

7th Grade Course Descriptions (1 of 2)

English

The aim of the 7th Grade English course is to develop and improve each student's literacy. There are five broad areas within the course: reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students develop skills in these areas by participating in a wider range of activities. Students write in a variety of genres using the writing process: planning, drafting, revising and editing, before finally publishing their work. Wherever possible, grammar, vocabulary and aspects of style are taught in context, and much of our writing is connected to our reading.

In addition to reading together as a class and in small groups, students are encouraged to widen their choice of independent reading material to include non-fiction and multi-cultural texts. Where possible, connections are made with other areas of the seventh grade curriculum.

Resources

– *Write Source*. Houghton Mifflin.

Mathematics: Math or Pre-Algebra

In 7th Grade there are two levels of Math offered: 7th Grade Math and Pre-Algebra.

7th Grade Math is the standard level course. The course is sequential and reinforces previously learned skills. Students are expected to develop familiarity with the language, notation and deductive nature of mathematics, together with the ability to express quantitative ideas with precision. Topics covered include: number and operations; algebra; geometry; measurement; data analysis and probability. It is expected that the students taking 7th Grade Math will take Pre-Algebra in 8th Grade, and Algebra 1 in 9th Grade.

Pre-Algebra is the advanced course. This course is for students entering 7th Grade with strong mathematics recommendation from their previous teachers and/or a strong showing in a placement examination. The Pre-Algebra course compresses two years of Middle School mathematics into one year to prepare students for Algebra I in 8th Grade. Variables, equations and inequalities are introduced and previously learned number theory and computational skills are applied to these new concepts. Integers, graphing, ratio, problem solving, data analysis, probability and geometry are studied. It is expected that the students taking 7th Grade Pre-Algebra will take Algebra in 8th Grade. If successful in the 8th grade algebra course work and examination, students will take Geometry in grade 9. An individual student's progress will be monitored closely and, if the course being followed seems inappropriate to his or her demonstrated ability, changes will be made mid-year, or upon entering 8th or 9th Grade.

Resources

– *Math Course 2*. McDougal Littell
– *Pre Algebra*. McDougal Littell.

Science

7th Grade Science is an integrated course. Students will learn concepts from each of the major science strands: life science/biology and environment; physical science/ physics and chemistry; earth and space, based on the National Science Education standards.

Students will develop the process skills of the scientific method through this lab-based course enabling them to develop questions, make predictions, test their ideas and carry out investigation. They will also acquire problem-solving skills through authentic, hands-on projects.

Course contents

- Science as inquiry – emphasises the scientific method, lab safety and metric measurement
- Life Science/Ecology – explores nutrition, human body systems, food chains and webs
- Physical Science – will include matter and its properties; interactions of matter; energy resources and energy transfers
- Earth/space – covers soil formation, rocks and minerals, weathering, tectonics.

Resources

– *Science Level Green*. Glencoe/ McGraw-Hill.

7th Grade Course Descriptions (2 of 2)

Social Studies: Global Issues

7th Grade Social Studies course looks at some of the major issues affecting the world today. Students study various locations around the globe and highlight some problems that affect that region. Examples include: Population issues in China, World Trade and poverty in Africa, and Environmental and Development issues in India. Clearly these problems are complex, interconnected in the modern global economy and affect many different parts of the world. To put these contemporary issues in context, we will look at relevant, recent historical background, as in our study of the ongoing conflict in the Israel-Palestine region.

The course is broken into several units of study, each focusing on selected issues affecting a region. Units include the following:

- Introduction to Global Issues
- Africa inc. impact of slavery, colonial rule and country specific issues
- China; Population control, impact of rapid growth e.g. Three Gorges Dam
- South Asia: India independence and the impact of partition
- Middle East: origins of Israel-Palestine Conflict
- South America: impact of development on environments and indigenous people
- Global Issues; student-selected presentations on issue they identify.

Students will work in cooperative groups and on individual research. There are opportunities to present findings in a variety of ways, including: oral-visual presentations, role-play, formal debates, creating web sites and other forms of ICT. We emphasise critical thinking skills, the need to support statements and defend a position with credible, accurate evidence, and the importance of understanding opposing viewpoints or differing perspectives.

Resources

- *People, Places and Change*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston
- *Student Atlas*. Longman.