

MMSA Curriculum & Educational Methods Overview

Reading (Success For All curriculum)

K4 (Curiosity Corner)

In K4, the Success for All curriculum utilizes Curiosity Corner to foster early oral language, self-regulation, and foundational cognitive development through thematic, child-centered units. Learning centers around rich thematic concepts like community, nature, and self-identity utilize interactive read-alouds, songs, and guided play to build vocabulary and phonological awareness. Students develop social-emotional competencies through daily cooperative learning structures and cooperative problem-solving routines, establishing a positive classroom environment. Early math concepts like sorting, counting, and pattern recognition are integrated into daily routines along with fine-motor art and sensory activities. Overall, K4 establishes the oral language foundation, curiosity, and cooperative learning habits essential for formal literacy instruction.

- Educational Method: Thematic play-based learning, oral language development, cross-curricular units, and foundational cooperative learning routines (teaching young children how to talk, listen, and share in small groups).

Kindergarten (KinderCorner)

Kindergarten transitions students into KinderCorner, an integrated, research-based framework that balances child-initiated learning with explicit, systematic literacy and math instruction. The curriculum emphasizes early reading acquisition through Reading Roots concepts, focusing on phonemic awareness, letter-sound correspondences, blending, and high-frequency sight word recognition. Daily thematic units seamlessly blend science and social studies concepts with vocabulary acquisition, shared writing, and interactive storytelling. Cooperative learning structures like "Think-Pair-Share" are explicitly taught to encourage peer communication, active listening, and collaborative problem-solving. By the end of Kindergarten, students master basic decodable text reading, foundational sentence writing, and essential numeracy concepts.

- Educational Method: Explicit phonics instruction (teaching letter sounds and word blending directly), interactive read-alouds, structured peer partner routines, and hands-on learning centers.

1st Grade

First grade introduces full implementation of Reading Roots, a fast-paced, systematic beginning reading program designed to move students from emerging readers to fluent, independent

decoders. Instruction pairs explicit phonics and phonemic awareness drills with decodable Shared Stories, allowing students to immediately apply new sound-letter patterns in meaningful context. Writing instruction is tightly integrated with reading, guiding students to compose complete sentences, use capital letters and end punctuation, and answer text-dependent comprehension questions. Cooperative learning remains central as students work in partner teams to practice oral reading fluency, discuss story elements, and provide mutual feedback. By year-end, students transition toward Wings, equipped with strong decoding skills, growing reading endurance, and emergent passage comprehension strategies.

- Educational Method: Systematic phonics decoding, paired partner reading, integrated reading-to-writing instruction, and oral reading fluency routines.

2nd Grade

In 2nd grade, students fully transition into Reading Wings, shifting the instructional focus from learning to read toward reading to comprehend and analyze increasingly complex text. Utilizing targeted reading strategies, like predicting, clarifying tricky words, questioning, and summarizing, students engage with authentic fiction and informational trade books. Through structured cooperative learning teams, students take on specific team roles to analyze story elements, main ideas, and text structures while holding each other accountable for individual learning. Direct instruction in grammar, mechanics, and spelling is embedded alongside the writing process, guiding students to construct structured paragraphs with clear topic sentences and supporting details. Additionally, regular fluency drills and target vocabulary routines ensure students build automaticity and rich academic language.

- Educational Method: Explicit reading comprehension strategies (predicting, clarifying, summarizing), structured cooperative learning teams with assigned student roles, and embedded grammar and vocabulary instruction.

Third Grade

Third-grade SFA instruction deepens critical thinking, text analysis, and analytical writing as students encounter richer informational texts and complex narrative literature. Students refine their use of comprehension strategies, learning to identify cause-and-effect relationships, compare and contrast character motivations, and draw evidence-backed inferences from reading passages. Cooperative learning teams operate with greater autonomy, participating in structured "Team Talk" discussions where students must justify their answers using direct citations from the text. The writing curriculum emphasizes multi-paragraph compositions, guiding students through planning, drafting, peer revising, and editing informative, narrative, and persuasive essays. Through systematic vocabulary study and daily fluency building, 3rd graders develop the academic stamina required for standardized reading assessments and upper-elementary content learning.

- Educational Method: Heterogeneous cooperative learning teams, differentiated small-group reading instruction, evidence-based academic discourse ("Team Talk"), and process-based essay writing.
- SFA Assessment Cycle: Formal unit assessments occur at the end of every 6-day instructional unit cycle, evaluating reading comprehension, vocabulary mastery, reading fluency, and writing in response to literature. Teachers use daily check-ins and cycle data to adjust small learning groups and target immediate student needs.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade accelerates literacy growth through advanced Reading Wings units, challenging students with higher-level expository texts, historical narratives, and literary genres. Instruction targets advanced comprehension skills, including identifying author's purpose, evaluating point of view, distinguishing fact from opinion, and interpreting figurative language. Cooperative teams engage in rigorous peer discussions to analyze text features, solve complex graphic organizers, and synthesize information across multiple sources. Writing instruction focuses on developing coherent, well-structured essays with clear transitions, strong voice, and precise academic vocabulary across content areas like science and social studies. By systematically building background knowledge and independent strategy use, 4th grade prepares students for the increased reading demands of middle school content.

- Educational Method: Cooperative peer teams, targeted skill-based small groups, graphic organizer modeling (visual thought mapping), and cross-curricular essay composition.
- SFA Assessment Cycle: Formal unit assessments occur at the end of every 6-day instructional unit cycle, evaluating reading comprehension, vocabulary mastery, reading fluency, and writing in response to literature. Teachers use daily check-ins and cycle data to adjust small learning groups and target immediate student needs.

Fifth Grade

In 5th grade, the SFA curriculum refines students' analytical reading capabilities and independent study skills, preparing them for the transition to middle school literature. Students analyze complex narrative arcs, theme development, structural elements of poetry and drama, and sophisticated non-fiction arguments across diverse media. Team learning structures foster high-level collaborative reasoning, as students debate text interpretations, critique peer writing, and present collaborative research projects. Writing tasks demand multi-paragraph essay construction, emphasizing textual evidence integration, logical organization, and advanced sentence structure. Daily vocabulary acquisition focuses on Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes, equipping students to independently decipher unfamiliar academic domain words.

- Educational Method: Collaborative team reasoning and debates, peer review writing workshops, morphology-based vocabulary study (Greek and Latin roots), and data-driven small-group instruction.
- SFA Assessment Cycle: Formal unit assessments occur at the end of every 6-day instructional unit cycle, evaluating reading comprehension, vocabulary mastery, reading

fluency, and writing in response to literature. Teachers use daily check-ins and cycle data to adjust small learning groups and target immediate student needs.

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade marks the transition into SFA's middle school curriculum framework (Reading Edge), designed to equip young adolescents with advanced strategic reading, critical literacy, and research skills. Students engage with complex, grade-level literary and informational texts, learning to analyze central ideas, trace argument development, and evaluate the credibility of sources. Cooperative learning operates through mature team routines where students collaborate to solve complex literacy tasks, lead peer discussions, and hold one another accountable for academic goals. Writing instruction focuses on crafting well-reasoned argumentative essays, detailed explanatory reports, and narrative pieces supported by cited textual evidence and varied sentence structures. The curriculum heavily integrates study strategies, content-area vocabulary expansion, and metacognition to foster self-directed learners.

- Educational Method: Student-led cooperative discussion teams, metacognitive strategy instruction (teaching students to monitor their own understanding), data-driven small-group intervention, and structured argumentative writing frameworks.
- SFA Assessment Cycle: Formal unit assessments occur at the end of every 8-day instructional unit cycle, evaluating reading comprehension, vocabulary mastery, reading fluency, and writing in response to literature. Teachers use daily check-ins and cycle data to adjust small learning groups and target immediate student needs.

Seventh Grade

Seventh-grade SFA deepens students' critical analysis of literature and complex non-fiction, challenging them to evaluate nuanced arguments, rhetorical devices, and structural choices made by authors. Literacy units incorporate diverse global perspectives, historical documents, and scientific articles, encouraging students to compare perspectives and synthesize information across multiple texts. Cooperative team structures emphasize peer coaching and high-level academic discourse, requiring students to articulate, defend, and refine their interpretations using explicit textual evidence. Writing instruction concentrates on formal academic prose, guiding students to write persuasive arguments with counterclaims, structured research essays, and detailed literary analyses. Vocabulary study emphasizes high-utility academic language, empowering students to comprehend and express sophisticated concepts across all subject areas.

- Educational Method: Peer coaching models, multi-text synthesis (comparing information across multiple sources), academic discourse routines, and targeted small-group writing conferences.
- SFA Assessment Cycle: Formal unit assessments occur at the end of every 8-day instructional unit cycle, evaluating reading comprehension, vocabulary mastery, reading

fluency, and writing in response to literature. Teachers use daily check-ins and cycle data to adjust small learning groups and target immediate student needs.

Eighth Grade

Eighth grade serves as the capstone of the SFA literacy sequence, synthesizing advanced reading comprehension, analytical writing, and collaborative research to ensure complete high school readiness. Students analyze complex literary works, seminal historical texts, and technical documents, examining themes, author bias, argument validity, and textual nuance. Cooperative learning teams function as collaborative study groups, driving deep discussions, peer-editing workshops, and multi-media research presentations. Writing instruction focuses on producing polished, multi-page argumentative, informative, and analytical essays that feature precise evidence integration, formal tone, and sophisticated transitions. Upon completion of 8th grade, students exit the program as fluent, strategic readers, articulate communicators, and critical thinkers fully prepared for high school rigor.

- Educational Method: Collaborative study teams, peer-editing writing workshops, multi-source research projects, and high-school preparatory small-group instruction.
- SFA Assessment Cycle: Formal unit assessments occur at the end of every 8-day instructional unit cycle, evaluating reading comprehension, vocabulary mastery, reading fluency, and writing in response to literature. Teachers use daily check-ins and cycle data to adjust small learning groups and target immediate student needs.

Math (Eureka curriculum)

1st Grade

In 1st grade, Eureka Math focuses on building foundational fluency with addition and subtraction within 20 and developing an initial understanding of place value. Students utilize concrete manipulatives and visual models, like number bonds, ten-frames, and tape diagrams, to compose and decompose numbers, solve word problems, and understand the relationship between addition and subtraction. Place value concepts are introduced by grouping objects into tens and ones, paving the way for two-digit addition and subtraction strategies. Geometry and measurement are integrated through hands-on activities where students measure lengths using non-standard units, tell time to the hour and half-hour, and reason with two- and three-dimensional shapes. Overall, 1st grade establishes deep number sense, mental math strategies, and problem-solving habits that underpin future mathematical learning.

- Educational Method: Concrete-Representational-Abstract (CRA) approach (moving from hands-on objects to visual drawings to written math equations) paired with daily math fluency routines.

2nd Grade

Second-grade Eureka Math extends students' understanding of place value up to 1,000 and deepens their fluency with multi-digit addition and subtraction. Students transition from concrete models to abstract algorithms and place value strategies, using tape diagrams and arrow notation to solve multi-step word problems involving length, money, and data. Measurement is formalized using standard units (inches, feet, centimeters, meters) to explore linear relationships and represent numerical data on line plots. Foundations for multiplication and division are established as students work with equal groups, arrays, and skip-counting by 5s, 10s, and 100s. By the end of 2nd grade, students possess strong place value reasoning and efficient mental math strategies for operational problem-solving.

- Educational Method: Explicit algorithmic instruction, structured word-problem routines, and place-value visual modeling (using place value charts and diagrams).

3rd Grade

In 3rd grade, Eureka Math introduces multiplication and division as central concepts, building conceptual understanding through arrays, area models, and equal groups up to 100. Students learn to fluently multiply and divide within 100 while applying properties of operations (distributive, associative, commutative) to solve complex word problems. Fractions are introduced as numbers on the number line, emphasizing unit fractions, equivalent fractions, and comparing fractions with like denominators or numerators. Area and perimeter are explored as attributes of two-dimensional shapes, connecting geometry directly to multiplication and spatial reasoning. Through rigorous problem-solving routines, 3rd graders develop fluency with facts and a strong conceptual grasp of rational numbers.

- Educational Method: Conceptual area/array modeling, problem-based math inquiry, mathematical discourse (explaining math reasoning out loud), and small-group targeted math intervention.

4th Grade

Fourth-grade Eureka Math shifts toward multi-digit arithmetic, advanced fraction operations, and place value concepts up to 1,000,000. Students master standard algorithms for addition and subtraction while developing conceptual methods (partial products, area models, long division strategies) for multi-digit multiplication and division. Fraction concepts expand significantly as students generate equivalent fractions, compare fractions with unlike denominators, and perform addition, subtraction, and scalar multiplication of fractions. Decimal notation is introduced as an extension of the place value system, connecting tenths and hundredths directly to fractions. Geometric concepts are formalized through measuring angles, identifying lines of symmetry, classifying two-dimensional figures, and solving multi-step conversion word problems.

- Educational Method: Multi-representational strategy instruction (teaching multiple visual methods for complex math), step-by-step word problem frameworks, and small-group guided practice.

5th Grade

In 5th grade, Eureka Math completes the elementary study of place value, operations with decimals and fractions, and volume concept development. Students extend place value reasoning to multi-digit multiplication and division involving decimals, understanding the impact of multiplying and dividing by powers of 10. Fraction operations reach full sophistication as students add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and mixed numbers with unlike denominators using visual area models and numerical algorithms. Geometry and measurement focus on understanding volume as an attribute of three-dimensional space, calculating the volume of right rectangular prisms using unit cubes and formulas. Additionally, students are introduced to the coordinate plane, plotting points in the first quadrant to represent real-world data and mathematical relationships.

- Educational Method: Visual spatial modeling, explicit strategy instruction, data-driven differentiation, and guided problem-solving routines.

6th Grade

Sixth grade marks the transition into middle school Eureka Math (6–8), focusing on ratios, proportional relationships, rational numbers, and algebraic expressions. Students develop a formal understanding of ratios, unit rates, and percentages, using tape diagrams, double number lines, and ratio tables to solve real-world problems. The number system expands to include negative numbers, absolute value, and the full coordinate plane across all four quadrants. Algebraic reasoning is cultivated as students write, read, and evaluate expressions with variables, solve one-variable equations and inequalities, and explore dependent versus independent variables. Surface area, volume of prisms with fractional edge lengths, and statistical measures of center and variability round out the curriculum, preparing students for linear algebra.

- Educational Method: Proportional visual modeling (ratio tables and tape diagrams), algebraic reasoning frameworks, and collaborative problem-solving tasks.

7th Grade

In 7th grade, Eureka Math deepens students' algebraic and proportional reasoning while extending operational fluency to the entire set of rational numbers (positive and negative fractions, decimals, and integers). Students analyze proportional relationships in-depth, identifying constants of proportionality in tables, graphs, and equations to solve multi-step percent and scale drawing problems. Expressions, equations, and inequalities are expanded to multi-step forms requiring the distributive property and combining like terms. Geometric study focuses on constructing scale drawings, finding angle relationships, computing the area and circumference of circles, and determining the volume and surface area of complex 3D composite shapes. Probability and statistics are formalized, introducing theoretical and experimental probability models alongside random sampling to draw inferences about populations.

- Educational Method: Multi-step algebraic modeling, real-world application problems, and guided peer math investigation routines.

8th Grade

Eighth-grade Eureka Math serves as a bridge to high school algebra and geometry, focusing on linear equations, functions, geometric transformations, and real-world mathematical modeling. Students master solving linear equations and systems of two-linear equations, interpreting their solutions graphically and algebraically. The concept of a function is formally defined, leading to the study of linear vs. non-linear functions and modeling bivariate data using scatter plots and trend lines. Geometry focuses on rigid transformations (translations, rotations, reflections) and dilations, establishing the foundation for congruence and similarity. Students also explore exponents, scientific notation, irrational numbers, and the Pythagorean Theorem, applying these concepts to solve real-world spatial problems.

- Educational Method: Mathematical modeling, graphical and algebraic synthesis, and student-led problem defense (explaining and defending math solutions).

Science (Success For All and STEMscopes curriculum)

K–2nd Grade

The early elementary science curriculum at MMSA aligns with Wisconsin Standards for Science and integrates thematic content from the Success for All (SFA) curriculum to engage young learners in hands-on inquiry, sense-making, and engineering design. Starting in Kindergarten and progressing through 1st and 2nd grade, students systematically build critical thinking skills by generating questions, making predictions, and observing natural processes in physical, life, and Earth sciences. Through individual, small-group, and whole-class investigations, students utilize simple tools to gather data, record findings in scientific notebooks using pictures and text, and support their conclusions with evidence during peer discussions. Furthermore, the curriculum integrates practical engineering concepts by empowering students to identify real-world problems, brainstorm and evaluate potential solutions, and communicate their designs using detailed drawings and prototypes. Across all three grades, rich academic vocabulary and scientific terminology are explicitly developed through oral responses, shared writing, and collaborative science discourse.

- Educational Method: Hands-on inquiry-based exploration, guided science notebooking, sensory data collection, and early engineering design challenges.

3rd Grade

In 3rd grade, STEMscopes introduces students to hands-on inquiry and standard-aligned phenomena across life, Earth, and physical sciences. Students investigate force and motion, weather patterns, and organism life cycles using interactive e-books, guided lab activities, and

digital simulation tools. Engineering challenges are embedded throughout each unit, encouraging students to define problems, test variables, and design functional solutions.

- Educational Method: Hands-on laboratory investigations, interactive simulation modeling, and embedded engineering design processes.

4th Grade

Fourth-grade STEMscopes instruction deepens students' understanding of complex Earth systems, energy transfer, and animal structures and behavior. Students explore wave properties, renewable versus non-renewable energy resources, and the geological processes that shape Earth's surface over time. Utilizing the 5E instructional model (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate), students conduct collaborative investigations and construct claim-evidence-reasoning arguments.

- Educational Method: The 5E Instructional Model (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate), collaborative lab investigations, and Claim-Evidence-Reasoning (CER) scientific writing frameworks.

5th Grade

In 5th grade, STEMscopes prepares students for upper-level science through exploration of ecosystems, matter and its interactions, and Earth's place in the universe. Students analyze food webs, the conservation of matter, shadows and constellation patterns, and the distribution of water on Earth. Through hands-on investigation kits and interactive digital tasks, students collect data, construct graphs, and draw conclusions based on evidence.

- Educational Method: Inquiry-based experimentation, graphical data analysis, and evidence-supported scientific argumentation.

6th Grade

In 6th grade, STEMscopes focuses on life science systems and chemical processes, guiding students to analyze the interdependence of living organisms and the conservation of energy and matter. Key units cover genetics and heredity, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, chemical reactions, and human impact on ecosystems. Students engage in virtual labs, hands-on experimentation, and research projects to model biological and chemical phenomena. The curriculum emphasizes analytical writing, mathematical modeling, and engineering solutions to contemporary ecological and scientific problems.

- Educational Method: Virtual and physical laboratory modeling, analytical scientific writing, and collaborative ecological research projects.

7th Grade

Seventh-grade STEMscopes explores foundational concepts in Earth and space science alongside cellular biology and physical forces. Students examine plate tectonics, weather and climate systems, cell structures, and gravity using digital simulations and inquiry-based laboratory experiments. The curriculum challenges students to analyze data sets, interpret visual models, and evaluate environmental impacts. Through structured writing frameworks and engineering design challenges, students learn to formulate sound scientific arguments supported by data.

- Educational Method: Digital simulation analysis, scientific data interpretation, and structured scientific argument writing.

8th Grade

Eighth-grade STEMscopes study physical science, physics, and Earth history, equipping students with the analytical rigor required for high school science. Students investigate forces, motion, waves, energy transformations, atomic structure, and geological time scales through advanced inquiry labs and engineering design modules. Emphasis is placed on quantitative data analysis, applying mathematical formulas, and evaluating competing scientific models.

- Educational Method: Quantitative data analysis, mathematical modeling, and advanced engineering design synthesis.

Social Studies (Success For All, Studies Weekly, Holt curriculum resources)

K5–2nd Grade

The early elementary social studies curriculum at MMSA integrates core social studies disciplines with thematic, cross-curricular content from the Success for All (SFA) curriculum to build active, responsible citizens. Starting in Kindergarten and progressing through 1st and 2nd grade, students explore Geography by interpreting map symbols, features, and physical versus human environments, while examining how communities use and adapt to local resources. In History, students utilize timelines to explore changes over time, study national symbols, holidays, and famous historical figures, and trace the evolution of transportation and communication. Through Political Science & Citizenship, learners develop an understanding of personal responsibilities to families, peers, and the broader community, while learning about rules, local government, civic action, and foundational documents that guarantee citizens' rights. The Economics strand introduces the role of money, personal economic decisions, the difference between needs and wants, and the vital role of local businesses, goods, and services in a community. Finally, integrated Behavioral Sciences and Health units highlight the importance of family, community helpers, health services, and various cultural groups, empowering students to make healthy choices and recognize their role in a collaborative society.

- Educational Method: Story-based cross-curricular learning, foundational map skills, civic role-playing, and guided community discussions.

3rd Grade

In 3rd grade, Wisconsin Studies Weekly introduces students to local and state history, geography, and civic foundations through engaging, primary-source-rich weekly periodicals. Students explore Wisconsin's diverse geographical regions, natural resources, and early history, including Indigenous cultures, early European fur traders, and pioneer settlements. The curriculum emphasizes basic map skills, economic concepts such as trade and local industries, and the role of local government. Through structured reading, critical thinking questions, and hands-on activities, 3rd graders learn how individuals and communities shape Wisconsin's past and present.

- Educational Method: Primary-source document analysis (examining historical photos and letters), periodical close reading, and map literacy routines.

4th Grade

Fourth-grade Studies Weekly delivers a comprehensive, deep dive into Wisconsin state history, geography, government, and economics aligned with state social studies standards. Students trace the story of Wisconsin from its original Native American tribes through statehood, the Civil War, industrial development, and modern history. The curriculum examines the state's physical geography, environmental stewardship, and economic drivers, while introducing the structure of Wisconsin's state government and sovereign tribal nations. By analyzing primary sources, historical photos, and thematic maps, 4th graders develop a strong sense of state identity and civic responsibility.

- Educational Method: Source-based inquiry, historical photograph analysis, and thematic map construction.

5th Grade

In 5th grade, Studies Weekly shifts focus to United States history, exploring the nation's development from early exploration through the creation of the Constitution and westward expansion. Students investigate early American civilizations, European exploration, the thirteen colonies, the American Revolution, and the foundations of American democracy. The curriculum integrates geography skills, economic concepts, and cultural studies while emphasizing critical analysis of diverse historical perspectives. Through weekly hands-on investigations, primary source analysis, and persuasive writing tasks, 5th graders build a solid foundation in national history and active citizenship.

- Educational Method: Multi-perspective historical analysis (examining events from different viewpoints), primary-source investigation, and persuasive historical essay writing.

6th Grade

In 6th grade, social studies explores critical turning points in United States history, tracing the nation's journey from internal conflict to rapid industrial transformation. Students examine the causes, major battles, key figures, and lasting consequences of the Civil War, evaluating the political struggles and constitutional amendments of the Reconstruction era. The curriculum then shifts to the post-Civil War boom, analyzing how immigration waves, urban growth, industrialization, and the rise of big business reshaped American society. Through studying the Gilded Age, the labor movement, Populism, and the Progressive Era, 6th graders learn how reformers worked to address social inequality, political corruption, and economic shifts in a modernizing nation.

- Educational Method: Document-based questioning (DBQ), comparative historical research, and structured group debates.

7th Grade

Seventh-grade social studies begins with an in-depth study of U.S. physical, political, and regional geography, providing a spatial framework for understanding the nation's growth and global expansion. Students analyze America's rise as a world power through late 19th-century imperialism and examine the military, technological, and political dimensions of World War I. The curriculum then surveys the domestic transformation of the 1920s—including the Harlem Renaissance and women's suffrage—alongside the economic collapse of the Great Depression and the expanding role of government under FDR's New Deal. Finally, 7th graders investigate the global causes, ideological conflicts, major battle fronts, and tragic human tolls of World War II, culminating in the Holocaust, the development of the atomic bomb, and the establishment of the United Nations.

- Educational Method: Spatial geographic analysis, primary document synthesis (combining facts from multiple documents), and critical historical evaluation.

8th Grade

In 8th grade, social studies focuses on the Post-World War II era, the Cold War, and modern American history, preparing students for high school civics and global studies. Students analyze the geopolitical rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, exploring key events such as the Marshall Plan, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the eventual fall of the Berlin Wall. The curriculum highlights the domestic struggle for civil rights, examining the strategies, leaders, and legislative achievements that advanced racial, gender, and social equality. By evaluating late 20th and early 21st-century economic shifts, technological innovations, and global policy challenges, 8th graders develop a comprehensive understanding of contemporary American democracy and citizenship.

- Educational Method: Seminar-style academic discussions, formal argumentative research writing, and media literacy evaluation.

Special Education (SPED) Services & Support Methods

MMSA provides a flexible continuum of support to ensure students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) receive high-quality instruction tailored to their unique learning needs:

- Inclusive "Push-In" Co-Teaching & Support:
 - Educational Method: For students performing close to grade level, special education teachers and support staff collaborate directly inside the general education classroom.
 - How it Helps: Students remain fully integrated with their peers while receiving discreet, targeted support, assignment modifications, and real-time guidance to master grade-level standards in the general classroom environment.
- Targeted "Pull-Out" Resource Room Instruction:
 - Educational Method: For students performing well below grade level, special education teachers provide specialized, direct instruction in a dedicated resource room setting.
 - How it Helps: This small-group environment removes classroom distractions so students can build foundational prerequisite skills, fill learning gaps, and develop the core academic stamina needed to access grade-level content.
- Individualized Accommodations:
 - Educational Method: Tailored instructional strategies—such as modified assignment length, extended time, visual schedules, and alternative testing environments—are integrated into daily routines.
 - How it Helps: Ensures students can accurately demonstrate their knowledge and growth without facing unnecessary learning or testing barriers.

English as a Second Language (ESL) / Integrated Language Support

MMSA employs an Integrated ESL Model designed to help Multilingual Learners (MLs) develop academic English proficiency while staying fully engaged in core grade-level content:

- Integrated Content-Based Language Instruction (Push-In Support):
 - Educational Method: ESL specialists work directly inside mainstream classrooms alongside core teachers, utilizing sheltered instruction techniques (visual scaffolds, graphic organizers, structured sentence frames, and strategic peer pairing).
 - How it Helps: Allows language learners to build grade-level reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills within regular content lessons, preventing academic falling-behind while honoring native language backgrounds.
- Targeted Small-Group Language Intervention:
 - Educational Method: When needed for emerging English speakers, ESL teachers provide small-group explicit language instruction focused on vocabulary acquisition, syntax, and language mechanics.
 - How it Helps: Provides a supportive, low-anxiety setting where students can build confidence and accelerate foundational English communication skills.

School-Wide Assessment Program

MMSA utilizes a robust, multi-tiered assessment framework across all grade levels to evaluate student achievement, track growth over time, and inform data-driven daily instruction:

- **NWEA MAP Growth Testing:**
 - K5 – 8th Grade: Administered 3 times per year (Fall, Winter, and Spring) for Reading and Mathematics to measure individual student academic progress and growth trajectories.
 - 3rd – 8th Grade: Administered 2 times per year (Fall and Winter) for Science and Language Usage.
- **STAR Math:** Administered every 6 weeks for K5 – 8th Grade students as a progress monitoring tool to track ongoing skill acquisition and inform targeted tier-2 small-group math interventions.
- **AIMSweb Testing:** Administered 3 times per year (Fall, Winter, and Spring) for K4 – 3rd Grade students to assess early literacy and foundational mathematics skills.
- **Wisconsin Forward Exam:** Administered annually in March/April as the state-mandated assessment evaluating grade-level proficiency in Reading (3-8), Math (3-8), Science (4 and 8), and Social Studies (4 and 8).
- **Formal Writing Prompts:** Administered to all K5 – 8th Grade students in the Fall and Spring to evaluate writing growth, conventions, structure, and text-based response skills over the course of the school year.
- **ACCESS for ELLs:** Administered annually in December/January for English Language Learner (ESL) students to measure English language proficiency across listening, speaking, reading, and writing domains.