



CPS  
Cambridge Public Schools



2012

# Upper Schools Curriculum Highlights

English Language Arts  
Mathematics  
Science  
Social Science  
Health Education

Information,  
Communication &  
Technology Services  
Physical Education  
Visual & Performing Arts  
World Language



# Curriculum Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADES 6, 7, and 8**

## Cambridge Upper School Network

★ Cambridge Street Upper School

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★ Putnam Avenue Upper School

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★ Vassal Lane Upper School

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★ Contact information on this page for each Head of Upper School will be operational as of August 20, 2012.

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Curriculum Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADES 6, 7, and 8**

## About the Curriculum

Spring 2012

Dear Students, Parents, and Families,

Welcome to the Cambridge Public School District's Upper School Network. Our Upper Schools serve students in sixth through eighth grades in an exciting new organizational structure designed to support meaningful relationships and promote quality learning opportunities.

The Common Core State Standards and Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks are the foundation for all instructional course offerings. District Curriculum Coordinators and Central Office staff work with faculties at each Upper School campus to plan, design, implement, and evaluate district curriculum in each content area.

Upper School Scholars can look forward to a learning experience that is developmentally responsive, challenging, inclusive, and supportive of all in an environment that enables students to achieve positive personal growth and continuous academic progress.

Opportunities to explore, learn, create, connect, imagine, and enjoy can be experienced through our rich academic, arts and wellness offerings. Curriculum Highlights representing each content area are outlined in this document for your perusal. The format includes information in response to four key statements for each curriculum area:

What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

What your Upper School Scholar will do...

What families will see...

How families can help...

All of us in the Cambridge Public Schools are excited about our new Upper School Network and ready to work with you as full partners to ensure the success of every scholar. Please feel free to contact me at [cturk@cpsd.us](mailto:cturk@cpsd.us) with questions or concerns, at any time. I look forward to meeting and hearing from you, as your input is valued and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carolyn L. Turk  
Deputy Superintendent for Teaching & Learning

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Curriculum Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADES 6, 7, and 8**

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# Curriculum Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADES 6, 7, and 8**



## GRADE 6

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# English Language Arts Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 6**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- To develop his/her analytical reading practices
- Strategies to build a solid foundation for the nonfiction reading he/she will do across disciplines
- To analyze a character in a short story and construct a formal essay
- To capture his/her opinions and beliefs and develop them into a well-crafted essay
- To reflect on his/her personal experiences relating to fairness, equity, and justice and to create characters and stories through which these issues are explored
- To blend the skills of research and informational writing to compose a feature article
- Content specific vocabulary

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Get to know him/herself as a reader and a writer and set reading and writing goals
- Participate in class discussions and book clubs
- Keep a reader's and writer's notebook
- Study mentor text (a published piece of writing) to understand the writing he/she is expected to do
- Explore various fictional genres (realistic fiction, historical fiction, science fiction and fantasy)
- Analyze various genres and styles of nonfiction and literary texts
- Write a wide variety of texts including literary analysis, personal and persuasive essays, fiction and feature article
- Submit essays for publication, to contests or forums

## What families will see...

- Literary and letter essays
- Reader's and Writer's notebook entries
- Reading logs
- Online postings
- Independent reading and analysis of challenging literary texts
- Class collections of published stories
- Multimedia projects

## How families can help...

- Encourage reading and writing at home
- Attend publication celebrations
- Read online publications
- Read and comment on letter essays

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Mathematics Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 6**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

In Grade 6, instruction will focus on four critical areas:

- Connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems;
- Completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers;
- Writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and
- Developing understanding of statistical thinking.

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Students will engage in mathematically rich investigations in the classroom, guided by the CMP2 curriculum.
- Students will have clear opportunities for enrichment and support in each unit of instruction
- Students will have the opportunity to participate in one of two extra-curricular math clubs at the Upper Campus: one club will be focused on supporting students with foundational content, and another club will be focused on offering students enrichment opportunities focused on problem solving and mathematical connections
- Students will engage in online activities, inside and outside of the classroom, which will deepen their understanding of mathematics.

## What families will see...

- Families should expect nightly homework, which will vary from practice to projects.
- Families will be able to visit a Math Fair at each Upper Campus in the Spring,
- Families can learn more about the mathematics program at the district website: <http://www3.cpsd.us/Academics/Math/>. The website will give them suggestions for more learning opportunities outside of the classroom.

## How families can help...

- Families can help students in pursuing support or challenge opportunities outside of the school day, either through the Math Clubs at each school or through outside opportunities.
- Families can set up a study area for their child to study and complete homework.
- Families can help by checking in with their child's math teacher to find more ways they can help support their child at home.

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Science Highlights

## School Year 2012-2013

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 6**

### What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- Foundational content in space, earth, and life science
- How scientists collect, use, and evaluate evidence to make scientific claims
- How to use and evaluate models as tools to understand complex scientific phenomena
- How to read, write, and discuss in science

### What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Hands-on science activities
- Collect data
- Develop models
- Use technology to explore causal relationships

### What families will see...

- Science writing (reflections, responses to prompts, conclusions, research projects)
- Models
- Curriculum embedded performance assessments

### How families can help...

- Read your child's lab binder
- Visit local museums (Museum of Science, Harvard Museum of Natural History) in order to build background knowledge
- Provide your child opportunities to document how the moon and stars change over a month

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Social Science Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 6**

GEOGRAPHY & ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS –“Ideas that Shaped the World”

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

The connections we share from the past by exploring the following:

- An introduction to geography,
- Human origins,
- Mesopotamia,
- Ancient Egypt,
- Ancient Greece.

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

Using our anchor curriculum, *History Alive! The Ancient World*,

- Students in the Upper School will be discovering such ideas as how geography shaped the lives of early humans, and our lives today,
- Students will be introduced to the origin of humans and how humans have physically adapted over time, and
- Students will learn how the civilizations of the Fertile Crescent and Africa, laid the ground-work for the civic and political ideologies of Ancient Greece and Rome.

## What families will see...

- A consistent expectation in regular reading and writing assignments
- Student presentations of their work, oral and written.
- Evidence-based research projects
- Connections to civics concepts and activities
- Emphasis on the importance of collaboration and cooperation as a community of learners.

## How families can help...

- Encourage their student to read for pleasure.
- Encourage more writing, such as taking notes when doing homework, writing their thoughts in a journal, etc.
- Arrange for student to have a quiet study time and place every day.
- Visit museums and other historical sites, whenever possible.
- Encourage critical thinking from your student.
- Encourage more reading- in addition to books- sports section of newspaper, fashion, magazine articles, news magazines, etc.
- Keep open communication open with your student's teacher(s)

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Health Education & Social Emotional Learning Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 6**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

### Getting along with others

- How can I express feelings in healthy ways?
- How can I learn to be more respectful of others?
- How can I prevent & manage stress?
- What makes someone a good friend?

### Bullies and Bystanders

- What is bullying?
- What can I do if bullying happens to me or someone else?
- How can I stand up for myself and others?

### Keeping Healthy

- How can I keep myself healthy?
- What do I want to know about the body system and puberty?

### What should we eat?

- How healthful is my eating?
- What are healthful snacks to choose?
- What makes it hard to make healthy choices?

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- **Students will practice the following health life skills:** Decision-making, Goal Setting, Communication Skills, Resisting Peer Pressure, Assertiveness, Knowing, Recognizing & Managing Emotions, Anger & Stress Management, Relationship Skills, Social Awareness & Empathy, Appreciating Diversity, Using Resources, Analyzing Influences and Health Advocacy.

## What families will see...

- From time to time the students will bring you instructional materials to be used at home to reinforce the skills learned in the classroom. Watch for these materials and talk with your adolescent about them. Conversations you have with your child about health will place the information they are receiving in class in the context of your family values.

## How families can help...

- **Talk with your child about your values about bullying, sexuality, alcohol and drug use. Let them know what you believe.**
- **Practice being a good listener.**
- **Talk with your child and with other parents about where your children will be after school; help your child get involved in a supervised after school activity.**
- **Set guidelines for TV, internet, cell phone and IM use.**
- **Help your child get the sleep that they need, which is between 8.5 and 9.5 hours a night.**
- **For information on health topics, check out <http://kidshealth.org/parent/>**

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Information, Communication & Technology Services Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADES 6,7, and 8**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- **Literature Appreciation** - continue to grow as life-long readers and build their repertoire of reading strategies
- **Online Literacy** - how to communicate and collaborate in an online community safely and appropriately
- **Information Literacy** - how to think critically to find, evaluate, use and share information for a purpose

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- **Collaborate** and communicate with students and teachers using GoogleDocs
- **Access** current technology tools to interact and learn from the global community
- **Utilize** a variety of devices and platforms to accomplish tasks
- **Explore** library resources in new media formats 24/7

## What families will see...

- **Library Information Technology Centers (LITC)** - a transformed library space to facilitate developmental and curricular needs of middle school students, including designated Young Adult and Nonfiction literature sections
- **Information, Communication, Technology Services Team** - a building-based Library Media Specialist, Library Assistant, Technology Support Technician and a .5 Upper School Instructional Technology Specialist working together and with teachers to deliver services
- **Student Devices** - a laptop cart for every two classrooms and additional media-making tools (desktops, video cameras, audio systems) in the LITC
- **Classroom Suite** - an interactive whiteboard, teacher desktop, document camera, and audio system to support 21st Century teaching and learning

## How families can help...

- **Talk** to your child about their online activities and behavior, and model for them ethical and appropriate use
- **Encourage** your child to pursue independent reading for personal and intellectual growth
- **Explore** community resources, such as the Cambridge Public Library and the CRLS Media Arts Studio, that support your child's interests

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Physical Education Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 6**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- Students will learn different tactical approaches to games and sports, and how to apply them in a competitive situation.
- Students will learn exercises and activities from each of the five components of physical fitness.
- Students will learn about other countries and cultures by participating in games and sports from around the world
- Students will understand the importance of cooperation & communication in a group setting

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

Scope and Sequence Grade 6
Rules/Expectations
★U.M.P.A.
Team Sports
Creative Movement
Fitness Healthy Heart/Fit Body
Net Games
Field Games
World Games

- **Each grade will follow a scope and sequence. The unit names are categories.**  
The specific activities in each unit may vary (ex. Creative movement could include jump rope, dance, etc.)

★ Urban Modification of Project Adventure

## What families will see...

- A heightened awareness of healthy vs. unhealthy habits and lifestyle choices
- Authentic assessments that follow the Physical Education curriculum guidelines based on each individual students' progress
- Through games and activities families will see an appreciation for other cultures and countries

## How families can help...

- Be a good example of leadership and sportsmanship at home
- Practice healthy habits at home and be a positive role model
- Stay in contact with your child's physical education teacher

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Visual & Performing Arts Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 6**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- **Theater** – All students will take drama for two of the three trimesters, two days per rotation. They will learn the fundamentals of theater, develop confidence in front of others, and become part of an ensemble.
- **General Music** – All students will take general music for two of the three trimesters, two days per rotation. They will learn about different styles of music by singing and playing in those styles. They will compose their own music, using the new technology being installed in the Upper Schools.
- **Visual Art** - All students will take Art for two of the three trimesters, two days per rotation. They will learn to experiment with a variety of media and techniques, observe their world in new ways by finding art in the everyday, and explore the elements and principles of design.
- **Instrumental Music** – Will be offered to all students who wish to continue playing their instruments. They will receive one small group lesson per week, and learn to develop ensemble playing by being part of a band or string orchestra.

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- **Performance** – Students will have the opportunity to perform in a band, string orchestra, chorus, or theater production by signing up for those electives.
- **Develop a portfolio of art pieces, including some for exhibition.**
- **Compose music.**

## What families will see...

- **Concerts**
- **Theater Performances**
- **Visual Arts Exhibits, works of art brought home.**

## How families can help...

- **Encourage your child to continue playing his/her instrument or singing.**
- **Make sure your child practices his/her instrument.**
- **Come to events and productions.**
- **Offer to help with costume, ushering, and other behind-the-scenes work.**

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# World Language Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 6**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- Appreciation of language and culture of another land – Spanish, French and Chinese;
- Exploratory classes in grade 6 – one trimester for each language , students will choose one language and begin an in-depth study during their middle school career;
- Phrases and short dialogues about: introductions, health, common classroom expressions, parts of the body, days of the week, months, seasons, weather expressions;
- Simple vocabulary about the home, family, and school situations;
- Developmental Design activities in the second language;
- Cultural differences/similarities between the United States and other cultures.
- Oral and written communication skills in the target language

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Collaborate and communicate with classmates and the teacher in the target language;
- Create projects that integrate the study of grammar & vocabulary into oral presentations;
- Work in groups and in pairs to practice the language structures and vocabulary;
- Prepare dialogues and make oral presentations with the content provided by the teacher;
- Play games and use computer websites to practice the language;
- Access and use proficiently computer technology to research data about oral and written projects.

## What families will see...

- A modern classroom with an ENO Board and a Document Camera;
- Technology that will show examples of the target language in action;
- CD's and DVD's that will enhance the students' speaking and listening skills;
- Document Cameras that will enable the students to record and see their oral presentations and dialogues instantly;
- Active use of the target language in different situations- whole group and paired activities;
- Speaking and practicing the target language as much as possible;
- Continuous practice of all 4 basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

## How families can help...

- Practice vocabulary, verb conjugations, and dialogues with your child;
- View childrens' television shows in the target language through cable;
- Ensure that students practice at home the computer exercises and practice activities that are available;
- Check out and read childrens' story books in the public library in the target language;
- Practice with the Rosetta Stone from the public library;
- Encourage your child to use the second language as much as possible.

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Curriculum Highlights

UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GRADES 6, 7, and 8



## GRADE 7

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# English Language Arts Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 7**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- To develop his/her analytical reading practices
- To analyze theme and the interaction of literary elements including conflict, setting, symbolism, and figurative language
- How literary nonfiction informs readers about a topic in an entertaining and interesting way
- About the art of memoir
- How to take task, purpose and audience into consideration when writing to a prompt

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Get to know him/herself as a reader and a writer and set reading and writing goals
- Participate in class discussions and book clubs
- Keep a reader's and writer's notebook
- Study mentor text (a published piece of writing) to understand the writing he/she is expected to do
- Immerse him/herself in reading and understanding the scope of literary nonfiction
- Analyze various genres and styles of nonfiction and literary texts (literary nonfiction, novels)
- Write a wide variety of texts including literary analysis, memoir, prompted and letter essays
- Share his/her letter essays electronically
- Submit a letter essay to The Massachusetts Letters about Literature competition

## What families will see...

- Literary and letter essays
- Reader's and Writer's notebook entries
- Reading logs
- Online postings
- Contest entry essay: Letters about Literature

## How families can help...

- Encourage reading and writing at home
- Participate in book groups
- Come to publication celebrations
- Read online student publications

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Mathematics Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 7**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

In Grade 7, instruction will focus on four critical areas:

- Developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships;
- Developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations;
- Solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and
- Drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Students will engage in mathematically rich investigations in the classroom, guided by the CMP2 curriculum.
- Students will have clear opportunities for enrichment and support in each unit of instruction
- Students will have the opportunity to participate in one of two extra-curricular math clubs at the Upper Campus: one club will be focused on supporting students with foundational content, and another club will be focused on offering students enrichment opportunities focused on problem solving and mathematical connections
- Students will engage in online activities, inside and outside of the classroom, which will deepen their understanding of mathematics.

## What families will see...

- Families should expect **nightly homework**, which will vary from practice to projects.
- Families will be able to visit a **Math Fair** at each Upper Campus in the Spring,
- Families can learn more about the mathematics program at the **district website**: <http://www3.cpsd.us/Academics/Math/>. The website will give them suggestions for more learning opportunities outside of the classroom.

## How families can help...

- Families can help students in pursuing support or challenge opportunities outside of the school day, either through the Math Clubs at each school or through outside opportunities.
- Families can set up a study area for their child to study and complete homework.
- Families can help by checking in with their child's math teacher to find more ways they can help support their child at home.

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# Science Highlights

## In Development for School Year 2013-2014

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 7**

### What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- How matter and energy move through physical, earth, and biological systems
- How knowledge of chemical processes allows scientists to understand weather and climate and energy flow in ecosystems.

### What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Investigate and collect data
- Develop engineering design projects
- Participate in at least one curriculum-connected field trip

### What families will see...

- Models
- Scientific writing (reflections, lab analyses, proposals)
- Diagrams, sketches, and drawings
- Curriculum embedded performance assessments

### How families can help...

- Read your child's lab binder
- Visit local museums (MIT Museum, Museum of Science, Harvard Museum of Natural History) in order to build background knowledge
- Read a book with your son or daughter on a connected science topic

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Social Science Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 7**

## Ancient and Classical Civilizations Across the Globe

### What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

#### The content of this course is:

- Ancient Rome,
- World Religions,
- Medieval China,
- Medieval West Africa,
- Meso-America (Mayas, Incas & Aztecs).

### What your Upper School Scholar will do...

#### Using our anchor curriculum, *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond*, and *Geography Alive!*

- Students will be examining ideas such as power, governmental structures, and trade.
- Students will explore how the Roman Republic has influenced our own democracy.
- Students will study the origins and spread of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and other religions and belief systems, their relationships to trade, politics, economics, and the development of modern civilization.

### What families will see...

#### A consistent expectation in regular reading and writing assignments.

- Student presentations of their work, oral and written.
- Evidence-based research projects with an emphasis on how to paraphrase, not plagiarize, how to analyze and interpret primary and other sources, and how to think like historians.
- Connections to contemporary civics concepts and activities.
- Emphasis on the importance of collaboration and cooperation as a community of learners.

### How families can help...

#### Encourage their student to read for pleasure.

- Encourage more writing, such as taking notes when doing homework, writing their thoughts in a journal, etc.
- Arrange for student to have a quiet study time and place every day.
- Visit museums and other historical sites, whenever possible.
- Encourage critical thinking from your student.
- Encourage more reading- in addition to books- sports section of newspaper, fashion,

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Health Education & Social Emotional Learning Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 7**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

### Feelings and Life Skills

- How do I see myself?
- How can we deal with feelings and stressful social situations?
- How can I make new friends?

### Resolving Conflicts and Preventing Bullying

- Does the media make us aggressive?
- What can I do when I'm angry?
- When is it bullying/sexual harassment and when is it just fooling around?
- How can we handle bullying and sexual harassment?

### Understanding Substances

- What harm is there in using tobacco, alcohol or marijuana?
- Why do some teens use substances and others don't?
- How do advertisers manipulate teens?

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- **Students will practice the following health life skills:** Decision-making, Goal Setting, Communication Skills, Resisting Peer Pressure, Assertiveness, Knowing, Recognizing & Managing Emotions, Anger & Stress Management, Relationship Skills, Social Awareness & Empathy, Appreciating Diversity, Using Resources, Analyzing Influences and Health Advocacy.

## What families will see...

- From time to time the students will bring you instructional materials to be used at home to reinforce the skills learned in the classroom. Watch for these materials and talk with your adolescent about them. Conversations you have with your child about health will place the information they are receiving in class in the context of your family values.

## How families can help...

- Talk with your child about your values about bullying, sexuality, alcohol and drug use. Let them know what you believe.
- Practice being a good listener.
- Talk with your child and with other parents about where your children will be after school; help your child get involved in a supervised after school activity.
- Set guidelines for TV, internet, cell phone and IM use.
- Help your child get the sleep that they need, which is between 8.5 and 9.5 hours a night.
- For information on health topics, check out <http://kidshealth.org/parent/>

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Information, Communication & Technology Services Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADES 6, 7, and 8**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- **Literature Appreciation** - continue to grow as life-long readers and build their repertoire of reading strategies
- **Online Literacy** - how to communicate and collaborate in an online community safely and appropriately
- **Information Literacy** - how to think critically to find, evaluate, use and share information for a purpose

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- **Collaborate** and communicate with students and teachers using GoogleDocs
- **Access** current technology tools to interact and learn from the global community
- **Utilize** a variety of devices and platforms to accomplish tasks
- **Explore** library resources in new media formats 24/7

## What families will see...

- **Library Information Technology Centers (LITC)** - a transformed library space to facilitate developmental and curricular needs of middle school students, including designated Young Adult and Nonfiction literature sections
- **Information, Communication, Technology Services Team** - a building-based Library Media Specialist, Library Assistant, Technology Support Technician and a .5 Upper School Instructional Technology Specialist working together and with teachers to deliver services
- **Student Devices** - a laptop cart for every two classrooms and additional media-making tools (desktops, video cameras, audio systems) in the LITC
- **Classroom Suite** - an interactive whiteboard, teacher desktop, document camera, and audio system to support 21st Century teaching and learning

## How families can help...

- **Talk** to your child about their online activities and behavior, and model for them ethical and appropriate use
- **Encourage** your child to pursue independent reading for personal and intellectual growth
- **Explore** community resources, such as the Cambridge Public Library and the CRLS Media Arts Studio, that support your child's interests

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Physical Education Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 7**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- Students will learn the five components of physical fitness and be able to differentiate between them
- Students will learn how to provide feedback to others regarding performance of an activity
- Students will learn how to participate in individual and dual activities that they can partake in outside of school to maintain a healthy lifestyle

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

Scope and Sequence Grade 7
Rules/Expectations
★U.M.P.A.: Cooperative Games
Team Sports
Creative Movement
Fitness Healthy Heart/Fit Body Individual/Dual Activities
Field Games: Team Sports 2

- **Each grade will follow a scope and sequence. The unit names are categories.** The specific activities in each unit may vary (ex. Creative movement could include jump rope, dance, etc.)

★ Urban Modification of Project Adventure

## What families will see...

- A heightened awareness of healthy vs. unhealthy habits and lifestyle choices
- Authentic assessments that follow the Physical Education curriculum guidelines based on each individual students' progress

## How families can help...

- Be a good example of leadership and sportsmanship at home
- Practice healthy habits at home and be a positive role model
- Stay in contact with your child's physical education teacher

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Visual & Performing Arts Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 7**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- **General Music** – All students will take yearlong General Music twice per rotation. They will learn to listen to and respond critically to different styles and genres of music.
- **Visual Art** - All students will take yearlong Art twice per rotation. They will learn to understand art in its historical and cultural contexts, identify stereotypes and construct new meanings through art, and critique their own art and the work of others.
- **Instrumental Music** – Will be offered to all students who wish to continue playing their instruments. They will receive one small group lesson per week and learn to develop further their ensemble playing by being part of a band or string orchestra.
- **Theater** – Acting and production offered as an elective.

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Performance – Students will have the opportunity to perform in a band, string orchestra, chorus, or theater production by signing up for those electives.
- Develop a portfolio of art pieces, including some for exhibition.
- Explore and experiment in different genres of music discovering them through singing, playing, listening, and composing.

## What families will see...

- Concerts
- Theater Performances
- Visual Arts Exhibits, works of art brought home.

## How families can help...

- Encourage your child to continue playing his/her instrument or singing.
- Make sure your child practices his/her instrument.
- Come to events and productions.
- Offer to help with costume, ushering, and other behind-the-scenes work.

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# World Language Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 7**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- The content of the first half of a level 1 program of study— building on the concepts learned in grade 6
- An in-depth study about the use of articles, adjectives, verbs, negative expressions, and idiomatic phrases;
- Short dialogues in context situations;
- Oral and written communication skills in the target language
- Computer links and internet sites for audio/oral practice;
- Thematic units concerning family, school, travel, hobbies, food, and restaurants.

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Collaborate and communicate with classmates and the teacher in the target language;
- Create projects that integrate the study of grammar and vocabulary into oral presentations;
- Work in groups and in pairs to practice the language structures and vocabulary;
- Prepare dialogues and make oral presentations with the content provided by the teacher;
- Play games and use computer websites to practice the language;
- Access and use proficiently computer technology to research data about oral and written projects.

## What families will see...

- A modern classroom with an ENO Board and a Document Camera;
- Technology that will show examples of the target language in action;
- CD's and DVD's that will enhance the students' speaking and listening skills;
- Document Cameras that will enable the students to record and see their oral presentations and dialogues instantly;
- Active use of the target language in different situations- whole group and paired activities;
- Speaking and practicing the target language as much as possible;
- Continuous practice of all 4 basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

## How families can help...

- Practice vocabulary, verb conjugations, and dialogues with your child;
- View childrens' television shows in the target language through cable;
- Ensure that students practice at home the computer exercises and practice activities that are available;
- Check out and read childrens' story books in the public library in the target language;
- Practice with the Rosetta Stone from the public library;
- Encourage your child to use the second language as much as possible.

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Curriculum Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADES 6, 7, and 8**



## GRADE 8

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# English Language Arts Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 8**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- To develop his/her analytical reading practices
- How to analyze author's craft and how writers use specific craft techniques to convey meaning
- How to use persuasive techniques while writing powerful editorials.
- How to analyze and use craft techniques for writing short stories of various genres.
- How to analyze poetry and write literary analysis of poetic devices.
- Content specific vocabulary

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Get to know him/herself as a reader and a writer and set reading and writing goals
- Keep a reader's and writer's notebook
- Study mentor text (a published piece of writing) for the writing he/she is expected to do
- Prepare for and engage in student-led discussions such as Socratic Circles and fishbowls
- Analyze various genres and styles of nonfiction and literary texts (prose and poetry).
- Write a wide variety of texts including literary analysis essays, editorials, and short stories.
- Submit writing for online publication
- Reflect on his/her learning

## What families will see...

- Literary and letter essays
- Reader's and Writer's notebook entries
- Online postings and publications

## How families can help...

- Encourage reading at home
- Read online publications
- Read and comment on letter essays

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Mathematics Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 8 Algebra**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

### In Grade 8 Algebra, instruction will focus on three critical areas:

- Formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations;
- Grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships;
- Analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Students will engage in mathematically rich investigations in the classroom, guided by the CMP2 curriculum.
- Students will have clear opportunities for enrichment and support in each unit of instruction
- Students will have the opportunity to participate in one of two extra-curricular math clubs at the Upper Campus: one club will be focused on supporting students with foundational content, and another club will be focused on offering students enrichment opportunities focused on problem solving and mathematical connections

## What families will see...

- Families should expect nightly homework, which will vary from practice to projects.
- Families will be able to visit a Math Fair at each Upper Campus in the Spring,
- Families can learn more about the mathematics program at the district website: <http://www3.cpsd.us/Academics/Math/>. The website will give them suggestions for more learning opportunities outside of the classroom.

## How families can help...

- Families can help students in pursuing support or challenge opportunities outside of the school day, either through the Math Clubs at each school or through outside opportunities.
- Families can set up a study area for their child to study and complete homework.
- Families can help by checking in with their child's math teacher to find more ways they can help support their child at home.

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Science Highlights

## In Development for School Year 2014-2015

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 8**

### What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- Why all the systems studied in middle school change the way that they do
- The role of forces: forces at a distance (magnetism, electricity, and gravity), forces in context (the Universe and the Big Bang and forces in the Earth's systems) and evolution as a force of change.

### What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Hands-on science activities
- Read, write, and discuss in science
- Analyze complex systems relationships

### What families will see...

- Presentations
- Research Reports
- Interdisciplinary Projects
- Lab analyses

### How families can help...

- Read your child's lab binder
- Visit local museums (MIT Museum, Museum of Science, Harvard Museum of Natural History) in order to build background knowledge
- Read a book with your son or daughter on a connected science topic
- Engage in rich discussions with your children about human impact

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Social Science Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 8**

## WORLD HISTORY I

### What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

#### The content of this course is:

- Medieval Europe
- The Renaissance, Reformation, and Age of Exploration
- The Scientific Revolution
- Civics and Citizenship
- It is the precursor to World History II in Grade 9 at CRLS.

### What your Upper School Scholar will do...

#### Using our anchor curriculum, *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond*, Facing History and Ourselves, and other case study resources:

- Students will be grappling with how power structures such as in the Catholic Church were established.
- Students will understand the role of hierarchy in the feudal system and how it relates to the class system of modern day society.
- Students will examine the role of citizenry in medieval times and the role of citizenry today.
- Students will study the impact of creativity and invention, then and now.

### What families will see...

- A consistent expectation for complex critical thinking
- Student presentations of their work, oral and written.
- Evidence-based research projects with an emphasis on how to analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources, and how to think and write like historians.
- Connections to contemporary civics and social justice concepts, issues and activities.
- Emphasis on the importance of collaboration, cooperation and personal responsibility as a community of learners.

### How families can help...

- Encourage their student to read more, independently
- Encourage more writing, such as note taking, letter writing, journaling, etc.
- Encourage your student to use a quiet study time and place every day.

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Health Education & Social Emotional Learning Highlights

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK

GRADE 8

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

### Transitions to High School

- What are my hopes and dreams for high school?
- What do I want to know about high school life?
- How can I turn my dreams into reality?

### Healthy Relationships

- What are the signs of an unhealthy relationship?
- How can I handle bullying and sexual harassment?
- How can I help a friend?

### Eating Well

- How healthy is my eating?
- What makes it hard to make healthy choices?
- How can I maintain a healthy weight?

### Know Your Body \*

- What do I need to know to be sexually healthy?
- How can I say no to risky sexual behavior?
- What questions do I have about dating?

\* Requires parent/guardian permission

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- **Students will practice the following health life skills:** Decision-making, Goal Setting, Communication Skills, Resisting Peer Pressure, Assertiveness, Knowing, Recognizing & Managing Emotions, Anger & Stress Management, Relationship Skills, Social Awareness & Empathy, Appreciating Diversity, Using Resources, Analyzing Influences and Health Advocacy.

## What families will see...

- From time to time the students will bring you **instructional materials to be used at home to reinforce the skills learned in the classroom**. Watch for these materials and talk with your adolescent about them. Conversations you have with your child about health will place the information they are receiving in class in the context of your family values

## How families can help...

- **Talk** with your child about your values about bullying, sexuality, alcohol and drug use. Let them know what you believe.
- **Practice** being a good listener.
- **Talk** with your child and with other parents about where your children will be after school; help your child get involved in a supervised after school activity.
- **Set guidelines** for TV, internet, cell phone and IM use.
- **Help** your child get the sleep that they need, which is between 8.5 and 9.5 hours a night.
- For information on health topics, **check out** <http://kidshealth.org/parent/>

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Information, Communication & Technology Services Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADES 6,7, and 8**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- **Literature Appreciation** - continue to grow as life-long readers and build their repertoire of reading strategies
- **Online Literacy** - how to communicate and collaborate in an online community safely and appropriately
- **Information Literacy** - how to think critically to find, evaluate, use and share information for a purpose

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- **Collaborate** and communicate with students and teachers using GoogleDocs
- **Access** current technology tools to interact and learn from the global community
- **Utilize** a variety of devices and platforms to accomplish tasks
- **Explore** library resources in new media formats 24/7

## What families will see...

- **Library Information Technology Centers (LITC)** - a transformed library space to facilitate developmental and curricular needs of middle school students, including designated Young Adult and Nonfiction literature sections
- **Information, Communication, Technology Services Team** - a building-based Library Media Specialist, Library Assistant, Technology Support Technician and a .5 Upper School Instructional Technology Specialist working together and with teachers to deliver services
- **Student Devices** - a laptop cart for every two classrooms and additional media-making tools (desktops, video cameras, audio systems) in the LITC
- **Classroom Suite** - an interactive whiteboard, teacher desktop, document camera, and audio system to support 21st Century teaching and learning

## How families can help...

- **Talk** to your child about their online activities and behavior, and model for them ethical and appropriate use
- **Encourage** your child to pursue independent reading for personal and intellectual growth
- **Explore** community resources, such as the Cambridge Public Library and the CRLS Media Arts Studio, that support your child's interests

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# Physical Education Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 8**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- Students will learn how to evaluate their own fitness level and set fitness goals
- Students will learn how to take a leadership role in group or team activities
- Students will learn how to manage school with a healthy and active lifestyle

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

Scope and Sequence
Rules/Expectations
U.M.P.A.:
Team Sports
Creative Movement
Fitness
Individual/Dual Activities
Field Games:
Leisure Games

- **Each grade will follow a scope and sequence. The unit names are categories.**  
The specific activities in each unit may vary (ex. Creative movement could include jump rope, dance, etc.)

★ Urban Modification of Project Adventure

## What families will see...

- A heightened awareness of healthy vs. unhealthy habits and lifestyle choices
- Authentic assessments that follow the Physical Education curriculum guidelines based on each individual students' progress

## How families can help...

- Be a good example of leadership and sportsmanship at home
- Practice healthy habits at home and be a positive role model
- Stay in contact with your child's physical education teacher

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)

# Visual & Performing Arts Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 8**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- **General Music** – All students will take yearlong General Music twice per rotation. They will learn to listen to and respond critically to different styles and genres of music.
- **Visual Art** - All students will take yearlong Art twice per rotation. They will learn to understand art in its historical and cultural contexts, identify stereotypes and construct new meanings through art, and critique their own art and the work of others.
- **Instrumental Music** – Will be offered to all students who wish to continue playing their instruments. They will receive one small group lesson per week and learn to develop further their ensemble playing by being part of a band or string orchestra.
- **Theater** – Acting and production offered as an elective.

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Performance – Students will have the opportunity to perform in a band, string orchestra, chorus, or theater production by signing up for those electives.
- Develop a portfolio of art pieces, including some for exhibition.
- Explore and experiment in different genres of music discovering them through singing, playing, listening, and composing.

## What families will see...

- Concerts
- Theater Performances
- Visual Arts Exhibits, works of art brought home.

## How families can help...

- Encourage your child to continue playing his/her instrument or singing.
- Make sure your child practices his/her instrument.
- Come to events and productions.
- Offer to help with costume, ushering, and other behind-the-scenes work.

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# World Language Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADE 8**

## What your Upper School Scholar will learn...

- The second half of a level 1 course in preparation for entrance into a level 2 CP or Honors high school class, building on the concepts learned in grades 6 and 7;
- New opportunities to practice the four essential language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Reinforcement in the development of cultural awareness;
- Stem-changing verbs and common irregular verbs in context;
- The past tense for regular, irregular, and stem-changing verbs;
- Oral and written communication skills in the target language

## What your Upper School Scholar will do...

- Collaborate and communicate with classmates and the teacher in the target language;
- Create projects that integrate the study of grammar and vocabulary into oral presentations;
- Work in groups and in pairs to practice the language structures and vocabulary;
- Prepare dialogues and make oral presentations with the content provided by the teacher;
- Play games and use computer websites to practice the language;
- Access and use proficiently computer technology to research data about oral and written projects.

## What families will see...

- A modern classroom with an ENO Board and a Document Camera;
- Technology that will show examples of the target language in action;
- CD's and DVD's that will enhance the students' speaking and listening skills;
- Document Cameras that will enable the students to record and see their oral presentations and dialogues instantly;
- Active use of the target language in different situations- whole group and paired activities;
- Speaking and practicing the target language as much as possible;
- Continuous practice of all 4 basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

## How families can help...

- Practice vocabulary, verb conjugations, and dialogues with your child;
- View childrens' television shows in the target language through cable;
- Ensure that students practice at home the computer exercises and practice activities that are available with the new text;
- Check out and read childrens' story books in the public library in the target language;
- Practice with the Rosetta Stone from the public library;
- Encourage your child to use the second language as much as possible.

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# Curriculum Highlights

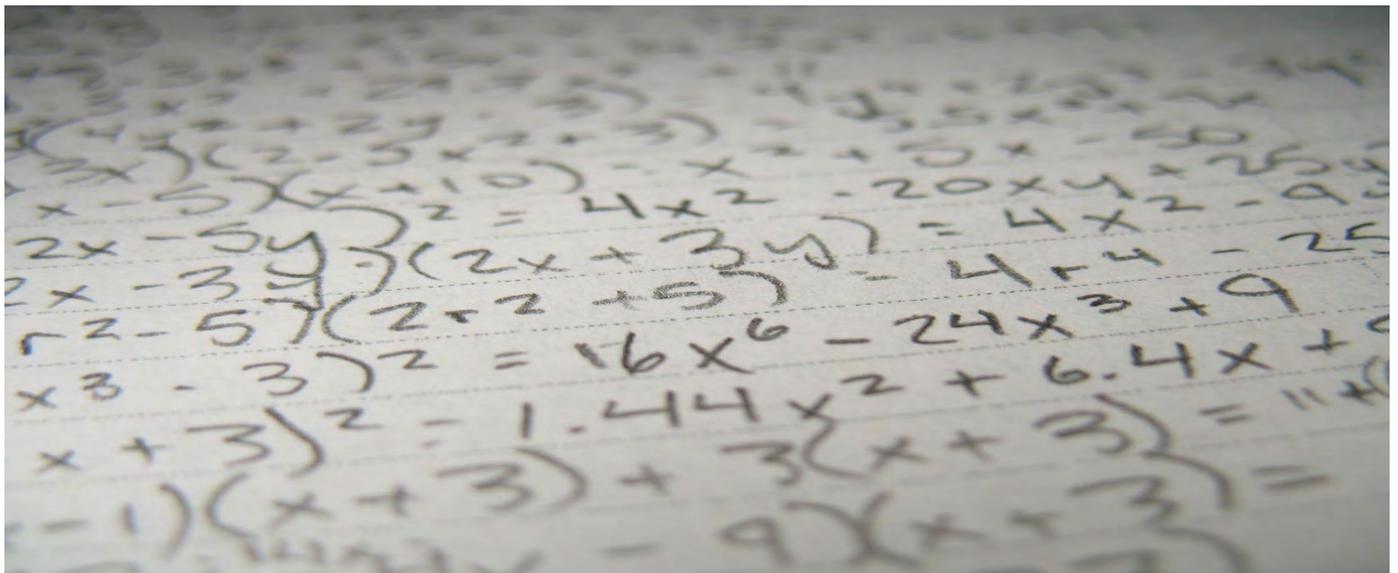
**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADES 6, 7, and 8**

## Curriculum Leaders Contact Information

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# Curriculum Highlights

**CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**UPPER SCHOOL NETWORK**

**GRADES 6, 7, and 8**

## Office of the Superintendent

Jeffrey M. Young, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Lori Likis  
Chief Planning Officer

## Instructional Division

Carolyn L. Turk, Ed.D.  
Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Maryann MacDonald  
Executive Director for Student Achievement and Accountability

Barbara Van Sickle  
Executive Director for Curriculum and Professional Development

Aida Ramos, Ed.D.  
Executive Director for Special Education

## School Committee

Mayor Henrietta Davis

Alfred B. Fantini

Richard Harding

Marc McGovern

Patricia M. Nolan

Mervan F. Osborne

Alice Turkel

For more detailed information go to [www.cpsd.us](http://www.cpsd.us)