex level while also emphasizing creativity.

*\*Please be advised that instruction may include, but is not limited to, all of the above.*

## Mathematics

### Algebra 8

Algebra 8 students will cover a combination of grade 8 and Algebra standards. This curriculum follows the state's suggested standards for an algebra course taken in 8th grade called the *Accelerated Traditional Pathway for CCSS in Mathematics*. The course uses a combination of the Algebra and 8th grade textbooks to accommodate all standards being addressed. Students will gain the essential understanding of algebra and its symbolic relationships and connections to their real lives. Students in this course may be expected to take an algebra course as freshmen, which is more geared towards success in the higher level math classes they may encounter in their high school careers.



### Honors Algebra

The honors algebra course simulates a high school curriculum where no 8th grade standards are included (all are covered in honors pre-algebra). The algebra textbook is the main source of daily lessons and instruction. Students will learn all aspects of Algebra and its significance to everyday life. They will examine linear, quadratic and exponential equations as well as functions and inequalities. Students will master the understanding of the analytic geometry of lines. Fluency will be gained in working with polynomials, expressions and equations. Factoring 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree binomials and trinomials as well as evaluating radical expressions will allow the student to see how algebra can relate to a coordinate plane. Upon completion of this course students will be prepped for high school algebra II and geometry. This class is rigorous, fast-paced, and requires the most elite math students.

## Social Studies

Students will examine the major principles in the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights emphasizing the changes that have come over time in relation to women, African Americans, Native Americans, and current issues. They will take part in simulations of the law-making process and political party elections. Students will also explore local governmental budgetary issues and priorities.



## Science

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

#### **PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

All students will understand physical science principles of **Energy Transfer and Conservation** and the basic laws **Forces and Motion**.



#### **LIFE SCIENCE**

All students will understand the life science principles of **Organization and Development** from single celled organisms to complex multi-cellular organisms, **Heredity and Reproduction** to gain a better understanding of how species pass genetic information to later generations, and **Evolution and Diversity** how organisms adapt to environmental changes over time or go extinct.

#### **EARTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE**

All students will understand that Earth is a part of the all-encompassing system of the universe. Explain how the relative positions and motions of the Sun, Earth, and Moon influence tides, day length, climates and other phenomena.

## Technology Skills and Integration

Explore and understand the functionality of a variety of digital tools including SMARTBoard to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaboratively and to create and communicate knowledge.

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*Key curriculum points are included in this brochure in order to provide an at-a-glance guide. This brochure is not meant to provide a comprehensive picture of the scope of learning encompassing eighth grade. Please see the district's curriculum guides for a full description of grade level curriculum expectations.*