

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 on previous achievement and successful completion of prerequisite courses.

Pre-Algebra - 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.

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, influenced our lives, and directed 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 that 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.

Exploratory 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: 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.

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.

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.

Art: Students will engage in a variety of projects and mediums such as drawing, painting, sculpting with clay, and sketching to name a few, while investigating the quintessential question of, What is Art? While unpacking the meaning of art and its role in our everyday lives, students will explore art concepts, experiment with different art supplies, and learn about various artists to incorporate and develop their own artistic style. The goal is to have all students experience success and build both their confidence in art and critical thinking skills. After all, Art impacts our everyday life in more ways than we think

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.