

Minooka Community Consolidated School District #201

Seventh Grade Curriculum

Seventh grade continues to be an exciting time for students. The students work with different teachers throughout the day, and are offered many types of classes and activities.

This compact curriculum guide identifies the content studied at this grade level. *The following skills are taught at a seventh grade developmental level, and include a challenging curriculum with enrichment activities.*

Reading

Reading is an interactive process of determining meaning by combining the reader's existing knowledge with the text information that is read. A balanced reading program provides continuous progress in skill development, comprehension, application, and recreational reading. Each reader has many opportunities in reading instruction to develop the skills necessary to reach full potential and to develop reading as a life-long pursuit. It is understood that reading, as a fundamental skill basic to other learning, requires the involvement of all subject area teachers so that a diverse reading experience and an appreciation of various kinds of literature become a part of an individual's reading background.

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- vocabulary
- literary structure and devices
- analogies
- purpose for reading
- information representing a variety of cultures, eras, and ideas
- prior knowledge and skills to improve comprehension
- graphic aids to locate information
- using written materials in a variety of ways
- following directions
- sequential order
- types of factual literature
- recreational reading
- technology usage

Language Arts

The study of language arts includes knowledge of the language itself, development of its use as a basic means of communication, and appreciation of its artistry as expressed in literature. Language Arts teachers trace the origins of the language in the past, study its development in the present, and recognize that continuing change in the future will keep the language and literature alive, flexible, and adaptable to the highest expression of which the human being is capable.

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- responsibilities of a listener
- meaning of a spoken message
- expressing thoughts verbally
- five-step writing process
- capitalization/punctuation
- editing skills
- spelling
- outlining
- parts of speech
- grammar usage
- use of technology
- proper speaking techniques
- creating and sharing a writing product
- research report
- friendly letter and business letter
- narrative, persuasive, expository and creative writing

Computers

Computer literacy is an integrated discipline, as computer technology will continue to have an impact on many disciplines and vocations. Computers and related technologies are available for school use, and will be integrated into the curriculum in an appropriate manner.

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- computer components
- peripheral devices
- individual projects
- everyday applications
- beginning journalism skills
- informational retrieval
- internet usage
- problem solving
- writing a two-page newspaper
- word processing/spreadsheets
- curriculum integration
- multimedia usage
- computer-aided design
- computer graphic design

Mathematics

The purpose of the study of mathematics is to assist all students to develop the ability to think functionally about quantitative and special matters. In order to achieve this end, each student must acquire a certain degree of skill in the manipulation of a number of mathematical facts and concepts.

Students are taught to develop an understanding of mathematical relationships, generalizations, and principles supporting the fundamental skills of mathematics.

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- number systems and their properties
- measurement (English and Metric)
- fractional concepts and their properties
- decimal concepts and their properties
- ratios, proportions, and percent concepts
- geometric concepts
- statistics graphing, probability, and predictions

Social Studies

The study of social studies is designed to enlighten democratic citizenship in order for individuals to participate effectively in local, state, national, and international affairs, and give students the basis for understanding the complexities of the world community. To do this, students must first develop an appreciation and understanding of our cultural heritage and its role in contemporary society. While doing this, students learn about self, others, and human history as they learn “how to learn”, and how to understand social phenomena.

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- American Indians
- Europeans
- early American inhabitants
- important events and issues
- World War I
- life in early America
- development, conflict, changes, and select civilizations
- colonization of the Americas
- Scientific Revolution
- early civilization of China
- geography
- famous people in history
- nature of the physical environment of early America
- law of supply and demand, tariffs, and taxes
- basic economic concepts
- political systems
- branches of the U.S. government
- the democratic process
- natural resources
- Middle Ages
- major events in African American history

Science

A science program should present sciences as an activity that changes the way people think of the universe, and sometimes alters the process and quality of life. The curriculum is sensitive to current trends in cognitive, affective, and psychomotor development of students, and recent knowledge and strategies in the field of science education. It is current with the time frame in which the students are living, and will assist students in their future lives and vocations. The science curriculum incorporates thinking skills to enable students to make intelligent decisions. It also promotes problem solving, and encourages the mastery of lifetime skills to teach children to arrive at concepts from a series of activities, and to apply these concepts to new situations.

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- research a topic
- life science
- scientific method
- laboratory tools
- laboratory safety
- SI units of measurement
- cell structure and function
- life processes of organisms
- function of DNA and its application to different forms of reproduction
- mutation and adaptation
- phases and properties of matter
- major families of elements, their properties, and grouping
- physical, chemical, and nuclear changes, and how matter and energy are related
- relationship between people and nature
- effects of land, water, and air pollution
- classifying living organisms
- atomic structure
- mixtures, elements, and compounds
- invertebrates
- sponges
- coelenterates
- simple and compound machines
- forces in fluids
- dissections
- complex invertebrates
- mollusks
- echinoderms
- arthropod groups
- flat, round, and segmented worms
- vertebrates
- structure of fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals
- proper use of a microscope
- Newton's law of motion
- kinetic and potential energy
- recording and organizing data, and conducting and evaluating a scientific experiment

Art

The fine arts give students the means to express themselves creatively, and to respond to the artistic expression of others. As a record of human experience, the fine arts provide distinctive ways of understanding society, history, and nature. The study of fine arts includes visual art, music, drama, and dance.

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- elements of art
- line, shape, form, color, texture, and space
- principles of design
- rhythm, emphasis, balance, contrast, unity, and variety
- safety aspects of art equipment, materials, and techniques
- improved quality of art work
- drawing, painting, sculpting, and three dimensional forms
- knowledge of basic drawing techniques
- art history and culture
- analysis and criticism of art
- art work from Western or non-Western culture and recognize its influence on society

Music

Music has been, and continues to be, a medium through which people communicate their “inner-most” feelings and ideas. It plays an essential part in our lives and education. We strive to unlock the door to lifelong pleasure and participation in making music. Music provides the student with the opportunities of participation and involvement, which creates self-satisfying and gratifying experiences.

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- melody
- rhythm
- harmony
- organization of musical elements
- elements of musical theatre
- basic skills needed to perform
- group dynamics
- melody, rhythm, tone color, and dynamics
- historical cultural appreciation
- musical vocabulary
- playing two-handed songs on the keyboard
- using elements of music to “compose” a song

Physical Education

The physical education department is designed to develop total fitness through an intensive, well-rounded program. The physical education program is a form of education by which physical activities are selected and demonstrated with full regard to values for human growth, development, and behavior.

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- psychomotor skills and overall body strength and endurance
- aerobic capacity, body composition, flexibility
- ball-handling techniques
- plays to be used in game situations
- social aspects of physical education
- values in physical education
- proper striking techniques
- following directions
- body awareness in physical education
- safety rules in physical education
- leg strength and endurance
- conditioning exercises

Health

The health program helps to develop total fitness through an intensive, well-rounded program. The program includes human growth, development, and behavior.

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- good health habits, first aid, safety, and basic life saving activities
- dangers of household products
- reading food labels
- nutrition
- mental and emotional health
- positive self-concept
- basic food groups
- effects of stress
- diseases being caused and spread by germs
- consulting a physician in case of illness
- over-the-counter and prescription drugs
- alcohol abuse
- nervous system
- importance of staying physically fit
- health-related careers
- consumer health and safety
- creating a personal health and fitness plan
- drug awareness
- environmental health issues
- diseases associated with cigarette smoking
- personal hygiene

Spanish

The student will identify, develop, use, or demonstrate competence in the following skill areas:

- Spanish sounds
- conjugation
- proper grammatical forms
- verb tense
- vocabulary
- cultural information
- oral and written Spanish comprehension and communication

We should teach what children need to know, both content and process, in a manner that mirrors life - interwoven, interrelated, and compacted.

The mission of Minooka Community Consolidated School District #201 is to provide each child in the community with a safe, caring, learning environment that addresses the educational needs and potential of each student in a manner that encourages lifelong learning.

