

Tucson Waldorf School

Eighth Grade

The task of elementary education is to give children an understanding of humanity and the world they live in, to offer them knowledge so rich and warm as to engage their hearts and wills as well as their minds. Such an understanding is the basis of all real learning in later years. With the completion of the eighth grade, the children should have a well-rounded general picture of human life, human endeavor, and the universe. This last year of elementary school should not only bring all previous experiences to a new peak, but enable the children to enter fully and potentially into the life of their own time.

Eighth grade history includes an intensive study of key elements of the Industrial Revolution to the modern day, focusing as well on the outstanding individuals such as Lincoln, Jefferson, Edison in American history and great figures such as Ghandi, Albert Schweitzer and other from the 20th Century.

Geography takes up the same themes, showing the role played by every part of the earth in modern industrial civilization. A comprehensive picture is given of the relation of mineral resources and plant and animal life to the life of human beings in various regions of the world (world economic geography).

Physics lessons complement these historical and geographical surveys. The practical uses made of man's new knowledge of all the physical sciences are thoroughly explored. In addition to further studies in acoustics, thermodynamics, mechanics, climate, electricity and magnetism, the children are now introduced to hydraulics, meteorology and ecology.

Chemistry is also considered in relation to industry. Organic chemistry is studied for the role it plays in the building of organic substance. Fats, sugars, proteins and starches are identified.

Mathematics also emphasizes the practical applications of arithmetic, algebra and geometry. Demonstrations in plane and solid geometry lead to problems in the measurement of surfaces and volume. The study of graphs is introduced.

Man is again the subject of nature study through the study of physiology of the human organism, observed from the standpoint of form and movement: skeleton, muscular systems, and the senses.

Literature focuses on the theme of human freedom in the short story, letters and Shakespearean drama. (N.B. Shakespeare is often taken up or begun in Seventh Grade in conjunction with Renaissance studies). Music takes up Elizabethan music, American music, symphonic form.

Painting concerns itself for the first time with highly conscious studies of highlights and shadows, rendered in black and white in portraits and landscapes; veil painting is introduced. Handwork projects are service-oriented – quilted or crocheted blankets for shelters and care-homes. The carving of wooden spoons, stools, and other practical objects requiring real skill and imagination culminate the three years of woodwork.

Curriculum:

Literature (short story, letters, dramatic contrast in Shakespearean drama), composition, grammar, spelling; arithmetic (review of solids and measurement), algebra, geometry; world economic geography, American history; physics (hydraulics), organic chemistry, physiology. Vocal music, Spanish, German, handwork, woodwork, painting, recorder ensemble music, gardening, eurythmy, physical education, wilderness camping.

Curriculum Overview

Eighth Grade

American and Modern History
The Age of Revolution
World Geography III

Literature
(short stories, letters, Shakespeare)
Composition, Grammar, Spelling
(speech, drama, formal research)

Algebra
Geometry
(continued reinforcement of simple & complex arithmetical operations)

Physics II
Meteorology
Organic Chemistry
Anatomy
Gardening
Spanish
German
Handwork
Woodwork
Music
(choral, acapella singing, recorder ensemble)
Eurythmy
Painting, Drawing, Perspective Drawing, Sculpture
Physical Education

Wilderness Camping Experience