

**Palos Community Consolidated School District 118
Palos Park, IL**

GRADE SEVEN

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

The reading/language arts program is designed to balance instruction in reading skills and strategies using a blend of digital and print resources. Using McGraw Hill’s StudySync Program as a main resource, students will learn to think critically while reading and responding to text. Through the use of a wide variety of literature and non-fiction materials of steadily increasing complexity, students will become active, capable, and confident readers, writers, and communicators.

READING

Seventh grade students will read literature from a broad range of genres, cultures, and periods.

Strategies and skills incorporated in the seventh grade reading program include:

- Acquire and accurately use grade-appropriate academic and content specific vocabulary including figurative meanings
- Reflect, respond, make inferences, and draw conclusions, citing evidence from literature and informational text
- Summarize a piece of literature or informational text
- Make connections, compare and contrast between and across text or different forms of media
- Identify universal themes, central message, moral or lesson in a story, drama, or poem and provide a summary of text
- Identify word origins
- Find and locate information using print and digital resources
- Identify structural features of various types of media (including digital) and use the features to obtain information
- Interpret information from graphic aids
- Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes their position from that of others

ENGLISH

Writing is taught using exemplary mentor text focusing on the 6-Traits of Writing, including: ideas, organization, word choice, voice, sentence fluency and conventions (grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.). Students will write for many purposes and audiences and will develop writing mechanics through grammar instruction.

Writing and Grammar:

- Reflect and respond to text citing text evidence
- Locate, use, and explain information from more than one text
- Use correct prewriting strategies to generate and plan ideas
- Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence structure
- Communicate ideas in writing to accomplish a variety of purposes; including opinion pieces, poetry, informative/explanatory pieces and arguments emphasizing different evidence or facts when appropriate
- Produce final documents that have been revised and edited

ENGLISH (continued)

- Write routinely over short or extended time frames for a range of tasks, purposes and audiences
- Write formal and informal pieces to convey a particular message

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Students will develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills. Students will learn to work together, express and listen carefully to ideas, integrate information from oral, visual and media sources to assist with communicating their ideas.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics skills, strategies and concepts are taught through a variety of resources including textbooks, manipulatives, and digital tools for an interactive experience. Using Houghton Mifflin Harcourt’s Go Math Program as a main resource, the students will focus on four critical areas: developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Seventh grade students will be taught the following:

Ratios & Proportionality

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems

Ratio & Proportion Applications

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems
- Draw, construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them

Rational Number Operations

- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers

Expressions

- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions

Equations

- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume

Data Distributions

- Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population
- Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations

MATHEMATICS (continued)

Probability

- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models

Geometric Measurement

- Draw, construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume

SCIENCE

Science is a content area consisting of a variety of topics. Inquiry into topics is pursued using textbooks, non-fiction literature, “hands on” experimentation and the scientific inquiry method. Using STEMscopes and other resources to fully support the Next Generation Science Standards, students will develop an understanding of concepts through the following topics:

Life Science

- Molecules to Organisms: Structures & Processes
 - Bodies & Systems
 - Anatomy of a Cell
 - Reproduction in Plants & Animals
 - Photosynthesis
- Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, & Dynamics
 - Competition in Ecosystems
 - Ecosystem Biodiversity
- Heredity: Inheritance & Variation of Traits
 - Inheritance
 - Genetic Variation
- Biological Evolution: Unity & Diversity
 - Natural Selection & Populations
 - Fossil Record

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Illinois Social Science Standards are designed to build conceptual understanding through the study of historical events while developing student inquiry, civic awareness, geography, and economic and financial literacy skills. These concepts include Global Perspectives, Cultural Unity, and Diversity, and Political and Economic Systems. The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good.

Seventh grade students will develop conceptual understanding through the following topics:

Civics: United States and Illinois Constitutions

- Identify articles and components of the U.S. & Illinois Constitutions

- Understand that the separation of power leads to the development of the three branches of government
- Understand that in a free society, constitutions need to define and protect the rights of citizens
- Apply concepts from early U.S. Government to current civic responsibilities and ways to improve society.

Civil War

- If differences between groups cannot be resolved, conflict is the result
- Compromise can delay, but may not eliminate conflict

Geography

- Identify location of 50 states and capitals
- Identify location of major landforms, bodies of water, and countries
- Map and globe skills
- Significant Contributions of Important People

APPLIED STEAM

The Applied STEAM program is designed to provide authentic STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) experiences to extend concepts learned in these and other subjects. Students will use a variety of technologies, specialized equipment, computer simulations, programs, and a variety of other hands on activities to apply and integrate STEAM activities to help prepare students in solving real world problems.

Students will:

- Explore a variety of computer modules used to enhance the math and science curriculum
- Engage in hands on learning applying STEAM subject matter to real world situations.
- Use the engineering design process to analyze questions and create authentic solutions to real world problems.
- Explore interests and careers that relate to STEAM integration fields.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Teaching Digital Citizenship is critical to a child’s development and improves student achievement. The curriculum utilized in seventh grade will provide teachers an opportunity to engage students to think critically and make responsible choices. The curriculum includes lessons on Internet safety, communication, cyberbullying, importance of a digital footprint, information literacy and copyright.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing the whole child is essential in creating a foundation for each student to be able to reach his/her full potential. All seventh grade students will be participating in the Second Step Program as we strive to create an environment where students feel safe and are free to learn. The social emotional curriculum includes grade appropriate activities for the following core elements:

- Identify and manage one’s emotions and behavior
- Recognize personal qualities and external supports
- Demonstrate skills related to achieving personal and academic goals
- Use communication and social skills to interact effectively with others

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Continued)

- Demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts
- Consider ethical, safety, and societal factors in making decisions

FINE ARTS

The Fine Arts teachers in District 118 have constructed a comprehensive, integrated, sequential curriculum to develop the whole child. Through “hands on” interaction students will develop criticism skills, an aesthetic appreciation of the Arts, and study the historical perspectives that help shape our society.

MUSIC

In seventh grade students will continue to:

- Explore music’s development throughout history
- Learn by singing, playing, moving, reading, writing and creating
- Develop keyboard skills

BAND

In seventh grade students will continue to:

- Increase proficiency on their individual instrument
- Increase proficiency with symbolic notation
- Perform a varied repertoire; music of various cultures and styles
- Develop a sense of teamwork

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

The physical education program is planned around the growth and development of the student. It provides a wide range of activities consistent with the requirements of our state goals. In seventh grade students will:

- Achieve and maintain health-enhancing levels of physical fitness
- Develop team building skills
- Focus on positive attitudes and behaviors
- Learn specific offensive and defensive performance strategies
- Continue the practice and refinement of skill development and movement patterns
- Develop an appreciation for recreational and competitive sports
- Be educated on the importance of lifelong fitness through various physical education and fitness center activities
- Explore basic principles of health promotion in the areas of first aid and alcohol prevention

SPANISH

Spanish is a skill-based study focused on reading, writing, listening, and speaking the target language. The primary goal of the Spanish class is to help the students become more comfortable with the uses and context of the language. Students will use the Prentice-Hall Realidades.

In seventh grade the Spanish students will continue to develop skills in the following areas:

- vocabulary
- grammar
- cultural information
- conversation

PALOS DISTRICT 118

Grade Seven

Dear Parent/Guardian:

August, 2023

To support your involvement in your child’s education, we have compiled this comprehensive outline of what your child will be taught at this grade level. You can positively impact your child’s academic success by becoming familiar with this curriculum and by monitoring your child’s progress throughout the year. Ultimately, our joint goal is to produce self-directed students who also establish personal learning goals and regularly monitor their own progress.

District 118 teachers and administrators have developed grade level skills and expectations based on the Illinois Learning Standards, national standards, and updated research. Our community’s standards and grade level expectations are often higher than those suggested by our Illinois State Board of Education. Such expectations are incorporated within and continue to produce excellence in our students as indicated on state testing. We are, of course, always seeking to continually improve.

If you have specific questions regarding curriculum or school programs, please call your child’s teacher or principal. Additionally, a wealth of information can be found regarding District 118 academics and programs at www.palos118.org.

We are confident that your child will have a successful school year!

Kind Regards,

*Dr. Anthony Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools*

*Dr. Ron Cozza
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum*

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