



Highland Curriculum Guide

(June 2017)

Overview:

Clear and specific standards communicate to students, teachers and parents exactly what is expected for students to learn. The standards can be the vehicle for sharing and supporting many ways to help students learn. The Illinois Learning Standards define what all students in all Illinois public schools should know and be able to do in the seven core areas as a result of their elementary and secondary schooling. The curriculum in place at Libertyville District 70 is aligned with these Illinois Learning Standards.

Illinois Learning Standards:

On June 24, 2010 the Illinois State Board of Education adopted new, more rigorous learning standards for Math and English Language Arts to better prepare students for college and the workforce. New standards were also created for Science and Social Studies in 2014. Prior to the Board's actions the Illinois Learning Standards had not changed since their adoption in 1997.

Course Description:

Course descriptions inform parents and students about the subject matter and content learned about in different Highland courses.

Instructional Resources:

Libertyville District 70 conducts an annual review of selected areas of curriculum. During this process, committees review and revise curriculum and evaluate instructional materials. Teachers use these approved materials and textbooks along with additional supplemental materials that align with Illinois Learning Standards and instructional goals.

Assessment in Libertyville District 70:

To know if students are meeting the standards, their progress must be measured over time. Most of this measuring will occur in the classroom where teachers see students on a daily basis. There, teachers can check progress in many ways—by observing, questioning, reviewing work assignments, testing or judging projects and performances. Some of this measuring will occur on a larger scale through district and state assessments designed specifically to check students' performance against the standards across the state.

Each level of measurement in and of itself cannot provide a complete picture of student achievement. Taken together, however, a learning profile can emerge, allowing students, parents and educators to know how well students are doing and where improvements are needed. By extension, progress data can inform teachers and administrators about where to make changes and improvements in programs, resources and support.

	Language Arts		Literature
Link to New Illinois Learning Standards	http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/		
6th grade	The Language Arts course provides students with an introduction to grammar and mechanics and their application. Students are taught the structure of writing for a variety of purposes. Word origins are presented to students. A collaborative environment is fostered to support classroom discussions and presentations.		The Literature course explores a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. Elements of literature are introduced in short stories and novels. Students are trained to navigate through informational texts to extract main ideas, vocabulary, and cross-curricular connections.
7th grade	The Language Arts course provides students with a review of grammar and mechanics. Students are given a variety of writing experiences. The established word origins are extended. A collaborative environment is fostered to support classroom discussions and presentations.		The Literature course explores a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. Elements of literature are applied to short stories and novels. Students are trained to navigate through informational texts to extract main ideas, vocabulary, and cross-curricular connections.
8th grade	The Language Arts course provides students with an application to grammar and mechanics in writing and contextual use. Students are taught the structure of literary analysis. Word origins are reinforced. A collaborative environment is fostered to support classroom discussions and presentations.		The Literature course explores a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. Elements of literature are analyzed in short stories and novels. Students are trained to navigate through informational texts to extract main ideas, vocabulary, and cross-curricular connections.

	Math
Link to New Illinois Learning Standards	http://www.corestandards.org/Math/
6th grade	The math course focuses on ratios and rates, completing understanding of division of fractions, extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, expressions and equations, and statistical thinking.
7th grade	The math course focuses on proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, expressions and linear equations, informal geometric constructions, area, surface area, volume, and drawing inferences about populations based on samples.
8th grade	The math course focuses on expressions and equations, solving linear equations and systems of linear equations, functions, analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures, and the Pythagorean Theorem.
Instructional Resources	<u>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt</u> Big Ideas: 2010-2014

	Social Studies
Link to New Illinois Learning Standards	http://www.socialstudies.org/c3
6th grade	Sixth grade social studies curriculum focuses on the history of ancient civilizations, (European, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian) and their geography, civics, government, and economics. Individual specifics of cultures within the Ancient World are examined, as well as government structures of specific world societies and connecting the past to current world situations.
7th grade	Seventh grade social studies focuses on the economic, political, geographic and social aspects of early American History. The year begins with the European discovery and colonization of America which leads to the American Revolution, the development of the US government, westward expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction.
8th grade	Eighth grade social studies will focus on the economic, political, geographic and social aspects of American History from the Industrial Age to the present time. Specific topics include: the Industrial Age, Imperialism, World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, Vietnam, and ensuing decades. Upon conclusion of this chronological survey of American History, students will engage in a study of both the Federal and Illinois Constitutions.
Instructional Resources	<u>McGraw Hill 2014</u> (6 th) Discovering Our Past: A History of the World: Early Ages (7 th) Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States – Early Years (8 th) Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States – Modern Times

	Science
Link to New Illinois Learning Standards	http://www.nextgenscience.org/
6th grade	The science course explores earth, life, and physical sciences. Some of the key areas addressed include force and motion, matter, waves, cells, ecosystems, and Earth's systems.
7th grade	The science course explores earth, life, and physical sciences. Some of the key areas addressed include matter, living organisms, life processes, heredity, Earth's systems, and Earth and human activity.
8th grade	The science course explores earth and physical sciences. Some of the key areas addressed include matter and its interactions, force and motion, energy, and Earth's place in the universe.
Instructional Resources	<u>Prentice Hall</u> Earth Science Life Science Physical Science

International Language	
Link to New Illinois Learning Standards	http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/foreign_languages/standards.htm
Spanish 1	Spanish I introduces and extends students' skills in speaking, reading, writing and comprehension of the language. Students will gain knowledge of Spanish-speaking cultures. This class emphasizes vocabulary, basic grammar, syntax, and Spanish sounds so that students have a basic understanding of the language and its rules.
Spanish 2	Spanish II advances students' knowledge and ability to express themselves beyond basic communication via the written and spoken word. This class will continue to explore the Spanish-speaking world. Students can express more complex concepts in different settings.
French 1	French I introduces and extends students' skills in speaking, reading, writing and comprehension of the language. Students will gain knowledge of French-speaking cultures. This class emphasizes vocabulary, basic grammar, syntax, and French sounds so that students have a basic understanding of the language and its rules.
French 2	French II advances students' knowledge and ability to express themselves beyond basic communication via the written and spoken word. This class will continue to explore the French-speaking world. Students can express more complex concepts in different settings.
Instructional Resources	Spanish: Santillana USA - 1 French: Allez Viens

Physical Education / Health	
Link to New Illinois Learning Standards	http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/pdh/standards.htm
Physical Education	Highland Middle School Physical Education classes promote physical and mental wellness by developing students into lifelong active adults. Within Highland Middle School's PE classes, students have the opportunity to acquire basic knowledge in team and individual sports, and also in a variety of life fitness concepts. With this knowledge, students develop an appreciation for physical fitness, teamwork, and overall social/mental wellness. These activities include: basketball, flag football, team handball, volleyball, yoga, aerobics, fitness testing, floor hockey, softball, and dance.
Health	Health provides knowledge of personal health (nutrition, mental health and stress management, drug/alcohol abuse prevention, disease prevention, human reproduction, and first aid) and consumer health issues.

6th Grade Fine Arts

	6th Grade Fine Arts
Link to New Illinois Learning Standards	http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/fine_arts/standards.htm
Applied Tech	Applied Technology provides knowledge of and experience in the proper and efficient use of software and various technologies. The class teaches students to be responsible digital citizens. This course explores a wide range of topics, including (but not limited to) copyright, spreadsheet, graphics, typing skills, S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math), and presentation skills. This course also promotes students' technological literacy.
Art	Art provides students activities that foster creative expression, communication through artistic endeavor, and appreciation of culture and heritage.
Consumer Education	Consumer Education includes studies of knowledge and life skill sets that are useful for the efficient and productive management beyond the classroom walls.
Drama	Drama enables students to express themselves through dramatic play and storytelling. Course content includes the use of movement, language, character, plot, and spectacle to portray imaginary or real experiences.
Music	Music provides students the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of musical elements, composers, and instruments. Students will appreciate and understand music from a variety of time periods and cultures. Students will understand the musical elements utilized by composers and performance musicians to convey their works. In addition, students will consider the relationship between music of the past and present.

7th Grade Fine Arts

	7th Grade Fine Arts
Link to New Illinois Learning Standards	http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/fine_arts/standards.htm
Applied Tech	Have you ever dreamed of being an inventor, an engineer, or an architect? Do you want to program a robot, create an application or game for a mobile device, or make a working game controller from play dough? In this class students will turn into many different roles such as an inventor, an engineer, an architect, musicians, film producer, etc. They may create dream houses and devise alternative ways to use existing technologies. Students will also explore different types of programming to create applications, games, and much more.
Art	Art provides students activities that foster creative expression, communication through artistic endeavor, and appreciation of culture and heritage.

Consumer Education	Consumer Education includes studies of knowledge and life skill sets that are useful for the efficient and productive management beyond the classroom walls.
Drama	Drama enables students to express themselves through dramatic play and storytelling. Students will explore improvisation, scriptwriting, acting techniques, and set design.
Music	Music provides students the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of musical elements, composers, and instruments. Students will appreciate and understand music from a variety of time periods and cultures. Students will understand the musical elements utilized by composers and performance musicians to convey their works. In addition, students will consider the relationship between music of the past and present.

	8th Grade Fine Arts
Link to New Illinois Learning Standards	http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/fine_arts/standards.htm
Acting	Acting enables students to express themselves through dramatic play and storytelling. Course content includes the study of basic acting and audition techniques, play building, and scripted scene work. Activities include those that enable students to refine their technique, increase their artistic vocabulary, and express themselves.
Animation	Animations provide students the knowledge and skills to learn basic and advanced animations, programming, and web design. Animated movies, interactive games, web pages, and three-dimensional animations will be products created during this course.
Beginning Guitar	Beginning Guitar provides an opportunity to learn the basics about playing the guitar. Instruction will include proper technique, music theory, chord and tablature recognition, ensemble work, and music history.
Chamber Singers	This class is offered to 8th grade members of the Concert Choir. This class is a very unique middle school offering where students create music together in a performance ensemble much like many high school choral programs. We use this additional rehearsal to prepare the choir for Organization Contest and the Highland Choir Concert in March. We will also learn the principles and techniques of the voice in preparation for singing at the high school. Most 8th grade students in Concert Choir will be in this Arts Block Class second trimester but a brief audition will be required in the Spring of your 7th Grade year! Any student with questions about Chamber Singers should see Mr. Spakowski.
Sculpture	Sculpture provides opportunities to work with clay, plaster, wood, wire, and mixed media. Particular attention is paid to the technical skills and artistic appreciation of successful three-dimensional artwork.
Digital Art	Digital Art expose students to the materials, processes, and artistic techniques of taking artistic photographs. Students learn about the operation of a camera, composition, lighting techniques, depth of field, filters, camera angles, and an intense study of Adobe Photoshop.

2D Studio	This studio option with two-dimensional emphasis offers students the opportunity to study various 2D studio media. 2D studio covers drawing, painting, and printmaking. Instruction in the studio process is done with an emphasis on creativity, craftsmanship, application and understanding of design principle, and safety.
Ethnic Foods	Ethnic Foods offers opportunities for students to study the preparation, history, and social value of foods from around the world.
Product It, Construct It	Product It, Construct It introduces students to and expands their knowledge of various aspects of wearing apparel, sewing, and fashion. Students will be able to demonstrate fashion, apparel, textile design skills, demonstrate skills needed to produce, alter, or repair fashion, apparel, and textile products. Students will also learn how to work as teams in producing a live self-produced installation.
Top Chef	Top Chef will focus on advanced cooking techniques such as boiling, braising, poaching, steaming, stewing, browning, deglazing, saucing, scalding, scoring, searing, skimming, de-jointing, de-boning and more. Students will be able to demonstrate professional food preparation methods and techniques for all menu categories to produce a variety of food products that meet customer needs. Using the techniques studied will conclude in Top Chef competitions.
STEAM	Have you ever dreamed of being an inventor, an engineer, or an architect? Do you want to program a robot, create an application or game for a mobile device, or make a working game controller from play dough? In this class students may create dream houses and devise alternative ways to use existing technologies. Students will also explore different types of programming to create applications, games, and much more.
Movies	8th Grade Movie Making is a twelve-week course in which students develop skills in effectively writing, designing, and producing digital video. Students will learn to create high-quality, digital stories and newscasts by using photos, video, and digital art. Students may use programs such as Keynote, Photoshop Elements, GarageBand, iMovie, and iTunes. Academic curriculum may be integrated for some assignments.
Improvisation	Improvisation enables students to learn about the history and current culture of improvisation. Students will learn performance games that will require them to “think on their feet.”
Behind the Scenes	Behind the Scenes will focus on all the backstage aspects of theater. Areas of focus will be set design, costume design, publicity, props, lighting, sound, stage management, and set construction.
Musical Theater	Musical theater includes a brief history of musical theater. The class will also cover musical performance skills, singing techniques, movement for the stage and auditioning for a play.
Music Industry	Music Industry explores today’s music scene from a recording/performance perspective. This course will unveil the modern process of music production from start to finish, which the students will then simulate with their own recording and performance. Students will become experts in the following roles: Sound Engineers, Musicians, Artists, Composers, and Producers.