

# NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Course Summary

### Grade 7

#### Required Classes

**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 Geometry in 8th grade.

**English:** This course is designed to strengthen students' reading, writing and verbal communication skills. We will read a wide range of texts including non-fiction, fiction, journals, drama, and poetry. We will use the *Arts and Letters* curriculum for the core texts. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves, question their readings, use basic literary analysis skills and develop an appreciation for both written and spoken language.

**Social Studies:** The core theme that runs through 7th Grade Social Studies is how defining moments have shaped our past, influenced our lives, and directed our path to the future. This class is designed to introduce students to the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War and into the 21st century, exploring how the country developed during key points of its past. Special emphasis will be given to historical interpretation skills and media literacy to develop a knowledge of which sources to trust. Topics in economics, geography, and civics (Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Rights of the Accused) 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.

**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.

**Visual and Media Art 7:** The Art journey continues as we interact with and process the world around us. 7th-grade Art students will have the opportunity to expand their Visual Arts and Media Arts knowledge through a variety of projects and media. This includes but is not limited to drawing, painting, sculpting with clay, sketching, graphic design, photography, digital illustration, and animation, to name a few. Students will also continue to unpack the meaning of art and its role in our everyday lives. To aid this exploration, 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. Creating various opportunities for students to grow will ultimately allow us to bridge concepts across 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and beyond. Art impacts our everyday life in more ways than we think!

**Physical Education:** Students are expected to wear tennis shoes and 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, dancing, and other recreational activities), and team sports (football, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, soccer, speedball, and softball). Students can request a locker to store items. Written quizzes & skills tests will be assessed throughout the school year in most activities.

### **Additional Classes**

**Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS):** Do you learn best by doing? In a FACS class, students will have many hands-on experiences to develop and practice their independent living skills. Students will explore a variety of FACS topics such as kitchen safety and sanitation, baking, cooking, nutrition, sewing, 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.

**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](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 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.

**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.

Prerequisite: Participation in Amistades 6.