

## *Middle School- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Overview*

**Language Arts:** Seventh Grade Language Arts students gain a better understanding of the English language by studying its history, development and dynamic nature. They discover propaganda techniques in advertising and in literature. Students enhance their vocabulary through the study of Greek and Latin roots. Seventh graders build on previous knowledge of grammar skills to understand more complex grammatical structures which enhance their writing skills. Their writing includes creative works and formal essays which follow guidelines from the MLA Handbook. They edit their own writing and their peers' writing. Based on contemporary and classic pieces of literature, students' projects include a propaganda notebook, a debate, songwriting and performance, conducting a courtroom trial, creating, and performing a documentary based on research.

Textbooks and supplements: Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workshop, Level C, Vocabulary From Classical Roots, Book A / Shurley English Made Easy, Level 7 Workbook / Literature – *Animal Farm*, *Waiting for the Rain*, *Julius Caesar (Shakespeare made Easy)*, *The Call of the Wild*, *Prentice Hall Literature (Bronze)*

**Mathematics:** The Middle School math curriculum at Saint George Episcopal School 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. Saint George accommodates new students by reviewing current and past math scores, previous test scores, and teacher recommendations and then places the pupil into the math section that appears to be the best match. Our goal is to provide each Middle School student with a solid mathematical foundation for all future upper-level math courses.

Seventh grade math is designed to help Middle School students prepare for Algebra I/Pre-AP Algebra I. Topics of study include: variables, solving equations and inequalities, integers, rational numbers and number sets, fractions, percent, ratio, proportion, and conversions, the coordinate plane, linear relationships, integer exponents, radicals, geometry, polynomials, and statistics and probability. The curriculum balances computational skills, problem-solving applications, and conceptual understanding that includes communication skills, reasoning, and making connections to other facets of mathematics. Textbooks and supplements: Prentice Hall General Math 3, Pre-Algebra and/or Algebra I / standardized test-taking skills / Geometry application

**History:** During seventh grade, students learn Texas History. The class covers the 12 regions of Texas and each of their uniqueness and importance to the state. We discuss how humans found their way to the region we now call Texas and how Spain influenced the growth and development of the territory. We cover from 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 all current issues facing the state.

Textbook: Holt Texas! – Holt

**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 stressed. 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. An annual science fair project enhances the students' independent research and investigation skills.

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: McGraw Hill Integrated Science, Level 7

**Spanish:** The 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 and workbook: Avancemos Level I.

**Co-curricular classes:** Students have physical education three times a week and Sacred Studies once a week. Elective choices include Advanced Topics in Science, Digital Music and Video Studio, Innovation and Inventions, Lost in Space, Visual Arts, and Great Communicators.