

Edgar Middle School

Courses of Study

Grade 7

English Language Arts (ELA)

ELA-7

The comprehensive seventh grade English Language Arts program integrates the elements of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and grammar. The expectation is that the students receive direct and differentiated instruction in each of these elements. This standards and research-based curriculum is designed to build upon each student's experiences and skills addressed in the previous school year and facilitate student growth in the areas delineated by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts, which in turn assists each student in becoming critical, lifelong readers and writers.

Reading/Writing Workshop-7

The Reading/Writing Workshop course is a two-cycle program for all seventh grade students. It reinforces and complements the themes, skills, and activities that are part of English Language Arts for Grade 7. Students will be involved in reading and writing in multiple genres and projects that involve technology. This standards and research-based curriculum is designed to build upon each student's experiences and skills addressed in the previous school year and facilitate student growth in the areas delineated by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards-ELA in Grade 7, which in turn assists each student in becoming critical, lifelong readers and writers.

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is an intensive one year program focusing on numerical, proportional, and algebraic reasoning which helps to prepare students for Algebra I in eighth grade. Students derive practical application for ratios, proportions, percents, fractions and decimals. The language of algebra is reinforced through the use of variables, expressions and equations. Students work with algebraic functions, relationships and graphs to strengthen their algebraic skills. Data analysis, probability, and geometric concepts will also be discussed. The program is currently aligned with the New Jersey Learning Standards for Mathematics providing students with the tools necessary for success on the PARCC 7 assessment.

Math-7

Math 7 is the second year of the Middle School Math Program and provides students with the necessary foundation for algebra readiness. This course builds upon the numerical reasoning stressed in the previous course as well as focuses on rational numbers, their

operations and their algebraic representations. Students will also apply their skills to problem-solving situations and use estimation to check reasonableness. The program is currently aligned with the New Jersey Learning Standards for Mathematics providing students with the tools necessary for success on the PARCC 7 assessment.

Social Studies

Social Studies-7

Social Studies 7 is the first year of a two-year program that commences the study of World History. The year begins with instruction on study skills necessary to maneuver through the instruction within the class. The historical study is chronological as well as global and covers the periods of pre-history through the fall of Rome (476 B.C.E.). The curriculum is aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in Social Studies and 21st Century Skills.

Science

Science-7

In Science 7 students learn about life science, focusing on genetics and cellular processes, structure and function within organisms, and ecosystems. The emphasis of the course is to further develop students' science inquiry and problem solving skills, to advance deep understanding of science content, concepts and processes, and to provide opportunities for meaningful application of science learning. Students will frequently be actively engaged in hands-on investigations, allowing them to build knowledge based on their observations and experiences in a teacher supported environment. Students will experience both individual and cooperative learning activities, with opportunities to relate learning to the world around them, solve problems with scientific information, and develop engineering designs. Scientific literacy and the ability to communicate about science through reading, writing and speaking is an important part of this course.

World Language

Spanish-7

This year of Spanish is based on the second half of the *Expresate 1A* textbook (Holt) and continues to reinforce and introduce new materials in learning the Spanish language. Students will continue to experience listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. There will be a strong cultural component to class offerings and the curriculum is aligned to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for World Languages.

French-7

Students may choose a World Language in Grade 7 for study in Grades 7 and 8. The French students begin their study of Level 1 French through the first chapters of the textbook, *Bien*

Dit!. Vocabulary, communication and culture are the fundamentals stressed as students begin their journey in language learning. Speaking, listening, reading and writing are the four modes of communication taught. Students will continue through Level 1 in Grade 8.

German-7

Students may choose a World Language in Grade 7 for study in Grades 7 and 8. The German students begin their study of Level 1 German through the first chapters of the textbook, *Komm mit!*. Vocabulary, communication and culture are the fundamentals stressed as students begin their journey in language learning. Speaking, listening, reading and writing are the four modes of communication taught. Students will continue through Level 1 in Grade 8.

Physical Education/Health Education

Physical Education

Physical Education is a co-educational program. Activities in the program are designed for the students to explore various positive physical experiences. These activities are used as a medium for attaining, improving and maintaining physical fitness. The students will be introduced to sports for recreational purposes while developing sportsmanship qualities. Skills will help develop agility, balance, cardio-vascular endurance, flexibility and strength. Individual skills, team play, strategy and playing rules of sports and games are taught. Opportunities for skill development in lifetime sports are also offered for carry-over value later in life.

Health-7

The seventh grade course of study starts with the “gateway drugs” of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine and the adverse effects they have mentally and physically on the human body. Students will investigate conflict resolution by handling problems in a non-violent manner while using persuasion techniques and with positive reinforcement. The course also studies consumer health and how advertisements, through the media, affects their daily lives. This is a one marking cycle course.

Cycle Courses

Construction Project- 7

In this program students develop an understanding of basic woodworking techniques and develop skills in the proper use of equipment, hand tools, and supplies toward the creation of a CO2 Dragster. Students will learn to create basic sketches, refine these sketches into drawings and create patterns using layout tools and measuring devices. Students will build their own dragster using their own plans as well as be introduced to the basic principles of

physics and how to evaluate race and testing data. Appropriate career awareness and technology standards will be addressed throughout the program.

Art-7

In this third year art program, seventh graders are provided the opportunities to continue building on their knowledge of artists and various techniques employed by them. Students are encouraged to make critical evaluations and to analyze and compare the relationships of styles and artists to each other. The program provides adequate classroom time for studio projects focusing on the art elements addressed in the New Jersey Visual Arts Core Curriculum Content Standards.

General Music-7

This year continues to build on the skills developed in the 5th and 6th grade general music classes. In this general music format, classroom activities focus on three general areas: music listening (stressing the development of listening skills); music theory (emphasis on composition and form); performance (developing the ability to play guitar and piano). The focus of this year's study is American Music. The curricular offerings are tied directly to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for the Arts.

Computers-7

With a firm grasp of technology skills achieved in the lower grades, 7th graders are prepared to use technology as a communication medium to express their ideas and knowledge in innovative ways. Computers-7 is an advanced class that explores the importance of the student as both a consumer of knowledge and as a future producers of information and ideas that can be shared in a global setting. Students engage in student-directed research on emerging technologies, create visual essays on teen issues and explore the world of application developers. This 10 week cycle class is guided by the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Technology, the International Society for Technology in Education Student Standards along with key Common Core State Standards for Language Arts. Integrated throughout the course are the New Jersey Core Content Standards for 21st-Century Life and Career skills incorporating creative, critical thinking, collaborating and problem-solving skills in each major units of study.

Music Ensembles

7th & 8th Grade Band

This music program is intended for those students who were involved in band activities from Intermediate Band – 5/6 and wish to continue expanding upon their knowledge and enjoyment of music. This course focuses on the further development of skills, knowledge and musical insights necessary for mature performance and appreciation. The program closely addresses all New Jersey Core Content Standards for the Performing Arts.

7th & 8th Grade Chorus

Chorus in 7th and 8th grade offers students the opportunity to participate in a vocal music program dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Vocal development, basic musicianship, confidence in the singing voice, and dealing with the vocal change in middle school singers are addressed. The curriculum will focus on all elements addressed in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for the Performing Arts.

7th & 8th Grade Orchestra

This course is intended for the student who wishes to learn about and enjoy music through performance on a string instrument. Emphasis is placed upon developing the skills, knowledge, teamwork and musical insights necessary for mature performance. The orchestra performs a variety of literature, from arrangements of classical music to contemporary popular music, providing a well-rounded, informed aesthetic education as outlined in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for the Performing Arts.

Gifted and Talented

Grade 7 G&T

The emphasis of the Grade 7 G&T curriculum is to develop the talents and abilities of our most gifted students. The program is offered as two semester courses; one addressing students gifted in the Math/Science areas, and one addressing students gifted in the Language Arts/Social Studies areas. Programming will focus on development of knowledge and skills to be applied to a major collaborative project or endeavor. Math/Science students engage in robotics design and programming challenges as part of the First Lego League competition, and Language Arts/Social Studies students engage in debate and the writing of laws in a civics program.

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