



Grade 7 Course Offerings

Language Arts/Literacy

After School Opportunities

- Student Council
- Peer Tutoring
- Extra help in all content areas
- Intramurals (Before School)
- Clubs
- Band and orchestra rehearsals

Instruction in Language Arts Literacy reflects a balanced approach that provides students with the learning opportunities they need in order to develop their abilities as readers, writers, listeners and speakers. Independent reading and writing are required at this level. The research process will be reinforced throughout the year. Skills and strategy instruction scaffolds or builds upon prior learning with each successive year of study. At this level, critical thinking is immersed throughout the lessons.

Recommended writing units involve responses to a wide variety of interdisciplinary themes in literature and non-fiction. Students will continue to build upon studies in poetry,

narrative, persuasive, and expository essays, as well as more informal writing opportunities like reader response, journal and notebook entries.

Writer's Workshops are a regular part of this course. Direct instruction in language arts also includes ongoing units in vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Proper usage and mechanics are taught explicitly and are integrated into the writing process along with identification and use of literacy devices in writing.

Language Arts Literacy instruction includes reading skills and strategies as well as providing opportunities for students to comprehend, analyze, and synthesize textual information. Students will continue to increase their fluency in reading.

Key to the instruction of reading across all grade levels is independent reading. Students have access to classroom libraries and media center books of various genres and reading levels, and teachers assist students in selecting books appropriate for their demonstrated ability. Students hone their inferential and comprehension skills as teachers implement a balance of instructional approaches, to include read-alouds, guided reading, modeling, reading notebooks, and author/genre study. Regular opportunities are provided for in-class reading, discussion, and writing about reading.

Mathematics

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards for middle level learners recognizes the need for all students living in the 21st century to have a broad expertise in mathematics. The seventh grade mathematics course will introduce students to the 7th grade Connected

Math program (CMP3), rich in algebraic and geometric concepts. This program will better prepare students with the foundations necessary to be successful at high school level mathematics. Making real-life connections with the mathematical content is a priority along with conceptual develop-

ment and independent thinking. A variety of activities are implemented using critical thinking, problem solving and technology. In addition to the core text, supplementary materials are used to further enhance and reinforce the skills and concepts taught including hands-on materials.

Science

The science program strives to stimulate and foster student interest and excitement in a subject that has become the forefront through the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) initiative. Science objectives are regularly integrated with other content areas. An interdisciplinary team approach is taken as to include Language Arts, mathematics and even social studies into the science objectives. The seventh grade focus is on life science. The year begins

with an emphasis on applying the scientific method through the performance of numerous experiments. With this foundation, future lab work continues throughout the remainder of the year at the rate of about one lab every three weeks. Specific topics covered in the first half of the year are cells, heredity, evolution, classification and bacteria & viruses. During the second half of the year the students learn about protists & fungi, plants, animals, ecology and the human

body systems. As a final note, once a week, the students complete internet-based assignments in the computer lab which relate the topic currently being studied.

At DEOMS each of our science labs are equipped with a digital projection camera and an interactive Smart Board. All students will have the opportunity to participate in a school-wide science fair to take place in the spring.

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum in grade seven is organized into knowledge and skill objectives that engage the student through problem solving and writing. Many social studies activities are integrated with other curriculum areas including mathematics and Language Arts. Students will study the beginnings of civilization, from pre-historic times up to the

Middle Ages. Students will complete a book jacket and poster as part of long term assignments. The ancient civilizations of Africa, the Middle East, China, India, and South America will be explored. An in-depth postcard project will be completed during this unit of study. Greece and Rome will also be topics of study. Opportunities for cross-curricular

connections will help students appreciate the impact of social studies on other disciplines. Seventh graders will sharpen their note taking, research and critical thinking skills.

Art

Students selecting art as a **full year** selective course will explore different types of medium sparking a lifelong interest in art. They will have the opportunity to experiment and refine skills using a variety of art media. This course is designed for the student who is

interested in improving their artistic skills through various two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects. Through these projects, students will learn their strengths and their favorite materials with which to work. The art course will provide a wider range and

greater depth in art to increase skills and techniques. Students will be encouraged through the development of creativity and imagination which promote critical and creative thinking skills. An exploration of art careers is included in this course.

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts program is designed to give students experience in performance as well as learn about and utilize different skills for the understanding and appreciation as music as an art form. There are three areas of focus including band, orchestra and chorus. The band and orchestra courses are **full year** courses and replace two selective courses. Students in band or orchestra participate in a large group ensemble. This experience helps provide confidence

and builds self-esteem in our young players as well as a sense of accomplishment when they perform in front of an audience. After school rehearsals are held once a week. The chorus program meets five days per week during the lunch period. Students learn about music notation and vocal production. Students will also learn to critique their own work and other performances. All students participating in the performing arts are expected to participate in two concerts per

year. Students selecting chorus will rehearse during their lunch period five days per week and may still register for selective courses, band or orchestra.

Physical Education/Health

The Physical Education program encourages students to develop physical skills, coordination, and fitness and teaches concepts related to health fitness enhancement. The goal of the physical education program is to provide students with a foundation for a lifetime of healthful pursuits. Age-appropriate activities are designed to promote the psychomotor and affective develop-

ment of students in team, individual, fitness and adventure-based learning. The emphasis is placed on basic skill development and organized games. Each unit strives to enhance personal wellness through the use of competitive, non-competitive and cooperative group activities.

The health education curriculum addresses four major are-

as: wellness, integrated skills, drugs and medicines and human relations and sexuality. Each of these areas, identified by the New Jersey Core Content standards, is addressed each year in developmentally appropriate succession. All students in grades 6-8 receive health education two days per week for the entire year.

Jr STEM

This elective course will have students thinking like a scientist and performing tasks like a scientist. Students will create, investigate, observe and draw conclusions while having fun with science. The students will make observations and predictions, observe variables and make conclusions about how that variable influences some-

thing else and how they would like to control it. In this hands-on course students will participate in many activities including designing an original Rube Goldberg Invention, creating and racing an edible car, they will make catapults to hurl objects at a target. Students will also make roller coasters and launch rockets. If you love

science this is the course for you!

Computer Graphics

This selective course is designed for the student who is interested in the STEM strand and wants to pursue more challenging technology resources. The course explores the ever growing world of digital media. Students will be exposed to technical, academic and universal outcomes. In this course, students will use a variety of programs to create art and designs. Excel will be employed to create uniform mosaics. Students will explore web sites like Sumopaint.com for all their complex graphical options. Font use

and creation will also be addressed in the course. The concept of photo editing may be explored with the students creating a wall sized poster of their art. This course will integrate cross-curricular opportunities into the lessons and projects. Logic and problem solving are key skills developed in Computer Graphics along with inspiring critical and creative thinking. This is a semester course and enrollment is limited due to the number of computers in the lab.

21st Century Careers

Future careers for our students are constantly evolving and there may be opportunities as adults that have not even been developed yet. This course is the beginning of the career development process in which students will practice decision-making and problem-solving skills for career planning. Students will explore educational

and career information to learn more about themselves, their interests and their abilities. They will integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions about their future. By using an interest inventory, the internet, resources and other tools to ex-

plore areas of personal interest, each student will have the opportunity to explore career options for a variety of career paths. Skills related to 21st century success will also be focused upon during this course. This course is **one semester**.

Current Events

This **one semester** course stresses critical and creative thinking as students engage in the process of examining local and global issues. The course will utilize an inter-disciplinary 21st century approach to problem solving with an emphasis on current affairs. The course will be structured around pro-

jects stemming from events happening in the news. Experiences will include technology and project-based activities which will stimulate cooperation and communication. Students will be writing and speaking through peer interactions. During the semester, focus areas will include inter-

national news, national events, New Jersey and local events and pop-culture. Students will be encouraged to complete outside readings including the newspaper, magazine and internet sources. Analyzing the credibility of sources will also be an integral part of studies.

Music Seven

In Guitar Class, 7th-grade students engage in a thorough exploration of guitar playing, focusing on various genres to broaden their musical horizons. The curriculum emphasizes fundamental techniques like legato playing and chord progressions, providing students with a solid foundation in guitar proficiency. Additionally, the class introduces students to recording techniques using digital audio workstations,

allowing them to gain practical experience in capturing and refining their guitar performances. This course aims to equip students with versatile skills applicable to different musical styles, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the diverse world of guitar playing.

World Languages

We hope in our World Languages program to inspire each student to pursue the study of a world language throughout their life with education and a continued awareness of the world and its people.

Beginning in sixth grade students participate in an exploratory program with three language offerings and a course in world cultures. The purpose of this rotation is to expose students to languages that they might want to take in grade eight or high school. In sixth and seventh grade students will take one semester of each

of the following languages: French, Mandarin and Spanish. The fourth marking period will include a course in world cultures. Each of the language courses will focus on greetings, family, weather, numbers days and months, telling time, colors, shapes, basic commands and objects. The cultural component of these classes will include holidays, foods eaten, music and art. Speaking and listening will be addressed at this level of study. Students will practice learned material to carry on very simple conversations and to read and write

familiar material. The cycle courses will foster an awareness of the culture and the importance of accuracy of expression.

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www.nmpsd.org.

The Junior Academy @DEOMS offers a Gifted and Talented program for recommended students in grade seven. This rigorous program is one marking period and offers students both self-guided and teacher initiated opportunities. Students use higher-level thinking skills including critical thinking and reasoning. Throughout this course, students will develop research skills and methods while advancing their oral and written skills. Students will be encouraged to take risks and grow personally. Examples of Gifted and Talented projects in grade seven include paper mache mask of a chosen culture, creating an original invention, podcasts on an environmental issue, the physics of roller coasters, the Stock Market game and Investwrite essay.
