

GRADES 9-12 OVERVIEW

Students in Grades 9-12 experience significant growth and development as they assume more complex responsibilities such as working and making career choices. They are continuing to develop unique personalities and are making important life decisions. High school students are developing and practicing leadership and interpersonal communication skills in the school and community that facilitate entrance into adulthood. They continue to experience physical and emotional changes as well as to seek opportunities for developing independence and individuality.

Grades 9-12 students have broadened their perspective regarding the importance of existing and developing technologies and have an understanding of the scope of technology in today's world. As students progress through the high school years, they are able to address a variety of problems on a variety of topics in a logical manner. Technology offers students an efficient means by which many types of problems may be solved.

Because of cultural and ideological diversity in a technologically advanced global society, many students have opportunities to interact with others whose backgrounds are different from their own. As the use of technology brings humankind closer together, concepts and skills addressed in the Computer Applications course will assist students in developing the ability to respect differences and to develop skills necessary for becoming productive adults.

The Computer Applications course is designed to provide students with the basic concepts and skills regarding knowledge of computer operations. Additional components of the course are responsible use of computers, efficient use of computers to enhance productions and presentations, and use of computers to access information. Competent computer utilization fosters students' problem-solving and critical-thinking skills and enables students to become competitive workers in the twenty-first century.

The content standards in this course are designed around content organizers that emphasize hands-on, practical activities that extend beyond the computer classroom or laboratory. Course content should be integrated into other curricular areas to allow students to reinforce and expand technology competencies. As students become proficient users of computers and other technologies in the classroom, the benefits of using these tools for researching, analyzing, and synthesizing information beyond the classroom become evident. Technology literate students realize that technology tools and resources enhance not only educational endeavors but also personal and professional success as well.