

# **Grant K-8 School – Core Curriculum**

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Information**

At the seventh grade level, students develop greater organizational skills and take on more individual responsibility. Additional elective choices are offered as students learn to balance more activities. Required courses include English/language arts, mathematics, world history/geography, science, and physical education. Students continue to have the option of selecting an elective which alternates with PE on an A Day/B Day rotation.

### **Language Arts**

The seventh grade English curriculum emphasizes oral and written communication. Focus is centered on different writing styles which include persuasive essays, personal narratives, response to literature, and the skill of writing summaries. Vocabulary enrichment and grammatical instruction are tied in with writing and reading instruction. Students learn to be selective in word choice and syntax with opportunities to revise during the writing process. Student writing will demonstrate a command of standard American English as well as research, organizational, and drafting strategies. Students will analyze, interpret, and synthesize when reading fiction, non-fiction, fables, myths and legends. All students are required to read 25 books or the equivalent.

### **Algebra**

This is a challenging first year algebra course for students who have demonstrated high achievement, good reading comprehension, and a desire to explore more advanced mathematical ideas. Placement in Algebra 1-2, in seventh grade, will be done on the basis of previous teacher recommendation, math grade, and placement test scores. The course satisfies the high school graduation requirement.

### **Pre-Algebra**

Pre-algebra is the standard seventh grade mathematics course. It will prepare students for algebra by developing problem solving strategies and critical thinking skills. Students will develop an understanding of the basic principles of mathematics to include statistics, data analysis and probability, mathematical reasoning, measurement and geometry, algebra and functions, and number sense while continuing to improve computation skills.

### **Social Studies**

Students study the collapse of the Roman Empire, as well as the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the medieval civilizations of Islam, China, Europe, Japan, the sub-Saharan civilizations of Ghana and Mali in Africa as well as Mesoamerican and Andean civilizations. Placement in the GATE Cluster Social Studies 7 class is done on the basis of previous GATE identification, and remaining spaces will be filled based on standardized and/or GATE test scores. Placement in Seminar Social Studies 7 requires seminar designation.

### **Science**

This course emphasizes life science, biology, botany, Earth's timeline, cells, genetics, and body systems. Topics will be taught through the use of various projects and labs as students address questions such as, "Why, when, and how has life changed over time?" Laboratory activities will enhance the mastery of concepts, as well as increase the understanding of the scientific method.

### **Physical Education**

The physical education program includes physical, cognitive, and social skill development. While each grade level varies in focus and activities, the general goal is for students to meet fitness levels and demonstrate content knowledge, skills, and personal growth for their age group. We provide a program of developmentally appropriate activities, team sports, non-traditional games, and rhythms that are suited to the capacities and limitations of all students. The program's emphasis is on the enjoyment of movement and the development of physical activity as a lifetime pursuit.