

SAVANNA OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL



CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

SEVENTH GRADE

2023 – 2024



Savanna Oaks

Middle School

Principal Quinn Craugh

Associate Principal Pete Christofferson

February 2023

Dear Savanna Oaks Families,

This Curriculum Handbook describes the sequence of classes and choices each learner may make as he or she navigates 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at Savanna Oaks.

All students' core classes include language arts, math, science and social studies. Encore and exploratory classes are offered in the areas of music, physical education, family and consumer education, art, world language and technology education.

Savanna Oaks staff provide instruction in a variety of ways to ensure we differentiate for each learner. We value student voice to help us ensure a personalized learning approach that we believe will meaningfully engage each learner at his or her next steps. We offer students choice in activities that will empower them to explore and demonstrate mastery of learning standards.

We hope you will find the handbook to be a practical guide to you as you examine the required and elective course offerings.

If you have any questions relating to our curriculum, please call Savanna Oaks Middle School at 845-4000.

Sincerely,

Quinn Craugh, Principal
Savanna Oaks Middle School

The Verona Area School District is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex or sexual orientation, economic status, age, national origin, handicap, marital status, political affiliation, arrest or conviction record or any other factor provided for by state and federal laws and regulations.

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SEVENTH GRADE CLASSES

REQUIRED CLASSES

Language Arts
Math
Science
Social Studies
Read to Succeed (R2S)
Physical Education

YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES

Band
Choir
Orchestra

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

Art 7
Family and Consumer Education (FACE 7)
General Music
Information and Technology Literacy (Info Tech 7)
Lifetime Fitness and Wellness
Math Tutorial
Principles of Literacy
R2S Plus
Restorative Justice & Leadership
Spanish 7
Spanish Language Arts

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEVENTH GRADE

REQUIRED CLASSES

Language Arts

The English/Language Arts classroom is taught using a workshop model with an emphasis on writing and reading skills. Our units of study in writing include narrative, informational, and opinion pieces. Grammar and usage are studied throughout the year. The writing process and speaking and listening skills are integral parts of instruction. During reading, the focus is on increasing reading comprehension using these strategies: predicting, inferring, questioning, connecting, summarizing, visualizing, synthesizing, and evaluating. Our units of study include elements of both fiction and non-fiction, and use novels, short stories, and a variety of other texts to read for information and enjoyment. Student choice, small group discussions, and speaking and listening skills are an integral part of instruction.

Math

The focus in seventh grade math is the 7th grade Common Core Standards and Mathematical Practices. The topics of study are ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability. We also work heavily in math practices. The Standards for Mathematical Practice describe how students should approach mathematics. The goal of the practice standards is to instill in all students the abilities to be mathematically literate and to create a positive disposition for the importance of using math effectively.

Science

The seventh grade science course focuses on the processes and structures of living things. Topics covered include Structure, Function, and Information Processing, Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms, and Natural Selection and Adaptations. Students will continue to learn science in ways that best fit their personal learning style. While doing experiments and activities students will be given the opportunity to investigate and learn both from individual and group experimental inquiries.

Social Studies

The Seventh Grade Social Studies course is designed to connect ideas and themes from the past to current issues facing our global community today. Students will have the discretion to choose which lenses they would like to use to address three perennial themes throughout the school-year: power, revolution and conflict. These themes will be addressed through case studies from the Eastern Hemisphere. The focal objective of the course is to create a cohesive group of global citizens who understand current policies by referring to a wide range of historical contexts. This objective is designed to build upon the geographical, historical, political and economic skills obtained in 6th Grade.

Physical Education

In seventh grade physical education, our units include fitness testing, basketball, ropes course, football, floor hockey, softball, platform tennis and adventure education. During gym class, we work to create a positive learning experience that capitalizes on each student's natural love of movement. We encourage students of all athletic abilities to learn and play to the best of their ability. This philosophy helps to create a positive attitude about physical activity and set the stage for a healthy, active life.

Read to Succeed (R2S)

Read to Succeed is a dedicated time and space to foster a love of reading. Students are supported in selecting books, communicating around reading, and setting individual reading goals.

YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES

Band

Students who learned a band instrument in sixth grade can continue their learning in seventh grade band. Seventh grade band meets every day during the school year. Through listening to and performing music from many styles and genres, students will increase their performance skills on their instrument, but will also grow as critical thinkers, expert noticers, and overall well-rounded learners. Throughout the school year, students will perform, create, connect, and respond to music, while growing their technical skills on their instrument and increasing their music literacy. Students will demonstrate their learning at three to four evening performances each year. Students who participated in 6th grade band are encouraged to continue their musical learning in 7th grade band.

Choir

Students who learned vocal music in sixth grade can continue their learning in seventh grade choir. Seventh grade choir meets every day during the school year. Treble choir is for students who wish to perform literature arranged for two and three part female voices. Bass choir is for students who wish to perform literature arranged for two and three part male voices. Through listening to and performing music from many styles and genres, students will increase their performance skills on their vocal instrument, but will also grow as critical thinkers, expert noticers, and overall well-rounded learners. Throughout the school year, students will perform, create, connect, and respond to music, while growing their vocal skills and increasing their music literacy. Students will demonstrate their learning at three to four evening performances each year. Students who participated in sixth grade choir are encouraged to continue their musical learning in seventh grade choir.

Orchestra

Students who learned a string instrument in sixth grade may continue their learning in seventh grade orchestra. Seventh grade orchestra meets every day during the school year. Through listening to and performing music from many styles and genres, students will increase their performance skills on their instrument, but will also grow as critical thinkers, expert noticers,

and overall well-rounded learners. Throughout the school year, students will perform, create, connect, and respond to music, while growing their technical skills on their instrument and increasing their music literacy. Students will demonstrate their learning at three to four evening performances each year. Students who participated in sixth grade orchestra are encouraged to continue their musical learning in seventh grade orchestra.

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

Our ability to run electives is dependent on enrollment numbers. Please rank all semester electives in order of preference.

Art 7

Art 7 continues to promote an understanding of art through hands-on learning experiences. The students will experience a variety of 2D & 3D art mediums and techniques and learn to apply the Elements & Principles of Design in their art productions. They will also develop independent and creative thinking skills in order to solve visual problems. Students will explore the following: line & value drawing, sculptural materials, clay coil hand-building, the pottery wheel, acrylic painting techniques, art history, multicultural art forms, and a study of the applied (design) arts.

Family & Consumer Education (FACE 7)

FACE 7 continues to promote an understanding of family and consumer science through hands-on learning experiences. This semester-long course builds upon the knowledge and skills practiced in 6th grade. Students look more in-depth at the following topics: Nutrition, Human Growth & Development, Bullying Prevention and Community Service. In addition, students will practice their decision-making skills and learn how to respond proactively to life situations, both as an individual and with others.

General Music

General Music provides an overview of music as a whole and continues the music classroom experience. Students will gain an appreciation of various types of music through both listening to and making music. This is not a performance music class. Students will explore a variety of instruments and music production platforms such as ukuleles, boomwhackers, and GarageBand.

Information & Technology Literacy (Info Tech 7)

Info Tech 7 provides students with the opportunity to build on their understanding of the Design Process, Computer Science, 3D-Design, and Robotics. Students will explore in more depth a variety of technology tools while working on the following goals: Creativity and Innovation, Communication and Collaboration, Research and Fluency, Critical Thinking, Digital Citizenship, and Technology Concepts.

Lifetime Fitness & Wellness

Lifetime Fitness and Wellness will focus on both indoor and outdoor **Non-Traditional PE Activities** that are designed to build peer connections, leadership skills and help students create healthy fitness and wellness habits. Some activities include, but are not limited to: Eclipse Ball, Archery, Ultimate Frisbee, etc. Lifetime Fitness and Wellness is a semester-long **7th Grade Physical Education Elective Class**. Lifetime Fitness and Wellness does not replace your required Physical Education class. Students will take this class in addition to their current Physical Education class.

Math Tutorial

Math Tutorial is available to students who need extra math support. ~~In a small group setting,~~ Students will receive extra practice and instruction for the standards covered in math class, for IXL, and for studying for assessments.

Principles of Literacy (POL)

Principles of Literacy is available to students who need literacy support. Students will receive extra practice and instruction in reading and comprehension strategies. Students will build their skills through shared, guided, and independent reading.

R2S Plus

R2S Plus allows students to have an additional Read to Succeed class as part of their schedule.

Restorative Justice & Leadership

Restorative Justice is the process of exploring the impacts of harm, making things right when they have gone wrong, and building or rebuilding community. After learning the history, principles and concepts of Restorative Justice, you will be trained to be Circle Keepers: those who lead talking circles to support others in building community, solving conflicts, and feeling supported when struggling. Elements and characteristics of leadership will also be a part of this class. If you are interested in building a healthier and more just school community, RJ and Leadership is for you!

Spanish 7

Spanish 7 provides an introductory experience to Spanish. The course will be designed around how to have a basic conversation, which will increase in complexity as the semester progresses. The focus of Cultural Studies will be to gain insight into other societal perspectives that result in products and practices that may be different from their own.

Spanish Language Arts

A Bilingual teacher teaches Spanish Language Arts as part of the school's bilingual and bicultural programming. Students who speak Spanish at home or live in a home where Spanish is spoken more than 50% of the time are encouraged to take this class. Students will develop Spanish language reading, writing and speaking skills and learn about the cultures of different Spanish-speaking countries.

STUDENT SUPPORT

We believe strongly in providing additional resources beyond the classroom to facilitate the learning of our students.

Library Media Center

The Savanna Oaks LMC supports classroom instruction, research and recreational reading for students and staff. With over 9,000 books, magazines, audiobooks, and DVDs, the LMC has resources for students of various reading levels and interests. The collection is made up of current, peer reviewed materials that provide readers with the best of middle-grade publications. The Librarian promotes reading through booktalks, book displays, fun activities and one-on-one reader advisories. Students are encouraged to make use of the LMC website which is linked from the VASD webpage. Click on “LINKS FOR STUDENTS” to discover links to the online catalog, online resources, authors, books, ebooks, audiobooks, and research databases. (www.verona.k12.wi.us **Links for Students- @ Your Library, LMC Destiny**)

Extra Curricular Activities

An important part of middle school is the expanded opportunities available outside the school day. Savanna Oaks offers learning, enrichment, athletic and service opportunities. There is a late bus to provide transportation home. While specific activities vary, below are some of the offerings.

Volleyball	Grades 7, 8, Girls; Fall
Cross Country	Grades 6, 7, 8, Boys & Girls; Fall
Wrestling	Grades 6, 7, 8, Boys & Girls; Fall
Drama Club	Grades 6, 7, 8; Fall - Spring
Student Council	Grades 6, 7, 8; Fall - Spring
Pep Band	Grades 7, 8; October - May
Ski Club	Grades 6, 7, 8; Winter
Boys' Basketball	Grades 7, 8; November & December
Girls' Basketball	Grades 7, 8; January & February
All School Musical	Grades 6, 7, 8; February – May
Track	Grades 7, 8; Spring

After-school Clubs

Our after-school programming depends on our ability to staff the clubs. We invite students to voice their ideas for after-school clubs. We offer Affinity Groups for students to have small communities to explore and discuss cultural and diverse topics. Clubs we were able to run during the 2022-23 school year include: Student Council, Cooking Club, Black Student Union, Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), Latino Nation, Asian Youth Club (AYC), Dungeons and Dragons.

Note: Clubs may not run every week and are at the discretion of the Club sponsor.