



Middle School - 7th Grade Overview

Language Arts: The objective of this course is to help students develop a passion for reading and writing by building on foundational literacy skills. Throughout the course students will engage with a variety of text styles, including narrative, expository, descriptive, dramatic, poetic, persuasive, and media styles. Students will enhance their vocabulary through the study of Greek and Latin roots. Seventh graders will build on previous knowledge of grammar skills to understand more complex grammatical structures to enhance their writing skills. Writing assignments will include creative works and formal essays which follow guidelines from the MLA Handbook. They will edit their own writing and their peers' writing.

Textbooks and supplements: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt English Language Arts 7th Grade, Vocabulary From Classical Roots, Shurley Grammar, Literature – *Boys in the Boat, As You Like It, Animal Farm, Of Mice and Men.*

Mathematics: The Middle School math curriculum reinforces and expands knowledge of the computational skills and problem-solving strategies. The program takes the learner from the concrete stages of arithmetic to those concepts that require more abstract reasoning skills. The program uses a variety of teaching techniques and learning experiences to meet the needs of varying levels of mathematical maturity. Our goal is to provide all Middle School students with a solid mathematical foundation for all future upper level math courses. Course placement is based on academic records, test scores, and approval from the math faculty.

Pre-Algebra students build a strong foundation for more abstract thinking in algebra and geometry. Students use real numbers to deepen their understanding of transformations, 3-D geometry, similarity, line and angle relationships, linear functions, multi-step equations and inequalities, multiple representations of equations, systems of equations, bivariate data, Pythagorean Theorem, probability, and financial literacy.

Pre-Algebra Honors dives deeper into pre-algebra concepts and skills. Students build a strong foundation for more abstract thinking in algebra and geometry. Students use real numbers to expand their understanding of transformations, 3-D geometry, similarity, line and angle relationships, linear functions, multi-step equations and inequalities, multiple representations of equations, systems of equations, bivariate data, Pythagorean Theorem, probability, and financial literacy.

Textbook: Carnegie Learning Accelerated Grade 7

History: During seventh grade, students learn World Geography as well as Texas History during one quarter. In World Geography, students will study how and why geography affects weather patterns, human migration, and cultures. Students will discover landforms in various geographic areas and regions of the country. This will also be a carry-over from 6th grade from World History class which will reinforce the various countries' religions and histories previously learned. It is also an introduction to Human Geography taught in high school.

Main text source: World Geography, HMH Co 2019 (online and print resources)

In Texas History, we will study early Texas and the first Native American groups as well as how Spain influenced the growth and development of the territory in the 3rd quarter of the year. We cover the years of Moses Austin's first vision of creating colonies to Sam Houston's victory that led to what we now call Texas. We also discuss annexation to the United States and current issues facing the state.

Main text source: Holt *Texas!*

*ALL history classes 6th-8th grades will require project-based learning, critical thinking, studying and creating maps, and extensive writing and reading.

Science: The Middle School science curriculum emphasizes and builds upon the life, physical and earth sciences. Students are prepared to use the scientific method by hands-on investigations weekly. During middle school, the proper use and care of lab equipment is emphasized. Emphasis is placed on the development of problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills, and scientific practices, including experimental design. Students also integrate mathematical computation skills through the use of formulas and metric and customary unit conversion.

The seventh grade science curriculum builds on previously taught concepts from sixth grade, as well as focuses on life science topics. Students improve their critical thinking investigation skills through the use of lab reports. Life science topics during the seventh grade year include cell structure and function, mitosis/meiosis, reproduction, human body systems, genetics, plant processes, and ecosystems. Earth science topics include Earth's cycles, weathering and erosion, weather and climate, and space exploration.

Textbook: MHM Science Dimensions

Spanish: Seventh Grade Spanish curriculum builds on material learned in sixth grade and is designed to further develop verbal communication and writing skills specifically in the present tense with stem-changing verbs. Past tense is briefly introduced as well in seventh grade. Throughout the year, students focus on building their vocabulary, as well as learning grammar structures, and verbal conjugation based on specific scenarios. At the end of each lesson, the students work on a project in which they get to practice vocabulary and grammar in both written and spoken form. With these projects, they continue to gain an understanding of the influence of the Spanish culture/language locally, nationally and worldwide.

By making comparisons and connections to Spanish-speaking cultures with their own, students are encouraged to understand, accept, and celebrate the unique cultural differences. While students focus on grammar, pronunciation, and writing, the life, customs, foods, and celebrations in various Spanish-speaking countries continue to be studied. Seventh grade students participate in the National Spanish Exam for the first time where they get the opportunity to showcase their Spanish skills.

Textbook: Avancemos Level Ib and Level I workbook.

Co-curricular classes: Students have physical education three times a week, Advisory twice a week, Academic Mentoring once a week and Sacred Studies once a week. Students also attend two electives per semester, twice a week each. All students attend Daily Chapel as well.