



Seventh Grade Curriculum Guide

PRIORITY STANDARDS: District 92 guarantees that each student will know and be able to demonstrate proficiency by the end of the school year. Students who have not mastered the priority standards will be supported to progress toward mastery. Students who have mastered the priority standards will receive enrichment activities/tasks to grow further.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

District 92 utilized a structured literacy approach to literacy instruction based on the science of reading. The science of reading is an evidence-based approach to teaching reading that draws on research from various fields, including psychology, linguistics, cognitive science, and education. It responds to the need for effective reading instruction and is informed by a growing body of scientific research on how the brain learns to read.

The science of reading advocates for systematic, explicit, and sequential instruction based on understanding how language and reading develop in the brain. It highlights the importance of early and effective intervention for struggling readers and promotes evidence-based practices in literacy instruction. Teachers who follow the science of reading approach aim to provide students with a solid foundation in the essential skills needed for proficient reading and comprehension.

The science of reading in seventh grade builds upon the foundational literacy skills developed in earlier grades. It continues to focus on key aspects of reading, including decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Reading in seventh grade focuses more on reading comprehension, analysis, and critical thinking. Teachers continue to build on foundational reading skills and help students become more sophisticated readers. The goal is to equip students with the skills and strategies to comprehend and analyze various texts independently and critically.

- Unit 1: Generations
 - Essential Question: What can one generation learn from another?
 - Performance-Based Assessment: Nonfiction Narrative Essay
- Unit 2: A Starry Home
 - Essential Question: Should we make a home in space?
 - Performance-Based Assessment: Argumentative Essay
- Unit 3: Turning Points
 - Essential Question: What can cause a sudden change in someone's life?
 - Performance-Based Assessment: Explanatory Essay



- Unit 4: People and the Planet
 - Essential Question: What effects do people have on the environment?
 - Performance-Based Assessment: Argumentative Essay
- Unit 5: Facing Adversity
 - Essential Question: How do we overcome obstacles?
 - Performance-Based Assessment: Informative Essay

MATH

In seventh grade, the focus of mathematics typically builds on the foundational mathematical concepts learned in earlier grades. The curriculum is designed to deepen their understanding of mathematical principles, introduce more advanced topics, and prepare them for higher-level math courses. The emphasis is on developing problem-solving skills, mathematical reasoning, and a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of mathematical ideas.

Here are some key focus areas in seventh-grade mathematics:

- **Number Systems:** Understanding and working with rational numbers, including fractions, decimals, and percentages. Operations with fractions include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- **Expressions and Equations:** Simplifying algebraic expressions and solving equations. Introducing and solving inequalities. Understanding the concept of variables and using them in mathematical expressions.
- **Geometry:** Exploring the properties of geometric shapes, including angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. Calculate the area and circumference of circles and the area and perimeter of other shapes. Understanding scale drawings and geometric constructions.
- **Ratio and Proportional Relationships:** Understanding ratios and using them to solve problems. Exploring proportional relationships and using them to solve real-world problems.
- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Developing critical thinking skills through challenging problem-solving tasks. Applying mathematical concepts to analyze and solve complex problems.
- **Mathematical Reasoning and Problem-Solving:** Developing critical thinking skills through problem-solving activities. Applying mathematical concepts to solve real-world problems.
- **Mathematical Modeling:** Using mathematics to model and solve practical problems. Applying mathematical concepts to various scenarios and contexts.



Aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, Seventh Grade students will explore the following units of study:

- Unit 1: Adding and Subtracting Rational Numbers
- Unit 2: Multiplying and Dividing Rational Numbers
- Unit 3: Expressions
- Unit 4: Equations and Inequalities
- Unit 5: Ratios and Proportions
- Unit 6: Percents
- Unit 7: Probability
- Unit 8: Statistics
- Unit 9: Geometric Shapes
- Unit 10: Surface Area and Volume

SCIENCE

Students at Oak Prairie Jr. High School utilize a program called Lab-Aides. This program allows students to participate in screen-free labs and investigations. Instructional design and unique equipment help bring out student ideas and encourage learning through personal, concrete experiences. This program is aligned with the NGSS and Common Core State Standards, including Disciplinary Core Ideas, Science and Engineering Practices, and Cross-Cutting Concepts. Seventh graders will investigate:

- Chemistry
- Energy
- Force and Motion

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Illinois Social Studies Standards for the seventh grade are aligned with the College and Career Readiness (CCR) standards and encompass a variety of topics to promote students' understanding of social studies concepts and skills. The standards are organized into four main strands: Civics, Economic and Financial Literacy, Geography, and History. Teachers often use various instructional materials and resources to address these standards, fostering a comprehensive understanding of social studies concepts for seventh-grade students.



SPECIALS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education (PE) curriculum for grades K-8 promotes physical activity, motor skill development, and overall health and well-being. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the grades, incorporating age-appropriate activities and focusing on developing fundamental movement skills.

MUSIC

In seventh-grade music class, students continue to build upon the foundational musical knowledge and skills acquired in earlier grades. The focus is on expanding their understanding of music theory, exploring different musical genres and styles, and further developing their instrumental and vocal abilities. The goal is to provide students with a well-rounded musical education, fostering a deeper appreciation for music while allowing students to explore their own musical interests and talents.

ART

The junior high art curriculum in District 92 is designed to build on foundational artistic skills while introducing more advanced concepts. The focus is on fostering creativity, self-expression, and a deeper understanding of various art forms. The goal is to provide an educational and enjoyable class, providing students with the tools and inspiration to express themselves through various art forms while building a strong foundation for future artistic endeavors.