

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SEVENTH GRADE



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Students entering seventh grade will have read literature from many standpoints: in connection with history, science, and the arts, in pursuit of answers to a question, in consideration of a theme or literary element, and as a way of gaining insight into human existence. Students will have read and responded to literature of various genres. They will apply this prior knowledge as they explore the year's overarching theme of the search for self-identity.

Seventh grade students will study human nature, human rights, and the purposes of argument through a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. Through the careful analysis of classic and contemporary literature, such as Greek myths or *The Giver*, students will explore a variety of topics such as immigration, the quest for self, and the power of the individual. Students will weigh the value of individual freedom and choice; they will also become familiar with literature from different perspectives and develop connections between the modern world and literary works.

In addition, the year will center on three types of writing: narrative, expository, and persuasive. Students will engage in the writing process including the use of graphic organizers, drafting, and peer/self-revision to publish their work. In their literary analysis, research essays, narratives, and oral presentations, students will draw on multiple sources, including literary, informational, and multimedia texts. Students will write in a variety of genres including response to literature, narrative, persuasive, and expository as they develop writing portfolios. Students will continue to develop their vocabulary while investigating unfamiliar words from literature and using them in their own working vocabulary. Additionally, students will advance their communication skills as they explore various methods of presentation, including multimedia. Students will also strengthen their argumentation skills, exhibiting these in class discussions, debates, and presentations.

By the end of seventh grade, students will have a deeper understanding of the power of the individual and a refined sense of self. With this knowledge of self, they will be ready to critically examine the role of the individual and society through increasingly complex works of literature.

MATHEMATICS

The Jumoke Academy Grade 7 Mathematics Curriculum incorporates the CT Common Core State Standards. The program goals focus on the following units:

- Adding and Subtracting Operating with Rational Numbers
- Multiplying and Dividing Operating with Rational Numbers
- Two and Three Dimensional Geometry
- Proportional Relationships
- Algebraic Reasoning II
- Inference about Populations
- Probability

In all grades, the following mathematical practices are integrated throughout the program:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularly in repeated reasoning.

SCIENCE

In grade 7, science students further their exploration of the life sciences through readings, class-room discussions, lab activities, projects, and experiments. Students engage in performance tasks which involve the design and implementation of experiments focused on specific questions or problems. Our curriculum is based on the National Science Education Standards and the State of Connecticut Grades 6-8 Science Frameworks. The course includes the content and skills to be assessed by the Grade Eight Science CMT including the State's curriculum embedded performance task, "Feel the Beat," during which students investigate the effect of movement and other variables on pulse.

During seventh grade, students will explore the following concepts and skills:

Science Experimentation

Students perform lab experiments and utilize science investigational skills including predicting, observing, measuring, graphing, interpreting, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating.

Cell Biology

The characteristics of living things, the structure and function of cells, and cell processes such as respiration, photosynthesis, mitosis, and osmosis.

The Human Body

Levels of organization (cells, tissues, organs, systems, and organisms) and selected human body systems (i.e., skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory, respiratory, nervous).

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies curriculum is based in part on the National History Standards, the National Geography Standards, the Connecticut Social Studies Framework, the 21st Century Social Studies Skills and the use of essential questions to guide historical thinking and inquiry.

In social studies classes, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of democratic values.
- Cultivate the ability to work together in a multicultural environment.
- Understand similarities and differences within the United States and among the major cultures of the world.
- Apply research skills to the study of history and contemporary society.
- Develop and use a variety of essential social studies and literacy skills.

The seventh grade social studies program builds upon the concepts and skills developed in the sixth grade. Specific areas of study include the Middle East, Africa, Asia.

Through the development of key social studies skills each student will be encouraged to "think like a historian". Critical reading and research skills are further developed through the study of both historical and contemporary issues.