Roy W. Brown Middle School

2026-2027 Program of Studies Grade 7

2026-2027
ROY W. BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES
GRADE 7

This booklet is designed to help students and their parents/guardians understand the Roy W. Brown Middle School seventh grade curriculum by identifying the courses offered and course content.

The grade seven program is a comprehensive curriculum aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Courses in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Health/Physical Education are designed to reinforce mastery of basic skills, stimulate problem solving and critical thinking skills, and enhance self-concept. Listed in the course descriptions are general education classes, however, also available are courses dictated by students' IEPs and advanced levels of Language Arts and Mathematics. In addition to the regular course of study, students are offered enrichment courses, such as courses in world language, visual and performing arts, computer science and supplemental instruction on an interest/need basis.

Students are instructed in a supportive environment during the early years of adolescence. This philosophy provides close monitoring of students' progress, enhanced parent/teacher communication, and the opportunity for an interdisciplinary curricular approach. Careful consideration is given to the development of each student's schedule. School counselors will work with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) to create the best possible schedule. Once the schedule is set, changes are difficult to make.

In grade seven, students are assigned to Language Arts Workshop and Math Workshop based upon standardized test scores and student achievement during the previous year's coursework. Workshop courses are assigned in lieu of a world language or other elective coursework. Placement in advanced Language Arts and Mathematics courses is recommended by academic class performance, district-wide assessment, and standardized test results according to specified criteria. Parents/guardians who have questions about student placement should talk with their child's school counselor.

Roy W. Brown Middle School is proud to offer this curriculum for the 2026-2027 school year. The emphasis in programming consists of interdisciplinary study, concentration in study skills development, and integrated technology education. It is felt that these curricular offerings provide a broad-based educational experience that will better prepare students for high school work.

This Program of Studies is intended to assist you in selecting the best possible educational program for your child. If you have questions after reading it, please contact the School Counselor's Office at 385-8847 for assistance.

Dominick Rotante
Principal

SEVENTH GRADE PROGRAM OF STUDIES
2026-2027

Seventh graders will have the following in an eight period day:

Language Arts (LA 7, or LA 7 Advanced) – 1 period

Mathematics (Math 7, Pre-Algebra 7, Algebra 7) – 1 period

Science 7 – 1 period

Social Studies/Civics 7 – 1 period

Physical Education/Health 7 – 1 period

Lunch/Independent Study – 1 period

Drama 7 (half year) or Computer Science 7 and Spanish 7 or French 7 (half year) – 1 period

Band 7, Strings 7, Choir 7 (full year) or Visual Art 7, Digital Music 7, Entrepreneurship 7, and Visual Literacy 7 (1 quarter year each) – 1 period

NOTE: WORKSHOP COURSES IN MATH AND/OR LANGUAGE ARTS ARE SCHEDULED IN LIEU OF ELECTIVE COURSES. SUPPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS IN NEED OF ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GRADE 7

LANGUAGE ARTS 7 ADVANCED
Recommendation for this class is based on student performance on the New Jersey State Learning Assessment, STAR Reading and grades/averages in Language Arts 6. The class is designed to challenge students to appreciate literature through an in-depth study of various literary genres. Students will be involved in various long term research-based projects. The College Board Springboard program will be used to support the development of students' reading and writing skills. Independent reading is a major component of this course. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards of speaking, listening, writing, reading, and viewing skills will also be addressed. Students will be involved in learning to communicate in various forms for a variety of audiences and purposes.

LANGUAGE ARTS 7
Students will experience a method of instruction that integrates various literary genres with speaking, listening, writing, reading, and viewing skills to develop literacy. Students will learn to appreciate various literary forms while developing higher order thinking and communication skills. The class helps promote various instructional methodologies including an emphasis on collaborative learning. Students will be involved in a number of long and short-term assignments that will help prepare them for grade eight. The College Board Springboard program will be used to support the development of students' reading and writing skills. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards of speaking, listening, writing, reading, and viewing skills will also be addressed. Skills taught in this class will assist in preparing students to meet the rigorous challenge of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments.

LANGUAGE ARTS 7 WORKSHOP
This course is designed to help students develop and refine their reading and writing skills to succeed on the New Jersey State Learning Assessments and improve overall academic achievement. Instruction focuses on identified weaknesses revealed through diagnostic testing. This is not an elective course, but one which is assigned to students based on their performance on standardized tests, district exams, and teacher recommendations. Students in LA Workshop are part of the LA 7 course and have an additional period to reinforce topics learned in class and provide intensive instruction in reading and writing.

LANGUAGE ARTS ESL
The ESL Language Arts curriculum is offered solely to English Language Learners (ELLs). It is a course designed to promote language development in English by providing language practice and reinforcement of grammar, development of writing skills, and research. The ESL LA curriculum prepares the ELL student to make a transition to English content area texts. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing/media literacy is addressed according to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Language Arts and English Language Proficiency Standards.

ALGEBRA 7
Recommendation for this class is based on student performance on NJSLA Math, STAR Math, and grades/averages in Math class. This first year course in Algebra will include properties of real numbers, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, and solving quadratic equations. Each topic will focus on real-life word problems involving linear systems and quadratic equations.

PRE-ALGEBRA 7
Recommendation for this class is based on student performance on NJSLA Math, STAR Math, and grades/averages in Math class. This course incorporates all of the aspects of Math 7 (listed below) but moves at a faster pace. It is an accelerated course that will also include topics such as data and statistics, and geometric transformations to prepare students for Algebra and beyond.

MATHEMATICS 7
This course will expand the student's knowledge of proportional concepts used in the context of geometric problems involving similarity. Students connect visual ideas of enlarging and reducing figures, numerical ideas of scale factors and ratios, and applications of similarity through work with problems. Students investigate the connections with fractions, percents, and ratios through various situations. Through a series of problem-based investigations, students explore the meaning of ratio comparison and begin to develop an intuition to articulate procedures with a variety of techniques. Other topics include linear relationships, equations, and probability. Proportional thinking is connected and extended to the core ideas of linearity—constant rate of change and slope.

MATHEMATICS 7 WORKSHOP
This course is designed to help students develop and refine their computation skills and number sense to succeed on the NJSLA 7 and improve overall academic achievement. This is not an elective course, but one that is assigned to students based on their performance on standardized tests, district exams, and teacher recommendations. Students in Math Workshop are part of the Math 7 course and have an additional period to reinforce topics learned in class and provide intensive basic instruction.

SCIENCE 7
The Roy W. Brown Middle School Science program is designed to provide students with engaging experiences in life, earth, space and physical sciences and in technology. Both the content and the pedagogy of the science program address the unique characteristics of the middle school student and align to the Next Generation Science Standards. The science program provides age-appropriate activities that allow middle school children to:

- Expand their understanding of important science concepts
- Acquire problem-solving and critical-thinking skills
- Develop positive habits of mind toward science

Life Science is featured in the seventh grade science curriculum. The program develops students' basic understanding of the diversity, complexity, and interdependence of life on Earth, including cell structure, how organisms evolve, reproduce, and adapt to their environment. Students are encouraged to use the science and engineering practices: 1) asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering), 2) developing and using models. 3) planning and carrying out investigations, 4) analyzing and interpreting data, 5) using mathematics and computational thinking, 6) constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering), 7) engaging in argument from evidence, and 8) obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information to understand the world around them.

SOCIAL STUDIES/CIVICS 7

The Roy W. Brown Middle School Social Studies program fosters students' abilities to understand their world and an appreciation for the heritage of America with a high degree of literacy in civics, United States and New Jersey history, world history, economics, and geography. Students will learn to write Document Based Question (DBQ) responses to support the development of their reading and writing skills. The Grade 7 Social Studies course makes connections to today's world through a curriculum that has been divided into two semesters: Semester A will cover the topics of Byzantine and Muslim Empires, including Islam in Southwest Asia, the Mediterranean region, and northern Africa. Semester B will cover the topic of Civics including what it means to be a citizen in the United States, identifying basic human rights, and understanding democracy and how the government works.

SOCIAL STUDIES ESL

The ELL Social Studies class is offered solely to English Language Learners (ELLs). It is a course designed to make social studies comprehensive to the ELL student while promoting language acquisition in the content area. The ELL Social Studies curriculum prepares the ELL student to make a transition to the content area in the mainstream utilizing appropriate teaching strategies through the sheltered approach. The ELL students will develop and expand their English proficiency levels in the content area of social studies according to NJ Student Learning Standards and English Language Proficiency Standards. Students in Social Studies ESL will have instruction in Civics during the second semester including what it means to be an active citizen in the United States, how democracy works in government, and identifying basic human rights.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 7

The Physical Education curriculum offers team and individual sports and games along with aerobics, cooperative games, and the Physical Best Fitnessgram health assessment program. The Health curriculum expands on the areas developed in the sixth grade including heredity, relationships, behavior, human growth and development, adolescence, human reproductive systems, and drugs, alcohol and tobacco. These courses are mandatory for all students and comply with the U.S. Title IX and N.J.A.C. 6:4 regulations.

SPANISH 7
This half year course will further develop the students' understanding of the Spanish language/heritage/culture and prepare them for the World Language curriculum in grade eight.

FRENCH 7
This half year course will introduce students to the French language, heritage, and culture. It will provide students with a basic understanding of French vocabulary and grammar in order to prepare them for the World Language curriculum in grade eight.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 7
In this program students will use tools such as the design process, dynamic mathematics software, CAD, computer simulations and engineering to design, model and build objects. One possible output is a creation of a toy or a game for a disabled child. Other sites such as Scratch, Code.org, and Khan Academy will be incorporated as time permits as well as problem solving projects in Defined STEM. This course is designed to build on skills learned in Computer Science 6 but does not need any pre-requisite skills.

DRAMA 7
This half year program will develop and deepen theatrical skill, while strengthening scholars' unique talents and performance agility through a balance of process, production and performance. Dramatic aspects will include Acting, Movement, Voice, Design, Direction and Theatre History, highlighting the connection between culture and Performing Arts. Skills developed through this course support confident communication, the ability to connect and convey human experience with depth and honesty, and a proud sense of self. Students will hone habits of reflection from process through performance, and the reception and implementation of feedback to elevate their craft, enabling creativity, critical thinking, and the ability to understand, originate and evaluate live theatre.

VISUAL ART 7
This course is activity-centered and allows for individual expression. Development of positive aspects of attitude, cooperation, and creativity are emphasized. Art 7 has been designed to give the students a variety of experiences in drawing, ceramics, and crafts. As a result, each student will complete projects in the following areas: drawing, one point/two point perspective drawing, painting, ceramics/sculpture, crafts, and textiles.

DIGITAL MUSIC 7
This quarterly elective introduces students to the exciting world of music production, composition, and audio technology. Using industry-inspired digital music software, students will create original beats, compose songs, explore sound design, and develop an understanding of rhythm, melody, harmony, and song structure. Through hands-on projects, students will learn how technology is used to create, record, edit, and produce music while expressing their own creativity. No prior musical experience is required—just a willingness to explore, create, and collaborate in a fun, engaging learning environment.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP 7

Entrepreneurship is a quarterly elective class for 7th-grade students in which they learn the fundamentals of creating their own business. This project and teamwork-based class guide students through the foundations, ideation, planning, and development of a company. The course wraps up with a business plan and pitch preparation for a "Shark Tank" presentation of their company and products/services with a formal but modified business plan

VISUAL LITERACY 7

Visual Literacy provides students with a foundation of skills to enhance student understanding of visuals both in print and digital images and videos. Students study necessary vocabulary and color psychology, and then apply their knowledge by analyzing and critiquing visual images and videos. In the second unit, students begin studying visual storytelling by reading graphic novels and learning how a writer/illustrator tells a story visually. Students then create their own story and construct a mini-graphic novel of their own. In the third unit, students study digital media and leave the class knowing how to analyze a video for engagement metrics and how influencers use key tactics to drive viewership and ratings. Students also learn how to create/design an ethical infographic focusing on an analysis of media trends, engagement, and viewership.

BAND 7

This course is a student elective for instrumentalists who play band instruments. Course requirements include ensemble rehearsals and performances outside of school hours, as well as individual home practice. The repertoire for this group is designed to increase the technical facility of individual members while fostering growth in ensemble concepts. Departmental approval is required for all new students.

STRINGS 7

This course is a student elective for instrumentalists who play string instruments. Course requirements include ensemble rehearsals and performances outside of school hours, as well as individual home practice. The repertoire for this group is designed to increase the technical facility of individual members while fostering growth in ensemble concepts. This class is frequently combined with wind and percussion players from the Band to perform literature of the symphonic orchestra. Departmental approval is required for all new students. Note: Both Band 7 and Strings 7 are continuation courses for those presently enrolled in grade six. Departmental approval is required for all new students and /or beginners, and the school counselors should be consulted before enrollment.

CHOIR 7

This course is an elective for seventh graders who wish to sing in the chorus. Course requirements include ensemble rehearsals and performances outside of school hours, as well as individual home practice. The repertoire for this group is designed to increase the technical facility of individual members while fostering growth in ensemble concepts.

Note to Band and Strings students: Do NOT sign up for Choir 7 as an elective. Your choral experience will take place during your instrumental ensemble period.