

# Seventh Grade Curriculum Overview

New Ulm Public Schools



*A leader in education through engaging and innovative programs and support structures*

## **NEW ULM MIDDLE SCHOOL**



New Ulm Middle School serves students in grades 5-8, providing a developmentally responsive program designed to meet both the academic and social-emotional needs of all students. NUMS is committed to the middle school philosophy and the delivery of a comprehensive education that supports the growth of the whole child. Students at NUMS are organized into small groups or “families,” reflecting the house concept, designed to provide students with a better sense of community and a more personalized learning environment.

Each day, students at NUMS participate in an advisory program where they will have an opportunity to develop a positive advisor-advisee relationship and build peer relationships in a small group environment. NUMS offers a variety of exploratory courses for grades 5-7 and electives for grade 8 (Agriculture and Industrial Technology, Art, Family, and Consumer Science and General Music). Beyond the exploratory and elective options, NUMS students will also be engaged in a Positive Intervention and Enrichment (P.I.E.) program, which will provide instruction based on the student's individual academic needs.

### **SCIENCE**

In seventh grade, students receive daily Life Science instruction. Students will be provided with an overview of scientific processes, interactions in the ecosystem, cellular functions, heredity, diseases, body systems, and change over time. Skills that seventh grade students will acquire by the end of the year include, but not limited to:

- Conduct investigation by asking questions, stating hypotheses, identifying variables and constants, collecting data and forming conclusions based on evidence.
- Be able to use maps, satellite images and other data to compare wildlife populations in MN.
- Explain how life functions such as obtaining and using energy are carried out in animals, plants, fungi, bacteria, and protists
- Describe the functions and interactions of human body systems
- Analyze how viruses, bacteria, fungus, and parasites interfere with normal body function causing diseases.



### **ART**

7th grade art courses are an overview, designed to allow each student to continue to explore a variety of media, techniques, and methods. Projects focus on introducing and developing the elements of art (line, shape, form, color, value, texture, space) and principles of design (balance, variety, harmony, emphasis, unity, proportion, rhythm, movement). Understanding and appreciation of self and others through art history, culture, and heritage is emphasized. Students will produce a sampling of two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects.

#### **New Ulm Middle School**

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## **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS**

Seventh grade students continue the language art skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Highlights of the course include reading and analyzing novels, short stories, poetry, and drama. Students will investigate, identify, and practice using literary components of fiction and nonfiction. Students will be writing in a variety of styles while focusing on improving vocabulary and grammar skills. At the end of the student's seventh grade year, the learner is expected to demonstrate the following outcomes but not limited to:

- Read and understand grade-appropriate English language text
- Recognize and interpret words with multiple meanings
- Determine pronunciation, meanings and alternate word choices through the use of dictionaries, thesauruses and electronic devices
- Create outlines, logical notes and summaries across content areas
- Distinguish statements of fact from opinion
- Relate a given literary work to historical events
- Write frequently in a variety of forms such as poetry, stories, essays, research papers, letters, and directions
- Create multiple paragraph compositions that state, maintain and use details in a logical order to support the main idea
- Edit writing for correct spelling and sentence clarity.
- Cite sources for quoted and paraphrased information
- Know and apply listening rules for formal settings
- Perform expressive oral readings

## **HEALTH**

Health class for seventh graders will provide students with an opportunity to develop an understanding of health concepts, behaviors, and skills that reduce health risks and enhance the health and well being of self and others. Students will set personal health goals and evaluate health information, products, services, and the effects of health behaviors on the community.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

In seventh grade, US history is covered and designed to teach students about the settlement, development, growth, and technological advances that took place in North America in the early decades from 1800 to the present. A secondary emphasis is placed on citizenship and government. Items of discussion include:

- Identifying examples of principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence and Preamble to the Constitution have been applied throughout history
- Describe the historical application of the principle of checks and balances within the US Government
- Describe the amendment process and the impact of key institutional amendments
- Explain how items are allocated or rationed when scarcity
- Discuss the Civil War and the Industrial Revolution and the impacts these events had on US History
- Analyze the effects of racism and legalized segregation on American society and the relocation of Indian Tribes to reservations
- Cover the topics of World War I, the Great Depression and World War II and the causes, political impacts and factors that lead to these events
- Analyze the changing relations between the United States and other countries around the world

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

In 7th grade Physical Education, students will be participating in and working on skills in the following units: flag football, soccer/speedball, volleyball, basketball, cucumber, floor hockey, bowling, team handball, tennis, softball, fitness testing, and a variety of other activities throughout the year. Students will be able to demonstrate

- Competency in motor skills and movement patterns
- An understanding of movements concepts, principles, strategies and tactics
- Participate regularly in physical activity
- Achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of fitness
- Exhibit responsible personal and social behaviors in physical activity settings
- Value physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and social

## MATHEMATICS

Seventh grade students will investigate and explore basic concepts of pre-algebra, percents, proportions, probability, applications of fractions and decimals, and three-dimensional geometry and measurement, including surface area and volume of prisms and cylinders. Expectations for students after 7<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics are:

- Calculate with positive and negative rational numbers and rational numbers with whole number exponents, to solve real-world mathematical problems
- Understand the concept of proportionality
- Represent proportional and other relationships using tables, verbal descriptions, symbols, and graphs
- Understand the order of operations and algebraic properties to show equivalent numerical and algebraic
- Use reasoning with proportions and ratios to determine measurements, justify formulas to solve problems involving circles and geometric figures
- Analyze the effect of change of scale, translations, and reflections on the attributes of two-dimensional figures.
- Use mean, median and range to draw conclusions about data and make predictions
- Display and interpret data in a variety of ways, including circle graphs and histograms.
- Calculate probabilities and reasoning behind probability calculations

## MUSIC

At this grade level, students have three course options: Band, Choir, or General Music.



General music is comprised of a balanced and sequential course of singing, playing instruments, listening to music, improvising or composing music, and moving to music. The

students will also experience learning designed to develop the ability to read music, use notation and terminology of music, analyze and describe music, make informed assessments concerning music, and understand music and music practices.

Band students will focus on fundamental skills of playing an instrument throughout a yearlong commitment. Students will explore large group rehearsals and performances as well as receive small group and individual lesson time. Members will also have opportunities to participate in additional activities such as Jazz band, small ensembles, and solo/recital work.

The Choir curriculum will have students exposed to many different styles and periods of music through singing and listening. Students will develop sight-reading skills through rhythm reading and unison and two-part music reading. They will start the process of understanding good tonal techniques as well as proper performance techniques.

## MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

The curriculum for media and technology is not seen as an individual subject area. Instead, the lessons are integrated within other curriculum areas.

Expected outcomes of the learner will include, but is not limited to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations
- Apply digital codes to gather, evaluate and use information
- Use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources
- Use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contributive to the education of others
- Demonstrate creative thinking, knowledge and develop innovative products and process using technology
- Understand human, cultural, and social issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior



## **COUNSELING**

Upon completion of the counseling curriculum, seventh grade students are expected to demonstrate knowledge in academic development, career development, and personal/social skills. Lessons will include acquiring skills for improved learning including but not limited to displaying a positive attitude, accepting mistakes as part of the learning process, take responsibility for your actions, balance school, studies, life, extracurricular activities, family and leisure time and understanding the correlation of academics to the world of work and everyday life. Career development skills to be acquired include setting goals; learn employability skills such as time management, working as a team, problem-solving and organizational skills. Students will also interpret test scores and interest inventories to help in career planning. Social and personal skills will also be incorporated into the curriculum and assist students in understanding life changes, recognize personal boundaries, rights, and privacy, identifying personal strengths and assets, recognize, accept, and appreciate ethnic and cultural diversity, use effective communication skills involving speaking, listening and nonverbal behavior and learn how to make and keep friends. Students will also cover safety and survival skills, coping with peer pressure, and managing stress and conflict.

## **AGRICULTURE/INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (AGIT)**

Seventh graders will enroll in an AgIt course that builds on the learner's foundation of agriculture, industrial technology, applied technology/mechanics, and related sciences. Hands-on learning experiences through various instructional methods, lab, shop, greenhouse experiences, and personal projects.



## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS)**

In seventh grade, students are introduced to concepts and skills in two core areas of Family and Consumer Science: Food and Nutrition and Clothing and Textiles/Sewing

Basics. Students will work in teams to complete three food labs and complete an individual sewing project.



## **ADVISORY AND POSITIVE INTERVENTION AND ENRICHMENT (P.I.E.)**

All students in the Middle School, including seventh grade, will have a daily advisory period focused on academic guidance and support, everyday administrative details, recognition, and activities to promote citizenship.

Positive Intervention and Enrichment (P.I.E.) is a designated period during the school day used to

