

# NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Curriculum Summary

### Grade 7

#### **Required Classes**

**English:** This course is designed to strengthen students' reading and writing skills. Students write for a variety of purposes; the writing process and The Six Traits of Writing are focused upon throughout the year. Students read classic and contemporary literature, fiction and nonfiction, and are encouraged to challenge themselves, question their readings, begin using basic literary analysis skills, and develop an appreciation for both written and spoken language.

**Life Science:** Students in 7th grade life science are actively involved in the exploration of ecology, plants, cells and body systems, natural selection, and genetics. Emphasis is placed on science process skills in addition to content knowledge. Examples of process skills include observing, organizing and analyzing data, and argumentation. This is a hands-on class where students do a variety of in-class activities, frequently using lab equipment such as microscopes.

**Math:** Students are grouped for math based upon previous achievement and successful completion of prerequisite courses.

Pre-Algebra A - This course covers the 7th grade Minnesota math standards. The course will focus on problem solving and calculation skills, along with introductory probability, statistics, algebra, and geometry.

Pre-Algebra AA - This course covers the Minnesota 7th grade standards at a faster pace than Pre-Algebra A. Due to the faster pace, we will begin exploring 8th grade math standards.

7th Grade Algebra - This is an Algebra I course that covers 8th grade Minnesota math standards. This course prepares students to take Algebra II in 8th grade.

**Social Studies:** This class is designed to introduce students to the history of the United States, from the end of the Civil War through the 20th century. Through this course, concentration is given to interpretation, analysis, and inquiry as we explore how the country developed during key points of its history. The core theme that runs through the course is how defining moments have shaped our past, influence our lives, and direct our path to the future. Topics in economics, civics, and geography will also be included. Students will have opportunities to express themselves through critical thinking, inquiry, role-playing, decision-making, analytical writing, individual and group presentations, and various discussion formats.

**Physical Education:** Students should change into clothes that allow them to move and are appropriate for the weather. Students will be participating in lifetime sports (tennis, badminton, ping-pong, weightlifting, and other recreational activities), and team sports (football, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, soccer, speedball, and softball). A locker with a lock will be assigned to each student. Written Quizzes will be given during the school year.

**Health 7:** (Full year, every other day): The intent of this course is to help students gain practical knowledge

and skills in taking personal responsibility for their social, mental/emotional, and physical health. A continuation of the district-wide Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum through Second Step will be utilized. We also explore career and college readiness skills through our Ramp-Up program.

### **Language and Music Electives Classes**

**Amistades 7:** Amistades 7 is designed specifically for students who have been in the elementary Compañeros program and the Amistades 6 course. This offering will contain a variety of topics including more structured language study and cultural issues. A continuation course will be offered in eighth grade.

**Band 7:** Seventh grade band meets for a full year on alternating days. Students continue learning basic music theory and instrumental techniques while becoming exposed to a wide variety of musical selections of increasing difficulty. Evening concerts are presented and students receive a band lesson every eight school days with the band instructor. Students are expected to stay in band for the entire year, and practice for at least 60 minutes each week at home in addition to the full band rehearsals. Prerequisite: Participation in 6th grade band. Students that were not in 6th grade band and are interested in beginning a Band instrument should meet with the instructor and enroll in Level 1 Band.

**Level 1 Band:** This course is designed for students that have never played a band instrument and wish to learn. This course is open to students entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. This course meets for the first semester only, on alternating days. After the completion of Quarter 2, students in this course will transfer to their grade level ensembles.

**Choir:** 7th/8th Grade Choir builds on prior knowledge, however beginners are always welcome. This vocal music course is for students who have a desire to take their skills in learning, singing and performing music to the next level. This course focuses on vocal technique, singing as a member of an ensemble, reading music, developing part independence, and singing with expressiveness and confidence. Choir is a year-long class with stage performances and events throughout the school year! Our 7th/8th Grade Choir performs at evening concerts, Winter Walk, and at the District Choral Festival, which takes place during the school day. We also collaborate with the high school choirs, elementary choirs and other guest musicians. A small ensemble of 7th/8th Grade Choir members also performs at Northfield elementary schools, nearby nursing homes and other local events. Choir is a great place to make new friends! All team members are valued and work cooperatively every day. If you have any questions about choir at NMS please contact Ms. Michelle Bendett at [mbendett@northfieldschools.org](mailto:mbendett@northfieldschools.org).

**Orchestra:** Seventh grade orchestra is designed to be a learning experience as well as a time for preparing for performances. A few topics that students learn and review include the following: scales and etudes, shifting, tuning, solos and rhythmic patterns. Each group strives to achieve a balance of sound, good tone, and the ability to play together musically. Each student receives orchestra lessons, has an opportunity to participate in an orchestra festival, and may audition for an extra-curricular chamber orchestra that meets outside of the school day. Evening concerts are presented during the school year.

**Prerequisite:** Successful participation in 6th Grade Orchestra or consent of the instructor. Students interested in beginning a string instrument should meet with the instructor and enroll in Level 1 Strings.

**Level 1 Strings:** This course is designed for students who have never played a string instrument and wish to learn. This course is open to students entering 6th, 7th and 8th Grade. Instruction will be given on the following instruments: violin, viola, cello or bass. This course meets for the first semester only, on alternating days. At the completion of Quarter 2, students in this course will transfer to their grade level ensembles.

### **Additional Elective Classes**

**Art Lab:** Drawing & painting objects from observation and crafting three-dimensional sculpture, are just a few of the approaches students will participate in to increase their skills and knowledge of art. A variety of influential artists will be studied and used as inspiration in the creation of original works of art. Students will have the opportunity to utilize a range of media and methods to improve their art techniques and ability to express themselves visually. The goal is to have all students experience success and build their confidence in art.

**Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS):** Do you learn best by doing? In a FACS class, students will have many hands-on experiences to develop their culinary skills, design and create projects, and practice independent living skills. Students will explore a variety of Family and Consumer Science topics such as baking, cooking, nutrition, sewing, design, relationships, money management, and being a consumer in today's economy. Students will also practice working in teams and problem-solving. All of these topics can be applied to life right now! And, maybe lead to a future career.

**Drop/Add Policy:** Withdrawal from courses requires parental consent, and must be done the first few weeks of school.