

Grade Seven

In seventh grade, students continue to build upon skills previously taught in earlier grades. There is a continued emphasis on reading comprehension by comparing fiction and nonfiction texts. In fiction texts, students will identify elements of a variety of genres while focusing on an author's style. In seventh grade, there is an increased emphasis on nonfiction reading, and students will identify the source, point-of-view, and purpose of texts. The student will continue the study of word origins and roots and begin identifying connotations. The student will also plan, draft, revise, and edit writing in a variety of forms with an emphasis on expository and persuasive writing. Students will write to develop and modify a central idea, tone, and voice to fit the audience and purpose. Students will continue to deliver multimodal presentations individually and in collaborative groups. Students will also interpret information presented in diverse media formats. Students share responsibility for collaborative work, as both a contributor and a facilitator, while working for consensus to accomplish goals. The student will apply research techniques to quote, summarize, and paraphrase research findings while properly citing sources. As in earlier grades, the meaning and consequences of plagiarism will be stressed.

Communication and Multimodal Literacies

- 7.1 The student will participate in and contribute to conversations, group discussions, and oral presentations.
- Use a variety of strategies to listen actively and speak using agreed upon discussion rules with awareness of verbal and nonverbal cues.
 - Clearly communicate ideas and information orally in an organized and succinct manner.
 - Ask probing questions to seek elaboration and clarification of ideas.
 - Participate in collaborative discussions with partners building on others' ideas.
 - Make statements to communicate agreement or tactful disagreement with others' ideas.
 - Use language and style appropriate to audience, topic, and purpose.
 - Give formal and informal presentations in a group or individually, providing evidence to support a main idea.
 - Work effectively and respectfully within diverse groups.
 - Exhibit willingness to make necessary compromises to accomplish a goal.
 - Share responsibility for collaborative work.
- 7.2 The student will create multimodal presentations both individually and in a group that effectively communicate ideas.
- Select, organize, and create content to complement and extend meaning for a selected topic.
 - Use effective verbal and nonverbal communication skills to deliver multimodal presentations.
 - Use language and vocabulary appropriate to audience, topic, and purpose.
 - Paraphrase and summarize a speaker's key ideas.
- 7.3 The student will examine the elements of media literacy.
- Identify persuasive/informative techniques used in media.
 - Distinguish between fact and opinion, and between evidence and inference.
 - Describe how word choice, visual images, and sound convey a viewpoint.
 - Compare and contrast the effectiveness of techniques in auditory, visual, and written media messages.
 - Craft and publish audience-specific media messages.

Reading

7.4 The student will read and determine the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within authentic texts.

- a) Identify word origins and derivations.
- b) Use roots, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms to expand vocabulary.
- c) Identify and analyze the construction and impact of figurative language.
- d) Identify connotations.
- e) Use context and sentence structure to determine meanings and differentiate among multiple meanings of words.
- f) Use word-reference materials to determine meanings and etymology.
- g) Extend general and cross-curricular vocabulary through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

7.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, literary nonfiction, poetry, and drama.

- a) Describe the elements of narrative structure including setting, character development, plot, theme, and conflict and how they influence each other.
- b) Identify and explain the theme(s).
- c) Identify cause and effect relationships and their impact on plot.
- d) Differentiate between first and third person point-of-view.
- e) Identify elements and characteristics of a variety of genres.
- f) Compare and contrast various forms and genres of fictional text.
- g) Describe the impact of word choice, imagery, and literary devices including figurative language in an author's style.
- h) Compare/contrast details in literary and informational nonfiction texts.
- i) Make inferences and draw conclusions based on the text.
- j) Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.

7.6 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of nonfiction texts.

- a) Skim materials using text features including type, headings, and graphics to predict and categorize information.
- b) Identify an author's organizational pattern using textual clues, such as transitional words and phrases.
- c) Make inferences and draw logical conclusions using explicit and implied textual evidence.
- d) Differentiate between fact and opinion.
- e) Identify the source, viewpoint, and purpose of texts.
- f) Describe how word choice and language structure convey an author's viewpoint.
- g) Identify the main idea.
- h) Summarize text identifying supporting details.
- i) Create an objective summary including main idea and supporting details.
- j) Identify cause and effect relationships.
- k) Organize and synthesize information for use in written and other formats.
- l) Analyze ideas within and between selections providing textual evidence.
- m) Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.

Writing

7.7 The student will write in a variety of forms to include narrative, expository, persuasive, and reflective with an emphasis on expository and persuasive writing.

- a) Engage in writing as a recursive process.
- b) Choose intended audience and purpose.
- c) Use a variety of prewriting strategies to generate and organize ideas.
- d) Organize writing structure to fit form or topic.
- e) Establish a central idea incorporating evidence, while maintaining an organized structure and a formal style.
- f) Compose a thesis statement for persuasive writing that includes a position.
- g) Clearly state a position and organize reasons and evidence, using credible sources.
- h) Distinguish between fact and opinion to support a position.
- i) Write multiparagraph compositions with elaboration and unity.
- j) Use transition words and phrases within and between paragraphs.
- k) Develop and modify the central idea, tone, and voice to fit the audience and purpose.
- l) Expand and embed ideas by using modifiers, standard coordination, and subordination in complete sentences.
- m) Use clauses and phrases for sentence variety.
- n) Revise writing for clarity of content including specific vocabulary and information.

7.8 The student will self- and peer-edit writing for capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, paragraphing, and Standard English.

- a) Choose appropriate adjectives and adverbs to enhance writing.
- b) Use pronoun-antecedent agreement to include indefinite pronouns.
- c) Use subject-verb agreement with intervening phrases and clauses.
- d) Edit for verb tense consistency and point of view.
- e) Use quotation marks with dialogue and direct quotations.
- f) Use correct spelling for commonly used words.

Research

7.9 The student will find, evaluate, and select appropriate resources to create a research product.

- a) Formulate and revise questions about a research topic.
- b) Collect, organize, and synthesize information from multiple sources.
- c) Analyze and evaluate the validity and credibility of resources.
- d) Quote, summarize, and paraphrase information from primary and secondary sources using proper citations.
- e) Avoid plagiarism by using own words and follow ethical and legal guidelines for gathering and using information.
- f) Demonstrate ethical use of the Internet.