

Seventh Grade Curriculum

English ~ The English curriculum prepares students to communicate effectively throughout their lives. Skills involving comprehension, writing, speaking and listening are taught using a variety of techniques. The goal is to improve vocabulary, encourage mastery of standard language patterns and to provide an understanding of the cultural influence on language.

Reading ~ A developmental curriculum which emphasizes higher level thinking skills necessary for a secondary student. Novels, short stories, plays, and poetry are used as a basis for literary analysis and critical thinking. Writing is an integral part of the program.

Latin ~ (3 periods per cycle for the whole year) Students will learn the basic sound system and spelling patterns, common vocabulary and grammatical structures of Classical Latin. They will also explore the history and culture of Ancient Rome. Although emphasis is placed on reading and writing skills, students will have the opportunity to speak and respond to simple Latin phrases. Students will be encouraged to make connections and comparisons with other subject areas. *In order to have the option of taking Latin in 7th grade, a 6th grade student would have to meet at least three of the following four criteria:*

- *Final grade in 6th grade reading of 83% or higher*
- *75% or greater score on the most recent local standardized assessment in the area of reading*
- *A score equivalent to a Proficient or Advanced rating in reading on the most recent state wide standardized assessment*
- *A cumulative score of 75% or better from a student's core content teachers recommendation rubrics*

Mathematics ~ Seventh grade math allows students to further explore, develop and apply their basic skills along with enhancing their awareness of problem solving strategies. Students will use their skills in solving equations, story problem applications relative to real world experiences and more complex problem solving experiences. Number theory, ratios, proportions, integers and percent are taught with an emphasis on application. Algebraic methods, probability and statistics are used throughout the year in many topics. Traditional geometry along with perimeter, area, and volume are also discussed. Calculators are used many times throughout the year to enhance the learning process.

Pre-Algebra ~ Pre-algebra math classes will study the same topics listed above, but they will also be expected to demonstrate an understanding and application of more advanced concepts.

Science ~ Seventh grade science is the first year of secondary science, in which, students concentrate on one area of science for the entire year. Seventh grade is Life Science, which emphasizes a variety of topics in biology. These include: the scientific method, living things, heredity, classification, the six kingdoms, and ecology. The teaching of these topics is enhanced with demonstrations, experiments and films.

Social Studies ~ World History gives the students a better understanding and appreciation of the past and shows the development of civilization by teaching basic facts. Through the study of geography, sociology, religion, economics, psychology, government and law, occupations, conflicts and conquests, art and architecture, literature and education and most important contributions of the major cultures of the Middle East, North Africa and Europe, the similarities of the cultures and their influences on the modern world will be developed.

Art ~ (3 periods per cycle for 1/2 year) Students explore a broad base of art activities including design, construction, crafts, painting, drawing and art history. Elements and principles of design are stressed in each lesson, along with an appreciation of one's own work and the work of others. Students are given the opportunity to work on manual dexterity and skills in handling art materials, while expressing themselves creatively.

Music ~ (3 periods per cycle for 1/2 year) Seventh grade music is built around the students skills for interpreting the basic styles and elements of music. Students will explore the history of Jazz music and the roots of modern Pop and Rock and Roll music. The second half of the course examines rhythmic notation and performance and the works of Rodgers and Hammerstein. Unit includes a group project of writing and performing music for classroom percussion instruments.

Technology Education ~ (6 sessions per cycle for 1 qtr) Technology is presented as a way in which people and societies apply science and other courses of study, to solve problems and meet their needs and wants. Past approaches are presented and new, creative approaches are encouraged. Measurement is reviewed and drafting and structural design is introduced. Students design, build and test a truss bridge. Technical subjects of interest are investigated through a report of the student's choice. As time permits, a final shop project is developed and built; to introduce tool use and skills needed in future manufacturing courses.

Family & Consumer Science ~ (6 sessions per cycle for 1 qtr) Individual students learn to manage the challenges of living and working in society. Emphasis will be on financial and resource management as well as balancing family, work and community responsibilities. Students also construct a gym bag. This project teaches a variety of sewing techniques, how to follow directions, as well as assess the effectiveness of teamwork and leadership skills.

Health ~ (2 period per cycle for full year) Students learn about changes taking place during adolescence. Includes units on growth, sexual development, acne, teenage depression, and suicide, the changing family, diseases, dating, dieting, eating disorders and making choices about drugs and alcohol. With a better understanding of all of these changes and pressures, we hope each student will be better able to handle adolescence.

Physical Education ~ (2 periods per cycle all year) Physical education in seventh grade continues its focus on team sports. Basic skills and a general understanding of the sport, with an emphasis upon good sportsmanship and teamwork, are presented. Soccer, basketball, volleyball and floor hockey are some of the activities students will participate in to practice the team concept.

Computer Skills ~ (2 periods per 6 day cycle) seventh grade focuses on fundamental computer literacy, databases, PowerPoint and reviews word processing and spreadsheets.